


WEATHER



Max: 31.4°C
Min: 18.5°C
RH: 45%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Misty morning.
Max/Min temp. 31/18°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Uttarayana
Tithi: Magha Shuddha
Shashthi till 3.50 pm
Star: Revathi till 6.07 pm

Varjyam: Nil
Durmuhurtam: 9.07 am to 9.52 am; 12.52 pm to 1.37 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon

HIJRI CALENDAR
Jumada al-Thani 5,1441 AH

PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.46 am
Zohar: 12.39 pm
Asar: 4.34 pm
Maghrib: 6.16 pm
Isha: 7.25 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.10 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.48 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 10.56 AM
MOONSET TODAY 11.27 PM

COUNTER POINT



Don't worry, I have already hoarded enough cash to invest in vote bank for 2 days!

OPPN FLAGS PROTESTS AT BUDGET MEET

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 30

Accusing the government of being 'arrogant' by not addressing anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protesters' concerns and trying to reach out to them, the Opposition on Thursday raised the issue of nation-wide protests across the country against the legislation.

The Prime Minister is said to have told Opposition parties during the all-party meeting convened by the parliamentary affairs minister Prahlad Joshi, that the government was ready to discuss all matters during the Budget Session of Parliament, which is due to start from January 31.

He called for a "greater focus" on economic issues in the session and how India can gain in the prevailing global situation, Mr Joshi told reporters after the meeting, attended by 26 parties. They raised a host of issues, including the nationwide protests against the CAA, the "worsening" economic situation and "rising" unemployment. They also demanded the release of detained political figures in Jammu and Kashmir.

Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad told reporters that Opposition parties sought immediate release of former state chief minister Farooq Abdullah.

Anand Sharma of the Congress added that the issue of some "incendiary" statements made by BJP leaders during the Delhi poll campaign was also raised.

DC staffer wins PEN-Gauri award

New Delhi: Yusuf Jameel, a senior reporter working in Deccan Chronicle based out of Srinagar was chosen for and awarded the 2019-2020 PEN Gauri Lankesh Award for Democratic Idealism for his pioneering work and fearless journalism in Jammu and Kashmir.

■ Full report on Page 7

WORLD | 10

White House bars Bolton's book

SPORTS | 14

Djokovic beats Federer to enter Oz Open final

TABLOID

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20 children at b'day party taken hostage

Farrukhabad (Uttar Pradesh), Jan. 30: Twenty children are being held hostage at a house in a village here by a man who had invited them for a birthday party, police said on Thursday.

Subhash Batham, who is a murder accused, has fired from inside the house, they said. Commandos are being rushed to the spot, Uttar Pradesh director-general of police (DGP) O.P. Singh said. "Twenty children are being held hostage at Kathariya village," additional director General of Police P.V. Rama Shastri said.

The DGP said, "We are ensuring their safe rescue and if needed, the NSG (National Security Guard) will also be called for the

■ THE DGP said the cops were trying to ensure the safe rescue of children and if needed call the NSG for rescue

■ THE MAN called the children for a party and held them hostage

operation." "The man called the children for a birthday party and held them hostage in the basement of the house. He has fired six shots from inside," inspector-general of police, Kanpur Range, Mohit Agarwal, said.

He said the man fired on those who attempted to speak to him. Batham wanted to talk to the local MLA, but he refused to talk when the leader went there, Agarwal said.—PTI

Samata rapists given death rap

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC
ADILABAD, JAN. 30

The Adilabad fast-track court awarded a death penalty verdict to the three accused in the Samata gang-rape and murder case on Thursday. The Telangana police had successfully proved its case against Sheik Babu, 30, as the prime accused, and Shabuddin, 40, and Maqdhoom, 35, as the accused numbers two and three respectively in the case.

District and sessions judge M.G. Priyadarshini pronounced death penalty as punishment to the three accused in the Samata's rape and murder.

This is the first case in the history of old Adilabad district leading to a death penalty sentence in any case till date. Ms Samata (name changed), 30, who belonged to the Budgajangalu community of scheduled castes (Dalit), used to sell balloons and utensils besides collecting discarded hair in tribal areas.

She was gang-raped and murdered near Yellapatar village in Lingapur mandal in the Kumarama-bheem Asifabad district on November 24 last year. She was a resident of the Gosampalle Yellapur village in Khanapur mandal of Nirmal district.

The state government announced the setting up of a fast-track court in the Adilabad district and session court to try the Samata case on December 11.

Subsequently, the K u m a r a m b h e e m Asifabad district police filed a chargesheet in the case on December 14.

The judgment, which was scheduled for January 27, was postponed to January 30 due to indisposition of the judge.

NIRBHAYA CASE: SC REJECTS CURATIVE PLEA

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 30

Death-row convicts in the Nirbhaya case, on Thursday, took another step, which may delay their scheduled February 1 hanging, by moving a trial court with a plea to adjourn the execution "sine die" saying they are yet to avail their remaining legal remedies even as the Supreme Court dismissed the third curative petition.

Of the four convicts, Mukesh Kumar Singh has exhausted all his legal remedies, including the mercy petition which was dismissed by President Ram Nath Kovind on January 17, and the appeal against the rejection was thrown out by the apex court on Wednesday.

Convict Vinay Kumar Sharma had, on Wednesday, filed a clemency plea before the President and the apex court, on Thursday, rejected the curative petition of Akshay Kumar Singh, who is likely to file a clemency plea soon. Pawan Gupta is yet to file a curative petition in the top court.

■ Page 7: Fast paced developments in SC

'MISTAKE' NOT SMALL: JUDGE

While giving her judgment, the judge said, "the mistake you have done was not a small one," and added, "The crime you had committed against Samata has been proved."

■ Page 4: Husband thanks cops, judge for quick justice



A juvenile (face blurred) brandishes a pistol while heading towards anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protesters near Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi on Thursday. He opened fire against the protesters injuring one student and causing panic.

— PTI

Teen fires at anti-CAA rally

'Take your freedom', shouts shooter as student protester gets injured

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 30

Thousands of people and police personnel faced off against each other near the Jamia Millia Islamia campus on Thursday after a teenager fired a pistol at a group of anti-CAA protesters, injuring a student, before walking away while waving the firearm over his head, shouting "Yeh lo aazadi". The injured student, Shahdab Farooq, who was seen bleeding from his left hand, was first taken to Holy Family Hospital and later moved to the AIIMS Trauma Centre. Farooq, a mass communications student, belongs to Kashmir.

The terrifying incident took place as hundreds of students, protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act, were on their way to Rajghat to pay

homage to Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated on January 30, 1948. The entire drama, which triggered panic in the area, was captured by television cameras that showed the man in light-coloured trousers and a dark jacket, walking away on an empty road barricaded by the police, turning around and shouting at the protesters in Hindi.

In a chilling video, the teenager is seen walking backwards as he points his gun at protesters. Dozens of policemen in riot gear are seen behind him, but none of them is seen trying to stop the shooter. "Yeh lo azaadi (here's your freedom)", he sneered at the protesters. After he fired the shot, one cop could be seen walking towards him and grabbing him.

■ Page 7: Cop says shooter is juvenile

OWAISI: PM CAN IDENTIFY HIM BY HIS CLOTHES

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

Hyderabad MP and AIM-IM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday reacted to the firing by a lone gunman, identified by the Delhi police as a juvenile, at an anti-CAA protest in Jamia Millia area of Delhi, and challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "identify him by his clothes."

He held minister of state for finance, Anurag Thakur, directly responsible for the shooting.

■ Page 2: Nationalists creating hatred: Owaisi

MODI, GODSE BELIEVE IN THE SAME IDEOLOGY OF HATRED, SAYS RAHUL

DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 30

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse believed in the same ideology of hatred.

Mr Gandhi said there was no difference between the two except that Mr Modi "does not have the guts to say he believed in Godse's ideology." "I don't know if you know that when Godse shot Mahatma Gandhi he did not look at his eyes. Because a liar and coward cannot look at the eyes," he said. The former Congress



president was addressing a meeting in connection with "Save the Constitution" march in protest against Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in Kalpetta in his Wayanad constituency.

Attacking the CAA and the NRC, Mr Gandhi said Indians were forced to prove they are Indians.

■ Page 7: Our duty is to fight hatred, says Rahul

1st coronavirus case in India

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 30

The first positive case of novel coronavirus was reported in India on Thursday, from Kerala. The health ministry issued a statement on Thursday saying the patient was a student studying at Wuhan University in China.

"The patient has tested positive for novel coronavirus and is in isolation in the hospital. The patient is stable and is being closely monitored," the ministry also issued an

■ THE PATIENT was a student studying at Wuhan University in China

■ HER CONDITION is stable and is being closely monitored

advisory asking travellers coming back from China to take certain precautions.

The three men kept in an isolation ward of New Delhi's Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital have tested negative for coronavirus. "Their samples were sent for testing to NIV Pune and they have tested negative," a health ministry

official said. So far, 38 samples from all over India were tested at the Pune laboratory and all have tested negative.

The three men had self-reported at the RML Hospital, that is designated to deal with such cases, on Monday with complaints of respiratory trouble and fever. The health ministry has made four more labs functional other than NIV-Pune for testing samples. These are Alleppey, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

■ Page 9: Contact with 600 Indians in China established

SUSPECTS IN CITY UNDER OBSERVATION

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

Two suspected cases of people who had returned from China were identified in the city on Thursday and sent to the Fever and Gandhi Hospital. They were taken in for evaluation.

■ Full report on Page 2

EUROPEAN MPs SET SEAL ON BREXIT VOTE

Brussels, Jan. 30: Britain's departure from the EU was set in law on Wednesday, amid emotional scenes, as the bloc's Parliament voted to ratify the divorce.

After half a century of sometimes awkward membership and three years of tense withdrawal talks, the UK will leave the EU at midnight Brussels time (2300 GMT) on Friday. MEPs voted by 621 votes to 49 to pass the withdrawal agreement, which sees Britain leave the EU institutions but remain under most EU rules during a transition until the end of the year.

