

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 27 JANUARY 2020



Sindhu's highest glory yet

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■ Full report on Page 14

■ Page 5: Guntur, Krishna too feel tremors

rest in an apartment at Mallepaly after a health check-up. P. Shiva Chandra, SHO, Habeebnagar, barged into flat and



A major share of the budget should be allocated to education and skill development, health and sanitation as these sectors are vital for the overall development of the nation – T. Venkata Subbaiah, Malkajgiri

Middle classes expect big I-T relief in Budget

Amid the economic slowdown, the average citizen reckons a balanced budget with a slew of measures to revive the country's financial health is the need of the hour.

PRAKAASH JUMAANI
Replace all taxes with Banking Transaction Tax

Ever since Narendra Modi was elected as Prime Minister, rumours have been in the air about doing away with all types of taxation and bringing in a lone BTT (Banking Transaction Tax) of around 0.25 per cent. A negligible collection cost could be also directly deducted by the banks while remitting the money. Currently, the total cost of tax collection is over 40 per cent (subject to correction). If the proposal is put in practice, the gross BTT collections, thanks to the negligible collection cost, are estimated to be collecting over 10 times the current amounts. With this initiative, citizens would benefit immensely without fiscal fears and overall, the country would enjoy great economic benefits. The only disadvantage would be the massive job losses in government sector. However, ways to compensate the job losses could be explored. The idea of resisting from taking up this initiative fearing job losses is counter-productive and is diverting the country from an immediate path of progress.

I wish that the government implements this much needed revolutionary reform immediately.

4-2, Dhruvatar, 6-3-652, Somajiguda

VADDETI VENUNATH
Central government employee

Boost consumption by raising salaries

India's retail inflation has touched the five-year high mark this month and achieving GDP growth is the major challenge before the government which aims at becoming a five-trillion dollar economy. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be presenting the Budget for 2020-21 on Saturday, February 1 and there are several concerns and expectations with regard to the current economy scenario. Due to growing unemployment, impact of demonetisation and GST, low agricultural and industrial returns, low spending and consumption, climate change and global trade impacts, the country's economic situation took a downturn. In view of the above circumstances, I put forward the following suggestions and expectations for the forthcoming budget 2020-2021:

(i) Setting up of a new inflation regulatory commission, cutting expenditure on non-priority works and certain subsidies (ii) Boosting research and development in agricultural and industrial sectors (iii) Measures to reduce medical and education expenses (iv) Unemployment allowance or self-employment loans with low procedural formalities (v) Independent regulatory body to oversee infrastructure maintenance (vi) Implementation of group insurance policy for NSE stocks to avoid loss to investors (vii) Ban on vehicles which are 20 years and older and recycling of raw material to avoid pollution impact and reduce raw material costs (viii) Merging ill-performing companies with profit-making companies (ix) Raising salaries of government and private employees who fall in low pay scales, a move that could improve spending in the economy (x) Regulatory body to monitor rising land prices and issue of e-documents for all properties by linking them with Aadhar (xi) Comprehensive measures to boost rural economy (xii) Income-tax exemption for low income (up to ₹5 lakh) entities.

#4, C Block, CRIDA Residential Building, Santoshnagar

S.S. RAMA CHANDRA MURTY
GM, HMT Ltd.

Finance minister shouldn't be biased against Telugu states in allocations

I have a serious concern about the existing loopholes in the economy and have great expectations from the finance minister. The Indian economy is in a state of turmoil due to the effects of demonetisation, GST and failure of the state governments to revise real estate prices so that they are not too far from the markets rates. There are serious concerns over the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) which created an adverse impact on business across sectors.

I suggest that the state and central governments work to rectify loopholes in policies and updating real estate prices, a subject which is in the control of the state governments. I hope the finance minister presents an employee-friendly budget and encourage businesses.

As far as employees are concerned, the income tax limit has to be enhanced to ₹10 lakh as the rupee value has come down drastically. The finance minister should find a way to increase the tax base by liberalising rules, particularly for small businesses.

Similarly, interest rates on home loans should be reduced to make housing affordable to economically poor individuals and in the process encourage real estate in the country.

The finance minister should also provide adequate funds for infrastructure development and establishment of central government institutions in the Telugu states without showing bias.

general manager, HMT Ltd., Plot No. 454, HMT Hills, Kukatpally

K.N. VIKRAM RAJ
'BANDHU'

I expect a balanced budget

Firstly, I would like to thank Deccan Chronicle for dedicating the Speak Out issue for suggestions for budget from the readers. Being an optimistic senior citizen, I always expect a 'well-balanced Budget' for the financial-year 2020-2021 from the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. I expect that justice is done to all sections of the society as done previously by late Arun Jaitley.

Kachiguda

MOLUGU V. SREENIVASULU
Movie artiste & fashion designer

Ban all notes above ₹50

Inviting readers' feedback and suggestions on the budget is another commendable initiative by Deccan Chronicle. There is a speculation about the government doing away with all direct and indirect taxes and imposing Banking Transaction Tax. It is a brilliant idea and these reforms could boost the economy and help in curbing black money.

8-1-394, Shivaji Nagar

PROF. Dr D.V.G. KRISHNA,
Economics professor

Government should introduce national credit cards for individuals, businesses

A national credit card should be instituted. The Indian economy is racing to become a \$5 trillion economy by the year 2024-25. It is, however, passing through a temporary slowdown phase mainly attributable to international economic trends. The growth rate fell below what was originally predicted but is still better than several countries. At this juncture, the Union Budget should not be merely an exercise of balancing receipts and expenditure. It should be aimed at arresting the slowdown of economic growth, promoting employment and welfare and keeping deficit under check. India's economic growth has decelerated since mid-2018, with real GDP growth slipping from nearly 8 per cent to 5 per cent in the second quarter (April-June) of 2019. It further slipped to 4.5 per cent in July-September quarter, mainly due to poor showing by manufacturing and construction sectors. As per the first advance estimates of the national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector output growth will decelerate to 2 per cent in 2019-20, down from 6.9 per cent in the previous financial year. Likewise, the construction sector growth is estimated at 3.2 per cent as against 8.7 per cent in 2018-19. The NSO data further revealed that deceleration in growth will also be witnessed in other key segments - agriculture, electricity, hotel and transport sector, financial, real estate, and professional services. India's July-September 2019 (Q2) GDP growth rate fell to 4.5 per cent, the lowest in over six years, compared with 7.1 per cent in the same quarter of 2018-19. The low growth rate was mainly on account of a weak manufacturing sector; falling consumer demand and private investment, and a drop in exports due to global slowdown. The gross value added growth during Q2 stood at 4.3 per cent, against 4.9 per cent in April-June this year and 6.9 per cent in the September quarter last year. Gross fixed capital formation at current prices declined sharply to 1.02 per cent, compared with 11.8 per cent in the same quarter last year.

Prices of petroleum products should be stabilised across all states by modifying the GST rates. Credit guarantee should be offered to industrialists and exporters.

States should be mandated to bear a part of the cost of laying new railway lines in backward areas in their respective states. Entertainment of any sort — films, music and sports — should be heavily taxed. Minimum support price for food, oilseed and cash crops should be provided without fail and input subsidy should be given more liberally. There should be no income tax on income earned through pensions by senior citizens. Inflation, especially food inflation, should be strictly controlled. Prices of petroleum products should be stabilised across all states by modifying the GST rates accordingly. Credit guarantee should be offered to industrialists and exporters. A National Credit Card should be instituted. The ceiling limit could be ₹5,000 for each household and ₹10 lakh for every business. Loans to start ups should be sanctioned more liberally. Unemployment and underemployment should be curtailed.

M. Phil., Ph.D. (Economics), Director & Professor, Ramnath Gulzarilal Kedia College

SYED NISAR MEHDI,
Computer operator

Raise prices of alcohol, tobacco

Budget 2020 will be a very crucial step in the government's attempts to boost the economy and keep inflation in check. The government should focus on keeping the prices of household products - TV, refrigerator, microwave oven, computer and mobile phones - under control. And there is a need to increase the income-tax limit from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh for government and private sector employees. Prices of cigarettes, and alcoholic beverages should be increased. The sales tax and excise duty on petroleum products should be abolished. We hope with the finance minister present a people-friendly Budget.

16-11-20/1/D, Malakpet

Dr SUDHIR MANE
Doctor

Provide preferential services to honest taxpayers

Most middle-class salaried or self-employed individuals earning more than ₹10 lakh per annum come under the 30 per cent income-tax slab. But, the government is not providing any incentives to honest taxpayers. A few years ago, the I-T department began issuing 'honest taxpayer' certificates. Such moves are akin to cheering school kids for doing homework well. It does not motivate citizens to pay taxes honestly. There's a widespread notion that the taxpayers' money usually ends up in a corrupt politician's or bureaucrat's pocket and barely has any direct benefits to the taxpayer.

Apart from trying to reduce corruption and bringing in accountability, the government should consider giving tangible benefits to honest taxpayers. They should be given 'Privileged Citizen' cards which come with a many benefits like preferential services at banks and airports, concessions in railway and air ticket fares and discounts on toll tax. Such practices are already in place in neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka.

Some countries even have lotteries where the winner gets a sum that is 100 times the tax paid. The finance minister should consider starting such a program with the upcoming budget session.

6-3-95/G-100, Siddi Vinayak Nivas, Hastinapur Colony, Sainikpuri

Dr G. KAMESWARA RAO
retired Army medical officer

Enhancements to senior citizens' savings schemes

Currently, avenues for savings under section 80C of the IT Act for senior citizens aged 85 years and above are limited to the NSC, senior citizens savings scheme, public provident fund and tax-saving bank deposits. The lock-in period is quite long for these schemes, ranging from five to 15 years. One can't expect old people to enjoy the fruits of those savings. LIC Jeevan Akshay annuity is limited to 85 years only. I suggest that changes be made in schemes accordingly.

Flat No. 201, Pioneer Vasant Vihar, Plot no. E 45, Madhuranagar

SYED MUBBESHER MEHDI,
Retired government employee

Exempt pensioners from I-T purview

There are expectations that with the upcoming Union budget, pensioners will be fully exempted from income-tax which has been long-pending demand. Post retirement, pensioners get a limited income and it gets difficult to make ends meet. We expect that the finance minister will consider the demand in favour of lakhs of pensioners and grant permanent exemption from income-tax.



