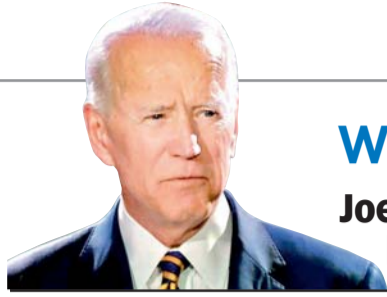


# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 10 FEBRUARY 2020

**WEATHER**  
Max: 23.4°C  
Min: 19.0°C  
RH: 71%  
Rainfall: Nil  
Forecast: Cloudy sky. Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 26/18°C



**WORLD | 12**  
**Joe Biden's Prez bid in trouble**



**SPORTS | 16**  
**Jayesh is TS Olympic Association President**

**TABLOID**  
**'I could see myself in Yashasvi'**



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**₹35,000 GST dues to be released**

**New Delhi:** The Centre will soon release another ₹35,000 crore to states to compensate for the revenue loss on account of GST rollout, an official said. Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law, states are guaranteed compensation for revenue loss for 5 years if their revenue does not increase 14 per cent on the base year of 2015-16.

**'India' team in Pak sparks row**

**New Delhi:** The arrival of an 'Indian team' in Pakistan for the World Kabaddi Championship has kicked up a controversy with the sports ministry and the national federation claiming that they have not given clearance to any athlete for competing in Pakistan. They reached Lahore via Wagah Border to take part in the championship, being hosted by Pakistan for the first time.

**INSIDE**

- CITY.. PG7**  
5 more on cruise ship catch virus
- SPORTS.. PG15**  
Bangla shock India to win U-19 World Cup

## Assam to identify 'local' Muslims

**Census to separate indigenous people, Banglas**

**MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, FEB. 9**

In what may trigger a fresh controversy, Assam's BJP-led government has embarked upon an ambitious plan to conduct a socio-economic census from March this year to identify and segregate indigenous Muslims in the state.

Pointing out that the entire exercise was aimed at to segregate indigenous Muslims from the migrants from erstwhile East Bengal, East Pakistan or present Bangladesh, Assam minorities development board chairman Muminul Aowal told this newspaper that the census will cover the Goria, Moria, Desi and the tea tribe Jolha communities, whom the state government considers indigenous (like other ethnic tribes and communities of the state).

It is significant that Muslim population constitutes about one-third of the total 3.55 crore population in the state, representing about 34.22 per cent. They include 40 lakh indigenous Muslims. The proposed census which

■ **THE CENSUS** will cover the Goria, Moria, Desi and the tea tribe Jolha communities, whom the state government considers indigenous

■ **MUSLIM** population in Assam is one-third of the total 3.55 crore population. There are 40 lakh Muslims, which is around 34.22% of the population

■ **THE CENSUS** may come at a time when indigenous population of Assam, that was 47 per cent in 2001, has been reduced to 40.45 per cent in 2016 due to influx.

■ **THE MINISTER** said preparations for the Census are in their final stages and hoped to start it this financial year

may trigger opposition has come at a time when indigenous population of Assam that was 47 per cent in 2001 has been reduced to 40.45 per cent in 2016 due to influx.

Pointing out that department would take all the stakeholders in confidence, Mr Aowal said, "The names of indigenous

Muslims and Bangladeshi Muslims are the same. As a result, the government faces problems in identifying them during implementation of various welfare schemes. Since our government is committed towards the welfare of indigenous Muslims, they should have a separate identity."

He said that preparations for the census were at their final stages and hoped the exercise will commence "within this financial year".

A meeting convened on February 11 by the state minorities development department with various stakeholders belonging to indigenous Muslim communities will set the ball rolling for the census, which will be the first of its kind in the state, he said adding that the state government would also be finalising the guidelines for conducting survey.

The religious break-up of Assam is — Hindu 61.47 per cent, Muslim 34.22 per cent, Christian 3.74 per cent, Buddhist 0.18 per cent, Jain 0.08 per cent, other religions 0.09 per cent and not stated 0.16 per cent.

## Women detained overnight for stir

**ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 9**

The Hyderabad city police detained overnight a number of protesters, including women and two minors, who had participated in a 'flash protest' against the CAA-NPR-NRC on Saturday night at Mallepally. They were held in a stadium and released only at about 8.30 am on Sunday.

A group of youths and women had gathered at the Riyan Hotel junction,

■ **THERE WERE** 19 youths and 12 women at the flash protest against the CAA-NPR-NRC at Mallepally

■ **THE POLICE** bundled the protesters into a van and took them away

Mallepally, at around 10 pm on Saturday to protest against the CAA and the central government's policies.

Senior police officers rushed to the spot with a large contingent of police

personnel from various branches.

The police bundled the protesters into a police van and took them away. There were 19 youths and 12 women. The police claimed that other protesters pelted stones at the van. The van took the protesters to the Goshamahal police stadium. The women were later shifted to the Central Crime Station (CCS). The Commissioner's Task Force West Zone also detained Mohammed

Mubashiruddin Khurram, senior reporter of a local Urdu daily. He was released after 14 hours.

The Habeebnagar police has registered a case against 18 youths and 10 women, including Shiba Minal and Khalida Parveen under Sections 147, 341, 353, 188 r/w 149 of the India Penal Code and the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act.

■ **Page 5:** Detainees say they were interrogated

## AAP alleges bid to tamper EVMs ahead of counting

**SANJAY KAW | DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 9**

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh alleged that "something is cooking" and "a game is being played secretly" while referring to the delay in announcing the final voting percentage in the Delhi Assembly elections:

He said: "This is perhaps the first time in the 70-year-history of country that the Election Commission is not ready to release the final figure of voter turnout."