Following the vote, MEPs burst into a chorus of "Auld Lang Syne", a traditional Scottish song of farewell.

The transition will see Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government try to negotiate an ambitious free trade agreement with his 27 former partners remaining in the bloc. "Only in the agony of parting do we look into the depth of love," EU Commission president Ursula von der Leyen told the chamber, quoting author George Eliot. "We will always love you and we will never be far. Long live Europe."

— AFP

GOLDEN | ABODE

6% rise in hundi deposits as temple served 123 anna prasadam per minute

Tirupati Lord earns ₹3.18 crore per day

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, JAN. 30

The Lord Venkateswara temple in Tirumala is the richest Hindu temple in India in terms of revenue generated, grossing ₹368.38 per second in form of devotee offerings to the Srivari hundi last year.

Every year, millions of devotees visit the temple, offer cash and other valuables, including gold and

silver donations to Lord Venkateswara, in keeping with a centuries-old tradition, popularly called as *mokkubadi* (resolve).

According to statements released by Anil Kumar Singhal, executive officer, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), earlier this month, offerings by devotees from January to December in 2019 came close to ₹1,161.74 crore, while in the corresponding period in 2018, revenues



were ₹1,066.48 crore. The temple earned an additional annual revenue of ₹95.25 crore, a six per cent growth from hundi collections in

Activity	Average figures per minute	Fig. in 2019 (Jan-Dec)
Hundi	₹22,103.12 (₹368.38/Sec)	1,161.74 crore
Darshan	53.063 persons/min	2,78,90,179 persons
Laddus	237.78 units/min	12,49,80,815 units
Anna Prasadam	122.85 persons/min	6,45,73,250 persons
Tonsuring	22.18 persons/min	1,16,61,625 persons

2019 compared to 2018. The average earnings recorded from hundi collections average to ₹22,103.12 per minute in 2019, a growth

from 2018 of ₹20,290.71.

Apart from Hundi earning, a chunk of TTD's revenue come from interests on fixed deposits (FDs),

receipts from sale of prasadam, darshan tickets, accommodation, lease and rents. TTD is projecting revenue of ₹857.28 from FD interests, ₹330 crore from prasadam, and ₹233 crore from darshan tickets for financial year 2019-20.

When it comes to *anna prasadam*, the temple, on an average, served free food to 122.85 persons per minute. In 2019, 6.45 crore devotees had *anna prasadam*.



SHORT TAKES

SHRC EXAMINES RGIA FOR nCOV MEASURES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

A team of officials from the State Human Rights' Commission (SHRC) visited the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport on Thursday evening to evaluate the precautionary measures set up to identify passengers carrying the dreaded coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection.

Donning masks and gloves, the SHRC team spoke to medical practitioners posted at the airport. A medical officer told the team that passengers have to face a tripod-borne body temperature scanner. The images will be colour coded to show their body temperature. This system can detect if a person is running temperature as the body's outline will show a white colour on screen.

Those with elevated temperatures are given a face mask, isolated from others and asked about the persons he or she has come in contact with, the SHRC team was told.

■ A MEDICAL officer told the team that passengers have to face a tripod-borne body temperature scanner. The images will be colour coded to show their body temperature.

'FASCISTS' WANT TO REPLACE CONSTITUTION

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

Anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protesters alleged that "fascist forces" want to replace the Constitution with the 'Manusmriti'. As part of it, these forces were bringing the CAA, National Register of Citizens (NRC) and National Population Register.

The Struggle Association for Annihilation of Caste Inequalities (SAACI) said, "We have to come together and protect the right of every citizen. Different organisations have come together and formed the Resistance Forum Against Fascism (RFAF) to fight against the fascist forces."

Speaking during a press conference, Justice B. Chandra Kumar, former High Court judge and SAACI convener, said, "It took thousands of years to recognise Dalits as human beings in our country. After the Constitution came into force, Dalits were recognised as human beings. Fascist forces want to replace Constitution with 'Manusmriti' by bringing in CAA, NRC and NPR," he said. Seconding his opinion, C. Bhaskar Rao, chairman of the Organisation for the Protection of Democratic Rights (OPDR), said "The government is curbing the rights of Dalits, Muslims and tribals. We should come together to save democracy."

After the Constitution came into force, Dalits were recognised as human beings. Fascist forces want to replace Constitution with 'Manusmriti' by bringing in CAA, NRC and NPR

— JUSTICE B. CHANDRA KUMAR Former High Court judge

MILLET RIGHTS ARE WOMEN'S RIGHTS: AIMS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

The All India Millet Sisters (AIMS) opened a new chapter in the discourse on women's rights by stating that millet rights are women's rights. This exhortation is contained in the Millet Charter released at the end of their three-day conference on Thursday. The AIMS said that millets represented the closest expression of women's rights in food and farming since they embodied all the politics and concerns of global women's movements.

The Millet Sisters noted that with every decade of climate crisis familiar grains such as wheat and rice will disappear from the food basket and there will be nothing to offer in the food system. Millets with their extraordinary capacity to withstand climate change may be the only grains that can be tapped for public food systems. Therefore there is an immediate need to recognise millets as the food of the future for India and base all food planning on millets.



Over 1,000 people come together to form a human chain at Indira Park on Thursday

— DEEPAK DESPANDE

Human chain marks martyrs day

Protesters hold huge flag; Event not publicised due to difficulty in getting permission, say organisers

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

In a befitting tribute to the apostle of peace on his death anniversary, close to a thousand people came and joined hands to form a human chain by holding placards, with a long National Flag that spanned the entire length, as a demonstration of patriotism, late Thursday evening.

The human chain, comprising people from all religions and faiths and of different age-groups, was organised by a group called 'Citizens against CAA-NRC-NPR', at Dharna Chowk near Indira Park.

The organisers stated that as there were difficulties in getting permissions, they had not advertised the event properly. If given sufficient time, the gathering would have been larger as many were openly protesting the Centre's move.

The speakers said that they had chosen the day the Father of the Nation was assassinated because he achieved equality and social justice using non-violence as a potent weapon. They said that the right wing ideologists of those days never liked his ways and killed him in 1948.

Social activist Kiran Vissa said "the nation has promised its citizens freedom, justice and equality. Today, all three are under threat, with CAA."



Cops picked up a few people after they tried to form a human chain near the Ambedkar Statue on Thursday

— DECCAN CHRONICLE

- SOCIAL ACTIVIST Kiran Vissa said "the nation has promised its citizens freedom, justice and equality. Today, all three are under threat, with CAA."
- THE PROTESTERS sang patriotic songs and raised anti-CAA and NRC slogans.

According to Meera Sangamithra, "The hidden agenda of the Union government is now known to the people. The hate propaganda and the threats from the government cannot deter us. Every Gandhi and Ambedkar follower will fight the government which is promoting communalism."

Dr Asma Zaher said

"Today's situation demands people to come into the open and protest against the government, which is promoting hatred through all mediums for their political gains. The country has to be reminded about the Mahatma and his spectacularly successful non-violence strategy."

Ramana from Hyd Zindabad, said, "there has

always been a sense of brotherhood, togetherness and communal amity in the country. The present government is spreading religious hatred, which is hugely condemnable. If the government intends to develop the country, it has to work on unemployment Register. It looks stupid when the government says that the borders are weak and people from neighbouring nations are crossing the border into India."

The protesters sang patriotic songs and raised anti-CAA and NRC slogans. The entire protest ended up peacefully.

NATIONALISTS CREATING HATRED: ASAD

From Page 1

In a series of tweets he wrote "Thanks to @januragthakur & all 9 pm nationalists who have created so much hatred in this country that a terrorist shoots a student while cops watch. Hi @PMOIndia identify him by his clothes. (sic)"

He also hit out at the Delhi Police, who came in for sharp criticism after reacting violently against Jamia students last month. He tweeted "@DelhiPolice what happened to the bravado that you showed in #Jamia last month? If there is a prize for being helpless, bystanders you'd win it every time. Can you explain why a gunshot victim had to CLIMB over a barricade? Do your service rules stop you from being HUMANE? (sic)"

Owaisi said that this incident took place on a day, "when we are remembering terrorist Godse's murder of Gandhi, when students were going to march to mark the event. Such cowardice does not scare us. The protest will go on. This is now Godse versus India of Gandhi, Ambedkar and Nehru. It is easy to pick one side." He said in another tweet that this is the problem of a specific ideology, its supporters and 'bhakts'.

Police urged to take action against ACP

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

Pressure is mounting on the police to take disciplinary action against Karimnagar ACP P. Ashok, who had told an anti-CAA protester to go to the neighbouring country. The cop allegedly stated that Islam has excessive fanaticism and terrorism. The video pertaining to the counselling, when the exchange occurred, went viral on social media. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has already sought a report from the DGP on the complaint of harassment, but no action has been taken so far.

A case was registered against Mr Mujeeb against whom a case was registered for participating in a protest against the CAA on December 22. He received a call from a cop, who identified himself as an inspector with Special Branch, who allegedly used filthy language.

The following day, Mr Mujeeb was asked to present himself before Karimnagar commissioner of police V. B. Kamalasan Reddy. He complained about the telephonic conversation with the cop, but no action was taken. Later,

■ WHILE COUNSELLING a protester, M.A. Mujeeb, Karimnagar ACP P. Ashok reportedly asked him to go to a neighbouring country. He also passed some remarks on Islam. Activists are asking for action on the police officer.

he was asked to appear before Karimnagar I Town police for counselling. During the counselling, Mr Ashok joined and started a conversation with the complainant.

Mr Ashok allegedly said anti-CAA protestors should go to the neighbouring country. He allegedly used derogatory words against Mahatma Gandhi. He said that except Islam no other religion has fanaticism.

Secretary of Mehr Organisation Affan Quadri asked the DGP to initiate a departmental inquiry against the official by placing him under suspension. Mr Quadri urged Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao to open de-radicalisation camps for some elite police officers. Social activist Mohammed Farooq maintained that police personnel should always be neutral and devoid of any ideological bias.