H.No. 16-8-50, Chanchalguda

VISHWANATH PANDIT,
retired engineer

Cut down on DA and roll out welfare schemes

Being a taxpayer-pensioner, I expect that the income bracket for tax compliance be raised every year. The government is encouraging small savings but on the other side is reducing interest rates on postal savings. This time, I hope that the government shall look into this and cut down on dearness allowances to employees and utilise the revenues for implementing welfare schemes.

Ramanthapur

CVS RAO Pocket-friendly budget is need of the hour

The Union budget should cover all sections of the people particularly the middle class, who desperately need income-tax relief, higher rate of interest on FDRs and medical bill subsidies. Education, health, defence sectors have to be given top priority. Household products like two-wheelers, TVs and ACs should be made cheaper. Interest rates on housing loans should be cut down to nominal rates. The government should make sure that the price of LPG is not hiked regularly. Unproductive PSUs should be shut down to cut costs and focus on welfare schemes. A pocket-friendly budget is the need of the hour.

Safilguda

The government should create a separate fund for national universities with a vision of making our institutions globally competitive
— K. Abhinav Reddy, Miyapur

People eye overhaul in direct taxes

There is a strong demand for reducing GST on health, life and vehicle insurance. Small business players demand for a level playing field as e-commerce giants dominate the market.



GEORGE SEKARAN
Freelance insurance advisor-cum-faculty
Investments in life insurance should be encouraged

There is a need to create a separate programme for investments in life insurance premium, delinking it from section 80C, so that it will give a boost to the life insurance industry. This separate programme can have a cap of ₹1 lakh per annum, though ₹2 lakh will be ideal. With medical inflation rising every year, the premium paid for health policies should be increased to ₹1 lakh per annum as per the exemption under section 80D, with a suitable upper limit for senior citizens. The lock-in period for investments in capital gains should be brought back to the pre-2018 level of just three years from the current five years and the interest should be fixed at at least 7 per cent to neutralise inflation.

Flat No. 402, Gharonda Gagan Apartments, 6-1-122, Padmaraonagar



N. ANIL
Reduce GST on health insurance

I request the finance minister of Telangana state to take up the issue of the 18 per cent GST being levied on health insurance with the Union finance minister. I am making this request in view of senior citizens and middle class people who can't afford such a high tax.

G2, Rahul Residency Apartments, Maruthinagar Extension, Bowenpally

JAGANNATHAM ERABATHINI
Retired engineer
Enhance minimum wage structure

To alleviate the economy and thereby increase the GDP growth, the government would have to give emphasis to rural economy, tax the rich and corporations, and undertake constructions and housing. At the crux of the poverty issue is the wage structures and the widening rich-poor divide. Massive

MOHAMMED SARWAR AHMED
BTech student
Hope budget will bring Achhe Din

Budget allocation for the education sector will play an important role as the sector is going through a policy paralysis. These days, the GDP growth rate is going down, showing how weak the finance minister is in handling economics. The agricultural sector plays a vital role in the economic growth. If the agricultural sector does not do well, all other sectors are affected. I suggest that the finance minister present the comprehensive budget keeping in mind the crisis in agricultural sector. I hope that 'Achhe Din' are to come.

10-2-510/2, Vijayanagar Colony Road, Asif Nagar

DEVARSHI GANGAJI
Physics lecturer
Increase allocations for education

Happy that Deccan Chronicle took the initiative of giving the public an opportunity to express their views on the upcoming budget. I feel the budget should be one for 'Achhe Din' and not 'Kachhe Din.' Skilling of unemployed youth and providing unemployment allowances should be a priority for the government. Focus should be on increasing the budget allocation for education. Currently, less than 3 per cent of the budget allocations are given to education. More industries should come up and investments should be made in public sector rather than disinvestments in BSNL, Railways and Airways.

Vinayak Nagar Colony, Opposite BRC Constructions, Manikonda

AKHIL JAIN
Chartered Accountant
Income-tax Act has to be overhauled

I am a tax professional and I think there is a need for an overhaul to the Income Tax Act. There are interpretational issues as various authorities have multiple ways of looking at certain matters. I have the following recommendation for the upcoming budget: To increase the tax base, the government should get rid of the agriculture income exemption under section 10(1) of the Income-Tax Act. The current government is known to take bold steps so it is the right time that all persons are taxed equally irrespective of the income source. People earning agricultural income should be asked to pay tax if their income is more than the basic exemption limit. Instead of tinkering with the direct tax slabs, the government can indirectly put money in the hands of the common man by removing GST on life insurance, medical insurance, and vehicle insurance premium.

The dividend distribution tax under section 115-O of the Income Tax Act for the private limited companies should be abolished. As private limited companies are mainly family-owned and when the profits are already taxed there is no point in levying tax again with the distribution of such profits (PAT). This leads to double taxation.

Keeping in mind the fiscal deficit, it will not be a good idea to reduce the tax rates for individuals and other entities, given the fact that the government has drastically reduced the corporate tax rate. Instead, the government should bring in a social security scheme in line with those prevalent in western Countries. This will turn out to be a fruitful initiative in the long run to the middle-class.

Similar to the introduction of e-assessments under the Income Tax Act, e-assessments should be introduced in other tax departments as well. This will reduce corruption and cause less trouble.

The provisions of section 40A (3), 269SS, 269ST, 269T of the Income Tax Act, 1961 have to be abolished in order to increase the tax collection and to achieve greater transparency. Assessee will start showing cash transaction in books of accounts, which will provide valuable inputs to the government and reduce black money.

The tax audit limit under section 44AB of the Income Tax Act, 1961 needs to be increased from ₹1 crore to ₹2 crore to keep it in line with the GST audit. To reduce litigation and greater transparency, section 17(5) of the Central Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act) has to be abolished or amended to a great extent to provide more clarity on ineligible inputs.

Suggestions for the economy as a whole
■ Increase the number of people covered under 'Modicare.'
■ The government should increase infrastructure spending as India is lagging behind in this aspect. World-class roads, bridges, Metro facilities are still a distant reality. Many places in India still don't have proper connectivity. The Indian Railways should cover all those areas.
■ India can attract tourists as it has many unexplored destination provided proper infrastructure, transportation and hospitality is accessible. This will also help in increasing the foreign exchange reserves.
■ Stricter laws for e-commerce players are the need of the hour. They are destroying the businesses of brick-and-mortar companies, the backbone of the Indian economy, by offering deep discounts. This is imperative as Reliance is also entering the e-commerce marketplace, which may lead to trade wars and further hamper businesses of small entities.
■ To protect environment, higher taxes should be levied on entities leaving higher carbon footprint.
■ To improve the ease of doing business, reduction in tax rates should be substantiated by reduction in overall compliances under various statutes under the Companies Act, Income Tax Act and the GST Act and others.

Shyam Karan Road, Ameerpet

changes are needed in the income-tax slab structure to bring a balance in this respect.

Part of the solution to the poverty issue is the revision of minimum wages. There are certain good schemes aimed at alleviating poverty. Let us take example of the MGNREGA scheme. It is an excellent scheme for rural masses. At the same time, it is highly beneficial in building national infrastructure. In view of the country's inflation, daily wage in this scheme has to be immediately raised to ₹500 to ₹600.

Plot No. 10 & 11, SCB 6-51-055, Dr Snehal Nilayam, Marri Ram Reddy Colony, Bowenpally

HIRALAL SARAWGI
Businessman
Higher interest for senior citizens on deposits

Most middle-class senior citizens meet economic needs from income earned in the form of interest on life-long savings invested in bank deposits. With the declining rates of bank interest on deposits, it is increasingly becoming difficult to meet economic needs with reduced incomes and expensive goods and services. At least one bank, preferably the SBI, should be directed to make interest rates on deposits of senior citizens in such a way that on minimum investment of ₹5 lakh, higher interest rates may be given. The present higher rate of just half per cent for senior citizens is hardly justifiable. The government can then compensate the loss incurred by the banks in the scheme.

3/4/221, 501, Prashant Nest, Hyderabad

R.V. REDDY
FSDR Bill will lead to financial catastrophe

The falling economy can be saved by encouraging public spending in multiple ways. One of them is by removing LTCG (Long Term Capital Gains) in the budget. Since Sensex is sensitive on this factor, the prices of shares will surge following its removal. There would thus be more money available with the investors to spend. Revenue of the I-T department would also swell since the investors would be paying more in the form of tax returns. Also, the government should not introduce the new Financial Sector Development & Regulation Bill (FSDR Bill). The Bill, if passed, will be deemed as a measure to benefit a few corporates by granting them access to the hard-earned money of middle-class depositors. Senior citizens and pensioners living on the bank interest will be put to risk. It would be a financial catastrophe if the investor is not allowed to freely spend his hard-earned savings.

42, Shama Apartments, 138/1, PG Road, Secunderabad

DR R. BHUVAN ANAND
Economist
Hike tax benefits on housing schemes

The income-tax exemption limit has to be raised to ₹7.5 lakh for urban employees. Tax revision has to be done for ₹7.5 lakh to ₹15 lakh, ₹15 lakh to ₹25 lakh and ₹25 lakh categories. The extra disposable income from tax savings will lead to more aggregate demand, more production, increased employment and a higher GDP growth. Issues like unemployment and slow economic growth can further be resolved.

The budget needs to focus on reducing interest rates. Bringing down interest rates will lead to a higher consumption in the economy. Private sector banks charge high interest rate, even change in repo rate does not reflect as it does not pass to consumers and industry as well. The reduction of 1 per cent repo rate has not transferred to the consumers yet.

The burning issue in India is consumer inflation. The budget could help the common man by keeping inflation under control. The current inflation is too high for any common consumer as prices of household items have sky-rocketed. A target inflation 2 per cent to 3 per cent should be maintained to keep the economy running.

The budget needs to increase tax benefits on housing schemes. In the previous budget, ₹1.5 lakh tax exemption was fixed to houses bought under ₹45 lakh. Now, in this budget, this exemption limit should rise to ₹75 lakh as houses have become unaffordable in the metros.

