











## Getting set

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar tells officials to make elaborate arrangements on R-Day, asks about barricading area, traffic curbs

### SHORT TAKES

## TS HAJ PILGRIM DRAW HELD

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

The draw of lots to select pilgrims for the Haj from Telangana state was held on Saturday. The Haj Committee of India has allotted 4,341 seats to the state on the basis of Muslim population.

Mr Ajay Misra, chief secretary, minorities welfare, inaugurated the computerised Qurrah (draw of lots) at Haj House. A total of 10,752 online applications were received, including 464 under the senior citizen category (above 70 years of age), and eight from women without mehram and 23 infants who will travel along with their parents. The selections were broadcast live on large screens within the Haj House premises.

Mr B. Shafiullah, executive officer, Telangana State Haj Committee, gave a brief note about the process of selections. He said the selected pilgrims can remit ₹81,000 on or before February 1 and ₹1.2 lakh on or before March 15 as first balance amount and submit their online forms along with original passport to the State Haj Committee. These amounts are common to all categories. The remittance can be made by pilgrims through the State Bank of India or Union Bank of India, or the online service on [www.hajcommittee.gov.in](http://www.hajcommittee.gov.in). TS Haj Committee chairman Mohammed Masiullah Khan, Minorities Commission chairman Mohammed Qamaruddin, Wakf Board chairman Mohammed Saleem, corporators Mamata Gupta and M.A. Shafi, Central Haj Committee member Tayyaba Affandi and members of the Haj Committee were present.

■ **THE DRAW** was held from a total of 10,752 online applications for the 4,341 seats allotted to Telangana state on the basis of Muslim population

# Protesters push CM over CAA

Crowd of 2,500 people pledge over non-cooperation with the exercise

ATHER MOIN I DC  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

More than 2,500 people from various communities gathered at Crystal Garden in the city to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The protesters, many of them students, held aloft anti-CAA and azadi posters and placards. Every now and then, they shouted slogans, *Arrest me, I attacked JNU, From 10.5 per cent GDP to 4.2 per cent and Godi media not allowed.*

The protests were organised under the auspices of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Joint Action Committee against the CAA and the NRC.

The protesters pledged that coming Friday, they all would take an oath not to submit any papers to the government.

JAC convener Mushtaq Mallik said a new history would begin in Hyderabad. "Our women will sit in Hyderabad replicating the Shaheen Bagh. Many attempts were made to foil the Million March as also this meeting. Do not challenge the spirit of India, it will prove costly. We have ruled for 900 years, not six years, and did justice to people. Police have booked 25 cases against me, but I will not abandon the movement," Mallik asserted, urging Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to pass a resolution in the Assembly against the CAA and the NPR in Telangana.

Mufti Abdul Mugani Mazaheri, city president of Jamiat Ulema Hind, said, "The Chief Minister must break his silence on the issue and make his stand clear."

There were also poets in the gathering who narrated verses on the issue. "We will not submit any docu-



People at a public meeting against the CAA, the NRC and the NPR in Attapur on Saturday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

## Govt driving us to the edge: Activists

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

About 100 people sat on a day-long relay hunger strike against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) at Dharna Chowk on Saturday. Police gave permission

ments to prove our domicile residency. We are ready to bear any difficulties," chorused the crowd.

They maintained that attempts were being made by the BJP to undermine the country's unity.

Moulana Naseer, state organiser of Wahdat e Islami said, "We are thankful to other communities, which have come

forward and are standing alongside with us to fight these draconian forces." Former Rajya Sabha member Syed Aziz Pasha said government never expected that the public would rise in a massive way against CAA, NRC and NPR.

He said, "Internationally acclaimed intellectuals are also opposing the BJP government's move. Our relationships with Bangladesh and Afghanistan have already been strained due to the Citizenship Amendment Act. We hope the government will not succeed in its designs," he remarked.

Justice Chandra Kumar, former judge, said the government has been forced

said that the rules were not only against Muslims but also tribals and adivasis. The participants stated that the government was driving them to the edge and they were forced to exercise their democratic rights to make it aware that they are against the legislation.

to go on the back foot. "Two to three days back, the government clarified that they will not seek documents. Now, they are stating that there is no need to provide information about parents' place of birth. But these are only verbal, with nothing on paper so far," Justice Chandra Kumar pointed out.

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## Kashmiri Hindus want genocide Bill

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

On the 30th anniversary of their exile from Kashmir, Kashmiri Hindu youth are demanding a separate area to the east and north of the Jhelum for the displaced community.

The Panun Kashmir has demanded that the Centre place the proposed Bill on genocide of Hindus in Kashmir in Parliament. There are an estimated 350 Kashmiri Hindus in Hyderabad and their family members participated in the event held in Pune.

Mr Rahul Kaul, national coordinator, Y4PK (Youth for Panun Kashmir), came to Hyderabad to meet the families and took their views on the issue. He said, "The government of India has

already recognised the genocide of Hindus of Kashmir while imposing the ban on the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front. We want them to go further and take up this proposed Bill."

The youth are meeting with Kashmiris in various cities and are talking to them about their problems and from where they have come. Several coordinators are working in four zones across India to build networks for the fight to demand that they be resettled in Kashmir.

The demand to go back to Kashmir comes from the fact that they were thrown out from their state only because they were a minority. The youth are of the opinion that they be allotted a separate area in Kashmir along with protection.



Kashmiri students stage a protest against the state repression in Kashmir at the University of Hyderabad on Saturday. — P. SURENDRA

## Kashmiri youth protest in UoH

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

About 200 Kashmiri students gathered outside the University of Hyderabad to protest against state repression and five months of internet shutdown.

Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) members used poetry and revolutionary slogans to register their protest during their sit-in. JKSA president Hadif Nisar said the protest was about the "many injustices that have been unleashed upon Kashmiris by successive Indian governments." He said: "The only difference is that the Congress was doing it quietly while the BJP is very open about it." He highlighted the continuous internet ban in Kashmir and said that people elsewhere in India can't imagine life without internet even for five days. JKSA member Aakriti Suresh, a

Kashmiri Pandit (KP) student, highlighted the problems faced by her community. She said the role the government had played in communalising the Kashmir issue cannot be ignored.

"The way successive governments have pitched KPs against Kashmiri Muslims really exposes the grand conspiracy they have hatched in turning and then keeping forever Kashmir into a war zone. They were never interested in bringing a political solution to Kashmir on to the table."

JKSA general secretary Arman Kazmi said the fundamental question to discuss was if India really was a democracy. "How can disappearances, tortures, massacres and the idea of democracy exist simultaneously," he asked.

JKSA member Maryam B. highlighted the problems faced by students of her community because of the internet ban.

## AFTER BOYCOTT THREAT, MANUU VC PROMOTES ALL 87 DETAINED STUDENTS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Vice-chancellor Dr Aslam Parvez of the Maulana Azad National University (Manuu) has agreed in principle during a meeting with student leaders to promote all the students who were detained due to shortage of attendance. Earlier, the university had decided to detain 87 students.

Manuu students union president Shaik Umer Farooq Quadri said many students had complained that they were not given relaxation on medical grounds and for taking part in extracurricular activities. "Our union brought this issue to the notice of

authorities several times, but these efforts were in vain," he said. The vice-chancellor will present the matter before the university's academic council for its perusal. As per Manuu rules, students need to maintain at least 75 per cent attendance to appear in the semester examinations. There are norms to accord relaxation for lack of attendance.

The union had threatened to go on a hunger strike with all students boycotting classes from Jan. 20 if the matter was not resolved before Jan. 17. The union asked the university to allow students who had above 50 per cent attendance to take the exams.

## Data passed on in encrypted format

From Page 1

When asked about the absence of a legal framework to use facial recognition technology to identify voters, a State Election Commission (SEC) official said the voter's authentication data would not be stored, or deleted soon afterwards. "The data is transmitted to servers for authentication in an encrypted format, for security reasons. It will be deleted by the end of the day or the next. It will not be stored at all," he said.

Interestingly, this authentication does not happen on servers operated by the SEC, a Constitutional and independent authority. It is the Telangana State Technology Services (TSTS), a specialised agency established by the state government's information technology department, that will provide this service. The official admitted that the SEC would have no control over the deletion of voter data, and TSTS has ultimately been entrusted with this important task.

"The data will be sent to data centres operated by the TSTS. I don't know where they are," he added.

Indeed, there doesn't seem to be a standard procedure for data deletion. Mr G.T. Venkateswara Rao, managing director (in-charge) of TSTS, told *Deccan Chronicle* that the

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

The State Election Commission is not the first organisation in the state to use facial recognition tools. For over a year now, the state police has been using the technology through its TSCOP app for various purposes. In fact, the police department has been criticised for using the tool on pedestrians walking on roads to screen "habitual offenders."

Pensioners across the state are already using T-App Folio — an umbrella app for the government's e-governance initiatives — to authenticate themselves

SEC gave the TSTS the job of running backend operations only after doing due diligence.