POOR FACILITIES

Health minister has instructed officials to provide proper treatment in isolation wards

State hospitals face a logistical nightmare

2 fresh cases of nCov in city

Patients start to show acute respiratory disorder in 2 days

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

State health department officials were on Thursday instructed to gear up for treatment of possible novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) patients after the first case was reported from Kerala. Health minister Etala Rajendar said everyone who arrived in the state since the outbreak of the disease in China must be kept under observation and surveillance for possible symptoms, including members of families these individuals.

He instructed the department to be prepared fully to provide care for possible victims and proper treatment in isolation wards.

This might be easier said than done with the prospect of logistical nightmares, given the state of facilities available at the designated hospitals in the city. In the four hospitals identified so far for treating possible 2019-nCoV cases, the plan involves housing the patients in isolation wards, in buildings that are separated from the main hospital structures where most diagnostic facilities are housed.

This could mean moving patients into the main building for simple things

like a chest x-ray unless the isolation ward has a machine. Then there is the issue of containment of possible spread of the virus from a patient, especially when performing what are called 'aerosol generating procedures'.

According to the guidelines issued by Union health ministry, "adequately ventilated single rooms — meaning negative pressure rooms (rooms where the atmospheric pressure is less than other rooms to prevent air from the ward to escape and air from the room is channelled through a filtration system before being allowed to escape into the atmosphere) — with a minimum of 12 air changes per hour or at least 160 litres/second/patient in facilities with natural ventilation," should be used while performing procedures such as open suctioning of the respiratory tract, intubation, bronchoscopy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

While the guidelines state that such air circulation management should be practiced "whenever possible", the designated hospitals reportedly do not have negative pressure rooms or wards for such procedures. It could not be confirmed if any

airflow modeling was performed with respect to the second option to establish whether the required levels of air exchange occurs in the designated wards.

"Our isolation wards are well ventilated and well lit which are enough. In the event of acute distress of a patient, then we can shift the person to the ICU in the hospital," a health department official said. There was no clarity on whether separate ICUs will be designated to treat coronavirus patients or whether they would be clubbed with other patients.

Meanwhile, a specialist in infectious diseases said it would be preferable to "err on the side of caution," especially when performing the specific procedures. "Our current understanding is that the disease spreads through droplets, a situation that can be managed with thorough personnel safety and disinfectant procedures. India follows the World Health Organisation guidelines on these issues which are designed for developing and under developed countries. The US follows its Centres for Disease Control guidelines that call for more stringent systems," the specialist said.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

Two suspected cases of people who had returned from China were identified in the city on Thursday and sent to the Fever and Gandhi Hospital. They had high temperature and were taken in for evaluation. Their samples were taken and kept in observation. There have been a total of 11 suspected cases in the city so far. The samples of only two from these were negative, while results of the remaining nine are still awaited from Pune.

With transport of samples taking time, the Telangana government has asked centre to provide them with testing kits. These would be sent by the Centre by tomorrow and a laboratory would be set up in Gandhi Hospital. The tests can then be conducted in the state itself and results can be evaluated in six hours.

Presently, only two people are admitted in Fever Hospital, while others have been sent home as they did not have any symptoms. They have

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

The first 41 patients who caught the Coronavirus (nCoV) in China have shown that it takes only two days for the symptoms to go from breathlessness to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), according to a study published in *The Lancet*. "This is too short a time," stated city doctors who have checked the medical evaluations and conclude that the virus is virulent. Comparison with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus shows that while the 2019-nCoV mimics SARS there are differences in the presentations. According to *The Lancet*, the patients who came in on January 2 have shown that they had serious, fatal pneumonia, requiring ICU and oxygen therapy as treatment. The mortality rate in the 41 patients was at 15 per cent. The infection is by a large droplet, which means that it has lots of viruses which are shed which coughing or sneezing. Healthcare workers require N95 respirators and personal protection equipment while treating these patients. The PPE kit is strongly recommended. *The Lancet* study stated that the prevention methods was of utmost importance in the healthcare sector as those caring for patients could become infected. Symptoms of fever and respiratory problems have to be closely monitored. Testing of respiratory specimens should be done immediately once a diagnosis is suspected.

Dr Ramana Prasad, a pulmonologist, explained, "The target cells presently are in the lower airway which means that mild symptoms of sore throat, sneezing and rhinorrhoea must not be ignored." The transmission through faecal matter and urine is being suspected but it is not clear yet whether it has occurred as stated the scientist in the journal.

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They have also identified 200 beds in the Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital, which can be utilized in case of an emergency. In number of suspected cases.



Support for women

IG, women's safety, Swati Lakra, says victims approaching Bharosa centres would have unhindered access to support services

DECCAN CHRONICLE

FRIDAY | 31 JANUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD

City

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IN BRIEF

14K students skip TSBIE exam

Hyderabad: About 14,235 students were absent for the Environmental Education exam which was conducted by Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) for all the students on Thursday in all the private and government junior colleges. About 4,68,001 students have appeared for the test out of the 4,82,236 registered students.

Army officials meet Governor

Hyderabad: Lieutenant General P Nagesh Rao, AVSM, YSM, SM, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Dakshin Bharat Area, accompanied by Major General RK Singh, GOC, Telangana and Andhra Sub Area called on the Governor of Telangana, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Wednesday, at Raj Bhavan, Hyderabad as a courtesy visit after having taken over as GOC Dakshin Bharat area, Chennai. They briefly discussed several issues related to Ex-service-men welfare and civil-military liaison.

3 drown to death in Warangal

Warangal: Three children drowned in the Katta Mallanna tank in Gorrekunta village of Geesugonda mandal in Warangal Urban district on Thursday. Being a holiday on the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the children, Ippa Pranay, 9, studying in Class 3, Akinepalli Ranadheer, 9, of Class 4 and Barigela Nikitha, 7, of Class 2, went to the tank to catch fish. They were first spotted by the villagers who warned them to stay away. They left the spot but returned when no one was looking. While playing there, they accidentally slipped into the tank and drowned. The police registered a case and further investigations are underway.

Foreign liquor worth ₹18L seized

Hyderabad: The officials of excise enforcement team of Hyderabad, on Thursday, seized 18 lakhs worth foreign liquor and arrested three persons involved in the case. Reportedly, the accused gang of two members was illegally smuggling foreign liquor from Shamshabad and Chennai airports into the city. Police identified the accused as Khaleed, 29, an employee at a duty-free shop, and Anil, 31, a former employee. Based on a tip-off, the police raided a travels office opposite the Nampally railway station and seized 12 one-litre bottles of a top brand of whisky from another accused, said T. Venkatesh, assistant excise superintendent (enforcement). Information provided by Venkatesh's team led them to arrest Khaleed and Anil. Officials recovered foreign liquor of 106 different brands. Efforts are underway to nab the accused.

DETAILS | NOTED

App controls entry, exit of visitors in buildings

Residents using MyGate feel insecure

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

Users of MyGate, the app-based security management system for gated communities and apartment complexes, have accused the firm of collecting unnecessary amounts of data. They said that the Bengaluru-based start-up is playing fast and loose with user data, and sharing it with third-parties without their consent. MyGate's application is used by many gated communities in the city. Residents of these communities can use the app to manage entry and exit of people. Security guards are given devices wherein they can enter the details of visitors before they allow them inside. Interestingly, MyGate deals with residents welfare associations (RWA) directly, and not individual residents. Provided the RWA agrees to start using MyGate, even non-consenting residents have no choice but to be part of the company's ecosystem.

■ **OBSERVERS HAVE** said the amount of data that MyGate has in its database is a matter of concern. On its website, MyGate says it does not share the data it collects with anyone

Naren (name changed on request), resident of one of these communities, said, "By default, it is not 'opt in' but 'opt out'. You have no choice but to use MyGate if your RWA has decided. Of course, MyGate says there is a way to opt out but it is hidden behind many settings' screens and very complicated. I haven't figured it out till now." Observers have said the amount of data that MyGate has in its database is a matter of concern. A cybersecurity activist from the city said, "MyGate knows everything about you — right from the people who visit you through visitor logs to the kind of food you eat through delivery data. It is a data-collection agency masquerading as a security start-up." He added that if this data were

to be stolen or compromised, it would be a massive risk to the residents. Users and activists said there are other concerns as well. Third-parties like Swiggy and Dunzo (delivery services) have entered into an agreement for data-sharing for "silent pre-approvals" of deliveries. Naren explained, "When a Swiggy delivery person arrives, I no longer have to approve him. He can come to my door directly. But here is the problem: How can Swiggy and Dunzo share my data with MyGate without my consent? Also, there is no way for me to opt out of this model as these apps don't have this option." He added that as a MyGate user, he felt insecure. "It is like MyGate is a personal stalker who you are paying to stalk. It can go rogue anytime," he said. Another resident of one of MyGate-enabled localities said MyGate was bad for privacy within the family as well. "The app is used by the whole family. So when I order for something, the whole family gets a notifica-

tion. In essence, you can't even order a surprise cake for someone!" he said. There is also the problem of security guards not being trained to use MyGate. A visitor to one of these apartments said he was not allowed to visit his friend because he refused to enter his mobile phone details in the app. MyGate responded to his complaint on Twitter that providing mobile phone details wasn't necessary. However, residents said the app doesn't allow them to pre-approve visitors without their mobile phone details. On its website, MyGate says it does not share the data it collects with anyone. It also claims that the owner of this data is actually the RWA and not itself since it only acts as an intermediary. MyGate did not respond to Deccan Chronicle's request for a comment. Naren said that according to current laws MyGate is not doing anything illegal. "But the app collects a lot of data and there are many possibilities for abuse," he said.

Baby steps



On the occasion of Basant Panchami, parents help their child for Aksharabhyasam (writing first alphabets) at Gnana Saraswati temple in Musheerabad, Hyderabad, on Thursday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

IIT-H focuses on reducing stress

Students to be drawn out of hostel rooms

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

In order to boost the students' personality skills, IIT-Hyderabad will make personality development a mandatory course from the next academic year.

It was also found that most students are confining themselves to the hostel rooms with their gadgets, avoiding any conversation with fellow students. In order to overcome this issue, the institute has already started 'pod coordinators' who would make sure that there is a quality discussion taking place among the students.