India is also facing the issue of unemployment. Allowing more FDI to India will not only raise the GDP but also creates employment.

Under section 80C, the overall cap of ₹1.5 lakh needs to be increased to ₹2.5 lakh in view of the high inflation. Increasing 80C limit will help both the individuals and the government.

2-2-1075/2, F-201, Laxmi Towers, Tilaknagar, New Nallakunta

DR V.D. SANTOSH KUMAR
Associate professor

CAA protests pushed economy into further trouble

At the outset, I would like to thank Deccan Chronicle for providing an opportunity to share my views on budget 2020-21. The nearly \$3 trillion Indian economy is in a state of turmoil, with a falling growth rate, rising rate of unemployment, near zero employment creation and an increasing rate of inflation. There is a panic reaction all around. The economy has been pushed to further trouble because of the CAA protests, which involved huge expenditure and have been a serious threat to growth prospects. There has been a panic reaction from the finance minister, in the form of the unproductive and uncalled for corporate tax reduction. Agriculture is the soul of the Indian economy and it should be taken care of in all respects. In the budget 2020-21, priority should be to revive the MGNREGA scheme.

Vishwa Vishwani School of Business

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సచిత్ర మాసపత్రిక

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బొనసాగి ఓ ముసలి నవల

జనవరి సంచిక మార్చి 2020 వుంది



Pat for Sindhu

KTR congratulates P.V. Sindhu for being conferred with Padma Bhushan, says she has brought glory to India

IN BRIEF

Police rescue minor girl

Hyderabad: The Kacheguda police has rescued a girl who was roaming on the roads and is searching for her parents. The girl is reportedly specially abled and was found by the police at Venkataramana theatre in Kacheguda. Police said that she could only say that her name was Puja Dileep and could give no further details.

Kachiguda inspector Habibullah Khan said, "We have sent her to a rehabilitation centre in Sithaphalmandi and searching for her parents."



Man ends life due to poor health

Hyderabad: A 42-year-old man who was keeping poor health committed suicide by hanging at his home. Based on a complaint from his son, Dundigal police registered a case for the probe.

According to the police, the victim, M. Nagesh from Bahadurpally in Dundigal was staying his son M.

Dinesh, 18. Nagesh was a welder while his son works as a mechanic. For quite some time, Nagesh was suffering from ill-health and was reportedly depressed over it. On Saturday morning, Dinesh left for work and returned home in the evening to find his father hanging from the ceiling.

With the help of neighbours, he brought down Nagesh and shifted him to a hospital, but he was dead by then, the police said. Based on a complaint from Dinesh, a case has been lodged and the body handed over to the family after the post-mortem examination at Gandhi Hospital mortuary on Sunday.

Youth killed in road accident

Hyderabad: A 19-year-old boy succumbed and his two friends survived with injuries when their bike met with a road accident at Suraram early on Sunday. The students were on their way to have food at a hotel when the mishap took place, police said. Dundigal police identified the victim as P. Sai, a resident of Dundigal and a first year graduation student at private college.

"The youths were drunk when the accident took place. The rider was not wearing helmet and was driving at a high speed, which resulted in the accident," said Dundigal insepctor A. Venkatesham. His parents Sujatha and Srinu are labourers. At around 2 am on Sunday, Sai left the house telling his mother that he would have food at Suraram along with his friends Vishnu and A. Krupakar. The trio started from Dundigal to Suraram on Krupakar's bike (TS07 GV 6546). When the bike reached the main road near an IT company, Sai who was riding the bike lost control and rammed the vehicle into a wall on the roadside and the trio fell on the road.

Passersby who noticed the mishap shifted the injured persons to Mallareddy Hospital at Suraram. Sai succumbed while undergoing treatment and Vishnu and Krupakar are said to be out of danger.

RULES VIOLATION

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA I DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

The Supreme Court has found fault with officials of the State Bank of India's Khairatabad branch for resorting to fraud, suppression of material facts in auctioning a property in Jubilee Hills without possessing legal mortgage rights.

A division bench headed by Justice L. Nageshwar Rao was dealing a special leave petition filed by SBI challenging the direction

of the Telangana High Court, which had come to the rescue of the purchasers.

The High Court had directed the SBI Chairman and Managing Director to take disciplinary action against officials responsible for misconduct and fraudulent behaviour and persuading parties to buy the property while not holding mortgage rights.

A private limited company was the successful bidder at the auction and paid ₹4,40,25,000 as 25 per cent of the initial deposit.

Before it could pay the balance, it came to know on its own verification that the mortgage of the bank on the property was subject to the order of status quo imposed by the City Civil Court, Hyderabad, in a suit filed by a third party against a borrower who had obtained a loan from the SBI.

Concealing this fact, the bank officials conducted the auction. Apart from that, the bank officials warned the successful bidder that if the balance 75 per cent of the bid amount

was not paid, they will forfeit the money already deposited.

When the bidder approached the High Court, a division bench comprising Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao and Justice K. Lakshman imposed costs on the bank and directed the SBI to return the deposited amount to the petitioner with an interest of nine per cent per year. The bench also directed the SBI chairman to take action against the bank officers responsible.

Challenging the directions, the SBI approached the Supreme Court. Mr. Pogulakonda Pratap, counsel representing the bidder, submitted that the conduct of the bank officials was a clear act of playing fraud on the general public and therefore the officials responsible should be punished suitably.

The apex court did not intervene in the High Court directions and asked the bank authorities to submit details of the matter.

Reduced to ashes



A fire broke out in the dry vegetation on the Musi river banks in Afzalgunj on Sunday. There was no loss of life. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

— P. SURENDRA

Judgment in Hajipur rape-murders today

Marri Srinivas had raped, killed 3 minor girls

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA I DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

The Nalgonda fast track court is scheduled to give its ruling on Monday in the three cases of rape and murder of minor girls at Hajipur in Yadadri Bhongir district. The accused, Marri Srinivas Reddy, has been charged with kidnap, rape and murder.

The prosecution had produced 101 witnesses, and 164 exhibits against Srinivas Reddy, 28, during the hearing. Considering the three cases as the rarest of rare, the prosecution had earlier sought the death penalty to Srinivas Reddy who is currently lodged at the Nalgonda district jail.

In two cases, Srinivas was charged with kidnap, rape, and murder of minor girls, while in the third he was charged with kidnap, attempted sexual assault and murder of an 11-year-old girl. Srinivas Reddy was arrested last year by the Rachakonda police following investigation into a Class IX girl student from Bommalararam village going missing. The investigations led to two other murders.

Srinivas was arrested on April 30 last year, four days after the Class IX student went missing. The girl's decomposed body was unearthed from a well belonging to Srinivas Reddy, at Hajipur under Bommalararam police station limits.

On questioning him, Srinivas confessed to kidnapping, raping and murdering a 17-year-old girl who was returning home from college in March 2019. Then he also confessed of kidnap, attempt to sexual assault and murder of an 11-year-old girl in April 2015. His confessions reportedly led the police to recover the bodies of the two other minor girls, which were buried in his well.

After investigation of the three cases, separate charge-sheets were filed before the Nalgonda fast track court in August

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS I DC
GOSAMPALLE YELLAPUR (NIRMAL), JAN. 26

Hindu elders performed 'homam' at the house of the rape victim who has been named Samata to protect her identity, at Gosampalle Yellapur in Khanapur mandal in Nirmal district to pray that the three accused in the case get the death penalty when the court gives its judgment on Monday.

Kishan Maharaj of Navashakti Durga Mata temple of Adilabad and some other priests and their disciples performed the homam and other rituals from 12 noon to 4 pm on Saturday. They came to the victim's house and offered to perform homam, which they did with some material they had brought. They offered jandhyams (sacred thread) to victim's relatives and made them to chant some verses. She belonged to the extremely impoverished Budaga Jangalu community of the Scheduled Castes and used to sell balloons and utensils and collected waste hair to earn a living and was raped on November 24, 2019.

The three accused — Sheikh Babu, Sheikh Shabuddin and Sheikh Muqdam — are from Yellapatur in Lingapur mandal in Kumara-

mbheem Asifabad district and have been arrested.

Samata's aunt told this newspaper that the religious elders led by Kishan Maharaj had told her that they had performed homam aiming to bring peace to the family following death of two persons and also to pray that the accused in the rape case get the death penalty.

The aunt said her husband had died of ill-health caused by the death of their daughter-in-law just 20 days after Samata's murder.

The Maharaj also told the family members not to come out of their home as inauspicious days are going on for them and everything will be all right soon.

They also brought some 'safety spray bottles' with them and handed them out to the Dalit women who attended the homam. Ms Pattiri Sattava, a local, said the Maharaj asked them to use the spray when they are in danger. The Maharaj and his team including women disciples arranged annadanam (community meal) for 20 persons at the same place. The Maharaj reportedly asked the victim's family to come to Durga temple in Adilabad on Tuesday and promised them that he will do some other puja for the well being of their family.

his claims over bike riding. The court examined the witnesses and the exhibits and after hearing the arguments of the prosecution and the defence counsel, it posted the judgment to January 27.

Mr K. Chandra Shekar, special public prosecutor for the Hajipur cases, said, "In one case, about 72 exhibits were produced, in the other two cases 48 and 44 exhibits were produced before the court."

HUSBAND OF VICTIM AGAINST INSTANT JUSTICE

DC CORRESPONDENT
GOSAMPALLE YELLAPUR (NIRMAL), JAN.26

Rape victim Samata's husband on Sunday said the family had faith in the judiciary and hoped that the three accused would get the death penalty for the rape and murder of his wife when the Adilabad fast track court gives its ruling on Monday.

He was sporting an Indian Flag on his shirt pocket as he was returning to Gosampalle after performing Republic Day duties in the Kumarambheem Asifabad district.

He said that as Dalit, they had not demanded the police to kill the accused in an encounter or instant justice in Samata's incident like in Disha case since we have faith in the judiciary and Indian constitution written by B.R Ambedkar.