"Only limited fields of (voter) data are shared with the TSTS. The data will be deleted post the elections. The SEC has decided (to give this work) only after it was satisfied," he explained.

Asked whether an external audit would be conducted to confirm the deletion

via facial recognition.

In fact, the moves by the state government and the SEC mirror a pan-India trend. For instance, the Delhi police was recently criticised for using facial recognition to identify protesters.

Srinivas Kodali, an independent researcher in cybersecurity and a columnist based in Hyderabad, one of many people who are opposed to facial recognition and the collection of personal data, believe it is an invasion of privacy. Mr Kodali said, "There is no law that allows government organisations to collect this data. The way it is being done right now, there are

of data, Mr Rao said, "As mentioned earlier, since only two or three pieces of data will be shared, the certification of deletion will be self-declared," he said, adding that it "is not a major issue."

In a statement, the SEC said the entire transmission process and IDs are anonymised through encryption and removal of personally identifiable information. "The input

checks and balances as to what happens to this data. If they want to continue doing this, they should pass a law governing this data. Why can't the Telangana state government do this?"

Mr Kodali felt that there was no oversight. He said the departments that use this technology claim they don't store citizen data. He wondered how could they be trusted to delete the data when there is no law that requires them to do so.

"We have already seen the abuse of technology by police screen commuters through facial recognition. What's to stop them from making lives even more difficult?" he asked.

filed (encrypted live photo data) is deleted immediately after the purpose is fulfilled," it said. On the TSTS' role in the process, it said, "The photographs will not be stored or used for any other purpose. They will be erased from the mobile used in the polling station and also the server of TSTS. Further, TSTS has to give an undertaking to this effect before implementation of the pilot project."

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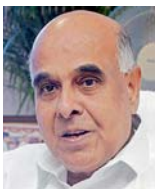
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## Stepping ahead

Transco CMD D. Prabhakar Rao says centralised ERP solutions will be put in place in its plants, corporate office

### IN BRIEF

#### Uppal police nab 3 ganja peddlers

Hyderabad: Uppal police personnel on Friday apprehended two men and a woman while they were selling ganja, and seized 750 grams of the narcotic from them. The police identified the trio as Netha Vishal Simon of Kakatiya Colony in Marredpally, Munukuntla Pawan and Ratlavath Mangamma. Police said the arrests were carried after receiving a tip-off. The trio was waiting in an open area at Uppal to sell the ganja to customers. Police said Simon had been sent to jail in 2019 for peddling ganja. They used to get the narcotic in bulk from Araku and Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh.

#### MAN KILLS ALCOHOLIC BROTHER

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

A man killed his alcoholic brother who allegedly used to abuse people and create nuisance after consuming alcohol. According to sources, the victim, Lathif, 25, used to harass his parents for money. On Friday, he quarrelled with his parents and brother. During the melee, his brother Ibrahim attacked Lathif with an axe. Lathif suffered grievous injuries and died. Ibrahim allegedly tried to burn the body at a secluded place. The police was informed and took the accused into custody for questioning. When contacted, a police officer refused to provide any information regarding the case and said all details would be made public within two days.

#### ACB ARRESTS 2 COURT STAFF OVER GRAFT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Sleuths of the Anti Corruption Bureau arrested two employees working in the Kukatpally court for reportedly taking a bribe. The accused, S. Madan Mohan, bailiff in the nazarath section and Ramagalla Isaac Arun Kumar, field assistant of the Kukatpally court complex, were accepting a bribe of ₹5,000. According to the ACB, the accused had demanded the bribe to do the official favour of implementing court orders to evict a tenant by breaking open the lock of the complainant's residence.

## CM's helpline on graft yields dismal results

Helpline has no link to ACB for further investigation

RAJESWARI PARASA |  
DC  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Amid much fanfare, the Chief Minister's helpline number to report instances of corruption was launched way back in 2014. Only 18 cases have so far been actually booked, though as many as 7,558 complaints have been received through phone calls, a reply received under the Right To Information (RTI) Act disclosed.

Once calls are made to the Chief Minister's helpline, they are to be forwarded to the Anti-

RTI ACTIVISTS say there is little chance for accountability if there is no tracking mechanism for complaints made over phone, meaning there is no seriousness over stopping corruption in the state.

Corruption Bureau (ACB) for investigation depending on the details available.

However, the RTI response revealed that the helpline number and the ACB are not inter-linked with each other. This means complaints

do not go to the ACB till they are not forwarded by the staff working on the helpline number.

As per available statistics, not even one per cent of the complaints received over phone have been resolved. The 18 complaints booked from out the total 7,558 complaints received amount to 0.002 per cent of the total cases.

"How will there be accountability if numbers are not inter-linked. There should be a direct connection to the ACB when complaints are made," observed RTI activist Robin Zaccheus.

He pointed out that there is no tracking mechanism with regards to complaints made over phone. "It means data is not being tracked. In other words, there is no seriousness over stopping corruption in the state," the activist remarked.

An ACB official, on condition of anonymity, said it is sometimes not possible to investigate cases of corruption based on inadequate information given through phone calls. Some of the calls made to the helpline number are also prank calls, he added.



Students from various colleges across the state participate in the first police hackathon organised at the Kotla Vijay Bhaskar Reddy stadium in Yousufguda on Saturday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

## 99 teams attend police hackathon

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU |  
DC  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Hyderabad city police hosted a police hackathon on issues of cyber crimes, women safety, road safety and social media monitoring, including fake news. Around 400 participants from various technical colleges, start-ups and corporate entities formed 99 teams to participate in the hackathon.

Inaugurating the event, home minister

Md. Mahmood Ali said, "The state government is providing sufficient funds for modernisation of police towards ensuring safety of citizens." He asserted that the hackathon will prove to be a great learning experience for the younger generation.

Speaking about the objective of the two-day hackathon, additional commissioner of police (crimes) Shikha Goel said, "The aim of the event is to generate coding solutions for problems in different areas

like cyber crimes, crimes against women and children, road safety and awareness, and social media monitoring. Based on the coding solutions which stand out, we will design products to improve policing functions," she underlined.

Hyderabad commissioner of police Anjani Kumar emphasised: "Deriving technological solutions using machine learning and artificial intelligence is need of the hour. We would like the participants and

young minds of the state to arrive at innovative solutions for addressing the most pertinent problems and improve policing."

The overall winner of the 36-hour hackathon will receive a cash award of ₹1 lakh, while the best entry in every problem category will get a cash prize of ₹20,000 each.

The top 10 solutions will be mentored by knowledge partners in addition to a six-month incubation with the We Hub and Hyderabad police.

## Pro-Maoist works found with OU prof

From Page 1

Police said they found 'pro-Maoist' materials like banned revolutionary literature, leaflets, pamphlets and compact discs (CDs) "supporting Maoist groups" when they searched OU assistant professor Chinthakindi Kashim.

"We informed his wife at about 10.15 am and took Kashim into custody. There is credible information that he had links with the Maoists' Telangana state secretary Hari Bushan alias Jagan and central committee members. We suspect that with the money supplied by Maoists, he was organising programmes for them," said a police official.

The police has recently made a series of arrests including that of Telangana Vidyarthi Vedika president Bandari Maddileti, Telangana Praja Front state vice-president Nalamasi Krishna and Osmania University assistant professor K. Jagan on the charges of having links with the Maoists.

In 2018, Virasam leader and Telugu poet P. Varavara Rao was arrested by the Maharashtra police in the Bhima Koregaon case.

The atmosphere on the campus was charged as the news of the arrest of Mr Kashim spread. Many students took out a rally on the campus in protest. The Osmania University police detained some of them.

Ms Snehalatha, the wife of Mr Kashim, told the



Police arrest professor Kashim at his Osmania University residence on Saturday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

media, "The police is claiming that he was absconding since five months which is baseless as he is a government employee and attended his duties every day. My husband is being targeted as he is writing and talking about social inequalities, problems of caste and unemployment."

Ms Snehalatha said Mr Kashim's arrest was nothing but a continuation of the crackdown on dissenting voices in the state. "I will move the High Court

against his arrest." The case relating to Mr Kashim's arrest goes back to January 3, 2016, Shyam Sunder, an alleged Maoist sympathiser, was in a car that met with an accident. He abandoned the vehicle in which the police later reportedly found some revolutionary literature, letters, a pen drive and donation vouchers of 'Nadustunna Telangana,' a monthly magazine.

Sunder later surrendered at the Mulugu police station in Medak district and

## HC takes up petition on Kashim's arrest

VIJINI VAMSHIDHARA |  
DC  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

The Telangana High Court on Saturday directed the state police to produce Osmania University assistant professor Chinthakindi Kashim before it at 10.30 am on Sunday. He was arrested on Saturday after searches were carried out in his house.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy was dealing with an urgent house motion petition regarding the arrest of Mr Kashim. The bench heard the case at the Chief Justice's residence as Saturday was a

court holiday.

The habeas corpus petition was filed by Prof. Gaddam Laxman, president of the Civil Liberties Committee, Telangana state unit.