A pod is the common area between eight rooms and there is one person to manage it as the coordinator for the eight occupants. "This is purely a student-run initiative supported by the institution so as to ensure everybody is connected with each other. The respective pod coordinators have their WhatsApp groups through which they communicate and decide when they can conveniently meet once a week. Also, they meet over lunch or dinner for quality discussion once in a month. The objective of the whole exercise is to develop concept of togetherness among the students," said the IITH official.

As of now, students have their own rooms, the institute is aiming to construct a separate hostel to accommodate two students per room at

Director sets new 'Vision' for 2024

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

Prof. B.S. Murty, Director of the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) drew up 'IIT-Hyderabad's Vision for 2024' which envisages enabling 40 companies and 50 start-ups to be set up in the Institute Research Park and Incubation Centre. The new Director also set a target of generating ₹200 crore per year for funding research at the institute by the year 2024 through various sources. The figure stands at ₹50 crore now. Addressing the media on the IIT-H campus, Prof. Murthy said, "Since August 2019, IIT Hyderabad has entered into four MoUs with Japanese institutes and five collaborations with Indian research centers, private Companies and the government of Telangana state. Nearly

30 assistant professors have been recruited in the last three months. We are also keen on bringing in more overseas students and faculty to IIT Hyderabad." Prof. Murty added that a research park and an incubation cell spanning 1.5 lakh sq.ft each are coming up, which give a major boost to establishing relations with start-ups and the industry. The institute is introducing an M.Tech course in healthcare entrepreneurship. It plans to launch industry-supported M.Tech. programmes in sectors such as e-waste management, cyber security and advanced manufacturing. IIT-Hyderabad will also be starting the department of management and entrepreneurship, which will focus on encouraging students to become job generators through entrepreneurial activities.

Notice to Shankar over land dispute

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy, issued notices to the Special Chief Secretary (revenue), commissioner of HMDA and the Ranga Reddy collector, directing them to respond to a PIL which challenged allocation of five acres of prime land located in Mokilla, Shankarpally, to film producer-director N. Shankar at a nominal price of ₹5 lakh per acre. While dealing with a petition filed by Mr. J. Shankar, a resident of Karimnagar, who sought

■ **THE BENCH** directed the authorities to submit their contentions within four weeks

suspension of the GO. Ms. No. 75, through which the land was allotted to the filmmaker, the bench directed the authorities to submit their contentions within four weeks. The court also issued notices to Mr. N. Shankar. The petitioner submitted that the land prices at Mokilla were around ₹5 crore per acre with a registration value of ₹20 lakh. He said that the beneficiary was a private individual and the land allotted to him would not benefit people in any way.

FASTag to be used in fuel pumps soon

GEETA VALABOJU | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

In a significant development, FASTag, the RFID system used for the toll fee on national highways, can shortly be used at fuel stations. Commuters can now recharge the FASTag to fill fuel without swiping any card or paying the amount in cash.

The existing FASTag users can pre-set the fuel amounts through Fastlane mobile application. As of now HPCL is the authorised dealer in Mumbai and it would eventually be extended to other agencies.

A Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) reader attached to the fuel nozzle finds out how much fuel is required. The attendant refills your vehicle car tank and you drive out without waiting to pay the bill. This is the scene across several HPCL petrol pumps in Mumbai, Delhi, and Bengaluru.

It is expected to be implemented in Hyderabad in the next three months. The Mumbai-based company AGS transact Technologies Ltd has developed India's first mobile fuelling solutions called Fastlane.

Every Fastlane user is provided with an RFID sticker linked to Fastlane mobile app. This enables the user to pre-setup the amount before reaching petrol pump. On reaching, the Fastlane RFID sticker pasted on the car windshield provides

vehicle identification and fuel type as well as the payment info to the attendant. After fuelling is done with, one will get an instant notification and the individual can simply move on.

That is the new Fastlane solution that uses RFID-based technology. HP is the country's first fast fuel payment solution that offers digital convenience as it works on automatic deduction. Once the customer gives all details, the vehicle is tagged with RFIO code. The fuel nozzles are equipped with special readers that verify the RFID tag placed in the fuel tank inlet.

The technology was developed by Mumbai-based Start-up Fastlane by AGS Transact Technologies Ltd in June 2019. Currently, there are more than 120 Fastlane-enabled HPCL petrol pumps in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane and Pune and many are in the pipeline.

HP Fastlane offers convenience to the car owners. Bigger beneficiaries are those with many cars-private operators, hotels, corporate houses. If one has multiple taxes a centralised point will take shape. The Fastlane allows you to keep track of how much fuel each vehicle has consumed, including the amount spent on them.

Fastlane can be used by any vehicle, including cars, trucks, buses and two-wheelers.

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NANDHAR EVENTS



Gandhi's path

KCR says the path of Mahatma Gandhi to achieve peace through non-violence and satyagraha is always implementable

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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SHORT TAKES

NOTICE FOR PAC POLLS WILL BE ISSUED ON FEB 3

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

Elections to Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) will be held on February 15. Notification for the elections will be issued on February 3, according to additional registrar of cooperative societies V. Sumitra, the authorised election authority, who spoke after the state government issued the schedule on Thursday.

Ms Sumitra said that nominations will be received from February 6 to 8 and they will be scrutinised on February 9 while withdrawal of nominations will end the next day.

The election authority informed that counting of votes will take place on February 15 soon after completion of the polling in each of the PACS and results also declared the same day. Elections of office-bearers will be conducted within three days from date of declaration of results.

The State has 906 PACSs, including 77 in Adilabad district, 125 in Karimnagar, 97 in Khammam, 76 in Mahabubnagar, 111 in Medak, 110 in Nalgonda, 144 in Nizamabad, 68 in Ranga Reddy and 98 PACSs in Warangal district. The term of the previous PACS body ended in February 2018. They have been functioning under special officers, whose term will be ended on February 28.

PERFORM OR PERISH, KTR WARNS COUNCIL

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Thursday warned newly-elected councillors and corporators that the government would not spare anyone found willfully delaying issuing permits for construction of buildings.

Interacting with them at the Telangana Bhavan, he said, "If someone is constructing a house on a street, the first to reach the spot are the officers and councillors demanding the owners for their cut. This culture has to stop. If you are not able to come out of this practice, then Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) is in no mood to accept any defence and explanations."

Reminding that he had already asked every candidate before the elections to read and understand the new Municipal Act and then get into the elections, Mr Rama Rao told them, "If you commit a mistake, you are bound to lose your position. Although, 92 per cent of municipalities are with TRS, there is no question of differentiating anyone on party lines. All people belong to us."

Telling them not to commit mistakes and bring shame to the party, he made it clear that he will not heed to any Ministers or MLAs recommendations seeking to forgive corporators or councillors committing mistakes. He said that they have to be sacked. Mr Rama Rao called for creation of urban infrastructure during their tenure without resorting to corrupt practices. He invited suggestions from the new chairpersons and councillors on improving the Act and urban infrastructure.

The working president said, "There are engineers and even IT professionals, who won municipal elections. There is a young lady preparing for IAS exams, who got elected as a councillor."

TRS got 'welfare votes'

Despite claiming to be alternatives, Cong, BJP failed to match TRS

S.N.C.N.
ACHARYULU | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

It has become a habit for the people to vote for TRS in every election since 2014. The Congress and the BJP have both been claiming that they are alternatives to the TRS but in the recent municipal elections they failed to match the ruling party. In fact, the TRS got more votes than the two parties together.

In the municipal elections, the TRS got 42.15 per cent vote share, the Congress 21.7 and the BJP got 14.4 per cent vote share. The remaining 21.75 per cent was shared by rebels and other political parties like the CPM and the CPI.

In the December 2018 Assembly elections, the TRS got 46.9 per cent votes, which fell to 41.29 per cent in the Lok Sabha elections in April last year. In the Assembly elections, the Congress and BJP got 28.4 per cent and 7 per cent vote respectively. By the time of the Lok Sabha elections, the Congress vote percentage went up to 29.48 per cent and the

BJP 19.45 per cent.

Between the two elections, the TRS vote share fell by 5.61 percentage points, while those of the Congress and the BJP increased by 1.07 and 12.45 percentage points. In the recent municipal elections, the TRS vote share went up by about 1 per cent, the Congress plunged by about 8 percentage points and the BJP vote share 5 percentage points compared to the Lok Sabha elections. The municipal elections were held for 120 municipalities and 10 municipal corporations, which are basically urban areas, but the voting trend shows the mood of the people.

Senior TRS leaders said that welfare schemes taken by the state government had become the backbone for the ruling party in the elections. He said that the two important schemes, social welfare pensions and Rythu Bandhu, played an important role in the elections. These schemes appear to be more popular than development schemes. People appear to be giving importance to welfare schemes from which they benefit.

Elections	(Vote %)		
	TRS	Congress	BJP
Assembly 2018	45.9	28.41	7
Lok Sabha 2019	41.29	29.48	19.45
Municipal 2020	42.1	21.7	14.4

Civic poll results show BJP stronger than Congress

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

The voting percentage in the recent municipal elections shows that the BJP is better placed than the Congress to fight the TRS in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).

The results of the civic elections showed that the BJP is stronger in the municipal corporations whereas the Congress is stronger in the municipalities. Both these parties are, however, a long way behind the TRS.

In the civic elections, the TRS got 44 per cent vote share in the 120 municipalities and 36.7 per cent in the 10 municipal corporations. The Congress won 23.5 per cent votes in the municipalities and 14.9 per cent in the municipal corporations. The BJP got 12.5 per cent votes in the municipalities but in the municipal corporations it won 21.5 per cent of the votes.

If the trend continues in the GHMC elections, the BJP will get the upper hand over the Congress. To the advantage of the

PERCENTAGE GAMES

Voting in civic polls is revealing

Polls	TRS	Congress	BJP
Municipalities	44	23.5	12.5
Corporations	36.7	14.9	21.5
Overall	42.1	21.7	14.4

■ IN THE 2016 GHMC elections, the BJP had five legislators in the GHMC limits but could win only four divisions. At the same time, it must be noted that the TRS got fewer votes in the municipal corporations than in the municipalities in the recent elections.