Mr Singh also tweeted a couple of videos, saying

■ **MR SINGH** tweeted a couple of videos, saying voting machines were being taken away illegally.

■ **HE DEMANDED** that the EC probe where the EVMs were being taken as there were no centres nearby

voting machines were being taken away illegally. "Does the reserve (forces) not go with the EVM? This official was caught with an EVM by people at Saraswati Vidya Niketan School in Babarpur Assembly constituency," read the tweet

with one of the videos. The other, which showed voting machines being carried across a street, read: "The EC should also probe where these EVMs are being taken. There are no centres nearby."

The exit polls on Saturday had predicted an easy win for the AAP, which sought to retain power on a development plank, against the BJP that ran an aggressive campaign on the issues of anti-CAA protests and nationalism.

■ **Page 9:** Exit polls will fail, say BJP leaders

## CORONAVIRUS DEATH TOLL RISES TO 813

**Beijing, Feb. 9:** The death toll in China's coronavirus outbreak jumped to 813 on Sunday, surpassing global fatalities in the 2002-03 SARS epidemic, even as Chinese officials said the cases of deadly infection have started declining for the first time after weeks of sharp rise.

Ninety one more people died, mostly in Hubei. China's National Health Commission said 2,656 new confirmed cases were reported, taking the total number of people infected to 37,287.

■ **More on Page 13**

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ismein dimaag kya lagana?

# Dog menace, bad roads create havoc

## Alwal Lake filled with hyacinth

The Alwal Lake is one of the few lakes in the city with water availability even in peak summer. The lake is now completely polluted and infested with hyacinth.

The weed has completely covered the lake, turning it into a mosquito breeding place. Therefore, there is an urgent need to clean the lake. I request the GHMC authorities to take up the issue on a priority and do the needful.

A. Sailesh Kumar  
Alwal

## Dogs menace in Mahendra Hills severe

The danger from dogs in the twin cities is increasing by the day. The authorities concerned, it appears, are not bothered about it at all. Dogs have the right to live but not to harm citizens.

These days, I find a pack of five dogs lying in front of my house. The authorities are expected to do something about the presence of a large number of strays in Mahendra Hills and in the city in general.

U.N. Murthy  
Mahendra Hills

## Noisy parties trouble us at Badangpet

Of late, sound pollution in Badangpet area has reached unbearable levels especially during the nights and authorities have neglected the issue totally. We are not able to have a good sleep due to loud sounds from parties in function halls and residences.

The issue was taken to the notice of the police but the chaos continues with parties going on until 2 am. For senior citizens and patients, it is a nightmare. I request the authorities concerned in the Badangpet municipal corporation and Meerpet police station to take necessary action. Police patrolling will help to a great extent.

Kameswara Rao  
Badangpet

## Electricity dept delaying its own order

My electricity meter bearing No. LZ-1470 was in the past mistakenly identified as "common service" connection. After the same was reported to the Assistant Engineer concerned, it was rectified by personnel at his office. They have issued a letter to the accounts officer, ERO VI, Paradise, to modify the connection as Category 1A Domestic on December 30, 2019. But, till date it was not reversed and as a result I am forced to pay new tariff since three months. I request the authorities concerned to take action at the earliest and do the needful.

Molugu V. Sreenivasulu  
Hyderabad

## Fully damaged open drain at Tajnagar is dangerous

I would like to bring to the notice of the authorities concerned the damaged open drainage near our residence at 12-1-880/1, Mehdiapatnam Road, Ward No. 10, Circle 12.

Due to this, residents of Tajnagar have been subjected to severe inconvenience. It is leading to foul smell in the area, soil erosion and water contamination. It is also turning the area into a breeding ground for disease-causing parasites.

Residents, especially children, are suffering from water-borne diseases and other infections. The drainage has been kept open for no reason for over a month now. Therefore, I would like to request the authorities to please take necessary action.

Osman Khan  
Tajnagar Colony, Asifnagar

## No toilet for women



A toilet for women has been kept under lock at Seethaphalmandi. The toilet which was opened amidst much fanfare during the GHMC's Swachh Survekshan campaign, have become unusable due to improper maintenance. However, nearby private toilets which are collecting a nominal fee are functioning normally.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

## Telecalling harassment for junior college admissions

I am sure that across the country, all parents with children studying Class 10 are being targeted for admission into Class 11 by the managements of junior colleges. I am being harassed with repeated SMSes, WhatsApp messages and phone calls for admissions. I wonder how

the college managements got access to our phone numbers.

It is possible that either the schools are selling the data or there is a leakage at the CBSE's end. Already, people are being bombarded with phone calls from vendors who suggest credit cards, per-

sonal loans and real estate. The telecalling harassment is turning out to be a painful affair. The authorities need to probe into the matter and find how the managements are getting access to our numbers.

Rakesh  
Secunderabad

## Phone driving is the new routine

Many a time I have noticed that underaged kids are driving two-wheelers and without wearing helmets. Also, phone driving has almost become a norm. From people who are underaged to grown-ups, many people are using mobile

while driving, which has become a routine sight on roads these days. This shows that the traffic offenders don't have the fear of law. I feel that the traffic police should come up with new ideas to curb traffic violations. Although the current traf-

fic management regulations have yielded some results, road safety continues to be a major issue despite several efforts to educate commuters on traffic rules.