He alleged that Mr Kashim had been illegally detained.

Mr V. Raghunath, counsel representing the petitioner, detailed the searches and arrest of Mr Kashim. Mr Harinder Prasad, counsel for the state, submitted that an FIR was registered against Mr Kashim in 2016 and he was absconding since then.

The bench said the contention of the police was rather ridiculous as Mr Kashim was engaged in holding classes at the university.

reportedly confessed that he was working as a courier for the Maoists for 20 years. He stated that he used to facilitate the exchange of letters between Mr Kashim alias Kaarthik and Maoist central committee member Chandranna alias Aathram.

Subsequently, a case was registered by the Mulugu police, which is part of the Siddipet commissionerate. The Siddipet police secured a search warrant from the Gajwel court to search the residence of Mr

Kashim.

The case was registered against Mr Kashim under Sections 10 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) along with IPC crimes like criminal conspiracy, contravention to use criminal force and sedition.

Condemning the arrest, CPI leader K. Narayana alleged that the government was deliberately harassing intellectuals on the pretext of having Maoist connections and registering false cases against them.

## Medico returning to college after holidays found dead

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA |  
DC  
WARANGAL, JAN. 18

A 22-year-old medical student, Thummanapalli Vamshi, was found dead with his hands and legs tied inside an agricultural well in Kaniparthi of Regonda mandal in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district on Saturday.

According to his parents, Thirupathi and Rama, Vamshi, who is doing his third year MBBS in a private medical college in Khammam, came home for Sankranti holidays and left to Khammam on Friday evening.



Thummanapalli Vamshi

THE MEDICAL student, who has left to Khammam on Friday evening, was found dead on Saturday morning.

They received no communication from him after that.

Villagers discovered his body inside the agricultural well on Saturday morning.

The police was informed and they rushed to the scene and retrieved the body from the well.


Chitaly inspector Sai Ramana and Regonda sub-inspector Krishna Prasad said a case had been registered and investigation is on. CCTV footage in the village and surrounding areas is being analysed to see if Vamshi was seen with anyone before he disappeared.

## COUPLE COMMITS SUICIDE OVER FINANCIAL WOES

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, JAN. 18

An elderly couple in Chityala of Jayashankar Bhupalpally district consumed pesticide and committed suicide on Friday night. The bodies of Chelamalla Rajaiah and his wife Lakshmi, were found on Saturday. A suicide note left on the spot suggested that they took the extreme step due to their financial condition.

**30th ANNIVERSARY**  
And the dead in Christ will rise first. 1 Thessalonians 4:16



**KONDEY PREM KUMAR SAMUEL**  
DoB: 07-09-1939 DoD: 19-01-1990  
Tenderly we treasure the past, with memories that will always last.  
— Pradeep, Moses (sons), Sushela (daughter), Madhurima, Deepa (daughters-in-law), Grace, James, Lucky, Brightly, Megan, Vivian (grandchildren)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. Psalm 116:15.



**SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY IN LOVING MEMORY OF**  
**N.S.J. DEVADATHAM**  
DOB: 13.05.1933 DOD: 19.01.2018  
"So loved so missed in our hearts You will always be"  
Inserted by:  
Mrs. Paran Jyothi Devadatham  
Sons - Daughters-in-law  
Grand Children & Great Grand Children.  
Ph: 9989778181, 9848087796  
(S/1920/D01618)

**Memorial Service**  
Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. Matthew 5:8




**Late. Mrs. Dakarapu Prema Suvarna Victor**  
D.O.B: 13-01-1955 D.O.D: 11-01-2020  
We request you all to please join with us and pray for the family @CSI Church Compound, Sangareddy.  
19th January 2020, 1 pm onwards.  
From Family Members

**OBITUARY**




**MOTKAR JANARDHAN REDDY**  
S/o. Late Motkar Laxma Reddy  
Retired Executive Engineer, AP Housing Board  
DOD: 03.06.1942 - 17.01.2020  
Last Rites will be held on 19.01.2020 at 7am at Champapet Burial Grounds, Hyd.  
Inserted by: MOTKAR FAMILY MEMBERS  
Ph: 9515521473 / 9949138828

**IN LOVING MEMORY 3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY**



**P.L. GNANESHWAR RAO**  
We could never imagine that we can ever live a moment without you, but three years have already gone by... though not with us, yet you always be with us....  
ALWAYS IN OUR MIND FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS  
From: FAMILY MEMBERS  
93268 99999 / 9885071549

**10th DAY CEREMONY**



**JADALA KUMARA SWAMY MUDHIRAJ**  
DOB: 02.09.1938 DOD: 07.01.2020  
10th Day Ceremony will be held on 19-1-2020 at Padmasali Function Hall, Rajmahalla, Hyd. at 12 Noon.  
Mohan Electricals, Electrical Engineers & Contractors, Rajmahalla, Hyd.  
Ph: 9491623754, 9912643899

**1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY**



**Mrs MADHU CHELLANI**  
W/o Late Srichand Chellani  
D.O.B: 18-03-1942 D.O.D: 19-10-2019  
Missing You...  
Inserted by: Chellani Family

**10th DAY CEREMONY**



**Late. PRAMOD SINGH**  
S/o. Prabhu Singh (Retd Add. Secretary APPSC), DOB: 15-09-1919 DOD: 11-01-2020  
"WITH DEEP LOVE AND RESPECT"  
Inserted by:  
Rashmi Singh (Daughter), Akash Singh (Son)  
H.No. 4-2-503, Badichowdi, Sultanbazar, Hyd  
Ph: 7337222503 / 8977749680

**PAGDI**



**KARAN MANWANI**  
S/o Heeralal Manwani, Secunderabad  
Expired on 16.01.2020  
Pagdi will be held today (19.01.2020) For Ladies & Gents, between 4.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. at Sindhu Bhavan, P.G. Road, Secunderabad.  
In Grief: Manwani, Tilani, Sadnani, Bulani, Chandnani Family.  
Contact: 9177924290  
(S/1920/D01680)

**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE**  
The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance. -Psalm 112:6



**KRUPA S D ISAAC**  
W/O. S D ISAAC  
Inserted by:  
FAMILY MEMBERS,  
Son: 9885440966

**OBITUARY**



**Smt. Jaya Bai Mahendra**  
(Centurion)  
W/o Late Fai Bahadur Mahendra  
Expired on 18.01.2020  
Funeral starts from residence 1-5-605, Road No.6, New Marutnagar, Kothapet, Hyderabad on 19.01.2020 at 11.30 a.m. to Whisper Valley Crematorium at 1.00 p.m.  
In grief  
Mahendra & Waghray families

**6th ANNIVERSARY**




**Singari Dasharath Mudiraj**  
DOB 05-11-1958 DOD 19-1-2014  
your memories are always remembered in our heart forever  
Wife: Singari Shanthabai  
Grand Childrens  
and Family Members  
301, Vigneshwara Apartment, Market Line, Khairthabad

**DEATH ANNIVERSARY**




**G. GOPAL GOUD**  
Inspector of Police - CBI (Retd.)  
Inserted by: Wife: G. LAXMI & FAMILY

**3rd ANNIVERSARY**  
With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation. Psalms 91:16



**Late. Sri. JOEL FRENCH**  
D.O.B. 25-01-1927 I.D.O.D. 19-01-2017  
His wishes and cards always cheered us... You will always remain in our hearts...  
Mr. Velugu Prem Sagar Mrs. Velugu Ophelia Joel, Velugu Salvi Uday Sagar, Velugu Merin Sneetha, Karem Jacinth Kumar, Karem Veda Supriya, Sister & Sister-in-law

**15th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**



**Late Mr. BARIGELA DEVADANAM**  
D.O.B: 02.02.1925 D.O.D: 19.01.2005  
Inserted by:  
Wife, Children & Grand Children  
(S/1920/D01648)

**SHRADHANJALI On 7th Anniversary**



**Late SANWAMAL JI LAKHOTIA**  
Expired: 19.1.2013  
"May her soul rest in peace in fond loving memory"  
Sanjeev & Jitendra Lakhotia - Sons, Daughter, Daughters-in-law, Grand Children, Great Grand Children & Lakhotia family.  
Mobile: 9848052236

**27th Death Anniversary**



**Late: SAMA LAXMA REDDY**  
DoD: 19-01-1993  
Your memories are always in our hearts forever  
Wife: Sama Laxamma  
Sons: Sama Suresh Reddy - Indira Sama Suman Reddy - Anitha Sama Sham Sunder Reddy - Sri Vidya Daughters & Daughter - In - laws G. Shoba - G. Kamal Reddy G. Sunanda - G. Venugopal Reddy & Grand sons, Gran Daughters  
# 2-1-67, Upperalu, R.N.H. Cell: 9849999090





## Development claim

Etala Rajender says TRS developed Jammikunta, and only the party can usher in development in the state

### SHORT TAKES

## NEUROLOGIST DR MEENA PASSES AWAY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Renowned neurologist Dr A.K. Meena died at a hospital in London where she had gone to attend a medical conference. She was suffering from hypertension and was under medication.