"Even today we are asking death penalty to the accused under the law but not for punishment outside the law," he added. That doesn't mean that the family was feeling no anger against the accused. He said he was given a job as an attender in the revenue department and joined duty on December 18. Collector Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanth had promised him three acres of land and a ₹5,000 pension, and asked to take the consent of any farmer who wants to sell his land. He selected land costing ₹9 lakh per acre and paid ₹1 lakh advance to the owner. But Nirmal revenue officials were hoodwinking their family saying they had no funds.

THREE INJURED IN CLASH OVER LAND DISPUTE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD JAN. 26

The Kamatipura police booked a case on two groups who were clashing over alleged land grabbing, in which two women and a man suffered minor injuries on Sunday evening.

According to the Kamatipura police, the row erupted over a graveyard reportedly belonging to one section.

One person who belongs to a prominent family claimed that the land belongs to his family and was inherited by him, which was opposed by other sections.

Kamatipura inspector G. Rambabau "He brought an excavator to level the plot of land which resulted in heated arguments between the two parties. In a melee some miscreate threw stones on the JCB which broke the glass screen, and engaged in a scuffle which resulted in two women and a man receiving minor injuries."

Kamatipura police personnel went to the spot and cleared the crowd and set up a picket to prevent further damage.

Police booked a case of criminal trespass and mischief causing damage against both parties.

Sex racket busted, 6 women rescued

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

In a joint operation, the Special Operations Team of Cyberabad and KPHB police raided a spa in Kukatpally housing board area and rescued six women forced into prostitution on Sunday. Four persons, including two organisers of the sex racket, were arrested.

Acting on a tip off, police swooped on to the Universal Hair and Spa at Road No. 1 in KPHB Colony. Police said that Aripaka Krishna, 23, and C. Mounika, 26, were running the spa at a flat they had taken on rent. The duo lured six women from different places, including Hyderabad, and circulated

their pictures online to attract customers. Interested persons were contacted by phone as part of the prostitution racket.

During the raids, two persons Y. Guna Shekar, 28 of Kondapur, and Tharaka Nath Simhadri, 38 of Kukatpally, were taken into custody. The two were collecting money from customers before allowing them to engage in sexual activities with the victims, police said.


The six victims freed from the racket were sent to a rescue home for rehabilitation. The accused were arrested and produced before a court for judicial remand. Rs 1.36 lakh in cash and six mobile phones were seized, police added.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is The death of His saints, -Psalm 116:15
78th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE & 4th ANNIVERSARY



Rapaka Mary Vazram, B.A., B.ED.
W/o. Sri. R.V.S.Paul
D/o, Late Rev. Vijayawarapu Israel and Aseervadamma
DOB: 27-01-1942 DOD: 27-01-2016
Inserted by: R.V.S.Paul, M.A., - Husband

OBITUARY




DINESH CHANDER SRIVASTAVA
(Retd. Mandal Education Officer)
has left us for the heavenly Abode on 25th January 2020.
Last rides will be held from residence in Moosarabagh, Hyd.
On Monday 27th January 2020 at 10 am
Inserted by: Parvathi & Family

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




Mr. WILLIAM JOHN
DOB: 04.05.1940 DOD: 26.01.2020
Funeral service at 12:30 pm @ Centenary Methodist Small Church, Aids. Burial on 27.01.2020 at 2:30 pm @ Narayanaguda Cemetery.
Inserted by: WIFE AND FAMILY
Mob: 9640877711, 9703309309

DEATH ANNIVERSARY




R.P. DUBE
Addtl. Suptd. of Police (Retd)
"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear."
Inserted by: Chitra Dube (Wife)
Dube Family
Ph: 9246375729

PRATHNA SABHA



KISHORE C. JANI
DOB: 06.02.1963 DOD: 25.01.2020
Prathna Sabha : Navgraha Mandir, Jeera, Secunderabad-03
Time : 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Inserted by: Ila Jani (Wife), Pawan Jani (Son), Ami Jani (Daughter-in-law), Vikas (Son)
Ph: 8897900065

MEMORIAL SERVICE
I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. - II Timothy 4:7
In Loving memory of



K. HABEL (Retd ASM/ PAU)
DOB: 15-06-1934 DOB: 07-01-2020
We would like to honour the life of our beloved husband and father, on Monday 27th January 2020 @ 6.30 PM at H.No. 27-16-22-4/1B, Srikrishna Nagar, R.K. Puram, Secunderabad.
Inserted by: K. Lalitha Bai (Wife) & Family Members. Ph: 9790993000

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE




MAMILLA PRABHAKAR RAO
S/o Late Marilla Sikaamani
D.O.B: 27.01.1935 D.O.D: 25.10.2009
Inserted by: Sons, Daughter, Son-in-law, Daughter-in-law & Grand Children
9441477528, 9398352647

Precious in the sight of the Lord is The death of His saints, -Psalm 116:15
78th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE & 4th ANNIVERSARY




Rapaka Mary Vazram, B.A., B.ED.
W/o. Sri. R.V.S.Paul
DOB: 27-01-1942 DOD: 27-01-2016
Inserted by: Children & Spouses
Luther Rapaka and Anne Arun Rapaka and Moses Madhuri Rapaka and Kiron

OBITUARY




PRADEEP DESHMUKH
DOB: 08-01-1951 DOD: 26-01-2020
Address: 3-4-250/1 Flat No 102 Nirmist Mansion Apt beside Venkatarama theatre lane Kachiguda, Hyderabad
Funeral is today (Monday) 27.01.2020, 11am at Amberpet Hindu Crematorium
Ph: 8106215939, 9394867936
Deeply Mourned by:
Tribhawan Deshmukh & Deshmukh Family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF




Dr. B. SESHADRI
MDS, FICD
Former Principal
Govt. Dental College, Hyd.
"Your ideals are guiding us"
Inserted by: Shantha Seshadri (Wife) & Family Members

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



C. SNEHALATHA BHOOPAL
27-01-1928 To 19-10-2016
D/o. Bollampalli Ranga Reddy
W/o. Late C. Sreeram Bhoopal
Samasthan Sirnapalli.
P. Anuradha Reddy

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE




RUMALLA KONDAIAH
Senior Advocate
DOB: 27-01-1932 DOD: 02-09-2012
You were loved and respected by everyone. Your memories are always remain in our hearts forever.
Inserted by:
Smt. Rumalla Pramila (Wife)
Sons, Daughter, Son-in-law, Daughters-in-law, Grand Children and Great Grand Children and all Family Members.

IN REMEMBRANCE
For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven... and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them... to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 1Th 4:16-17



NIRMALA SURYA RAO SARIPALLI
W/o Dr. Surya Rao Saripalli; D/o Late. Dr. Jacob Gorentla
Missing you so dearly and awaiting the glorious return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to join you and Papa in heaven.
Inserted by: Children, Siblings, Grandchildren & Great Grand Children. Ph: 9676311907

2nd ANNIVERSARY
THE MEMORY OF THE JUST IS BLESSED, HOLY BIBLE




Mr.C.SAMARPANA ADAMS
With profound respect
Mrs. Dr.K.INDIRA (Wife)
Principal, Govt. Medical College, Nizamabad. T.S.
Son, Daughter, Brothers & Sisters.
Ph:9346475878

Precious in the sight of the Lord is The death of His saints, -Psalm 116:15
78th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE & 4th ANNIVERSARY



Rapaka Mary Vazram, B.A., B.ED.
W/o. Sri. R.V.S.Paul
DOB: 27-01-1942 DOD: 27-01-2016
Inserted by: Grand Children
Sanjana, Susan, Meghana, Aaron and Steven

2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY
In Ever Loving Memory of



Mr. C. SAMARPANA ADAMS
Eldesst Son of Late. Prof. C.A. Adams.
DOB: 15-11-1959 DOD: 27-01-2018
Prop. Deen Dayal Camera & Co
Inserted by: Family Members
Ph: 9346691309.

"I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever". - Psalms 23:6
16th ANNIVERSARY
In Fond Loving Memory Of



Mr. GANDURI SUNIL PRAKASH
DOB: 30.07.1969 DOD: 27.01.2004
Sunil, "Your Love and Sweet Memories will always be with us"
Inserted by Parents: Mr. G. Joseph, Mrs. G.M. Dayashela (Bible Society)
Wife: Mrs. G. Subitha
Son: G. Aaron Joseph Vijay Prakash
Brother: G. Sukanth Prakash & Sisters: Sumalini, Sushma, Madhuri.
Phone: 040-2706169, 9502304091

(S/1920/D01731)



Joy in TS

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan says her happiness and joy are doubled as she celebrated an important event in TS

IN BRIEF

Traffic curbs for V-P visit today

Hyderabad: Additional commissioner of police, traffic, Anil Kumar has issued an advisory regarding traffic regulation for the visit of Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu to the city on Monday.

Mr Naidu will arrive at Begumpet airport at 1.40 pm on Monday and proceed to CCMB, Habsiguda. After the completion of the programme at 4.15 pm, he will proceed to his residence at Jubilee Hills. The citizens are requested to take note of above programme and plan their movements accordingly and co-operate with the Hyderabad Traffic Police.

Increase Basthi Dawakhanas: CM

Hyderabad: Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday instructed officials to increase the number of Basti Dawakhanas in Hyderabad to 350. Mr Rao said that 118 Basti Dawakhanas in the city are working very well and people were very happy with the services rendered by them. The number of Basti Dawakhanas should be increased substantially, he said. Mr Rao wanted two Basti Dawakhanas in each of the 150 GHMC divisions in the city. "Create more Dawakhanas in places where there is a substantial population of SCs, STs, minorities and the poor," Mr Rao said. The Chief Minister wanted officials open the new Basti Dawakhanas within a month.

KCR to review Palle Pragathi works

Hyderabad: Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao said he would undertake surprise visits to review how the Palle Pragathi works were being done in the villages and how officials and people's representatives are doing their jobs. While reviewing the Palle Pragathi programme on Sunday at Pragati Bhavan with ministers and officials, Mr Rao warned officers and public representatives to do their duty and not confine themselves to taking posed pictures. Work to improve sanitation in the villages should be taken up, he said. Mr Rao said Pattana Pragathi would be started in towns, drawing inspiration from Palle Pragathi. He said, "People either live in the villages or in towns. If both these places are good everything will be good. Hence, the government wants villages and towns to be good." He said the government had filled up all vacancies in the panchayat raj department. "We have appointed secretaries in all the villages. We have hiked the salary of the panchayat raj employees. Every month we are releasing ₹339 crore without fail." He said certain ministers, collectors and public representatives were working for publicity. "This is not correct. They are not there to clean the villages with a broomstick. They are there to ensure work assigned is done properly."