M. Dikshant Agarwal  
Secunderabad

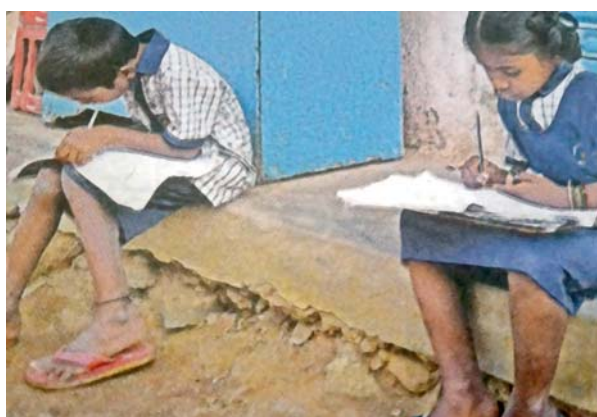
## DC Impact: Garbage bin cleared from open plot

Thank you *Deccan Chronicle* for publishing my grievance on February 3. The GHMC staff has removed the garbage bin but the garbage and other waste. Surprisingly, I have received an automated message from the GHMC on February 1 that my grievance has been resolved. It is surprising that no staff or official has inspected the open plot but the grievance is closed without resolution. I urge the GHMC authorities to remove the garbage and other waste.

N. Nagarajan  
Nethaji Nagar,  
Kapra



## No benches in Balanagar govt school



It is observed that Balanagar government school doesn't have seating facilities for students even in primary classes. It is also observed that due to lack of benches, children are forced to sit outside. I request the education minister and the authorities concerned in the school to provide sufficient benches and drinking water.

K.N. Vikram Raj  
Kacheguda



## Grievance resolution very poor in Secunderabad Cantonment areas

The Secunderabad Cantonment has a tradition of ignoring complaints and grievances. There is no mechanism in the administrative set-up to address the grievances related to basic amenities like sanitation, water supply, bad condition of main and colony roads.

I have lodged a complaint about the bad maintenance of roads in Ravi Colony, Trimulgherry, in the grievance submission portal of the Cantonment website and

got a confirmation on January 31, 2020. Attaching pictures of the streets, I have sent an email to the CEO of the Cantonment. Till date, no response has been received and the streets have not been swept for last three weeks. It is a pitiful situation. It only means that the contractors are being paid irrespective of whether they are doing the job. This shows there is no supervision of these works.

Satish Patangay  
Secunderabad Cantonment

## Remove garbage bins on Feelkhana Main Road

We, the residents of Feelkhana area in Begum Bazaar division, have on several occasions requested the GHMC's deputy commissioner, Abids, to see to it that the garbage bins on the main road near the office of Ward No. 15 at Feelkhana. The garbage bins are causing a lot of inconvenience to traders, commuters and general public. It has turned out to be a major health hazard to local residents. Mosquito breeding in the area is only adding to the problems.

Despite all these issues, the bins haven't been cleared. I request the authorities concerned to order for an immediate action.

Sunil Sahu and other local residents  
Feelkhana, Begum Bazaar

## Unclean premises of government office at Darulshifa



I want to bring to the attention of the authorities concerned the bad state of trash management inside the Quli Qutub Shah Urban Development Authority office in Darulshifa. Heaps of trash is lying inside the premises and waste is being burnt in the mornings, leading to respiratory problems to local residents. Also, a tree is hanging on an electric pole, posing a serious threat to passersby. I request the authorities concerned to take swift action in public interest.

Syed Raza Kirmani  
Darulshifa

## Bad garbage management in Saket Colony



Roads and open Rplots in Saket Colony, Kapra, are pathetically maintained as loads of garbage and waste are dumped recklessly. We hope the authorities concerned in the GHMC take action and clear the garbage and make the locality clean.

Atluri Chalapathi Rao  
Saket Colony  
Kapra



## Public pee in open at 119 bus stop

I would like to draw the attention of the authorities concerned the long-pending issue of urination in the open at Old Bowenpally division 119 bus stop, from where hundreds of passengers commute every day towards Paradise and Secunderabad.

Foul smell is emanating from the area as result. No concrete measures were taken by the authorities who turned a blind eye to the issue.

Surprisingly, the bus stop is located opposite the GHMC office and the authorities are least bothered. The authorities concerned should swing into action and do the needful at the earliest.

Mohammed Wasif Ahi  
Old Bowenpally

## METRO ISSUES

### Foul smell in Metro Rail coach

I recently took a Metro Rail train to travel from Uppal to Paradise. The moment I entered the coach, there was a foul smell and it felt as if someone had urinated inside.

I request the authorities concerned in Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited to resolve these issues in the coaches.

Mohammed Rafi  
Old Bowenpally

### JBS Metro Rail info was not full

The Metro Rail service between Jubilee Bus Station (JBS) and Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) did not carry paying passengers on the day it was inaugurated on February 7.

However, the advertisements put out on that day made it appear that passengers could travel on the same day.

I went to take a train on the new corridor after clicking my pre-paid pass. Inside the paid concourse, I was told the Metro Rail service was open to the public only from February 8. I lost ₹10 as entry ticket collection.

Ambrose Arasan  
Hyderabad



## POWER | SHUTDOWN

**10 am to 4 pm:** Samina Hospital, Dhobighat, Irani Hotel, Sadathnagar Darwaza; Dargah Yahya Pasha, Anna Dairy Farm, Mumtaz Colony, Bhanunagar, Turning Point School, Creda Road, Mansur Masjid; SRT Community Hall, SRT Colony, Suryar Jung Devdi, Poola Thoda, Madannapet police station, Masjid-e-Hazarim; India Function Hall, Labbaik Hotel; Anmol Hotel, Alshafa Dairy; Zora Bi Ke Dargah.