The 58-year-old doctor worked with the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences for 25 years. She was known for treating special and rare disorders.

On Friday, she suffered a massive cardiac arrest and was rushed to a hospital in London where angioplasty was done and three stents were administered.

But she suffered a brain stroke and was put on ventilator support. After that the recovery was not visible to the doctors who conducted tests to ascertain her as brain dead. Doctors in NIMS and her family members were informed of her sudden death. Her body is being brought to India.

## RESCUED LEOPARD RECOVERING

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

A five-year-old male leopard rescued from Agilapuram Tanda in Nalgonda district on Tuesday, appears to be recovering at the Nehru Zoological Park here. The leopard was rescued by a team of veterinary officials from the zoo who freed it from wire snares it was caught in. The snares are believed to have been laid by some farmers to trap wild boars.

The wound from a cut from one of the snares on the right leg has begun to heal, zoo officials said. "It is now feeding a little and that is a good sign. We are hoping it will recover fully soon from possible internal injuries from two other snares removed from around its neck and abdomen," a zoo official said.

## UoH STUDENTS TAKE PART IN HACKATHON

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

The University of Hyderabad conducted a hackathon on its campus on Saturday, as part of the nationwide Smart India Hackathon 2020 initiative by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) and MHRD.

The event was conducted at the university's College for Integrated Studies. It has around 60 students whose submissions will be evaluated by a 15-member jury.

The results of the competition will be announced on Monday.

It may be recalled that the Smart India Hackathon saw the participation of more than five million students from various colleges at 65 locations.

## TWEETATHON FOR WOMEN'S COMMISSION

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

After attempts to conduct an online petition for a women's commission falling on deaf ears, a tweetathon was taken up by a large number of women from the city to coerce the state government to set up the commission.

The call for the tweetathon was given a handle identified as @WomComMatters.

"In less than an hour we saw at least 10,000 impressions of the tweet. We wanted the government to know how important the commission is for women," said Spurthi K., an eco-feminist social worker.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, she said: "We have tried speaking to the officials who have pointed us to the chief minister, since it is next to impossible to get his appointment, we have taken this route."

As it turns out, there were also a few verified twitter accounts who came forward to express their anguish.

One of them was noted playback singer, Chinmayi Sripaada who took to the micro-blogging website to express her anguish.

# Climate change alters body clock of snakes

Reptiles unusually looking for mates in winter

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

Snakes are beginning to show the stress of climate change in a year that saw topsy-turvy weather. This, experts and herpetologists alike, say is due to the systemic destruction of their natural habitat coupled with varying weather.

The sudden change in the climate—unseasonal rainfall and a warm winter—has forced snakes to come out during the winter in search of mates to procreate.

"It is a common phenomenon to see snakes out of their shelters due to construction activity, but sighting them in such high numbers is unusual. These reptiles are ectotherms, they depend on external sources of heat to maintain their body temperature," Mr Avinash Viswanathan, general secretary, Friends of Snakes Society, told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Since the city's temperature has been warmer over the last few days the reptiles are coming out in the open to soak in the heat, he said.

Maybe that is what is responsible for the 6,500 and more sighting of snakes in the state in the last year.

Over the last year, there has been a prolonged summer coupled with a long monsoon. This, experts say, has caused confusion in the reptiles' body clock.

They are supposed to begin breeding during the onset of summer. But, since the city has had no winter and the temperature is rising the snakes are roaming around in

# Green report does not mention pollution at all

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC  
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 18

The recent Good Governance Index (GGI) on the environment released by the Centre has ignored several important parameters, including pollution. Just like the governments, the index too dealt with the subject in a superficial and customary manner. The report was prepared by the Centre for Good Governance (CGG).

As per the preamble of the environment sector mentioned in the GGI—Assessment of State of Governance report, brought out by the department of administrative reforms and public grievances (DARPG)—"the growing concerns on global warming, pollution and increase in temperature led to the study of another important sector, the environment."

But the report did not take into consideration air, water and noise pollution when it gave the

rankings. The report did not capture the highly contaminated environs and the failure of the states to contain it. Incidentally, the two Telugu states fared very poorly with Andhra Pradesh occupying the 16th position and Telangana state the 17th.

All that the authors of the report considered was two basic parameters—availability of state-level action plan for climate change and change in the forest cover. Inquiries by *Deccan Chronicle* revealed that the DARPG had decided not to take into consideration the pollution levels, be it air or water, as most of the states either do not have measuring stations or have them in inadequate numbers.

"In the absence of data from some states, it would be difficult to put them on an equal pedestal and judge their performance," said a senior department official. The Centre for Good

Governance, which prepared the report, awarded marks equally to all the states if they had prepared an action plan for climate change. It did not even go into how effectively the states were implementing the action plans. The ranking among the equals was then decided basing on the cumulative forest cover change in the last three years. Here, too, only the forest cover in the designated forests was taken into consideration, leaving the green drive taken up in the non-forest areas.

"We proposed certain parameters and the Centre after deliberations dropped some and selected indicators which are outcome and output based and does not need primary or field data," CGG DG Rajendra Nimje told *Deccan Chronicle*.

The exercise, he hoped, would provide inputs to governments to take corrective action to improve the service delivery.

Justice Ansari traced the history of UCC before independence. Stating that it is a very emotive and volatile issue, he said, "I support UCC as it has been stated under the Directive Principles as well as Fundamental Rights, but it's not justiciable to direct the Supreme Court to implement it."

The conference is expected to host 80 participants.



search of mates. "Usually, snakes like cobras or the Russell's viper come out before the

onset of summer to breed. If there is a sudden downturn like we witnessed in November, then the snakes start breeding as their body-clock goes topsy-turvy," he said.

The lack of a drop in the mercury levels could have led the snakes to assume summer was approaching.

## Remark on Shirdi Baba sparks row

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's remark on Pathri in Parbhani district being the birthplace of Sai Baba has left devotees from the city fuming. Several devotees said the geographical location of the birthplace shouldn't matter.

"It is not about where he was born, there is substantial evidence to show that the Baba had walked the streets of Shirdi, and had rendered services to the people in the area," said Pavan, an accountant at the

Sai Baba temple in Sainikpuri.

Questioning the Maharashtra government, Prof. Bharati Biswas of Aurangabad, said: "The politicking of temples should be stopped." She said: "People the world over identify with Shirdi as a place to worship Sai Baba, changing it as per the whims and fancies of the government doesn't augur well."

Shirdi is observing a bandh on Sunday but the Shri Sai Baba Sansthan Trust said the temple would remain open.

The trust said all aartis and religious traditions will

continue on Sunday and thereafter and all other facilities would be open.

Mr B. Gangadhar, chairman of the famous Sai Baba temple board in Dilsukhnagar, said: "We are informing people that we would remain open for prayers, we will not close the temple. We are requesting the people to forgo any kind of hostility and pray. We are hoping that there would be a fruitful result for the temple very soon."

Even those working in the Sai Baba temple at Sainikpuri say that people must not lose their piety to anger over the statement.

## 2-DAY MEET ON UNIFORM CIVIL CODE BEGINS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

The Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad, inaugurated a two-day conference on Uniform Civil Code (UCC) on Saturday. The ceremony was attended by Punjab State Human Rights Commission chairman Justice Iqbal Ansari, a former Chief Justice of the Patna High Court. Other prominent guests included Mr T.S. Sastry, Vice Chancellor, Dr Ambedkar Tamil Nadu Law University, and Mr Iqbal Ali Jhan, former dean, faculty of law, Aligarh Muslim University.

Justice Ansari traced the history of UCC before independence. Stating that it is a very emotive and volatile issue, he said, "I support UCC as it has been stated under the Directive Principles as well as Fundamental Rights, but it's not justiciable to direct the Supreme Court to implement it."

The conference is expected to host 80 participants.

**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB**  
**RECRUITMENT NOTICE**  
Advt. No. CU/PB/19-20/12  
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**Last date to apply online: 18.02.2020 (upto 2359 hours)**  
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City Campus, Mansa Road, Bathinda-151001, Email: recruitment@cup.edu.in, Tel: 0164-2864116  
विज्ञापन का हिंदी रूपान्तर विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।

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3. Assistant Manager (Training/ Administration/ HR & Admin/ Accounts & Finance/ Maintenance  
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Joint Secretary (Administration)  
Department of Commerce,  
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Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi, 110011  
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**ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110 608**  
**EXAMINATION SECTION**  
**ADMISSION NOTICE No. 01/2020**  
Ref. No.F.AIIMS/Exam.Sec./Advt./4-5/(PG-July-20)/2020 16.01.2020  
**AIIMS-PG (POSTGRADUATE) COURSES - JULY 2020 SESSION**  
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites Online applications for **Entrance Examinations** leading to admission in POSTGRADUATE (MD/MS/M.Ch. (6 years)/DM (6 years)/MDS) Courses of AIIMS, New Delhi and six other AIIMS (Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur & Rishikesh) for July 2020 session.  