BJP, it has MP, Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy, and one legislator, T. Raja Singh. All Congress MLAs in the GHMC limits have joined the TRS.

Compared to other areas of the state, Hyderabad is more communally sensitive. The BJP can be expected to use the Hindutva card against the MIM which is strong in the Old City. The MIM is friends with the TRS and this will be harped on by the BJP for political gain.

In the 2016 GHMC elec-

tions, the TRS won 99 divisions out of 150, the MIM 44, BJP four, Congress two and the Telugu Desam one. The TRS wants to retain its hold on the GHMC and the BJP will find it very difficult to win a majority.

In the 2016 GHMC elections, the BJP had five legislators in the GHMC limits but could win only four divisions. At the same time, it must be noted that the TRS got fewer votes in the municipal corporations than in the municipalities in the recent elections.

Remembrance



Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, along with others, paying floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary at Babu Ghat in Hyderabad on Thursday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

BJP demands inquiry into TRS' power misuse

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

Seeking the intervention of Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan in protecting the Constitution, the state BJP demanded a high-level inquiry into the irregularities, misuse of power and violation of constitutional norms by the TRS in recently held civic body elections.

A delegation led by state BJP president Dr K. Laxman met the Governor at Raj Bhavan and submitted a memorandum detailing the

■ DR LAXMAN submitted a memorandum to Governor detailing the alleged irregularities, misuse of official machinery and unconstitutional and undemocratic methods used by the TRS

alleged irregularities, misuse of official machinery and unconstitutional and undemocratic methods used by the TRS.

The state BJP leaders are likely to visit Delhi and submit a memoran-

dum to President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on the Thukuguda municipality case, which the party lost despite having the numbers.

Addressing the media at Raj Bhavan, Dr Laxman said the party had urged the Governor to seek an explanation from the TRS government. He alleged the TRS had distribution of crores of rupees to lure voters and did not give any heed to the complaints lodged by Opposition parties.

Uttam slams BJP and TRS alliance

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president MP N. Uttam Kumar Reddy expressed deep concern over the BJP and the TRS not following the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi of truth, peace and secularism.

Speaking on the 72nd martyrdom day of Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, he said BJP has no moral right to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. He said that the BJP takes out Sankalp Yatra to express its love for Gandhi while on the other hand its leaders praise Nathuram Godse.

He condemned the BJP for trying to extract political gains out of Mahatma Gandhi while ignoring his ideals and teachings.

Mr Reddy alleged that the BJP and MIM were having understanding to gain political mileage by dividing people on communal lines.

He said that the incidents of violence and the result of the Bhainsa municipality elections were a clear example of how these parties were making political gains by creating communal divide.

He said that TRS was part of the secret alliance between BJP and MIM. The TRS is having an understanding with the BJP at the Centre while it is sailing with MIM in Telangana state. He said the TRS-BJP-MIM trio were cheating the people to extract political benefits. Paying rich tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, he said that the Congress was following his teachings to bring justice and equality.

**पावरग्रिड
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Tariff details:

a) 2001-04 block		Rs in lakh	
Particulars	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Asset-I	1673.66	1655.62	2053.44
Asset-II	1163.54	1163.14	1469.30

Revised Tariff for 2004-09 block

Particulars	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Asset-I	1419.74	1669.25	1948.33	813.09	488.13
Asset-II	1041.79	1269.89	1363.49	566.92	398.38

Revised Tariff for 2009-14 block

Particulars	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Combined Asset	1550.85	1523.88	1482.76	850.95	855.23

Revised Tariff for 2014-19 block

Particulars	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Combined Asset	888.54	904.87	906.15	899.53	898.25

b) 2019-24 block

Particulars	DOCO	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Combined Asset	01.12.1999	765.27	761.37	757.71	754.38	751.07

Asset

- A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com.
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DANGER | RADAR MHA is planning to provide CRPF officials for MPs

Threat scares BJP MPs in TS

IREDDY SRINIVAS
REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

In the wake of the alleged attacks on BJP MPs in the state, the Union home ministry is said to be planning to provide them security using central security forces. This is based on intelligence agencies about the threat to the MPs.

It is said that the MPs were not feeling secure with the security provided by the state government.

Recently, Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar surrendered his security detail, alleging that Karimnagar police commissioner

■ MPS WERE not feeling secure with the security provided by the state government

V.B. Kamalasan Reddy had given a report that stone-pelting did not take place during Mr Sanjay's civic polls campaign. Mr Sanjay said he did not need security from the state police as none had stopped the stone-pelting.

It is learned that the intelligence agencies inquired into the allegations and found that stone-pelting did take place and stones fell on Mr Sanjay and a police constable.

Nizamabad BJP MP D. Arvind had claimed that when he was campaigning for the municipal elections, an attack was planned on him and his supporters were targeted and attacked.

Adilabad MP S. Babu Rao is leading a movement to protect the rights of Adivasis living in the forest areas and is fighting against the state government. As most of his Lok Sabha constituency is located in the forests, the intelligence agencies have given a report to the Centre to increase security for him as well. Sources close to the agencies have shared that the MHA is thinking of providing secu-

urity for the three BJP MPs from the Central Reserve Police Force.

Mr Sanjay had even complained to the Lok Sabha Speaker and the privileges committee that he was attacked during the funeral procession of an RTC employee who had died during the staff strike late last year.

The intelligence agencies are said to have given a report to the privilege committee that the state police was rude towards the MP. Privileges committee is likely to hold a meeting and advise the state government to take action on the police personnel involved in the incident.

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Going UAE

KTR receives invitation from the UAE government to attend the Annual Investments Meeting-2020

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FROM AP

4 YOUTH RAPE 14-YEAR-OLD BOY IN OWK

DC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL, JAN. 30

In a shocking incident, a 14-year-old boy was sexually assaulted by four youths at Owk village and the incident was filmed. The four alleged attackers warned him that they would make the clip public if he talks about it with anyone.

The incident occurred on January 21 but came to light on Wednesday, said Owk sub inspector Srikanth Reddy.

According to the SI, the four attackers, aged between 22 and 24 years, lured the boy into a local Telugu Desam office in the town with dinner. Later they tortured him sexually and put a stick in his rectum. The boy escaped from them but did not tell anyone.

However, after suffering from pain and bleeding, he narrated the ordeal to his parents who took him to a local medical practitioner and lodged a complaint with the police.

Police booked a case against the four persons, Bullet Raju, Prem Kumar, Raju and Sunil, for having carnal intercourse against the order of nature with the minor boy under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code and also the under POCSO Act. The police took into custody two persons and started a manhunt for another two.

Budget should give impetus to start-ups

Family with over ₹10 crore income wants GST tweaked

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

As chairman of a conglomerate based in the city, Mr Tipirneni Seshagiri Rao is looking forward to the budget with cautious optimism. Rao believes that many sectors of the economy are bogged down due to a slowdown. He hopes the Budget will address these issues. Mr Rao's Sentini Group has recorded revenues of over ₹2,000 crore.

One of Mr Rao's biggest grouses with the government is corporate tax. "The rates are too high. It is a burden to most businesses. The multinationals can still bear it but small and medium ones cannot," he said. Rao also said the GST regime had more of a negative impact than a positive one. "The tax rate on some goods is as astronomical as 28 per cent. This should not be the case. We need uniformity," he said.

Mr Rao became an entrepreneur two decades ago, when he was 56. He says he knows what a business needs to suc-



Sentini Group founder Tipirneni Seshagiri Rao and his family

ceed. "Start-ups need to be given a boost. The government's schemes for this are not enough. For instance, the MUDRA loans given to micro and small enterprises are very little amounts. Also, they don't check the borrower's credit-worthiness. Start-ups need better access to credit," he said. Mr Rao also felt that start-ups need to be given longer tax holidays.

Indeed, the Tipirneni family's empire is quite large. His son Srinivas heads an IT company based in the USA. One of his two daughters, Ms

Padma, runs a hospital in Vijayawada while the other, Ms Jaya, is involved in running other companies of the group.

As an employer, Mr Rao said, the government could be better to his employees. "Employees should be exempted from paying their salary for Provident Fund. We employers should continue to contribute but instead of the employee, it should be the government that contributes to employees' PF," he said.

Rao hoped the budget would give impetus to public spending. "A year

ago, India was touted to be the world's fastest major economy. However, in the last year, smaller economies like Vietnam and Bangladesh have registered a better growth. If, as a country, we want to come back on the desired growth track, a strong impetus is the need of the hour," he said. He said the Budget should aim at creating jobs, increase spending on infrastructure to jumpstart consumption. "We should be willing to sacrifice on fiscal deficit targets for short term to pull up the economy," Mr Rao said.

MANUU HOLDS PROGRAMME FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Hyderabad, Jan. 30: The Industrial Training Institute, MANUU is conducting one week Entrepreneurship Development Program under PMYUVA scheme in collaboration with Association of Lady Entrepreneur (ALEAP), Hyderabad.

— INN

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

NO. ECR/CAO/CON/NORTH-ETN-118-19-20

E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDERMENTIONED WORK:-

Particulars : Sl No. 1. Name of work : Transportation, assembling, erection launching, girders of Major bridges, 322 (5x30.5 m OWG), 325 (4x12.2m composite girder), 329 (2x30.5 M OWG), 332 (3x6.1 M PSC slab), 341 (3x6.1 M PSC slab), 346 (3x6.10m span PSC slab), 347 (1x18.3M PG), 349 (3x30.5m OWG), 352 (2x30.5m OWG), 356 (1x30.5m OWG), of HIRVKNR section and its allied works in connection with doubling of NKE-VKNR section.
2. Approx cost of the work : Rs. 7,30,04,655.75 3. Earnest money : Rs. 5,15,000/- 4. Date and time for closing of tender : 14.02.2020 at 14.30 hrs. 5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. : The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in> and also can be seen in the office of CAO/Con/ECR/MX, Patna Note: Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-tender.