GUNTUR, KRISHNA TOO FELT TREMORS

From Page 1

The buildings are, however, made to withstand such forces. "There will only be a building collapse if the quake measures six or higher on the Richter scale. This, provided that the buildings are built in line with the Bureau of Indian Standards' guidelines," he added. The tremors were registered in various areas of Krishna and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. People from Jaggaiahpet and Nandigama said they had experienced the tremors. District officials cautioned tahsildars to be alert in early hours of Monday.

In the past, the city had witnessed a mild earthquake in October 2016 that affected place like Padmavathi Colony, Devaiah Basthi and other places in Borabanda. With that being the most recent one, there were four other quakes that took place in and around the city. The first one was in 1843, which measured 3.7 on Richter scale, the second in 1876 and had measured 5.0 on Richter scale, the third occurred at Gandipet in 1982 measuring 3.2 and the fourth at Medchal in 1983 measuring 4.0 on the Richter scale.

87 civic bodies in kitty, TRS battles for more

Congress has clear majority in 6 municipalities, BJP in 3

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

The final results of the civic body elections for nine municipal corporations and 120 municipalities show the TRS has a clear majority to form Councils in 87 bodies. The Congress had a clear majority in six municipalities, the BJP in 3 and MIM in two. The TRS had absolute majority in two-thirds of the municipalities and corporations. In the rest, it needed the support either the independents or ex-officio votes which are cast by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members, MLAs and MLCs. These include Nizamabad, Boduppal, Ramagundam, Meerpet and Badangpet municipal corporations.

The TRS has got equal numbers along with the Congress in some municipalities including Nalgonda (20 each out of 48 wards) and Kosgi (7 each out of 16 wards), Khanapur (5 each out of 12 wards) and Cheril (5 each out of 12 wards). In Haliya, the Congress won six wards and the TRS five.

The ex-officio members can cast their vote at any one civic body of their choice within their constituency. Securing the support of the rebel candidates is also crucial. The TRS has secured the support of rebels in the Meerpet Municipal Corporation (MMC). It won 19 divisions and required four more votes. It succeeded in securing the support of all eight independents, all TRS rebels, who were elected.

The BJP had won 16 divisions and the Congress three at Meerpet. The BJP

TRS continues to sideline Jupally

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

Former Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) minister Jupally Krishna Rao's efforts towards getting back to limelight within the TRS do not appear to be yielding results, with the leader failing in getting an appointment from TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao.

The aim of Krishna Rao was to inform the party high command that TRS rebel candidates, who have won 11 wards in Kollapur municipality, would like to support TRS in bagging the post of municipal chairperson.

Official TRS nominees won only nine of the total 20 wards in the municipal body.

To win the chairperson's post, TRS would need the support of 12 councillors. Followers of Krishna Rao, who contested as rebels, emerged victorious in 11 of the 20 wards in Kollapur.

However, the party high command does not seem interested in taking support from the 11 rebel candidates. It would like to utilise the ex-officio votes to capture the post of chairperson.

TRS wants to adopt this route not only in Kollapur but also in the Ieeja municipality.

had hoped to form the council but its plans were upset when all the independents turned in favour of the ruling party.

In the Badangpet Municipal Corporation, the TRS had won 13 divisions out of the 32 and required three more seats to form the council. It secured the support of two independents. For the additional vote, the TRS is depending on an ex-officio vote. In the Manikonda Municipality, the Congress won eight seats and the BJP six. The TRS came third with five out of the total 20 wards. The ruling party requires at least six votes to win the chairperson's post. It is seeking the support from the lone

independent candidate use ex-officio votes to secure the municipality.

The TRS succeeded in forming the councils in the Nizamabad and Ramagundam municipal corporations with the support of rebels who had contested on the All India Forward Bloc ticket. In Nizamabad, it secured the support of the MIM which had won 16 seats. Though the BJP had won 28 seats and the Congress two in the 60-division corporation, the chances are bleak for the BJP.

In the Ieeja Municipality the TRS had won six wards out of the 20 and All India Forward Bloc, mainly comprising TRS rebels, won 10.

TRS WON DUE TO MONEY POWER, ALLEGES UTTAM

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy alleged that the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) had won the municipal elections on the basis of money, liquor and misuse of official machinery. He also alleged that the TRS, BJP and the MIM had come together for the elections.

Speaking after hoisting National Flag at the party headquarters Gandhi Bhavan on the occasion of Republic Day on Sunday, he said all three parties have conspired to defeat the Congress in the elections.

He said that despite several conspiracies and obstacles, the Congress had performed better than in the previous elections. He said the vote share of the Congress in the municipal polls had increased compared to the Lok Sabha elections held in April last year.

The senior party leader alleged that TRS was winning elections using money power and liquor. The ruling party had spent up to ₹30,000 per vote to win the civic polls, he claimed.

Despite using money and liquor to influence voters, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao was calling it a people's mandate, Mr Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

ANDHRA PRADESH

6 TD MLCs skip Naidu's meeting

MD ILYAS I DC
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 26

The Telugu Desam's struggle to hold its flock together in the Legislative Council against the onslaught of the YSRC received a setback on Sunday as six of its MLCs skipped the meeting convened by party president N. Chandrababu Naidu. The TD had directed all its MLCs to attend the meeting to discuss the future course of action on the three capitals legislation and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's threat to abolish the Legislative Council.

According to sources, the YSRC is planning to lure TD MLCs to its fold to weaken the party which enjoys majority in the Council. Ever since the TD-dominated Council rejected the three capitals Bills, Mr Reddy has been contemplating abolition of the Upper House or gaining majority by poaching Opposition members.

On Sunday, TD MLCs K.E. Prabhakar, G. Saraswathi, Tippe Swamy, A.S. Ramakrishna and S. Vijayarama Raju stayed away from the meeting.

Senior party leaders briefed the cadre about the strength of the party in the cantonment area, the voters' pulse, performance of the current governing council members and implementation of the welfare schemes announced by the Centre. Cantonment BJP leaders told Dr Laxman that the existing members have failed in developing their respective areas in the last five years. Thus, most of them will be facing rough weather from voters. They said the party could win from most of the wards if polls for the cantonment board are held immediately.

KTR pats winners

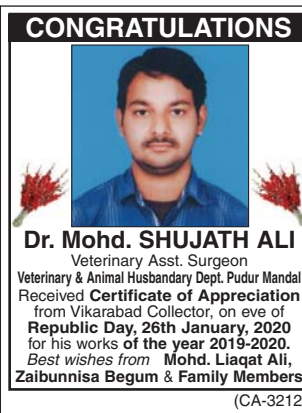
Hyderabad: Minister K.T. Rama Rao congratulated P.V. Sindhu for being conferred with the Padma Bhushan. He said she had brought glory to the nation. He also spoke to Padma Shri winners Srihashyam Vijayasarithi and C. Venkat Reddy.

■ THE YSRC is planning to lure TD MLCs to its fold to weaken the party which enjoys majority in the Council, sources said.

Sources said all is not hunky dory in the TD over its opposition to the three capitals idea with legislators and leaders of Rayalaseema, Coastal Andhra and North Andhra regions resenting Mr Naidu's stand.

While TD MLCs Pothula Sunita and Shivanath Reddy revolted against the party by violating its whip, another member, Mr Dokka Manikyavaramprasa Rao, resigned from the party as well as the Council.

Sunday's development left the remaining Council members worried about their future. The TD leadership is also equally worried with Mr Reddy announcing his decision to hold an Assembly session in three days to start the process of abolition of the Council and ruling party leaders launching concerted efforts to engineer defection of Opposition members. The Telugu Desam is desperately trying to keep its members together.



Dr. Mohd. SHUJATH ALI
Veterinary Asst. Surgeon
Veterinary & Animal Husbandary Dept. Padur Mandal
Received Certificate of Appreciation from Vikarabad Collector, on eve of Republic Day, 26th January, 2020 for his works of the year 2019-2020.
East wishes from Mohd. Liaqat Ali, Zaiunnisa Begum & Family Members
(CA-3212)

Lighter moments



Telangana State Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan speaks to Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan as Union minister G. Kishan Reddy looks on during a function on Sunday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Kishan dares KCR on CAA

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy on Sunday challenged Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to point out anything in the amended Citizenship Act that would affect anyone in the country.

Speaking to the reporters after hoisting the National Flag to mark Republic Day in his constituency Secunderabad, Mr Reddy reacted to Mr Rao's statement that the Assembly may pass a resolution against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) like some other states have done recently.

Taking exception to the Chief Minister's criticism of the NDA government at the Centre over the CAA, he said, "I condemn KCR ji for announcing that he will not implement CAA in Telangana state. I challenge the Chief Minister to show if there is anything in the Act that affects any of the 130 crore people (in the country)."

He said that neither Mr Rao nor the TRS had the moral right to criticise

■ KCR HAD on Saturday said he may convene a meeting of regional parties and CMs to oppose the CAA.

the BJP on the matter. State BJP president K. Laxman claimed that Mr Rao had joined the Congress in opposing the CAA with "unfounded doubts and ill-motives."

The BJP has been stating that the Congress and the TRS were similar and it is becoming evident now, he alleged. Coming out strongly against the law, Mr Rao had on Saturday said that he may convene a meeting of regional parties and Chief Ministers to oppose the amended citizenship law.

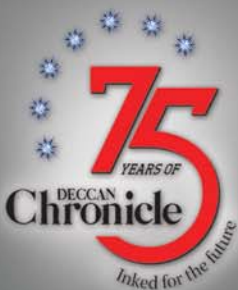
Asserting that the TRS was secular by nature and policy, Mr Rao had said that passing the CAA was a wrong decision by the Centre as the Constitution provides fundamental rights to all people of the country irrespective of religion, caste and creed. As such, keeping Muslims outside the ambit of the CAA pained him, Mr Rao had said on Saturday.