Online Registration for application	Starts on	Closes on
Online Basic Registration open for all MD/MS/MDS courses. (on going)	27.11.2019	10.02.2020 by 05:00 pm
<b>Date(s) of Edit Option only for the column of "Basic Registration"</b>	<b>12.02.2020 (11:00 am)</b>	<b>14.02.2020 by 05:00 pm</b>
Status of Basic Registration & last date for correction for rejected images	17.02.2020 (11:00 am)	21.02.2020 by 05:00 pm
<b>Final Status of Accepted Basic Registration</b>	<b>27.02.2020 (Thursday)</b>	
Date for Generation of Code (only for accepted Basic Registration candidates)	28.02.2020 (11:00 am)	23.03.2020 by 05:00 pm
Uploading Prospectus including seat position of Sponsored and Foreign National candidates		09.03.2020 (Monday)
Final Registration for completion of other details: Qualification, City Choices, Payment (only for the candidates those have generated the code)	09.03.2020	23.03.2020 by 05:00 pm
<b>Date(s) of Edit Option only for the column of "Final Registration"</b>	<b>26.03.2020 (11:00 am)</b>	<b>28.03.2020 by 05:00 pm</b>
Date(s) of checking status of Final Registration & Last date of submission of required documents.	07.04.2020 (05:00 pm)	11.04.2020 by 05:00 pm
<b>Date of Examination</b>	<b>Sunday, 3rd May, 2020</b>	
<b>Examination Timings</b>	Medical Courses	09:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
	Dental Courses	09:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
<b>Examination Centres</b>	<b>Cities all over India</b>	

**Important:** For Prospectus, detailed information etc. please visit the website [www.aiimsexams.org](http://www.aiimsexams.org). All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/ Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website. Basic Registration is mandatory. Only those with accepted Basic Registration can proceed for Generation of Code for Final Registration.

**All applicants who have applied earlier and whose Basic Registration have been accepted for January 2019, July 2019 sessions and January 2020 session do not need to complete Basic Registration again. They will have to complete Final Registration only after Generation of Code.**

**Correction/edit of Registration:**  
Candidate requiring correction in Basic Registration OR Final Registration, the edit panel will be available as per schedule only for a limited period. It may kindly be noted that the editing shall be done only by the candidate. Candidate will be responsible for all corrections. No corrections allowed after closing date of editing. Applicants may note that further correspondence will NOT be entertained in this regard.

**Note:** (i) Detailed filled in Basic Registration cannot be edited after closing date for same i.e. 14.02.2020 by 5:00 pm. Final Registration is different than basic Registration and editing Basic Registration not allowed during Final Registration process.  
(ii) All applicant for which fees not paid will be summarily rejected and no correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

**ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS.)**  
davp 17112/11/0071/1920







## Eyeing TS

Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan says the situation is slowly turning conducive to strengthening the party in Telangana state

# Politics

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

SUNDAY | 19 JANUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD

## IN BRIEF TSERC holds review meeting

**Hyderabad:** Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission officials on Saturday met with TSGenco and TSTransco officials to discuss key performance indicators of the power sector in the State at the first State Coordination Forum meeting here. The meeting was chaired by TSERC chairman T. Sriranga Rao, and was briefed by Genco and Transco chairman and managing director D. Prabhakar Rao, who is also the convenor of the State Coordination Forum. Among those who attended the meeting were TSERC's member (technical) M.D. Manohar Raju and member (finance) B. Krishnaiah along with CMDs of TSPDCL and TSNPDCL. They also discussed a road map for power sector in the State, according to a new release.

## Genco gets award for 2018-19

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited (TSGenco) received the Computer Society of India's Special Interest Group e-governance award for 2018-19. TSGenco was chosen for the award for its implementation of SAP based analytics for real time monitoring of key performance indices, reservoir levels, among other parameters by officials to keep track of live status of power production and supply in the state. The system also enables real time tracking of files by multiple stakeholders improving transparency and accountability. The CSI SIG e-Governance Award was given to TSGenco under 'Projects-State category at country level' at CSI's 53rd annual convention on Friday at Bhubaneswar.

## Revanth Reddy questions KTR

**Hyderabad:** Congress MP A. Revanth Reddy in an open letter to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao demanded probe into alleged corruption of minister K.T. Rama Rao. The Malkajigiri MP on Saturday wrote the letter alleging that Rama Rao has committed several irregularities as a minister and made money. He alleged that Mr Rao has built a huge farm house in the area which falls under the GO 111 and he also colluded with the real estate mafia and assured them of relaxing certain villages from the purview of the GO 111. Mr Reddy questioned how could Mr Rao buy ₹30 crore worth property in Puppallaguda area for just ₹1 crore and how would he increase his assets value which is ₹8 crore in the year 2014 to ₹41 crore in 2019. He also questioned the secret behind an increase in the donations to the TRS at ₹188 crore.

## HYDERABAD TOPS JLL CITY INDEX

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

IT minister K.T. Rama Rao on Saturday released the JLL City Momentum Index 2019 report here. Hyderabad has been ranked first among 130 countries. Other Indian cities to have made the cut are Bengaluru (2), Chennai (5), Delhi (6), Pune (12), Kolkata (16) and Mumbai (2).

"In 2014, Hyderabad was nowhere on the list. In the last three years, we have topped the list twice," he said. He said it was a moment of pride for him since it answered a lot of detractors who doubted city's future after state formation.

Mr Rao indicated that the ranking was extremely credible since it was prepared by experts from across the world. "I am thrilled that Hyderabad has been recognised and judged better than 130 global cities," he said. He said it was important that Hyderabad ranks along with Shenzhen and Shanghai on innovation. Mr Rao said commercial expansion would continue because of the government's various proactive policies. He noted that 40 per cent of the population of Hyderabad was between 20 and 40.

Mr Rao said the rankings would come in handy on his upcoming trip to Davos.

## UTTAM: DEFEAT TRS, FORCE KCR HAND ON CAA

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

State Congress president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy appealed to the people, especially the minorities, to vote en masse against the TRS in the municipal elections to ensure that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao passes a resolution in the Assembly against the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Addressing a series of election meetings in Huzurnagar on Saturday, Mr Reddy said that the silence of Mr Rao on implementation of the CAA, NRC and the National Population Register in the state was puzzling and sending wrong signals.

He asked why despite repeated reminders from the Congress Mr Rao was hesitating to call a special session of Assembly. "In addition to the Congress Chief Ministers, the CMs of many non-BJP States have openly announced that the CAA and the NRC will not be implemented in their states. Kerala and Punjab Assemblies have also passed categorical resolutions rejecting both the CAA and the NRC," he added.

He said that Mr Rao would be forced to pass a resolution against the CAA only if the TRS tastes a humiliating defeat in municipal elections. He called Mr Rao's silence on the matter "questionable."

Mr Reddy asked MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi why he was not reminding his ally TRS about the resolution. "Owaisi took a big delegation of religious leaders to Pragati Bhavan on December 24 and later addressed the media stating that Mr Rao would make a big announcement within two days. This was done to divert the peoples attention from massive protests against the CAA which were being held by Congress and other organisations," Mr Reddy said.

He asked why Mr Owaisi did not question Mr Rao's silence 25 days after the meeting.

# Forward Bloc, BSP 'rebel' parties

## In Kollapur municipality, 20 TRS rebels file for nominations under Forward Bloc

**S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

All India Forward Bloc and Bahujan Samaj Party are acquiring prominence in the state as "parties of the rebels". They have become the go to parties for whoever is denied ticket by their parties in any election. In the ongoing municipal elections too, several TRS rebels are contesting under the banner of Forward Bloc.

Present TRS minister A. Indrakaran Reddy, who was denied the party ticket by Congress in the 2014

Assembly elections, contested as a BSP candidate from Nirmal constituency and got elected. His close friend and present TRS MLA Koneti Konappa was also denied a ticket in 2014. He contested as BSP candidate from Sirpur Kagaznagar assembly constituency and won. Later both Mr Indrakaran Reddy and Mr Konappa joined in TRS. In 2018 assembly elections, both were elected as TRS candidates.

In the 2018 Assembly elections, TRS leader Korukanti Chandra was

■ **IN THE** current municipal elections, Forward Bloc has become the main alternative party for rebels. In municipalities and municipal corporations other than Kollapur, TRS rebel candidates are contesting as Forward Bloc nominees

denied the ruling party ticket. He contested as Forward Bloc candidate from Ramagundam assembly constituency and got elected. He was later admitted into the TRS.

In the 2004 Assembly elections, Congress leader

and former minister D.K. Aruna did not get the Congress ticket from Gadwal assembly constituency. In the alliance that the Congress then formed with TRS, Gadwal seat had gone to TRS. Aruna contested as Samajwadi Party candidate and won. She later joined Congress and became a minister in Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy cabinet. Congress leaders P. Sashidhar Reddy from Medak Assembly constituency and Kammirreddy Ramulu from Metpally assembly

constituency contested as Janata Party candidates in 2004 and got elected.