**10 am to 2 pm and 3 pm to 5 pm:** MC Colony, Ramalayam, SBH Colony, Asmangadh Water Works, RB Colony, Mumtaz College, Malakpet police station area, Mahila Mandali B-Block, Hamalbasti, Venkatadri Nagar

**10 am to 2 pm:** Jubilee Hills Roads No 1, 4, 5, 56, 67, 68, check post, area around Balakrishna's house; TV5, Chiranjeevi Blood Bank area, Celebration Hotel, Jubilee Hills Club, TTC, Annapurna Studio back side area, iGate, Co-Operative Bank.

**10 am to 1.30 pm:** Bank of Baroda, Shirdi Sai Nagar, Street No 1, Surya Vamsi Apartment, Chintal Sunday Market area, AP Dairy area, Nagarjunanagar, Srinivas Apartment area

**2 pm to 5 pm:** Venkatagiri, masjid, Water Works areas, MLA Colony, Islan Colony, Krishnanagar main road area, Krishnanagar C Block, Kotla Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy Stadium area.

**2.30 pm to 6 pm:** Dal Mill-1, Gudimella Villa, Nagarjuna Community Hall, Appa Rao PT, Vaishali Apartment; Dominic Model High School, Pochamma temple, Sai Sadan Apartment, Narayana Junior College, Tarnaka Hospital

# Hefty parking fees send wrong signals

## Excessive parking fee at Sec'bad

I would like to bring to the notice of the authorities concerned that in Platform No. 10 of the Secunderabad Railway station parking fee is being collected excessively. The first eight minutes of parking is said to be free of cost and the fee would surge upto ₹100 to 500. It is illegal to collect such fares as the parking lot is a public place. A maximum of ₹30 to 40 should be levied.

In a place like Secunderabad, it is difficult to pick up someone within eight minutes and people are forced to pay ₹100 to 500. As many as four people usually surround the car for collection of parking fee. I request the authorities to please check this matter and bring about a solution for the parking issues.

The solution will bring respite to thousands of citizens.

Noorulla Shariff  
Hyderabad



## Bring signalled pedestrian crossing, control parking of vehicles on roads

The blatant negligence by the GHMC on issues faced by pedestrians, school-going children and senior citizens is appalling. Most busy roads in the city do not have pavements and in places where they exist, they are encroached upon for commercial use or as parking space for two-wheelers. More serious is the problem of lack of pedestrian crossings that facilitate people to safely cross roads by halting the vehicular traffic. On busy roads, individuals or groups of people crossing the road are seen gesturing to commuters to slow down and let them walk safely. Fortunately, most people escape without any trouble but I know of a senior citizen who had his leg amputated after he was hit by a bus while crossing the road. I am sure many such accidents happen on a daily basis, but who cares?

It is, however, heartening to note that K.T. Rama Rao, minister for municipal administration and urban development, in his recent meeting with the GHMC zonal commissioners

and engineering officials, has risen among others, issues related to the construction of footpaths and foot-over-bridges in the city. In view of the heavy and tall trucks plying on the city roads, the foot-over bridges need to be built at a designated height.

More convenient would be the installation of signalled pedestrian crossings after every one or two kilometres on all busy roads. They will certainly help pedestrians to cross the road safely and with dignity. Such pedestrian crossings may not cause big delays in the movement of traffic, if properly synchronised with other crossings on the same road. In fact, I see one such crossing installed but unfortunately defunct at the intersection of Banjara Hills Road No. 1 and First Lancer Road.

The installation of signalled pedestrian crossings on all major roads in the city will encourage more people to walk, avoid using vehicles for covering short distances and keep good health and environment.

M. Saleemuddin  
Masab Tank



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# City police set to measure noise level at traffic signals

## Cops decide to try out Mumbai experiment

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB 9

Taking a cue from its Mumbai counterpart, the Hyderabad Traffic Police has asked the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to install meters to measure noise at traffic junctions. This, they said, would show motorists how much they are honking and the noise levels.

Mr Anil Kumar, additional commissioner of police (traffic) told Deccan Chronicle: "We have written to the GHMC to set up these monitors. The cost would be borne by GHMC not the traffic department. We are waiting for the go ahead from the civic body, after that we will give them a list of areas that see incessant honking."

■ Traffic police asks GHMC to instal meters at traffic junctions to measure the noise created by motorists who honk horns.

When contacted, GHMC commissioner D.S. Lokesh Kumar confirmed that the Hyderabad traffic police had written such a letter and the civic body was consulting with Mumbai traffic officials.

"We are asking the Mumbai traffic police to give us details of where they procured the meters from. We will have to see the cost and availability of the equipment before starting the pilot project," he said.

It may be recalled that on February 1, municipal

administration minister K.T. Rama Rao had asked top officials of the municipal and police departments to launch an enforcement initiative to reduce noise pollution at traffic signals akin to the one in Mumbai, which prolongs the red light at signals if the decibel level from honking by impatient drivers gets too high.

According to a viral video, the Mumbai traffic police has set a noise limit of 80 decibels. If the noise at the intersection, when the signal is red, exceeds the mark, the waiting time is automatically doubled. The Mumbai traffic police says the experiment is to ensure that motorists waiting at traffic signals do not unnecessary honk while they wait for the signal to turn green.

## BODY FOUND BESIDE ORR

Hyderabad: The body of an unidentified man was found with multiple injuries beside the Outer Ring Road at Abdullapurmet. The police is investigating to establish the identity of the deceased and to determine if the death was caused by a traffic accident or murder. The body was found by a villager, B. Lakshmaiah of Bacharam.