TS ROLE MODEL FOR WELFARE: GOVERNOR

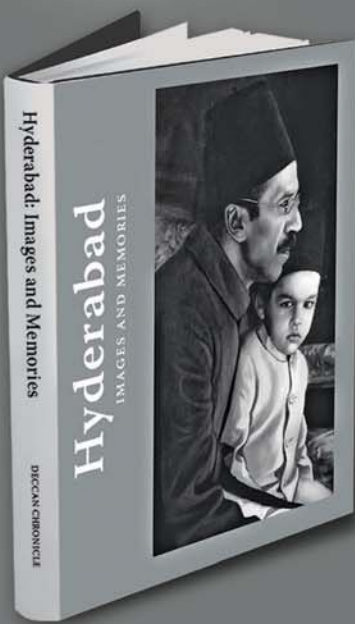
From Page 1

On the disbursal of funds for local bodies, she said that the state government had successfully overcome the problem of paucity of funds for development of villages and towns. "The state government is matching grants in tune with grants given by the Central Finance Commission. Every month, it is releasing ₹339 crore for this purpose," she said.

The Governor spoke highly of the government's welfare schemes targeting farmers. "The agriculture policy and schemes of the government have become a role model for the country. Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima have found place in UN list of agriculture programmes helping the sector across the world," she said. Ms Soundarajan spoke at length about irrigation projects in the state, saying, the "man-made engineering marvel" Kaleswaram started pumping in 2019. Regarding healthcare, she said more and more people in the state were placing trust in government facilities.



Hyderabad IMAGES AND MEMORIES



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 motichur laddus got their name, how an aide saved the Nizam's legendary treasures for the royal family and how Indra Gandhi floored the Nizam.

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

NOW AVAILABLE

HYDERABAD: IMAGES AND MEMORIES

The hard-bound : ₹2,000, Soft cover : ₹1,500.
at all Deccan Chronicle & The Asian Age offices across the cities



Winning team

Metro Rail MD N.V.S. Reddy pats engineers and staff for winning several national and global awards

POWER | SHUTDOWN

10 am to 1 pm: Vikramপুরi Colony, Venkateswara Electronics, Ahuja Dental Clinic, Akshitha Biryani House, Aisha Primary School area.

10 am to 2 pm: Humayun-nagar, Mehdiapatnam, MIGH, Sriramnagar, Muradnagar; Santhoshnagar, SBI Colony, Amba Garden, Gudimalkapur, Kranthinagar, Jeevan Kalyan Nagar, Hill Colony, Vijay (Apartments), Huda Colony, Sai Gardens, Devarathna Apartments, Vijay Susheela Apartments, Ganesh Residency; Anjuman, Asifnagar, Zahra Mosque, Castle Hills, Crescent Hospital, NRI Colony, KGN Hotel

12 noon to 2 pm: Mallepally, football ground, Pani Ground, Jaffer Shag Ground, Haji Hospital, Badi Masjid, Sadath Ground

2 pm to 5 pm: Hakeempet, All Hasnath Colony, Yousuf Takedi, Miraj Colony, Military area, Mandar Restaurant; Nizam Colony, Toli Chowki, Delux Colony, Dowlet Gulshan Colony, Bade Janakinagar, KFC; Kakatiyanagar, Salarijung Colony, Moghal Heights, Al-Karim Colony, Virasatnagar Colony, Owaisi Park

2.30 pm to 5.30 pm: Apollo Hospital, Global Trust Bank, Deccan Corporation, Apna Bazaar, Bata, Vikramপুরi, Vikramপুরi Colony, Woodland, Parvati Hospital; Laxminagar, Club View Hotel, Sai Baba temple, Subbarao Colony, Vasavinagar, Muthoot Finance, Picket

IN BRIEF

GHMC links ₹333cr for women groups

Hyderabad: Greater Hyderabad Municipal (GHMC) commissioner D.S. Lokesh Kumar on Sunday said the civic body would work in a speedy manner to ensure proper facilities are provided to the people. Speaking at the flag hoisting ceremony on Republic Day, he said that an amount of ₹333 crore had been linked to the banks for 7,972 women's self help groups.

SCR revenues cross ₹10K mark

Hyderabad: South Central Railway (SCR) general manager Gajanan Mallia on Sunday announced that the zone's revenues had crossed the ₹10,000-crore mark in the April-December period this fiscal year. He was speaking at SCR's Republic Day celebrations held at the Railway Sports Complex ground here. The zone had recorded a revenue of ₹10,270 crore since April.

300 donate blood at anti-CAA camp

Hyderabad: Showcasing their dissent against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in an innovative way, about 300 people donated blood in a camp organised by Alliance Against CAA and NRC, on Sunday. The organisers said that with this campaign, 'Indians are united by blood' against the implementation of CAA.

DPS BRANCH HAS NO CBSE RECOGNITION

Hyderabad, Jan. 26: The Delhi Public School (DPS) at Mahendra Hills is teaching lessons from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) syllabus, without having affiliation to the CBSE Board, according to information received under the Right To Information (RTI) Act. The RTI reply stated that there was no provision or government order available for running the school for multiple affiliations — CBSE board from Nursery to Class 5 and state board recognition from Classes 6 to 10. The RTI reply showed that Delhi Public School, Mahendra Hills, located behind the Tukaramgate police station, is recognised by the state government but is not affiliated to the CBSE Board. When contacted, a school official said it was authorised to opt for the syllabus in the primary section. It said it is a feeder school for DPS Nacharam and has the permission to use its logo. The RTI reply revealed that none of the schools are authorised to run on second Saturdays.



(LEFT) TPCC chief N. Uttam Kumar Reddy at the R-Day celebrations at Gandhi Bhavan. (RIGHT) The Tricolour at the historic Moazzamjahi Market on Sunday night.



— S. SURENDER REDDY
— P. SURENDRA

Tricolour on 100-ft pole unfurled at MJ Market

Flag post, taller than the first minar, is 3rd largest in city

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

The city got another mega-sized National Flag hoisted on a 100-feet-tall flag post as a gift for Republic Day, this one hoisted at the historic Moazzamjahi market. The 20X30 feet Tricolour was unfurled by shopkeepers at the heritage structure.

The 100-feet flag post has been erected at a cost of ₹14 lakh by replacing a fountain in the middle of the iconic market, which has been encroached by shopkeepers in 1980s. Fabric parachute material has been used for making the flag, which can withstand heavy winds and natural disasters, as per the National Flag Code guidelines. The 100-feet flag post is taller than even the first minar of the monument, which is visible from all directions, giving a spectacular view, especially to Metro Rail commuters.

The mammoth flag was procured at a cost of ₹60,000 and would fly 24x7. The flag would be brought down only for repairs and replacement. Apart from the post, the entire Moazzamjahi market would be kept illuminated at night.

Authorities claimed they had several ideas to prevent encroachments of the inner monument before deciding to erect the post. They said that the fountain, which was installed in 1935 during

CM pays homage to martyrs

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao visited the war memorial, Veerula Sainik Smarak, and paid homage to the martyrs on the occasion of 71st Republic Day in Secunderabad on Sunday.

Among the attendees

were senior defence services officers Lieutenant General T.S.A. Narayanan, Commandant, MCEME, Major General R.K. Singh, General Officer Commanding, Telangana and Andhra Sub Area, Major General Manjinder Singh, General Officer Commanding, Bison Division, Air Vice Marshal D.K. Patnaik, Commandant, College of Air Warfare, Commodore S.B. Aanandan, Senior Naval Officer in the station and Brigadier Abhijit Chandra, Station Commander.

Lieutenant General K. Surendra Nath (Retd.) also paid homage on behalf of all the veterans of the state and placed a wreath at the war memorial.



MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi hoists the National Flag in Hyderabad on Sunday.

the Nizam era, has been encroached by vegetable vendors in the 1980s. It took the authorities 40 years to remove all encroachments. In order to make vendors accountable, authorities made the vendors unfurl the flag.

"The 100-feet flag post and special illumination would add to the glory of the Moazzamjahi market, which could attract Hyderabadis and tourists," an official said.

This is the third in the large flag series being erected in the city, after a 100-feet flag post at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The largest in the city, the 291-feet tall flag post, with a hoisted flag measuring 72-by-108 feet, was put up at Sanjeevaiah Park, which was hoisted on the Telangana Formation Day in 2016 by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

Scrap Articles 14, 15 to enforce CAA, say intellectuals

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

Poets, writers and intellectuals who assembled in the city on Sunday demanded that the Centre abolish Articles 14 and 15 before implementing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The implementation of the controversial law will grossly violate the fundamental rights of citizens which are guaranteed under the Constitution.

Among those who had assembled at the event were Mr J.B. Hamed Mohammed Khan, president of the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, TS, AP and Odisha, Telangana Press Academy chairman Allam Narayana, Sahitya Akademi award winner Kathayani Vidmahe. They were speaking at a one-day workshop organised by the Democratic Women Writers Association on equal rights. The participants have pointed out the need for people to understand what CAA stands for and rise up against it. "The CAA is not just going to affect Muslims. Several people who do not have proper documentation are going to be affected. There is a need for awareness on the effects of the CAA on the public. More people should come out and dis-



Police stop students protesting against CAA in HCU from carrying out a Tiranga rally outside the campus.

cuss the issue," said Dr K.N. Malleshwari, author. Several authors questioned why the onus of proving one's citizenship was falling on the citizens when it is the duty of the government. They said that at the end of the day it is the public who have to stand in long queues and get their certificates verified. Many of them do not have documents at present. The process will put several landless people from backward classes and minorities at risk. "As long as Articles 14 and 15 exist, safeguarding our rights in the Constitution, the CAA cannot be implemented. If the

Centre wants to implement, ask them to remove Article 14 and 15 before they do it," said Mr Kathi Mahesh, a social activist. The exercise of CAA and NRC would cost thousands of crores, which is a waste of public money and resources, said Ms Kathayani Vidmahe. Meanwhile, the city police has denied permission to women protesting against the CAA, NPR to hold a 48-hour sit-in protest. The permission was sought by the TS & AP Joint Action Committee against CAA-NPR-NRC to hold the event at Darulshifa ground.