In the current municipal elections, Forward Bloc has become the main alternative party for rebels. In Kollapur municipality, there are TRS rebels in each of the 20 wards. They have all filed nominations as candidates of Forward Bloc. In other municipalities and municipal corporations too, TRS rebel candidates are contesting as Forward Bloc nominees.

Asked why rebels prefer to contest from Forward

Bloc or BSP than as independents, a senior political leader said, "If they contest as independent candidates, they may not get a familiar election symbol. As a result, voters may get confused. Election symbols of Forward Bloc (lion) and BSP (elephant) are very familiar and voters recognise them easily".

The leader disclosed that sometimes, the rebels have to "contribute" to the party fund before they can get their B forms, thereby getting a prominent election symbol.



Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy participates in a Sankranti Sambaralu function organised by the Bharatha Mata Foundation at Jalavihar on Necklace Road in Hyderabad on Saturday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

## Kishan deputed MLC to debate with KTR on funds

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 18

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy responded to the challenge of IT minister K.T. Rama Rao and deputed party MLC N. Ramachander Rao to an open debate on Central funds released to the state.

Speaking at an election meeting at Gundla Pochampally, Mr Reddy said the Centre had part-funded each of the welfare programmes being implemented by the TRS government.

■ **KISHAN REDDY** asked the TRS leaders why they were luring BJP candidates if they did not fear the party's prospects. He said that the TRS would not get votes based on the decisions at Darussalam, the MIM headquarters

On the two-bedroom housing project, Mr Reddy asked Mr Rama Rao how many houses were built by the state government. "I will give a red carpet welcome to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao if he provides houses

to all poor people," the Union minister said, a reference to Mr Rama Rao saying he would roll out the red carpet for Mr Kishan Reddy to inspect the projects.

He asked the TRS leaders why they were luring BJP candidates if they did not fear the party's prospects. He said that the TRS would not get votes based on the decisions at Darussalam, the MIM headquarters. The people will vote for the BJP which is the only alternative to the TRS.

## ANDHRA PRADESH

## 5K cops deployed ahead of Assembly 'gherao'

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 18

The restoration of an old road for legislators to reach Assembly and Amaravati turned into a police bastion with almost 5,000 police personnel posted at Velagapudi, Mandadam and adjacent areas of Amaravati to contain the Assembly gherao protest called by Amaravati farmers and opposition parties.

The three-day Assembly sessions would be held from January 20 to discuss and pass distributed capitals proposal. But the farmers, who are protesting for the past 32 days dema-

nding continuation of Amaravati as the only Capital of the State, have planned to gherao the Assembly. An alternative road to reach Assembly is being laid.

Earlier the protesting farmers squatted on the roads of Amaravati proceeding to Secretariat and Assembly, tried to barge into the Secretariat, conducted rallies causing traffic jams and further squatted on the Vijayawada-Chennai national highway-16 at Chinna Kakani where the road blockade protest turned into a ruckus due to attack on YSRC MLA Pinne-lli Ramakrishna Reddy.

The farmers, along with TD cadre, came in small groups and stalled traffic on NH-16. They also attacked media personnel at Uddandarayunipalem.

Later, women tried to conduct devotional Durga Pongallu procession, which created unhealthy scenes between the police and protesters with the former resorting to lathi-charge.

In view of the recurring violence incidents, the police deployed 5,000 police in Amaravati to take control. The Z road from Krishanayapalem to Assembly is getting repaired to reroute the legislators.

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sought such a ritual to avoid hurdles in the progress of Amaravati construction. The priests said that with the protests entering 32 days on Saturday, the penance would invoke blessings of Lord Shiva.

Seer Siva Swamy said that penance is performed every day from 8 am to 1 noon and 5 pm to 9 pm seeking to remove all Amaravati development hurdles. He said that the penance is further meant to seek change in the attitude of the present rulers.

## THREE GET ELECTROCUTED IN PETROL BUNK

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 18

Three persons were electrocuted in a petrol bunk while replacing a bulb at Chilakaluripeta in Guntur district.

According to cops, the workers climbed a 20-feet high iron ladder to fix a bulb on the roof. While doing this, the ladder came in contact with a live wire.

The deceased were identified as D. Srinivas Rao, 45, K. Mouli, 22, and N. Sekhar, 48.

## GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA IRRIGATION & CAD. DEPARTMENT

Tenders are invited for Khammam Circle, checkdam works vide notice no: 04/2019-20, Dt. 13.01.2020, 06/2019-20, Dt. 13.01.2020 are available from 18.01.2020 at 6.00 PM and 07/2019-20, Dt. 16.01.2020, 08/2019-20, Dt. 16.01.2020 are available from 18.01.2020 at 7.00 PM to 27.01.2020 at 04.00 PM and last date for receipt of bid is 27.01.2020 at 04.00 PM. For further details see in e-procurement website.

Sd/- **P.A.Venkata Krishna**,  
Superintending Engineer, I&CADD,  
Irrigation Circle, Khammam, Ph-7093604038.

## SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on @SCRRailwayIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

### VENDOR MEET ON 24.01.2020-Corrigendum

South Central Railway is organizing Vendor Meet-2020 On 24.01.2020 from 15.00 hrs in the Rail Nilayam Auditorium, Secunderabad, to educate supplier regarding benefits of opting Letter of Credit as mode of payment and to develop new vendors. All Existing and Prospective Vendors may get themselves registered in advance over phone or by contacting: Sri Abdul Rasheed, Dy.CMM/IC/SCR Mob-9701370759 Sri M. Madhusudan Rao, CDMS/SCR Mob-8143204736 e-mail: [dymcmmr@gmail.com](mailto:dymcmmr@gmail.com) or may also get registered at the Venue on 24.01.2020 at 14.00 hrs on wards.

**Principal Chief Material Manager, Secunderabad**

## CENTRAL RAILWAY

### MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

#### E-PROCUREMENT AT NOTICE No. e-03/2020, Dt. 16.01.2020

DESCRIPTION	QTY	T.O.D.
Screw coupling assembly	577 Nos	27-01-2020
Primary voltage transformer	07 Nos	27-01-2020
Valve regulated lead acid battery	1235 Set	27-01-2020
Bent coupling link together	565 Nos	27-01-2020
Lavatory door arrangement	516 Nos.	28-01-2020
Draw bar and Castle nut	1552 Nos.	28-01-2020
Holding magnet valve	222 Nos.	30-01-2020
Magnet valve	220 Nos.	30-01-2020

Regarding detailed notice containing EMD, Quantity, Restrictions, and tender conditions please visit website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in)

Railway Helpline 139 | RPF Security Helpline 182

## KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of India Undertaking)

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

**Tender Notice No. KR-CO-PD-NTPC-KDG-MW-02**

**dtd. 16/01/2020**

Konkan Railway Corporation Limited invites Open Tender in Two Packet System through e-tendering on IRFES portal for the work of Construction of miscellaneous works like RCC Drains, Approach Road, Stone Pitching of Embankment Slopes, Height Gauge to Bridges, Yard Drainage, Main Drain, Concrete Inspection Pathways, Ballast Less Track, for Railway Siding Project, from Ch 2850 to Ch 10/200 at STTP, Kudgi-Vijayapur District, Karnataka State. The Closing Date & Time: 07/02/2020, up to 15:00 hrs. for submission of online offer/bids. Manual offer shall not be accepted. Total Estimated Cost of Tender is ₹ 26.71 Cr (Excl.GST). Please visit [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) website for details/participation & Corrigendum/Addendum will be hosted on this website only.

## Government of Madhya Pradesh

### Office of the Engineer-in-Chief

### Water Resources Department

Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Tulsi Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.)

Email Id: [ceproc.encwrd.bpl@nic.in](mailto:ceproc.encwrd.bpl@nic.in)

Tel: 0755-2767635 Fax 0755-2552406

N.I.T. No. 713/2019-20/E-in-C/e-tendering Bhopal, Dated 13.01.2020

Bids for following works are invited on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> Last date of purchase / download of Bid Document and submission of bid is **30.01.2020, 17:30 hrs.** Any amendment / modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on above mentioned website.

S. No.	Tender No.	Work	District	Amount (Lakhs)
1	2020_WRD_74357_1	<b>On Turnkey Basis:</b> Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training and Maintenance of Real-Time Structural Dam Monitoring and Early Warning System at Mohanpura and Kundalia Dams of MPWRD including Emergency Action Plans Development and Submission as per Dam safety norms for both dams, as per Detailed Scope of Work but not limited to that.	Rajgarh	1126.72
2	2020_WRD_74431_1	Renovation work of Wier and Canal of Kilkila Feeder in Lokpal Sagar Tank Scheme.	Panna	50.00

G-21740 Sd/- Chief Engineer (Procurement)

## EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

### E-TENDER NOTICE

e-tender Notice No. 74 of 2019-20 (Open)-Engg/MGS

On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/MGS for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.