CAO/Con/North
E.C.Rly, MXH, Patna
PR/2128/CON/ENG/T/19-20/44

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

No. ECR-CAO-CON-NORTH-ETN-119-19-20

E-TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDERMENTIONED WORK

Particulars : S. N. 1. Name of work : Fabrication, assembling, erection, launching of Girders of Br. No. 303 (2x45.7m OWG) and Br. No. 304 (2x12.2m Composite Girder), Transportation, erection girders of Major bridges 317 (10x6.10 m PSC slab), 383B (1x61.0M owg), 383C (1x61.0M OWG) between VKNR-PNVA section and Br. No. 54 (1x45.7 M OWG), Br. No. 62 (2x30.5 M OWG) of RXL-NKE section, and other associate works between Haringar and Valmikinagar road station and RXL-NKE-GAH section in connection with doubling of NKE-VKNR and GC work of RXL-NKE-GAH section.
2. Approx cost of the work : Rs. 10,95,49,864.40 3. Earnest money : Rs. 6,97,800/- 4. Date and time for closing of tender : 17.02.2020 at 14.30 hrs. 5. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. : The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in> and also can be seen in the office of CAO/Con/ECR, MXH, Patna Note: Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-tender.

CAO/Con/North
EC Rly, MXH, Patna
PR/02127/CON/ENG/T/19-20/48

CENTRAL RAILWAY Corrigendum No. 01/05/2020, Dated 28.01.2020

To Open Tender Notice No. DRMWNGP-05/2020 of 23.01.2020

Approximate tender value and EMD of above noted tender notice is hereby revised as under:

Sr. No. 2. Name of work: Construction of boundary wall/compound wall (13700 meters) at various vulnerable for encroachment/trespassing locations on ADEN Amla sub division. (i) Approximate cost: ₹ 7,93,34,380.31. (ii) Earnest Money: ₹ 5,46,700/-. Complete details and instructions for e-tendering and on line participation for the above work is available on Railway's website www.ireps.gov.in.

Divisional Railway Manager(Works),
Central Railway, Nagpur.
For & on behalf of President of Union of India.
All India Passenger Emergency Helpline 138

CHIEF SECYS DISCUSS PENDING ISSUES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

Chief secretaries Neelam Sawhney of AP and Somesh Kumar of Telangana state met here on Thursday and discussed issues related to Schedule 9 and 10 institutions under the AP Reorganisation Act.

During the last meeting of CMs of the Telugu state, it was decided that the Chief Secretaries will meet and try to resolve the issues.

All I care is price of groceries Migrant with ₹20K income wants low school fix

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

Dharam Singh moved from a small village in Nepal to Hyderabad in 1996. In the past two decades, he has built a life for himself in Hyderabad. He works as a watchman and does various odd-obs for the residents of an apartment complex in

He and his family are barely get by. Mr Singh couldn't care less about the Budget. In chaste Telugu, he said, "I don't know how the Budget affects me. All I care about is the price of my groceries and my children's education."

Mr Singh works as the man Friday for the apartment's residents. When there is repair or construction work, he is tasked with supervising it. He makes a little extra upon cleaning the residents' cars every morning. His wife, Ms Shashikala, works as a domestic help. Together, they bring in around ₹20,000 a month. "In the last five years, the prices of all vegetables and grains have gone up. Earlier we could buy rice at just ₹25, now we have to spend ₹40," he said. Mr Singh said that it has been months since the family ate onions and tomatoes.

Recently, they bought some onions but they have to ration the use, to half an onion a day. "If anything, I want the government to bring down the prices of vegetables and food items. It seems their prices are increasing every month. At the end of the month, we



Mr Dharam Singh and his family clicks a selfie

rarely have any savings left," he said.

Singh and Shashikala have three children - Rajesh, 18, Rahul, 15, and Bharat, 12. Rajesh couldn't pursue higher studies since the family didn't have enough money when he was growing up. He moved out of the home and recently started working at a restaurant. Rahul, has special needs and had to drop out of school a few years ago. The couple has set all its hopes on Rahul, a seventh standard student, studying at a private school. The family spends over ₹70,000 a year on his education. Mr Singh laments that education has become expensive.

"Bharat studied in a nearby government school for a year but the quality of education was really bad. He wasn't learning anything. That's when we decided to move him to a private school," he said. He hopes that the government will make education cheaper for him.

Every month, the couple sets aside some money for their youngest son's education. This money is not touched, even during emergencies.

During emergencies, medical or otherwise, they borrow. Despite the Centre's push for the proliferation of banking services, Mr Singh has never been able to borrow from a bank. He depends on loan sharks who charge exorbitant interest rates. He is still paying off loans he took many years ago. One short-term loan was made at a five-rupee monthly interest, translating to 60 per cent annually. Indeed, being poor can be expensive. "The money we make is not sufficient. I can't even use a bike because I can't spend money on petrol. I use buses for transport but even the tickets have become very expensive lately. I don't know if the government even cares about our problems," Mr Singh said

Not all of Centre's fixes for economy were effective

Family with ₹50 lakh annual income wants income tax only for people earning ₹10 lakh and above

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

With just hours left before the presentation of the Budget, those earning over ₹50 lakh annually are hopeful that the Budget would boost the country's dwindling economy.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, one such person, who earns close to ₹50 lakh per annum, Anil Gupta said, "The economy is on a downslide and the GDP growth rate is going down. It is not growing as fast as we expected it to."

He recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that the country would turn into a five trillion dollar economy by 2024. "In order to do so, we



have to grow at 14 per cent, but we are currently growing at a rate of 6 per cent. This is a matter of concern," he said.

Speaking about health emergencies, he said: "The company I was employed with, earlier, provided us with insurance cover. But,

now I pay using a card."

He, however, has not applied for any new loans, be it for his house or vehicle. "There are certain suggestions that politician-economist Subramanian Swamy had written in his book. Since I am a great believer of the man, his suggestions could sway the economy. I would say that finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is trying to provide measures but not all of them have been effective," he rued.

For the betterment of the economy, he said, that the government must simplify the personal income-tax procedure. "Only those who have an earning of ₹10 lakh and above should be taxed ten per cent," he said.

Department of Atomic Energy Hyderabad Regional Purchase Unit

Corrigendum to e-Tender Notice

1. Last Date for Submission of Online Bid against NIT No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/CAP/11055** is extended upto **10/02/2020 upto 2.00 PM.**
visit <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in> for details
[DPS/HRPU/NFC/1920/28C3]

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001 Website: www.pspcl.in
Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER / PPR&R,
D-3, Shakti Vihar, PATIALA - 147001
Tele Fax: 0175-2200872, email: ce-prr@pspcil.in
Registration Number : 33813

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR SHORT TERM PURCHASE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY (SOLAR) TENDER SPECIFICATION NO. PPR-04/2020

PSPCL invites tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy from interstate/intrastate sources viz. Generators. Traders having valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs as per table given below:

Period	Source of energy	Timings	Quantum in MW	Quantum in MUs	Minimum Bid Quantity (MW)	Delivery Point
10 th June 2020 to 30 th September 2020	Solar	07:00 to 17:00 (Day)	upto 1230	upto 634	5	Punjab Periphery

Last date & time of Submission - 14.02.2020 upto 13:00 Hrs.

Note:- The certificate confirming the renewable status of the power from the appropriate authority should be furnished by the suppliers. The bidder shall not claim RECs for this power sold to PSPCL, as this power has been procured by PSPCL for fulfillment of RPO obligation.

1. Bidding will be done as per the revised guidelines for short term procurement of power notified by the Ministry of Power vide resolution dated 30.03.2016, through e-bidding portal (DEEP) only. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.msctcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com).

Note:- It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspaper. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on www.msctcecommerce.com and official website of PSPCL i.e. www.pspcl.in.

C-23/2020
RO : C-8798
Dy. CE/PR, PSPCL, Patiala.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

NIT NO.	NAME OF WORK	Estimate Amount /ECV	Start Date/Last Date & Times for receipt of Bid	Name Address Officer Cell No.
34/EE-7(4B)/GRZ/GHMC/2019-20	Pre Monsoon and Annual Maintenance Desilting of Nala, Desilting of SW Drain (32 Works) in Channarayana, GHMC	201.13 Lakhs	31.01.20 at 11:00 AM 07.02.20 at 2:00 PM	EE, CR-7/GRZ/GHMC Cell No.998930313
19/SE-(P-N&EZ)/GHMC/2019-20	"Balance Work Construction of Modern Fish Market at Nacharam (shifted to Mallapur), PD-EZ, kapra, GHMC," etc.	198.00 Lakhs	31.01.20 at 4:00 PM 07.02.20 at 4:00 PM	O/o S.E.(P-N&EZ) Cell No.998930408
47/EE-Div-20/GHMC/HD/2019-20	1) Desilting Works-6 Nos. 2) Building Works-3 Nos. 3) CC Road Work-1 No. 4) RR Wall Work-No. in Div-20 GHMC, etc.	175.70 Lakhs	01.02.20 at 3:00 PM 07.02.20 at 3:00 PM	E.E.Div-20 GHMC, Sec'd Cell No.900058718
56/EE-Cir-10/CHMRZ/GHMC/2019-20	Laying of CC Roads, Other Works (4 Works) in Falaknuma Circle-10, CHMRZ, GHMC, etc.	110.10 Lakhs	31.01.20 at 3:00 PM 07.02.20 at 3:00 PM	E.E.Div-10 CHMRZ/ Cell No.998930550
66/EE-Div-14/GHMC/2019-20	Construction of Community Hall at Fekelkhana in 50-Begum bazaar under Division 14, KZ, GHMC, etc.	94.00 Lakhs	31.01.20 at 11:00 AM 07.02.20 at 3:00 PM	EE-14/GHMC/ADDS Cell No.998930428
70/EE-Div-9/GHMC/CRZ/2019-20	Development Works in CRZ Zone, GHMC, Div-9, etc.	8.70 Lakhs	31.01.20 at 10:30 AM 01.02.20 at 10:30 AM	E.E.Div-9 CMRZ/GHMC Cell No.910025142
54/EE/HD/UPL/GHMC/2019-20	Laying of CC Road in Uppal Circle, GHMC, etc.	3.65 Lakhs	30.01.20 at 4:30 PM 31.01.20 at 4:30 PM	EE/UppalDiv-2/GHMC
For further details can be seen at e-procurement@ https://www.tenderaprocurement.gov.in R.O.No.265/CPRO/GHMC/2019-20 Call 040-21111111 for 24x7 GHMC Services. Commissioner.				