Manuu holds Tiranga rally

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

Maulana Azad National Urdu University Students Union on Republic Day carried out Tiranga rally against CAA-NPR-NRC.

President Movement for Peace and Justice (MPJ) Abdul Aziz, general secretary, Fraternity Mov-

ement, Layeeq Ahmed, woman activist Khalida Parveen and Jamia Millia Islamia student and poet Hussaini Hyderi addressed the students.

Union president Shaik Umar Faruq Quadri said the union had launched a campaign to send 1 lakh postcards to the President opposing the CAA-NPR-

NRC. He said 2,000 students will write postcards requesting the President to repeal CAA and not to implement NRC and NPR. "We will intimate him about the cut in budgetary allocation for the university resulting in students not getting scholarships and staff not getting salaries," he said.

HCU students hold flag rally on campus

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

The Tiranga rally planned by students of University of Hyderabad was stopped by the police on Sunday.

There were about 150 policemen deployed at the varsity who surrounded the campus and stood guard at the entry and exit gates. General access into the campus was restricted during from 8.30 am to 3.30 pm, as the students' protests continued.

"Our right to hold a peaceful rally on Republic

Day with the Tricolour was denied. We were not even carrying students union or party flags. The police did not allow us, which resulted in a major protest at the main gate of the campus," said Naresh Yadav, a student.

Around 200 students marched with flags inside the campus from North Shopcom to the main gate raising slogans like 'Save Constitution' but they were not allowed beyond that point by the police. The main gate was closed down.

AZAD ACCUSES POLICE OF ABUSING GIRLS

FROM PAGE 1

Mr Ravan accused the Hyderabad police of manhandling female students of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). He demanded that "police must issue a statement of clarification" and threatened to conduct a gherao.

Earlier, the police which denied permission for holding a protest meeting at Crystal gardens in Mehdiapatnam, also did not allow people to gather there.

Police arrested about 24, including three girls, and shifted them to the Gosha Mahal police stadium. They were not released till 9 pm. The All-India Dalit-Muslim-Adivasi Progressive Front and the Bhim Army had jointly given a call for a protest at Crystal gardens.

FIREFOX ADD-ON OPENS TAB WITH PREAMBLE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

The Free Software Movement of India (FSMI) has created an add-on for Mozilla Firefox wherein users opening new blank tabs will be shown the Preamble to the Constitution. It was released on Sunday, on the occasion of Republic Day.

It was developed entirely by a team of engineering students affiliated with FSMI. Mr Ranjith Raj, member of FSMI and representative of Mozilla in India, said the add-on has been created to increase awareness of the Preamble among the general public. "Whenever a user opens a new tab, they usually get a blank screen. With this add-on, they will be shown the Preamble instead," he said.

Mr Raj added that the add-on would soon show the Preamble in all 22 official languages.

"Currently, the English version is available. In a few days, users will have the option of choosing what language they want to see the Preamble in," he said.

■ THE ADD-ON, created to increase awareness of the Preamble to the Constitution among the general public, would soon show the Preamble in all 22 official languages.

3 hotlines set up for Indians

FROM PAGE 1

Saahil, who hails from Ranchi in Jharkhand and is pursuing a PhD in automobile engineering at the Wuhan University of Technology was one among those this newspaper spoke with. The city authorities have been helpful and we have been following their directions to all Wuhan's residents on staying safe and preventing contracting the disease, he said.

"We are all following instructions, not going out unnecessarily, or meeting in groups, and taking precautions such as wearing masks. The Indian embassy has been very active over the past five days. It contacted Indians here and set up three hotlines for us to address our questions. They have been very helpful and assured us that they were working on helping those who want to leave," Mr Saahil said.

"Nobody thought it would be this serious when the first reports of the disease became public but now the situation has

changed. The hospitals are full and most people are scared. Many stores are closed. Some of those that are open are running out of supplies as all transport into the city has been banned," another Indian from Wuhan said.

Kuldeep Malik, a yoga teacher who has been living in Wuhan for the past five years, was one among those who definitely wants to return to India at the earliest.

"We are requesting the authorities and the Indian embassy to help us return home. The conditions here are very critical. Everything is in a lockdown status. We are afraid but are keeping our spirits up," said Mr Malik, who hails from Kudana village in Shamli district of Uttar Pradesh.

"Though we want to leave, there is no way to do so as all movement of people out of Wuhan and the province has been banned. There are about 400 to 500 Indians who study and work in Wuhan and elsewhere in the Hubei province," he added.



The once bustling streets of Wuhan now wear a deserted look.

— Kuldeep Malik

How can we prove lineage: Activists

FROM PAGE 1

"Everything is being done strategically. The laws would get implemented in majority of the states, no matter what and how we protest. Once implemented, they can't be taken back and people who protested would be made to accept them forcefully. They would get used to it, eventually. This is what always happens," said Mx. M Rachana, a transgender activist, who represented the community at a discussion on the

Constitution in the city on Sunday.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, ze further said, "we are not being allowed into any jobs in the outside community due to stigma attached. The only source of livelihood is begging, which was criminalised as per the Transgenders Persons (Protection of Rights), 2019 Act. How are we supposed to survive? Instead of making efforts to give us jobs through reservation, they are building detention centres."



Poets, writers and intellectuals at a meeting on CAA in the city on Sunday.

BHIM ARMY CHIEF SPENDS TIME AT TISS CAMPUS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

Bhim Army chief Chandrashekar Azad on Sunday visited the campus of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) here in the morning. He was in the city for the Republic Day celebrations and protests.

Shashank, a TISS student, said that Mr Azad stayed on the campus for nearly two hours.

He interacted with around 100 students on various topics, mostly campus issues and politics. Later on, he fielded questions about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC).

After his interaction, Mr Azad accompanied some of the students to the Adbaita police station. He expressed his solidarity with the students who had earlier tried to file a complaint of harassment but were turned down by the police.



Campaign trail

Voting for BJP in Delhi will prevent “thousands of incidents like Shaheen Bagh”, home Minister Amit Shah said

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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SHORT TAKES

FOUR BLASTS HIT ASSAM ON R-DAY FETE

MANOJ ANAND I DC
GUWAHATI, JAN. 26

Four low-intensity blasts rocked upper Assam while the entire nation was celebrating the 71st Republic Day on Sunday. Security sources said the blasts were in isolated areas and there were no casualties or damage to property. The blasts are suspected to be the handiwork of outlawed Ulfa-I.

Additional director general of police (law and order) G.P. Singh said, “Two of the blasts were in Dibrugarh and one each on Duliajan and Sonari. They are suspected to have been caused by low-intensity improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The first blast was reported at 8.10 am while the last at 8.25 am,” he stated.

Singh said as per preliminary reports, there were five blasts. However, at one of the places Doomdooma, there were no signs of blast. “We have been able to confirm only four blasts,” he added.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal told reporters, “We strongly condemn the blasts. This cowardly attempt to create terror on a sacred day only exhibits frustration of terror groups over being totally rejected by people. Our government will take the sternest action to bring culprits to book.”

The outlawed Ulfa-I had issued a call for a “general strike” on Sunday, asking citizens to remain indoors and abstain from Republic Day celebrations in the state.

PEOPLE STONE 2 MAOISTS FOR ANTI R-DAY TALK

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
MALKANGIRI, JAN. 26

In an unusual incident, one Maoist was killed and another rebel was on Saturday night injured when they clashed with villagers at Janturai under Papermetla police limits in Odisha's Malkangiri district. The slain rebel was identified as Ganga Madhi alias Adma.

The injured rebel identified as Jipiro Habika alias Jitra of native of Narayanpatna in Koraput district was admitted to Malkangiri district headquarters hospital.

According to Malkangiri district police, Ganga and Jipiro had come to Janturai on a motorcycle and threatened the locals not to celebrate Republic Day and asked them to oppose road construction work in the area.

When the villagers protested entry of the rebels to their village and confronted their threat not to observe Republic Day, the two rebels opened blank firing. Enraged at their audacity, the villagers attacked the rebels in “self-defence” with their traditional weapons and stones.

“On getting this information, security forces conducted cordon and search operations and found that two Maoists were lying unconscious with grievous injuries. Ganga was received dead at the hospital. Cash rewards of 4 lakh and Rs 1 lakh were declared on their heads, respectively,” the police said.

Reports last came in said the rebels had abducted villagers and torched at least seven bikes in Janturai in retaliation.

Shaheen Bagh Tricolour protest



Anti-CAA protesters unfurl a Tricolour to celebrate the 71st Republic Day at Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi on Sunday. Protests have been going on at Shaheen Bagh for over a month against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC). — PTI

‘Save the frog’, Rafale among R-Day tableaux

NDRF's cutting-edge tech, instruments for rescue ops displayed

New Delhi, Jan 26: Goa's 'save the frog' campaign, Jammu and Kashmir's 'back to village' programme, scaled down model of Rafale aircraft besides others in Indian Air Force's tableau were among themes of the 22 tableaux that rolled down Rajpath here during the 71st Republic Day parade on Sunday.

The Indian Air Force tableau showcased scaled down models of the Rafale aircraft, the Tejas aircraft, the Light Combat Helicopter, the Akash Missiles System, and the Astra Missiles against a sky blue background. While the tableau of the Ministry of Jal Shakti showcased the government's new initiative “Jal Jeevan Mission” aimed at providing functional tap connection to every rural household by 2024, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) tableau featured cutting-edge technology and instruments used by the NDRF during rescue operations in flood-hit areas and Delhi's Anaj Mandi inferno last year.

Jammu and Kashmir, which participated in the parade for the first time as a Union Territory, had the “Back to Village” programme as its theme. The programme launched last year is a first-of-its-kind initiative to reach out to the people at the grassroots level.

The rich sartorial and cultural heritage of the region was depicted in the tableau with a shawl weaver in the front. The flora and fauna were shown in the middle complemented with Dogra and Kashmiri folk culture. Goa's tableau depicted its seashore along



Indian Army Corps of Signals contingent led by Captain Tanya Shergil marches during the 71st Republic Day Parade at Rajpath in New Delhi on Sunday. —PTI

with its biodiversity and livelihoods apart from highlighting the state's campaign to ‘Save the Frog,’ an anti-frog poaching campaign.