(1) Tender No.36-MGS-DEN-III-19-20 :

**Name of Work with its location:** Repairs to locking arrangement with sliding boom at LC gates in BD section under ADENI/JPL, Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 4004480.48 Earnest Money: ₹ 80100.00

(2) Tender No.37-MGS-DEN-III-19-20 :

**Name of Work with its location:** Repairs to bridges under jurisdiction of ADENI/JPL, Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 6164665.20 Earnest Money: ₹ 123300.00

Date & time for submission of e-tender : 10.02.2020, Up-to 12.00 Hrs.,

Website particulars of e-tendering: [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in)

Divisional Railway Manager, Mughalsari PR/2041/MGS/Engg./T/19-20/40

## CENTRAL RAILWAY

### NAGPUR DIVISION

#### OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE No: DRMWNGP-03/2020 OF 17.01.2020

Sr. No. : 1. Name of work : Proposed

TWR between kms. 1) 916.50-917.00 = 0.50 kms. UP. 2) 925.00-927.00 = 2.00 kms. UP. 3) 931.00-937.00 = 6.00 kms. UP. 4) 949.00-950.00 = 1.00 kms. UP. 5) 956.48-957.00 = 2.00 kms. UP and 6) 962.80-974.20 = 8.40 kms. DN Rd. (Total = 14.50 Kms) on Itarsi-Narkher section under Sr. DEN (N) Nagpur jurisdiction. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 17501464.53. (ii) Earnest Money: ₹ 237500/-

Sr. No. : 2. Name of work :

Proposed work for Development of circulating area and scooter parking surface on eastern side of Nagpur station. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 15601803.91. (ii) Earnest Money : ₹ 228000/-

Sr. No. : 3. Name of work :

TFR (R) works between A) Kms. 1) 956.48-957.00 = 2.00 kms. UP and 2) 962.80-974.20 = 8.40 kms. DN Rd. (Total = 14.50 Kms) on Itarsi-Narkher section under Sr. DEN (N) Nagpur jurisdiction. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 17501464.53. (ii) Earnest Money: ₹ 237500/-

Sr. No. : 4. Name of work :

Proposed work for Development of circulating area and scooter parking surface on eastern side of Nagpur station. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 15601803.91. (ii) Earnest Money : ₹ 228000/-

Sr. No. : 5. Name of work :

TFR (R) works between A) Kms. 1) 956.48-957.00 = 2.00 kms. UP and 2) 962.80-974.20 = 8.40 kms. DN Rd. (Total = 14.50 Kms) on Itarsi-Narkher section under Sr. DEN (N) Nagpur jurisdiction. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 17501464.53. (ii) Earnest Money: ₹ 237500/-

Sr. No. : 6. Name of work :

Proposed work for Development of circulating area and scooter parking surface on eastern side of Nagpur station. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 15601803.91. (ii) Earnest Money : ₹ 228000/-

Sr. No. : 7. Name of work :

TFR (R) works between A) Kms. 1) 956.48-957.00 = 2.00 kms. UP and 2) 962.80-974.20 = 8.40 kms. DN Rd. (Total = 14.50 Kms) on Itarsi-Narkher section under Sr. DEN (N) Nagpur jurisdiction. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 17501464.53. (ii) Earnest Money: ₹ 237500/-

Sr. No. : 8. Name of work :

Proposed work for Development of circulating area and scooter parking surface on eastern side of Nagpur station. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 15601803.91. (ii) Earnest Money : ₹ 228000/-

Sr. No. : 9. Name of work :

TFR (R) works between A) Kms. 1) 956.48-957.00 = 2.00 kms. UP and 2) 962.80-974.20 = 8.40 kms. DN Rd. (Total = 14.50 Kms) on Itarsi-Narkher section under Sr. DEN (N) Nagpur jurisdiction. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 17501464.53. (ii) Earnest Money: ₹ 237500/-

Sr. No. : 10. Name of work :

Proposed work for Development of circulating area and scooter parking surface on eastern side of Nagpur station. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 15601803.91. (ii) Earnest Money : ₹ 228000/-

Sr. No. : 11. Name of work :

TFR (R) works between A) Kms. 1) 956.48-957.00 = 2.00 kms. UP and 2) 962.80-974.20 = 8.40 kms. DN Rd. (Total = 14.50 Kms) on Itarsi-Narkher section under Sr. DEN (N) Nagpur jurisdiction. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 17501464.53. (ii) Earnest Money: ₹ 237500/-

Sr. No. : 12. Name of work :

Proposed work for Development of circulating area and scooter parking surface on eastern side of Nagpur station. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 15601803.91. (ii) Earnest Money : ₹ 228000/-

Sr. No. : 13. Name of work :

TFR (R) works between A) Kms. 1) 956.48-957.00 = 2.00 kms. UP and 2) 962.80-974.20 = 8.40 kms. DN Rd. (Total = 14.50 Kms) on Itarsi-Narkher section under Sr. DEN (N) Nagpur jurisdiction. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 17501464.53. (ii) Earnest Money: ₹ 237500/-

Sr. No. : 14. Name of work :

Proposed work for Development of circulating area and scooter parking surface on eastern side of Nagpur station. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 15601803.91. (ii) Earnest Money : ₹ 228000/-





## Chief view

Chief Justice of India Sharad Bobde says that citizenship was not only about people's rights, but also about their duties towards the society

### SHORT TAKES

## MAHA DOC HELD IN PRAGYA CASE

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JAN. 18

A doctor from Maharashtra was arrested by Madhya Pradesh anti-terrorist squad (ATS) on charges of posting envelopes allegedly containing poisonous chemicals to BJP MP from Bhopal, Pragya Singh Thakur, police said here on Saturday.

The MP ATS arrested Sayyed Abdul Rehman Khan (35) at Dhanganag in Nanded district on Thursday night, a senior police officer told this newspaper, on condition of anonymity.

The accused would be brought to Bhopal after completion of necessary legal formalities for interrogation, he added.

Preliminary investigation by police suggested that the accused sent a bundle of envelopes containing 'harmful' chemicals and letters in which pictures of Prime Minister Modi, Union minister Amit Shah, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Pragya were printed, and sent to Thakur.

The police seized the envelopes from Pragya's house here on January 13 after the staff of the MP reported the matter to the police.

Maharashtra police was keeping the doctor's phone under surveillance for the last three months, following complaints that he was sending such envelopes to the local government officials.

## BJP AGAINST ADITYA'S PET PROJECT

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, JAN. 18

The BJP has opposed state tourism minister Aaditya Thackeray's dream project — boosting Mumbai's nightlife. BJP leader and former school education minister Ashish Shelar said on Saturday that Thackeray Jr.'s idea would put a strain on the police, BMC and the labour department.

Moreover, Maharashtra state BJP vice-president Kirit Somaia also raised the question of security of citizens, especially women.

He asked Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his son to clarify "for whom are they going to keep the pubs, bars, and discos open 24/7 hours in Mumbai."

Aditya Thackeray on Friday announced that shops, restaurants, malls, and pubs would remain open 24x7 on an experimental basis in a few areas of Mumbai from January 26. However, it is not compulsory.

It is being said that establishments would remain open all night at Fort and Kala Ghoda in south Mumbai and Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai.

The Bandra West MLA reiterated that his party would oppose the decision, arguing that hardworking Mumbai-kars would like to have a sound sleep at night, undisturbed by noisy pubs.

## I-T ISSUES SUMMONS TO RASHMIKA

M.K. ASHOKA | DC BENGALURU, JAN. 18

The Income Tax Department issued a notice to South India's multilingual actress Rashmika Mandanna and her family after raids on their properties in Virajpet of Kodagu district for the last two days. Rashmika and her father have been told to appear before its office in Mysuru on Monday.

I-T officials seized ₹25 lakh unaccounted cash and documents related to illegal properties worth several crores. They also unearthed undeclared assets of ₹3.94 crore. It was found during the raids that the actress had not paid taxes for ₹1.5 crore, sources said.

The officials found two PAN cards in the name of Rashmika and for one of the cards, taxes have been paid only till 2016-17.

Officials collected details and verified property documents related to a bungalow belonging to Rashmika's father, Serenity Community Hall, a coffee estate, a newly acquired land for building an international school and land for petrol bunk, sources said.

# 30 yrs of being refugees in own country

Kashmiri Pandits' wait for justice and return to their homeland with honour and dignity continues

SUNIL THAPLIYAL | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 18

The exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits will be completing 30 years on January 19, Sunday, but the community is still waiting for justice and their return to homeland with honour and dignity.

Late Sarwanand Koul Premi is still being remembered in Kashmir as a renowned poet, a social activist, a journalist and a reputed author of around three dozen books.

Being a known figure, he chose to stay back in his native place when the Valley was in the grip of turmoil. Unfortunately, his belief was brutally shattered and cost him his and his younger son's life.

On the intervening night of April 29-30, 1990, some unknown persons kidnapped Premi and his son Veerji Koul from their native village Soafshali and then killed them. An FIR was registered at the local police station Dooru. Unfortunately, there was no clue regarding the accused, so the probe in the case was closed as untraced.