NORTHERN RAILWAY Corrigendum

Tender Notice No. 29/2019-2020 S.No.3
Subject:- STAND FOR SLIDING BOOM

Ref:- Adv. Tender No. 08195655A Due on 13.02.2020.

The other Conditions of above tender has been changed and also Published on Website www.ireps.gov.in All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

299/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SOUTHERN RAILWAY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL WORKSHOPS, PONMALAI, TRICHY - 620 004
E-Tender Notice for the Supply of Stores No. GOC/Stores/E/2/2020

The following e-Tender has been published in IREPS website. Firms are requested to login to <https://www.ireps.gov.in> Login→E.Tender→Goods & Services (New) and quote against the tender. Manual quotations will not be entertained. Closing time 14:30 hours.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Due date
1	52205059	Side buffer arrangement with face plate	21.02.2020
2	67195470A	Set of Compreg packings and Compreg clamps	21.02.2020

Attention: Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The benefits provided to MSMEs under Public Procurement Policy for goods and services are as per details provided in the link <https://www.ireps.gov.in>→ireps public documents→Southern Railway.

Deputy Chief Materials Manager,
Goldenrock, Trichy - 620 004



Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
Government of India

MSME TESTING STATION,

22 Godam Industrial Area, Jaipur
Tender Notice No. (TSJP/Purchase/2019-20/01-08)
(2020_DC_537840_1)

MSME Testing Station, Jaipur, Government of India, Office of Development Commissioner, New Delhi, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises invites e-bids under Two Bid Systems (Technical and Financial Bid) for **Supply, Installation, Commissioning of (1) Smoothness & porosity tester (Bentsen type), (2) Tensile strength testing machine (vertical model, electronic microprocessor based), (3) Folding endurance tester (4) Precision thickness micrometers dead weight type (tappi/scan/ iso), (5) Precision test strip cutter, (6) Salt Spray chamber, (7) HVAC work (environment maintain for paper test), (8.a) modification work of three edge load bearing compression testing machine capacity 500 KN (8.b) modification work of analog 0-100, 0-250, 0-500 KN compression testing machine.**

Tender to be submitted online on "eprocure.gov.in" portal. With **offline** tender fee as DD/banker cheque/Bank guarantee in favour of DIRECTOR MSME DI, Jaipur of Rs 250/- and EMD as per stated in tender documents w.r. to instruments available on eprocure.gov.in and our website msmedijaipur.gov.in. Price should be inclusive of 3 year AMC after 1 year warranty. Last date of tender bid submission 10/2/2020 at 11.00 am and tender open date 11-2-2020 at 11.00 am.

MSME Testing Station, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India, Bais Godam, Industrial Estate, JAIPUR 302 006 (Raj) Telephone: 0141-2212090

davp 25113/11/0218/1920

Department of Atomic Energy Hyderabad Regional Purchase Unit

e-TENDER NOTICE

Regional Director (P&S), HRPSU, Nuclear Fuel Complex, ECL Post, Hyderabad 500062 invites online tenders as given below:

- (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/EPT/ENG/16843**
(b) Description : (i) **Supply of Self Centering Heavy Duty Hydraulic Tube Clamping Vice with Hydraulic Power Pack (1 Set – 6 Clamping vices with power pack)** details as per tender specifications (c) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : **02/03/2020 upto 2.00 PM** (d) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: ₹ 1,08,900/-
- (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/ELE/15018**
(b) Description : **Design, Fabrication, Supply & Installation of Thyristor Based Power Control Panel & Operator desk for Horizontal Vacuum Annealing Furnace – Qty 2 Sets** details as per tender specifications (c) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : **28/02/2020 @ 10:00 AM** (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : **20/03/2020 upto 2.00 PM** (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: ₹ 1,85,600/-
- (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/MIA/2285**
(b) Description : **Eddy Current Testing System with Conventional and Array Probes for Inspection of Steam Generator Tubing – Qty 1 No.** details as per tender specifications (c) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : **24/02/2020 @ 10:00 AM** (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : **16/03/2020 upto 2.00 PM** (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: ₹ 4,00,000/-
- (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/CAP/11098**
(b) Description : **Design, Fabrication, Supply, Erection, Commissioning and Performance Demonstration of 18 mm Cold Rolling Tube Mill as per technical specification – Qty 3 Nos.** details as per tender specifications (c) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : **31/01/2020 @ 10:00 AM** (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : **05/03/2020 upto 2.00 PM** (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: ₹ 20,00,000/-
- (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/CAP/11082**
(b) Description : **Manufacturing and Supply of 1 No. Resistance Heated Walking Beam Furnace for Zirconium Billet Heating alongwith Charging – Qty 1 No.** details as per tender specifications (c) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : **12/02/2020 @ 10:00 AM** (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : **13/03/2020 upto 2.00 PM** (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: ₹ 5,80,000/-
- (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/CAP/11080**
(b) Description : **Design, Preparation of drawings, Material procurement, Manufacturing, Inspection, Testing at Supplier's Works, Packing, Safe Delivery to Purchaser's site (Rawatbatha, Rajasthan), Erection & Commissioning, Acceptance test and Guarantee of "SPECIAL PURPOSE AUTOMATIC BUNDLE INSPECTION SYSTEM" – Qty. 2 Sets each consisting of Helium Back Filling, Helium Leak Testing Dimensional Inspection, Conveying and Storage at various stations as per specification details as per tender specifications (c) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : **28/02/2020 @ 10:00 AM** (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : **27/03/2020 upto 2.00 PM** (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: ₹ 10,00,000/-**
- (a) Tender Enquiry No.: **DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/CAP/11096**
(b) Description : **32mm Cold Rolling Tube Mill – Qty 2 Nos.** details as per tender specifications (c) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : **18/02/2020 @ 10:00 AM** (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : **18/03/2020 upto 2.00 PM** (e) Tender Fee: NIL (f) EMD: ₹ 20,00,000/-

Visit <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in> for details.
[DPS/HRPU/NFC/1920/34]



No CAA in Chhattisgarh

The Bhupesh Baghel Cabinet in Chhattisgarh, passed a resolution against the CAA, terming it 'discriminatory', and urged the Centre to scrap it

DECCAN CHRONICLE

FRIDAY | 31 JANUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD

Nation

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SHORT TAKES

KAFEEL KHAN FEELS HE WILL BE 'ENCOUNTERED'

Mumbai, Jan. 30: Child specialist Dr Kafeel Khan, arrested for allegedly making inflammatory statements at the AMU during protests against the CAA last month, on Thursday raised apprehension in a court here about being killed in an "encounter" by the Uttar Pradesh police.

Dr Khan expressed the apprehension when he was produced in a court in suburban Bandra by the UP police for seeking his transit remand. He was arrested on Wednesday night from the Mumbai airport in a joint operation by the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force and the city police when he arrived to attend anti-CAA protests in the metropolis, an official said.

He was produced in the court, which sent him in three-day transit remand, his lawyers said.

According to his lawyers, Dr Khan claimed in the court that he has been "falsely" implicated in the case by the UP police.

He told the court "there is a chance that he will be killed in an encounter if transit (remand) is given", and insisted that he be kept in Mumbai, his lawyers said. — PTI

1,615 NFDB MEN SURRENDER, GET MODI'S PAT

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, JAN. 30

In what has brought an end to three-decade-old armed conflict in Western Assam, 1,615 cadres of three National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) factions on Thursday laid down arms before Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and his finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The NDFB factions had signed a tripartite peace accord with the government on Monday (January 27) in New Delhi. The powerful All Bodo Students Union president Pramod Boro and senior Intelligence Bureau officer Tapan Deka played the key role in persuading the armed rebel groups to join the main stream.

Welcoming the cadres — 836 of the NDFB-Progressive, 579 of the NDFB-Ranjan Daimary faction and 200 of the NDFB(S) led by B Saoraigwra — to join mainstream, Mr Sonowal said that he was confident that the move will inspire others, who were yet to give up arms, to come together and work for 'Team Assam'.

Meanwhile, in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "I welcome decision of my Bodo friends for leaving violence and reposing faith in democracy and Constitution," said Mr Modi in a series of tweets.

SC STAYS HC PROCEEDINGS AGAINST KANI

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 30

In a relief to DMK leader Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, the Supreme Court on Thursday put on hold the proceedings before the Madras High Court challenging her elections to the Lok Sabha from Thoothukudi constituency.

A bench comprising Chief Justice S.A. Bobde, Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Surya Kant stayed the proceedings before the high court as senior advocate P. Wilson told the court that though the matter is pending before the top court but the high court has said that Ms Kanimozhi was seeking adjournments for "prolonging the adjudication" of the matter before it.

The high court had noted that Ms Kanimozhi has sought repeated adjournments for filing the written statement and the time permissible under the Code of Civil Procedure had lapsed and she was given another four weeks time.

Mr Wilson told the court that the high court in the last hearing of the matter has given another one week's time to file written statement. Mr Wilson was assisted by advocate Joseph Aristotle.

As the lawyer appearing for the opposite party objected to the stay of the proceedings, CJI Bobde asked him to make a statement that he would not insist on written statement by Ms Kanimozhi before the high court.



Students try to breach the police barricading during their protest march against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens, near Jamia Millia Islamia university in New Delhi, on Thursday.

Oppn plan to corner govt in Parl

BJP's Delhi poll ally Akali Dal slams government, says CAA, NRC hurt minorities

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 30

With the Budget Session of Parliament starting on Friday, Opposition parties will meet over the weekend to chalk out a joint strategy. Various parties have already held individual strategy meets and will meet to evolve a joint strategy to corner the government on key issues, according to sources.