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## IN BRIEF

### Start-up launches electric scooter

Hyderabad: Pure EV, an IIT-Hyderabad incubated start-up launched a high speed electric scooter — EPluto 7G — on Sunday at its campus. The scooter has an ICAAT-certified range of 116 km per full charge, which is the highest in the country in this class of product, according to the developers' team. Pure EV is founded by Dr Nishanth Dongari, associate professor, department of mechanical and aerospace engineering, IIT-H. Dr Dongari said, "We have state-of-the-art facilities for the assembly and testing of the lithium battery packs." The vehicle is being launched at an ex-showroom price of ₹79,999, has a top speed of 60 kmph and battery warranty for 40,000 km. Dr V.K. Saraswat, member, NITI Aayog, Dr G. Sathesh Reddy, chairman, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and Prof B.S. Murty, director, IIT-H were present.

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— Editor

# SCB says no cash, self-help is the best help for residents

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC  
HYDERABAD, FEB. 8

Tired of hearing the words "no funds" from the Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) to carry out even minor repair works, residents in several colonies are taking up civic works like streetlight repair and filling potholes from their colony funds.

Some of the residents asked why they have to pay taxes when their localities do not get a fair share of the revenue for development of infrastructure.

Recently, Vasavinagar Welfare Association spent ₹20,000 of its funds to repair potholes on the road. Vasavi Colony president Telukunta Sathish Gupta told Deccan Chronicle, "we are tired of hearing that there are no funds with the SCB. We are one of the largest colonies and the highest taxpayers, still we are distanced from development in all aspects."

He said it has been 15 to 16 years since the colony roads and the drainage system were built. "There are a lot of maintenance issues as they have become old. The SCB does not bother to recarpet the roads or to repair the drainage lines," Mr Gupta said.

Other colonies have also set up their own garbage disposal systems and the colony associations are paying the workers salaries. Colony parks are also being maintained by the residents. Mr N. Venkata



Residents repairing the road in the Secunderabad Cantonment as the board has said it has no money.

Ramana, a resident of Malani Enclave, said, "we are maintaining our own parks. Recently we set up an electric pole by collecting money from the residents. We take up plantation works as well. It is the duty of the SCB to deploy security guards at the community parks but not even a single park is being maintained in the area." When contacted, an SCB official again said that the board was going through a fund crunch and it would take up developmental works as soon as money is released.

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Walk-in-Interviews/screening for empanelment of the following guest faculty/ staff for the Early Intervention Unit at NIEPID, Secunderabad & Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Nellore will be held as per the schedule given below:

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1. Assistant Professor in Paediatrics, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Language Therapist, Special Educators for pre-school, Psychologist, Early Interventionist, Field Officer, State Nodal Officer, Coordinator/Supervisor/HOD/Early Intervention, Clinical Level (Therapist), Optometrist, Ear Mould Technician, Walk-in-Interviews/screening schedule.

NIEPID HQs, Secunderabad	17.02.2020 & 18.02.2020
CRC, Nellore	19.02.2020 & 20.02.2020

For Complete details about the qualifications, experience, remuneration, terms & conditions, please visit our website www.niepid.nic.in. The walk-in-interviews/screening will be held from 09.00 AM onwards at the respective above places on the schedule dates. The engagement of guest faculty/ staff will be done from the empanelment list as per the merit based on requirements.

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**Rahukalam:** 7.30 am to 9 am  
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**PRAYERS**  
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**Zohar:** 12.40 pm  
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FROM AP



STEEL BARGE SINKS IN BAY OF BENGAL

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, FEB 9:

In the first such incident since the time steel barges were allowed in the old anchorage port, a steel barge (KKD 81 No. Steel Barge), with a capacity of 600 metric tonnes, carrying broken rice capsized off Kakinada coast around 4 am on Sunday.

The incident happened around four nautical miles from the shore near Hope Island in Bay of Bengal. There were no casualties as around 18 workers on board jumped in time and swam to safety to a nearby boat.

According to eyewitnesses, high tidal waves hit the barge. The ferociousness was such that surf waters entered the vessel and it sank within minutes. The barge was carrying broken rice to be shipped to West Africa. The nearby boats belonged to Raipur-based Satya Balaji Rice Industries at Raipur, which was exporting the stock.

Despite the peril, port workers made valiant bids to save the barge but gave up as the sea was very rough and waves were tossing it.

Eyewitnesses said that the waves rose up to three metres. Another barge (No. 39) in the vicinity, however, stayed put in the same area. It was felt that the ill-fated barge could have been saved had it remained still. Meanwhile, the workers informed the persons concerned who sent tugs to get the workers back to the shore.

Port officer in-charge and Superintendent Engineer G.V. Raghava Rao visited the spot along with his staff and conducted a preliminary survey. He told this reporter that he would submit a report to the state government, soon thereafter.

He said that Satyam Balaji Rice Industries was exporting broken rice through C&F agent Lotus Marine Services. Barge No. KKD 81 took-off around 10 pm on Saturday and reached the spot at around 5 am on Sunday when the sea turned rough and there were high speed winds at the accident spot.

Efforts are on to retrieve the barge on a war-footing. A comprehensive inquiry has been ordered into the incident. He also said that the services of expert divers from Visakhapatnam would be requisitioned to bring out the barge.

Port Police Circle Inspector P. Srinivasa Rao said that nobody had lodged a complaint on the incident and the police will make an inquiry only after receiving a complaint.