Out of the total 22 tableaux, 16 were of various states and UTs and six of ministries, departments and the NDRF. The Walled City of Jaipur, which was accorded the UNESCO World Heritage tag in 2019, was the overriding theme of the Rajasthan tableau, depicting the Pink City's architectural grandeur and the state's vibrant culture reflected in its folk songs and dances.

The 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev in 2019 was the theme of the Punjab's tableau in the parade. The Sikhism's architectural and cultural heritage was portrayed in the tableau. — PTI

J&K participated in parade as a UT

From Page 1

In all, 22 tableaux participated in the parade. Jammu and Kashmir, which participated for the first time as a Union Territory, had the “Back to Village” theme for its tableau.

An all-woman bikers contingent of 65 Central Reserve Police Force officers performed nine stellar stunts on 18 Royal Enfield Classic 350s at the grand event. Leading the CRPF Mahila Bike Team was inspector Seema Nag who is posted with the Rapid Action Force (RAF). Marching for the first time in

the parade was a contingent of the Corps of Army Air Defence that was recently awarded colours by the President of India.

In another first, Dhanush artillery — a towed Howitzer designed indigenously by the Ordnance Factory Board — was seen at the parade. The finale, one of the most awaited segments of the parade, was marked by a breathtaking flypast that too saw many new elements. For starters, there were three Advanced Light Helicopters — one each from the Army, Navy and Air Force flying past the saluting dias.

PROPAGANDA ON CAA VITIATING ATMOSPHERE: RSS

Nagpur, Jan. 26: Stating that Muslims were never subjected to discrimination in India, RSS general secretary Bhairavji Joshi on Sunday alleged that misinformation was being spread in the country over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

He was talking to reporters after hoisting the national flag at the Sangh headquarters here on the occasion of the 71st Republic Day. “Till date, the followers of Islam have never been subjected to any kind of discrimination in this country. If any outsider, be it a Muslim, comes to India, then they can also get citizenship as per the law which is already in place,” Joshi said in response to a question on the CAA. Without giving it a serious thought, misinformation is being spread on it, he added. — PTI

CONG LEADERS HECKLE EACH OTHER ON R-DAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
BHOPAL, JAN. 26

Two senior Congress leaders slapped each other and exchanged blows minutes before Chief Minister Kamal Nath reached the party office at the district headquarters of Indore in Madhya Pradesh for hoisting the national flag on the Republic Day on Sunday.

MP Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) general secretary Chandrakant Kunjeer and senior party leader Devendra Singh Yadav engaged in fistfuffs following arguments between them over occupying a place on the podium.

Imam booked for speech at protest

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 26

After Uttar Pradesh and Assam police, the Delhi Police Crime Branch has booked Sharjeel Imam. The cleric came into limelight during the ongoing protest at Shaheen Bagh, for allegedly delivering inflammatory speeches against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the planned National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Police said that the Imam, a resident of Bihar and a former Jawaharlal Nehru University student, delivered a “very inflammatory speech in his opposition to CAA and NRC”.

“He had earlier delivered one such speech in Jamia Millia Islamia on December 13 last year and another inflammatory speech against the government later which is being widely circulated on social media,” police said.

These speeches have the “potential to harm the religious harmony” and the unity and integrity of India, for which the case

■ THE IMAM was heard saying in an audio clip that Assam should be cut off from the rest of India and taught a lesson

was registered against him, police said.

The Imam was heard saying in an audio clip that Assam should be cut off from the rest of India and taught a lesson, as Bengalis — both Hindus and Muslims — are being killed or put into detention centres.

He reportedly said that if he could organise five lakh people, it would become possible to “permanently cut off Assam with rest of India...”.

A case against Imam under IPC sections 124 A (Using words, either spoken or written causing disaffection against government established by law), 153 A (promoting enmity between different religious groups) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) have been registered.

300 celebs slam CAA, write letter

Mumbai, Jan. 26: Over 300 eminent personalities from the creative and scholarly community of India, including actor Naseeruddin Shah, filmmaker Mira Nair, vocalist TM Krishna, author Amitav Ghosh and historian Romila Thapar have expressed solidarity with the students and others protesting against the CAA and NRC.

The amended Citizenship Act and National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a “threat” to the soul of India, the signatories said in a note published on Indian Cultural Forum on January 13. “We stand in solidarity with the students and others who are protesting and speaking out against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and against the National Register of Citizens (NRC). We salute their collective cry for upholding the principles of the Constitution of India, with its promise of a plural and diverse society. We are aware that we have not always lived up to that promise, and many of us have too often remained silent in the face of injustice. The gravity of this moment demands that each of us stand for our principles,” the statement read.

Writers Anita Desai, Kiran Desai, actors Ratna Patak Shah, Jaaved Jafferri, Nandita Das, Lillete Dubey, sociologist Ashis Nandy, activists Sohail Hashmi and Shabnam Hashmi were also among the signatories. The policies and actions of the present government, passed quickly through parliament and without opportunity for public dissent or open discussion, are antithetical to the principle of a secular, inclusive nation. The soul of the nation is threatened. The livelihoods and statehoods of

CONSTITUTION READ AT B'LURU BY IAF VETERAN

AKSHEEV THAKUR | DC
BENGALURU, JAN. 26

The anti-CAA/NRC protests do not seem to subside. While on Saturday evening, citizens descended near the Town Hall in thousands to protest against CAA-NRC, at the same event an Indian Air Force veteran, Itisha, read the Constitution despite the Bengaluru police trying to drive her away. The sloganeering and plays by schoolchildren criticised the ruling BJP government for coming out with the Act, which they said was discriminatory on the lines of religion.

Ms. Itisha, who is a second generation IAF officer, stated that reading the Constitution for the public doesn't require permission. “This is not a protest. We were reading the Constitution. This is our fundamental right. We sought permission, but it came with subject to Rs 1 Lakh surety and Vikram Vincent (who organised reading constitution at Town Hall) being charged as accused under Cr-PC,” she said. However, she stayed till 10 pm and read the Constitution.

millions of our fellow Indians are at stake. Under the NRC, anyone unable to produce documentation (which, in many cases, does not exist) to prove their ancestry may be rendered stateless. Those deemed ‘illegal’ through the NRC may be eligible for citizenship under the CAA, unless they are Muslim, the statement further read. — PTI

Cong takes dig at PM, sends him copy of Constitution

New Delhi, Jan. 26: On the occasion of the 71st Republic Day, the Congress on Sunday sent a copy of the Constitution to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and took a dig at him saying, “when you get time off from dividing the country, please do read it.”

The opposition party posted several tweets on its official Twitter handle, alleging that the government was subverting the Constitution.

The Congress also tweeted the videos of Congress president Sonia Gandhi, former prime minister Manmohan Singh, former party chief Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra reading the Preamble to a protest assembly at Rajghat recently.

“Dear PM, The Constitution

is reaching you soon. When you get time off from dividing the country, please do read it. Regards, Congress,” the party tweeted along with the snapshot of an amazon receipt which stated that the copy of the Constitution was being dispatched to the Central Secretariat.

In another tweet, the Congress said a lesson the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has failed to understand is that all persons no matter creed, caste or gender are guaranteed equality before the law under Article 14 of the Constitution.

“It is this article that is completely violated by the government's Citizenship Amendment Act,” the party said.

“It is important to remember that it is enshrined in our Constitution that all persons

are protected from discrimination of any form. Therefore, any attempt to draft laws based on discrimination are unconstitutional,” it said.

Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi extended their greetings to the people on the occasion of the Republic Day.

In a message on the eve of the Republic Day, Sonia Gandhi urged people on Saturday to rise above personal prejudices and stand united to protect the Constitution and its values, claiming that they are being attacked through a “deep-rooted” conspiracy.

“A deep-rooted conspiracy has been hatched to set a discourse to divide countrymen based on religion, regionalism and language as also to subvert and undermine the Constitution,” she said. — PTI

HUMAN | CHAIN

People form 620-km anti-CAA human chain in Kerala on R-Day

Anti-CAA protests mark R-Day across country

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, JAN. 26

In several cities across the country, citizens protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act marked India's 71st Republic Day on Sunday by reading out the Preamble of the Constitution, hoisting the tricolour and forming human chains.

In Kerala, a 620 km-long human chain, from the northern part of the state to the south, was formed in a show of defiance and solidarity against what they say is a divisive, discriminatory law. It was organised by the ruling CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front.

In Delhi's Shaheen Bagh, which has emerged as the fulcrum of anti-CAA protests, a massive crowd gathered to witness flag hoisting and Preamble reading.

The old women of Shaheen Bagh, popularly called the “Dadis”, unfurled the flag as thousands sang the National Anthem with affecting josh and pride. Among them was Rohit Vemula and Junaid Khan's mothers.

Sixteen-year-old Junaid was murdered in a train while he was on his way to his hometown for Eid. Rohit, a dalit scholar, committed suicide due to harassment.

The day also saw Latin churches across Kerala reading out a pastoral letter against the CAA claiming the act was not just affecting one particular community and calling for observing January 26 as



A bride and groom take part in the long human chain against the CAA in Kerala on Sunday. — DC

the day to “protect the Constitution” of the country. Mosques under the Wakf Board and the Latin churches hoisted the national flag and read out the preamble to the Constitution.

The LDF claimed that around 60 to 70 lakh people participated in the 620-km-

long human chain formed from Kasaragod in north Kerala to Kalyakkavilai in the southern-most part of the state. The human chain was formed at 4 PM, following which the Preamble was read out. Senior CPI(M) leader S. Ramachandran Pillai was the

first link of the human chain at Kasaragod, while M.A. Baby was the last link at Kalyakkavilai. Many prominent personalities from all walks of life participated in the human chain. Newly wed couples too were seen standing as part of human chain.

In Kolkata, people from different communities held hands to form an 11-km chain, stretching from the north to the south of the city and read aloud the Preamble.

In Assam, minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and BJP legislator Angoorilata Deka were shown black flags by anti-CAA protesters at two different locations on Sunday when they were on their way to attend Republic Day programmes.