Further, the family suffered another blow when on the intervening night of August 11-12, 1998, some miscreants set the residence of Premi on fire, regarding which an FIR was registered. The case was again closed as the culprits were untraced.

However, Rajender Koul Premi, the elder son of Sarwanand Koul Premi, who was forced to migrate to Delhi after the horrifying incident with his family, is still fighting for justice not only for his personal cause but also for the entire community.

Premi, who is the complainant, told this newspaper that even after 29 years of the tragic incident, inaction and insensitive approach of the government, which initially had made huge promises to compensate and resettle the family, has miserably failed to transform the same into action.

"For the last 29 years, I have met Prime Ministers and Chief Ministers, union ministers and top officials but everything went in vain, we are yet to get justice. My family has lost everything so as my community. We want justice, due compensation and return to our homeland with safety and security."

He further said "after the government revoked Article 370 last year, we got a ray of hope. People are now coming forward for the our cause."

The State Human Rights Commission on February 22, 2012, in its double-bench verdict has ordered very valid recommendations and has asked the state government to redress the grievances of the family "sooner the better" but nothing has changed since then," said Premi.

Meanwhile, the Kashmiri Pandits living in the national capital are now expecting the Centre to chart out a concrete roadmap for their safe return and rehabilitation in the trouble-torn Valley.



Journalists use their mobile phones after the government ordered the restoration of pre-paid mobile services and 2G internet services in two districts of the Kashmir Valley after six months of ban, at the Government Media Facilitation Centre in Srinagar, on Saturday.

—PTI

## NIA takes over Davinder probe

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 18

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has booked the suspended deputy superintendent of police, Davinder Singh, of the Jammu and Kashmir Police under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Arms Act, after he was arrested along with two militants of the Hizbul Mujahideen.

The premiere anti-terror investigating agency registered a fresh case after it took over the probe into the case, following directions from the Union home ministry.

Singh was arrested last week after he was caught by a special team of the state police, while ferrying Naveed Babu, a district

■ **INITIAL INVESTIGATION** has revealed that this is not the first time the suspended police Singh officer was involved in facilitating the movement of militants in and out of the Valley

■ **A TEAM** from NIA may take Singh to Delhi on Monday for further interrogation

commander of terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen, along with another associate, Atif. An advocate Irfan Mir was also arrested along with them. All four were caught when a police team intercepted their car near Qazigund last week along with arms and ammunitions.

There was specific

Intelligence available with the state police that Singh was trying to take two militants out of the Valley, probably out of Shopian to either Chandigarh or Delhi.

After receiving orders from the Union home ministry, the NIA has re-registered this case and started the investigation, the spokesman said.

Sources said that the NIA has now registered a fresh case under sections 18, 19, 20 and 38, 39 of the UAPA against the suspended police officer and others.

Initial investigations, sources added, had revealed that this was not the first time Singh was involved in facilitating movement of militants in or out of the Valley.

It is possible that an NIA

team may bring Singh to Delhi on Monday for further custodial interrogation and investigations into the case for which a team is likely to go to the Valley on Sunday.

The weapons recovered from Singh and other accused, which includes AK-47, hand grenades, pistol, and mobile phone will also be seized by the investigating agency now.

"This is a very sensitive case with larger national ramifications due to which it was decided by the home ministry that investigations should be handed over to the NIA.

This is very sensitive case as it involves the security apparatus in a very troubled area and we need to ascertain a lot of facts in the matter," a senior intelligence official said.

## PAK VIOLATES CEASEFIRE AT LoC IN VALLEY

Jammu, Jan. 18:

Pakistan on Saturday violated ceasefire by resorting to firing and shelling on forward posts and villages along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesman said.

The firing and shelling from across the border started in Mendhar sector of Poonch and Lam in Nowshera sector of Rajouri in the afternoon, prompting befitting retaliation by the Indian Army, he said.

The spokesman said Pakistan resorted to unprovoked violation in Mendhar sector, but there was casualty on the Indian side. In Nowshera, Pakistani troops resorted to small arms firing in the noon, he said. —PTI

## Union ministers begin J&K tour

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, JAN. 18

The first team of Union ministers began its tour of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday to what the officials said, "disseminate the information about the importance of the government policies with regard to overall development of the Union Territory (UT) and its people along with steps taken in this direction in the last five months."

As many as 38 Union ministers would be touring J&K to hold close to 60 meetings across the UT over the next six days.

They would also interact with the people and inaugurate a host of projects and works, from tube wells and lane drain protection walls to a two-lane bypass road and a school

of engineering. The tour, from January 18 to 24 is being coordinated by the home ministry.

Ministers Arjun Meghwal, Ashwini Choubey and Jitendra Singh who had to reach Jammu by a routine flight from Delhi could not land due to bad weather. Their flight was diverted to Srinagar from where they flew to Jammu in a helicopter.

According to Chief Secretary B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, the ministers will interact with the people to educate them about the projects to be implemented in J&K. Subrahmanyam has asked the district administrations to make all necessary arrangements for the public outreach programme of Union ministers.

From page 1

Over a period of time, Naveed Ahmed Shah alias Babu, a resident of Nazneenpora in Shopian, had started working as a conduit for Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh. As special police officer, Naveed used to visit Davinder's home on quite a few occasions and used to regularly be seen in his office.

Though sources indicated that Naveed worked under Davinder at some point, the same was not confirmed by officials.

There were several underground cadres who were in touch with both of them, something that is common in anti-terror operations.

Sometimes, these cadres would provide information to buy their own safe-

ty, sometimes due to ideological differences or due to tussles between local and foreign militants. "Both Davinder and Naveed made the most of this information, making huge money in the process," sources said adding that Davinder even had a share in the cash rewards on the heads of various terrorists who surrendered.

But, by the end of 2016, Naveed who had a close association with militants and their handlers across the border, made up his mind to join the ranks of the Hizbul Mujahideen.

In 2017, while he was posted on the Food Corporation of India's premises in Budgam's Chandpora, he decamped with four rifles from the guard room and joined the Hizbul Mujahideen. Later,

he was involved in snatching a weapon from a legislator's house.

Even after he joined Hizbul, Naveed remained in touch with Davinder. Sources said Davinder used to talk not only to Naveed but through him, with other militants. They would communicate through various apps and therefore never came on the security agencies' radar. "With Naveed in the Mujahideen and in a position to pay, Davinder started helping him and his family by providing them safe houses and transport, besides parting sensitive information. He ferried Naveed on an earlier occasion as well," they said.

Naveed alias Babu, who is Hizbul Mujahideen's second major commander, after Riyaz Naikoo, has 17 FIRs against him.

■ **VHP-AFFILIATED** Dharmansad, a conglomerate of saints and seers, will give a final shape to the campaign during their three-day long meet in Prayagraj, in UP from Monday

## Temple construction may begin in April

FAITH | MATTERS

YOJNA GUSAI | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 18

With the Supreme Court clearing the decks for the construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) is planning a fortnight-long nation-wide campaign to mark the *Ramotsav Pakhvada* this year from March 24.

The campaign will also include reaching out to karsevaks, who participated in the Ramjanam-bhoomi movement, and devotees who had offered *shilas* (bricks or any kind of material) for the temple.

Indications from the VHP camp suggest that it wants the construction to begin from Ramnavami in April.

But only the Ram Mandir trust, as ordered by the apex court to over-

## VHP to reach out to people who were part of Ram temple movement

see the construction, will take a final call. The trust is yet to be set up.

Last month, BJP national president and Union home minister Amit Shah asserted that a "sky-touching Ram mandir would come up in Ayodhya in four months."

The VHP has been the flagbearer among the Rashtriya Swayansevak Sangh-led Sangh Parivar for the construction of the temple.

Ahead of the apex court's landmark verdict in the politically sensitive case in November last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the RSS and many others had appealed to the people for maintaining peace and harmony, with the RSS, barring its affiliates, including the VHP, to take

shape to the campaign during their three-day long meet in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh from January 20, the VHP has already asked its cadre to reach out to all karsevaks, who participated in the Ramjanambhoomi movement, which led to the demolition of the Babri Masjid at the disputed site.

The campaign will also see VHP cadre reaching out to those, who offered or sent Ram *shilas* for the construction of the temple during the movement.

The *shilas* — bricks with Sri Ram inscribed on them — were collected from across the country in 1989 just before the *shilanyas* took place in Ayodhya, which the VHP and the *Dharmansad* wants to be used in the foundation of the temple.

■ **RSS NOT LINKED TO POLITICS, SAYS BHAGWAT**

Moradabad (UP), Jan 18: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday said his organisation has no connection with politics and it works only to uplift the cultural and human values of the country.

Bhagwat was in Moradabad for a four-day programme with RSS workers. Addressing a large gathering, Bhagwat said people from all walks of life are a part of the organisation, while some also run political parties.

"Elections mean nothing to us. We are working to maintain the values of the country," he said.