Still no clarity on new chief for BJP's TS unit

Laxman, Aruna still remain in contention for the top post

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, FEB 9

The suspense over the appointment of a new president for the BJP Telangana unit keeps mounting even as party leaders, cadre and workers continue to weigh the pros and cons of likely contenders.

Some believe that the incumbent Dr. K Laxman will get one more term while several opine that the high command will give chance to a new leader.

Dr Laxman, who has been president for the past three years, completed his

SOME NATIONAL-LEVEL leaders in private conversation said that the high command is also considering former MLA Y. Lakshminarayana or former MP AP Jitender Reddy as Dr Laxman's successor

tenure six weeks back.

Though the election for the new president was expected in January, it has been delayed due to the ongoing row over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and Delhi Assembly elections. Party leaders from the State are expecting that the presi-

dent elections will be held in the next couple of weeks.

A senior party leader, on the condition of anonymity, said that the party high command is keen on strengthening the party in Telangana, towards which it intends to bring a new face to head the State unit. He pointed out that for the past 30 years the BJP state president was chosen from leaders, who were active in Hyderabad and none was considered from outside of the city.

Though this aspect was repeatedly raised before the national leadership it has not been considered even once. He said that

choosing pitch-forking someone from the districts would boost the morale of the cadre working in the interiors and towns.

Some national-level leaders in private conversations with this correspondent said that the high command is considering former minister D.K. Aruna, former MLA Y. Lakshminarayana or former MP AP Jitender Reddy as Dr Laxman's successor. The leader said that MPs Arvind Dharmapuri and B Sanjay Kumar will also be in the running. However, a strong sentiment is that Dr Laxman would get an extension.



Youth after being detained at the Goshamahal Police Station for participating in the flash protest at Mallepally try to sleep on the footsteps.

Detainees say they were interrogated by cops

From Page 1

The detainees complained that some of the young men who were detained during the protest at Mallepally, were beaten by the police in the van and in custody. A few were locked up and interrogated.

Ms Minai says they were detained without pre-detection warning. Though women were shifted to CCS, the men were kept in the Goshamahal Stadium without basic facilities. "We understand that the cops are doing their job, but it is also their duty to safeguard the citizens. They have to understand the feelings of the society and our uneasiness," she said.

Parents of minor students alleged that their wards were beaten by the police at the Task Force Office. They complained that the police did not inform them about the detention that night (as required by law) and informed them only next morning. They also complained that the police warned them that if their children participate in protests in future, they will communicate with their institution and "your children will be debarred".

The police also said, according to the parents, that "if you allow the children to participate in such protests, they will join terror groups in the future". The Hyderabad City Police has been criticised

for its heavy-handed handling of the protests over the CAA, NPR and NRC. Advocate Mahboob Ali Mohammed said the detention of people at Mallepally, as reported, showed the impulsive eagerness of the Hyderabad police, and infringed on the constitutional rights of peaceful protest granted to citizens.

Moreover, the detention of women after sunset and before sunrise is against section 46 (4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the guidelines of the Supreme Court, and the beating of minors as alleged is totally wrong. Police counselling parents that their wards will turn into extremists if they protest is an unnecessary and unwanted piece of officiousness.

He said the detention of a journalist without sharing the arrest details and whereabouts is against the D.K. Basu Arrest Guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court of India. The police should promptly consider the recent Telangana High Court order to allow women to protest against NRC, CAA by providing a peaceful location for them to do so and which would not stop traffic and business.

Dr Lubna Sarwath, state general secretary, Socialist Party (India), Hyderabad, and Maqbool Mateen, president, United Citizens' Forum, reacting to the incident criticised the action of the police

but appreciated the police allowing medicines for the detained journalist Mubashshiruddin Khurram during his illegal detention. They condemned indiscriminate detention of peaceful protesters and the journalist.

"We urge the Hyderabad police to discharge their duties impartially, as per the law, as they are bound to under oath. They are bound to enable and protect. It is disheartening to hear of a senior reputed journalist being picked up when he was discharging his democratic journalistic duties. We do not want the public to lose faith in the police and we want to strengthen the friendly bond between police and public," said Ms Sarwath.

Mateen said the police is on the wrong side of the law if they identify and address any person based on their religion and not as a citizen. The police is on the wrong side of the law if they selectively enable a pro CAA meeting at Quli Qutub Shah stadium and on the other hand denounce anti-CAA protests and reject protest permission applications.

"We call on Hyderabad Police to give adequate protection to democratically conduct peaceful appeal-protests and enable their smooth conduct so that we protect freedom and liberty for this generation and future generations of India," he said.

Prayer offering



Hyderabad-based AAP party members offer a chaddar at the Dargah-e-Yousufain in Nampally on Sunday to pray for the victory of their party's candidates in the Assembly elections in Delhi.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

DON'T GO TO 'EXTREMES' WHILE DEALING WITH KIDS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 9

"Extremes of control or extremes of lenience, both are not advisable when dealing with children," advised experts at a public forum conducted by the Obstetrics and Gynaecological Society of Hyderabad (OGSH) in the city on Sunday.

There were several questions on how to deal with mobile phones and whether to give children pocket money or not and how to deal with them while imparting 'sex education' which is called 'Adolescent health education' to de-stigmatise the term. "Give skills to children instead of things, and also do not force your childhood interests or your dreams on them. Engage with them and let them get acquainted with all the skills necessary and allow them to choose. Just giving them mobiles for hours to engage them only affects their growth in a negative way, there are several studies proving the ill-effects of excessive use of mobile phones on children," said Dr Namita Singh, consultant Neuropsychologist speaking to the Deccan Chronicle.