These issues include the protests over the amended Citizenship Act, price rise and inflation besides the poor state of the economy and rising unemployment.

The Congress, the principal opposition party, is reaching out to other parties to evolve a common strategy. The key focus of the opposition is going to be unemployment, economic slowdown and the CAA protests.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been holding rallies in states and highlighting the economic issues facing the country. The Congress has also been holding detailed briefings on economic conditions prevailing across several sectors.

The main demand of the Opposition is expected to

be that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi speak on the economy in Parliament. Mr. Gandhi had also said that both the Prime Minister and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman have no clue on how to mend the economy.

The Opposition will also demand a discussion on the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir and the detention of former chief ministers of the state.

Meanwhile, barely a day after patching up with the BJP for the Delhi Assembly elections, the

Shiromani Akali Dal on Thursday took on the government over the CAA and the NRC, saying that such legislations which would "hurt citizens and minorities should not be passed like this".

At an all-party meeting called by the Centre ahead of the Budget Session of Parliament, Akali Rajya Sabha MP Balwinder Singh Bhunder is learnt to have said: "You cannot pass a legislation like this which would hurt citizens and minorities".

It might be recalled that while the Akalis had voted in favour of the Bill.

Cop says Jamia shooter is juvenile

FROM PAGE 1

Saying that he was a juvenile, Delhi police officials said the attacker cannot be named. While being taken away, he shouted: "Delhi Police zindabad (Long live Delhi Police)".

"By the time the police could react, the person already fired. Everything happened in seconds. The investigation is on and the case has been transferred to the crime branch," special CP (intelligence) Praveer Ranjan told this newspaper. "We are investigating whether he is a juvenile or not." The police has also seized his Aadhaar card, which shows he was born on April 18, 2002.

Soon after the shooting, the locality was heavily barricaded and traffic diverted from all roads near the area. As night fell, massive protests broke out with agitated students clashing with police personnel. Some demonstrators, including a woman, could be seen being forcibly taken away. Many sang the national anthem.



Shahdab Farooq, a student of the Jamia Millia Islamia university, injured after an unidentified person allegedly opened fire during an anti-CAA protest, is assisted to a hospital in New Delhi, on Thursday.

As tension spiralled in the area, Union home minister Amit Shah said he had ordered stringent action in the shooting incident and "the culprit will not be spared". Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also urged the home minister to take care of the "deteriorating" law and order situation in Delhi.

The incident comes against the backdrop of hate speeches during the campaign for the February 8 Delhi election; Union minister Anurag Thakur was caught on camera encouraging the slogan "Desh Ke Gaddaro Ko, Goli Maaro S***** Ko (Shoot the traitors)" at an election rally.

The teenager is from Uttar Pradesh's Jewar, near Delhi. He had gone live on Facebook minutes before he drew out his gun. Videos on his Facebook timeline showed

him walking around in the crowded road — the venue of the protest — with a red backpack. His previous posts seemed to indicate that he had come prepared for the consequences of his action. "On my last journey, take me draped in saffron and shout slogans of Jai Shri Ram," one of them in Hindi read. Another more threatening post read: "Shaheen Bagh, Game Over", referring to a massive protest against the citizenship law.

A Jamia Millia student, who witnessed the terrifying incident, said: "We were standing near the barricades when suddenly this outsider, whom none of us recognised, tried to disturb the peace of the march. He marches forward with a revolver in his hand. We were all trying to stop him and calm him down. The policemen were standing there. We tried to approach them to stop that guy. But they just kept standing there simply. When we tried to take the revolver from his hand, he shot one of our friends."

Curative pleas by rape convicts in Supreme Court holding up executions

Hangman for Nirbhaya accused arrives at Tihar

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, JAN 30

Pawan Jallad, a hangman from the Meerut Prison, reported to the Tihar Jail administration on Thursday, two days ahead of the Nirbhaya case convicts' scheduled execution, officials said.

They said Pawan, a third-generation hangman, will be staying on the jail premises and check the strength of rope and other related things on Friday.

The four convicts in the gruesome gang-rape-and-murder case are scheduled to be hanged on February 1, but their execution is unlikely to happen as one

■ **OFFICIALS** said Pawan, a third-generation hangman, will be staying on the jail premises and check the strength of rope and other related things on Friday.

■ **THE convicts** were scheduled to be hanged on February 1, but it is unlikely to happen

of them filed a mercy petition before the President on Wednesday while another moved a curative

plea before the Supreme Court.

The 23-year-old physiotherapy intern, who came to be known as 'Nirbhaya', the fearless one, was gang-raped and brutally assaulted on the night of December 16, 2012, in a moving bus in South Delhi. She died of her injuries a fortnight later at a hospital in Singapore.

One of the six accused in the case, Ram Singh, allegedly committed suicide in Tihar jail in 2013. A juvenile, who was among the accused, was convicted by a juvenile justice board and was released from a reformation home after serving a three-year term.

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The day witnessed fast-paced development with the counsel for Vinay, Akshay, and Pawan rushing to a trial court seeking stay on their executions saying legal remedies of some of them are yet to be available.

Special Judge A.K. Jain posted the matter for hearing in the post-lunch session after a five-judge bench of the apex court in the afternoon rejected the curative plea of Akshay, saying "no case is made out" and also declined to

stay his execution. Hours after the apex court development, the trial judge issued notice to the Tihar jail authorities seeking their response on the plea by three convicts, which the prosecution said was a "mockery of justice" and was only a "delaying tactic."

All eyes would be in the trial court on Friday, when the matter would be taken up for hearing at 10. The Delhi prison rules state that none of the four convicts in the same case can be hanged before the last one has exhausted all legal

options, including the mercy plea.

The apex court guidelines also stipulate that convicts cannot be hanged until 14 days after their mercy plea has been rejected by the President.

The trial court, on January 17, had issued black warrants for the second time for execution of all the four convicts—Mukesh (32), Pawan (25), Vinay (26), and Akshay (31)—in Tihar jail at 6.00 am on February 1.

The court had, earlier on January 7, fixed January 22 as the hanging date.

FROM PAGE 1

Our duty is to fight hatred, says Rahul

"Who is Narendra Modi to ask if I am an Indian? Who has given him the licence to decide who is Indian and who is not an Indian? I am an Indian and I don't need to prove it to anybody and there are 1.3 billion people who need not prove to these people that they are Indians," he said.

"Our duty is to fight their hatred. Our duty is to confront them peacefully. We don't believe in violence. We believe in love and affection. We will defeat them with love and affection," he said. Mr Gandhi said when Mr Modi is asked what he has done about the economy and unemployment, the Prime Minister suddenly distracts the country."

India used to show the world how a great country behaves. There are many languages and different religions but all working towards one goal. Today when they look at India they find it is at war within itself. People are locked up for saying what they believe. Thinkers like M.M. Kalburgi and Gauri Lankesh were shot, women are being raped every single day. The unemployment rate is the highest in 45 years and growth rate has plummeted to 4.5 from 9.5. There is no future for youngsters," Mr Gandhi said.

European House to vote on CAA in Mar

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI/LONDON, JAN. 30

With the European Parliament having postponed until March a vote on a joint motion criticising the CAA, India on Thursday said it has noted a clarification put out by the European Commission that "the opinion expressed by the European Parliament and its members do not represent the official position of the European Union (EU)".

New Delhi said it would

"continue to engage with the MEPs (Members of European Parliament) and other stakeholders" on the matter. This comes at a time when India and the EU are in talks to hold the 15th India-EU Summit at Brussels that is expected to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The European Parliament on Wednesday decided to take up the voting against the CAA during its new session beginning March 2.

The debate had opened on Wednesday.



Yusuf Jameel

PEN-GAURI AWARD FOR YUSUF JAMEEL

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 30

Yusuf Jameel, a senior reporter working in *Deccan Chronicle* based out of Srinagar was chosen for and awarded the 2019-2020 PEN-Gauri Lankesh Award for Democratic Idealism for his pioneering work and fearless journalism in Jammu and Kashmir.

In its citation for Mr Jameel, the jury panel said, "The 2019-2020 PEN-Gauri Lankesh Award for democratic idealism is awarded to Yusuf Jameel. His work in journalism shows an exemplary commitment to professional integrity and ideals of democracy. Starting his career as a journalist with Aftab, Srinagar-based Urdu daily, in early 1980s, he has worked for various newspapers and media agencies since, including *The Telegraph*, *BBC*, *Reuters*, *Time*, *Voice of America* and *The Asian Age*. In the context of rising insurgency in the Kashmir Valley in late eighties and nineties and very complex conflict scenario that has evolved since, his work as a reporter pioneered fearless and candid journalism in Jammu and Kashmir. As a print and radio journalist working in both Urdu and English languages for over three and a half decades, his work shows a deep level of social engagement and concern and has contributed immensely to the traditions of fair and courageous reportage."

The members of the award jury included Chandan Gowda, Vinutha Mallaya and Asiya Zahoor. PEN South India and PEN Delhi have instituted the annual PEN-Gauri Lankesh Award for Democratic Idealism to cherish idealism and commitment of Gauri Lankesh, assassinated journalist and activist. The award is offered to an individual or organisation whose work reflects an abiding passion and courage towards advancing democratic culture in India.

Offered annually on birth anniversary of Gauri Lankesh, it carries a citation and a cash prize of ₹1 lakh.

UK SAYS NOT IN 15-NATION TOUR OF J&K

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 30

British High Commissioner to India Sir Dominic Asquith on Thursday said his country has put in a "standing request" to the Indian Government for British diplomats to visit Jammu and Kashmir but clarified, in response to a question, that permission had not been given so far in the past few months by New Delhi.

In response to a question, he also said Britain had not been invited to be part of the 15-member foreign envoys' delegation that visited J&K earlier this month. On protests in India regarding the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), he referred to the fact that "together with all, development for all and trust of all (*sabka saath, sabka vikaas, sabka vishwas*)" has been the stated objective of the Narendra Modi Government, adding, "I trust that it (the Indian Government) will be addressing the concerns that have been expressed" on CAA.

Sir Dominic is returning to Britain after completing his tenure as High Commissioner.