She added that communication with children is the key to several issues and extremes of control or lenience is equally dangerous.

There were mixed opinions on pocket money, as many said that there is no need of pocket money, while others said it is necessary to give pocket money to let the children know about the value of money and to have a little financial freedom. One of the students, E Gagana, a fashion technology student, said that parents should teach kids how to have self control with the mobile instead of banning mobile phones or any other thing.

Low procurement quota troubles red gram farmers

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 9

Bumper yield of red gram sown in the Kharif 2019 season has resulted in a problem of plenty, and procurement of the produce has become a major issue.

Farmers are raising a hue and cry over the conditions stipulated by Markfed (Telangana State Co-Operative Marketing Federation Ltd), which limits procurement of only 2.5 quintals from each farmer.

The agriculture department is expecting 2.7 lakh metric tonnes production in the season, but the Centre has approved procurement of only 47,500 metric tonnes of red gram in the state. Due to this, the state government has to face the burden of procuring the additional production from farmers.

Farmers from the erstwhile districts of Mahabubnagar, Medak and Ranga Reddy used to sow red gram in extensive areas, compared to those from other districts. Farmers have already reached market yards with stocks but Markfed authorities are not prepared to procure the entire produce. As a result, farmers from Gadwal, Koheda, Tandur and other market yards are protesting against the delay in procurement.

T. Sagar, general secretary of Telangana Rythu Sangham, said that Markfed authorities were issuing slips to each farmer for the procurement of 2.5 quintals and asking them to come with their stock from 30 to 45 days. After procurement, there is inordinate delay in payments, he said.

He said that the government had fixed ₹5,800 as minimum support price

AGRICULTURE MINISTER has written to the Centre exhorting the Union agriculture ministry to enhance the procurement quota of red gram to another 56,000 metric tonnes over and above the earlier approved 47,500 metric tonnes.

THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT is expecting 2.7 lakh metric tonnes production in the season

Stating that due to good rains each acre of crop is yielding 8 to 12 quintals of red gram, he demanded the government procure stocks from farmers without any conditions.

Meanwhile, agriculture minister S. Niranjan Reddy has written to the Centre exhorting the agriculture ministry to enhance the quota of red gram to another 56,000 metric tonnes over and above the earlier approved 47,500 metric tonnes. He said, "as the farmers are facing trouble, we hope that the Centre will come forward to enhance the quota of procurement to provide much-needed relief to the farmers cultivating red gram."

(MSP) per quintal and the farmers had reached the market yards with stocks. With so much stock left, commission agents are purchasing the product at ₹3,500 to ₹4,000 per quintal and making a killing.

S. Anvesh Reddy, chairman of Telangana Kisan Congress, said that commission agents have been purchasing the stock at lower prices and selling the stocks to Markfed at the MSP in the name of farmers.

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WAKE-UP | CALL

Citing Jagan & Pranab, Baru claims political risk to investments is growing

Idea of 'Rising India' under threat, says Baru

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB 9

Former press secretary to the Prime Minister and author Sanjaya Baru, has contended that the narrative of "Rising India" is under serious threat.

Baru was delivering a lecture on "The Rule of Law, economy and ease of business" here on Sunday.

He blamed both the judiciary and the political executive for the slow-down of the country's economy. Both, he said, had contributed to the ero-

sion of "Rule of Law". Baru talked about how pendency of cases was one of the biggest worries that citizens and corporates' have to reckon with. He noted that India spends less than a per cent of its Budget on judiciary.

"Against this backdrop, it is disconcerting to see that the 2020-21 Budget has reduced funds for judicial and legal infrastructure," he said and also blamed "excessive litigation and capability to draft transparent and efficient rules."

There was a time when the 'countries of tomorrow' were considered Brazil and Argentina. But their growth plateaued.

— SANJAYA BARU, Economist

On the cases pending in various High Courts, he said, "It should worry policy makers that the worst performing states, with some exceptions, are also the poorest."

The senior journalist noted that one of the major causes for the decline of investments in India was the legal process

and verdicts. "While we talk about foreign investments coming to India, we forget about investments by Indians and their talent that is fleeing the country," he added.

Baru also noted that even Chief Justice of the Supreme Court SA Bobde is aware of how Indian companies preferred to go

for arbitration proceedings in Singapore or London, over settlements in the country.

Baru also threw shade at Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for renegotiating or abrogating contracts and delaying ongoing projects.

Comparing it to the retrospective tax move by the then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, he said it was an example of the rise in political risk in investing in India.

A trained economist, Baru recalled his youth

while talking about economic models of India and other countries. "There was a time when the 'countries of tomorrow' were considered Brazil and Argentina. But their growth plateaued," he said.

Talking on the "Rising India" model, he said that until a few years ago, the world believed India was catching up with China. "Today, that idea is under threat. Now, we have to decide on whether we want to pursue the Latin America way or the East Asian way," he said.

**IN BRIEF**

**Driver dies as van rams lorry**

Hyderabad: A 20-year-old who was driving a van died when the vehicle rammed into a lorry on the Outer Ring Road at Keesara on Sunday. Keesara police said that the accident took place at around 5.30 am near Rampally Dayara in which Palleti Ganesh, 20, a resident of Appareddipally of Ranga Reddy district was killed. Ganesh was driving the van (AP24 TA 0114) towards Ghatkesar from Keesara. When the vehicle reached Rampally Dayara, a cement-mix lorry (AP36 TB 3692) which was moving in front stopped suddenly and the van rammed into the lorry. Police said that Ganesh suffered severe injuries and died on the spot. His body was stuck in the cabin and was retrieved with the help of the ORR patrolling team, police said.

## Temperature down 9°C after rain on Sat

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 9

The brief and intermittent rainfall that lashed the city on Saturday and Sunday morning is recorded as the third highest rainfall the city has received in February in the last decade. Overall the city received 4.1 mm of rainfall. The highest rainfall recorded in the past one decade in this month was 20.2 mm on February 21, 2011. This was followed by heavy rain in the city on February 17, 2013.

The rains also brought down the maximum temperature by 9°C Celsius - to 23.4°C. The minimum temperature continued at 19°C.

Officials of the Indian

While the rains have had a cooling effect, the moisture laden air will increase the relative humidity in the city.

Meteorological Department (IMD), told *Deccan Chronicle*, that they predict more such showers in the city in the next 24 hours. "There is an upper air trough passing over the state, so under its influence we might see some more showers. But, since this system is weakening, the effects will reduce," an official said.

As the system weakens, there will be scattered rains in isolated spells. "Courtesy of the rains, the maximum tempera-

ture in the state is likely to drop by 3-4 degrees Celsius due to increased cloud cover and subsequent rainfall. On the other hand, the night temperatures are expected to settle above normal for the next few days. By February 13, rains are likely to vacate the region completely. Post this episode, we do not expect any major rainfall activity to take place, said a report by Skymet, a private weather forecasting agency.

While the rains have had a cooling effect, the moisture laden air will increase the relative humidity in the city and temperatures will rise once the rains cease, causing some discomfort.

## Fighting fit



Students perform marital arts during the Deeni Taleem Rally at Quli Qutb Shah Stadium on Sunday. — P. SURENDRA

## OU fixes errors in grad results

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 9

Students who appeared for the exams have been marked "absent" in the recently released results of undergraduate courses in about 477 colleges affiliated to Osmania University.

After students protested the "discrepancies", the university was compelled to release an updated result.

Mr Kamal Suresh, PhD scholar and ABVP activist, was one of the protesters, said, "Several students were confused after seeing the 'absent' remark in their mark-sheet when they have actually written the examination. We took the issue to the notice of the controller of examina-

tions and registrar through protest and gave a representation. It has since been resolved."

OU officials clarified that the results of about 1,600 students from four to five colleges were withheld as there was a confusion among the electives that they had registered. Those students have selected 'environmental studies' instead of 'environmental science' and 'computer fundamentals' instead of 'basic computer skills' during their registration.

The examination branch thought of verifying the titles and then released it. Meanwhile, given the insistence by students, the university released the updated result late Saturday on night.

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IN BRIEF

Two more take coronavirus test

Hyderabad: Health minister Etela Rajender said no positive case of the coronavirus infection has been found in the state. All the 70 samples collected from individuals till Saturday have returned negative for the disease. In a statement, he said two persons were admitted to the Gandhi Hospital on Sunday for check-ups. The results of their samples would be available on Monday. The health department said anyone with questions related to the disease can call the 24-hour helpline 040-24651119.

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 9

An increasing number of crew members on the coronavirus-stricken cruise ship *Diamond Princess*, which has been docked at Yokohama in Japan since February 4 after cases of coronavirus began being diagnosed among people on board, are reported to be getting increasingly worried of contracting the disease.

With six new cases diagnosed among the ship's passengers and crew on Sunday, there appears to be an increasing clamour

among crew members, who believe they are in good health, to be taken off the ship and quarantined at an onshore facility.

Among the latest cases identified are reportedly five crew members and a passenger.

One of the crew members said that the five crew members — who were diagnosed with the disease among the six new cases — were from the Philippines. Previously, two other crew members were taken off the ship after testing positive, the crew member said.

Among the Indian crew

are individuals from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Bengal.

With the six new diagnosed cases, the total number of coronavirus victims on the ship has risen to 70. The ship has nearly 3,700 people on board, including more than 2,600 passengers, with the rest being the crew.

There are about 160 Indians among the ship's crew who have been keeping in touch with their families calling them on phones or keeping in touch through social media apps. "Many of us are afraid that the re-cir-

■ **AMONG THE** Indian crew are individuals from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Bengal. About 160 crew members are on board the ship that is carrying 2,600 passengers

culated air in the ship through the air-conditioning system will spread the disease. All we are asking is that all those who have no symptoms — whether passengers or crew — be taken off the ship, and quarantined onshore," an Indian crew member said. "There is no problem in

terms of food and other facilities or care being shown by the management. But each day the fear is growing. Everyone is worried and scared," the crew member said.

In a blog post on the website of Princess Cruises — the company that runs the ship — the company confirmed an additional six cases of coronavirus, tested by the Japanese ministry of health on *Diamond Princess*. It said, in addition to the 70 coronavirus patients, over the past two days, 10 other guests were disembarked needing other medical

attention (not for coronavirus) and were transferred to local hospitals. "Information on nationalities of these new guests will be forthcoming," the company said.

In the same post, Princess Cruises president Jan Swartz was quoted as saying: "Our guests and crew on board the *Diamond Princess* are the focus of our entire global organization right now and all of our hearts are with each of them. In this unprecedented situation, the Japanese ministry of health authorities are working with us collaboratively on addi-

tional enhancements, approving new procedures as we adapt our process to the unique challenges of this situation."

On Saturday, Rai Caluori, executive vice-president at Princess Cruises, was quoted on the blog saying: "Although we are facing many limitations and challenges, we are doing our best to deliver the ship's most critical needs. We are also working to provide as much care and comfort as we can to everyone onboard. We hope these gestures will lift the spirits of those onboard in this difficult time."

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