

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 11 FEBRUARY 2020

WEATHER

Max: 26.5°C
Min: 18.9°C
RH: 66%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Misty morning. Max/Min
temp. 28/19°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Uttarayana
Tithi: Magha Bahula Tadiya till
2.53 am (Wednesday)
Star: Purvaphalguni till 2.23 pm
Varjyam: 8.48 pm to 10.14 pm
Durmuhurtam: 9.05 am to
9.50 am; 11.14 pm to 12.05 am
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm
HURI CALENDAR
Jumada al-Sani 16, 1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.43 am
Zohar: 12.40 pm
Asar: 4.40 pm
Maghrib: 6.21 pm
Isha: 7.30 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.15 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.44 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 8.32 PM
MOONSET TODAY 8.24 AM

COUNTER POINT



Now it's time to
hear *aam aadmi ka
mann ki baat!*

Delhi Assembly poll results today

New Delhi: Tight security
arrangements have been
put in place at various
centres across the
national capital where
the counting of votes
polled in the high-stakes
February 8 Delhi
Assembly elections will
take place on Tuesday.
The election, largely seen
as a battle between the
ruling Aam Aadmi Party
and the BJP, which went
aggressive during the
campaign. — PTI

Petition against hanging at SC

New Delhi: An 88-year-
old Kerala-based free-
dom fighter, S. Parames-
waran Nampoothiri, has
moved the Supreme
Court seeking quashing
of a provision in the
Code of Criminal Proce-
dure which provides for
execution of death row
convict by hanging him
by the neck saying it a
"colonial hangover" and
violative of fundamental
rights. — PTI

BJP leader seeks ban on burqa

Aligarh: A BJP leader
from Uttar Pradesh
Monday demanded a ban
on burqa, calling it a
security threat and
provocatively linking it to
demon king Ravana's sis-
ter Surpanakha. "Burqa
should be banned in the
country as has been done
in several other coun-
tries," Raghuraj Singh,
who holds a rank equiva-
lent to a minister of state
in Uttar Pradesh. — PTI

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Parasite makes
Oscar history

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Inter too hot for
AC in Milan Derby

TABLOID

When ads go mad
for marketing



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A woman protester shouts as police stop her and several others during their march against the amended Citizenship Act, NRC and NPR, near Jamia Nagar in New Delhi on Monday. — PTI

Protesters, police clash at Jamia

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 10

Hundreds of Jamia Millia students and residents of Jamia Nagar, on Monday, were allegedly beaten by the police after they refused to end their protest and insisted on carrying an anti-CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) march towards Parliament. Despite repeated appeals from the police and the varsity administration,

the protesters refused to end their agitation, which started following a call by the Jamia Coordination Committee (JCC), an organisation of Jamia students and alumni. The protesters, including several women, began their march from Jamia's gate no. 7 around noon amid heavy deployment of security personnel in and around the university. The altercation intensi- fied by 6 pm as the stu-

dents refused to budge and a group of protesters gheraoed the Sukhdev Vihar police station. Some protesters jumped over barricades as the police, in riot gear, thrashed them. As the number of people joining the protest swelled by the evening, the Sukhdev Vihar Metro station near the university was closed. Men formed a human chain on either side of the road as women walked

ahead, waving the tri- colour and raising slogans of "Halla Bol." Despite repeated appeals from the police and the varsity authorities, the protesters refused to end their agitation. They raised slogans like "kagaz nahi dikhayenge" (we will not show documents) and "jab nahi dare hum goron se toh kyun dare hum auron se" (When we did not fear the British, why should we fear others).

"It has been two months since we are protesting. No one from the govern- ment has come to talk to us. So we want to go to talk to them," said Zeba Anhad, a protester. Jamia Millia Islamia proctor Waseem Ahmed Khan appealed to the students to disperse and not meddle with the police. "The message has been sent. I request students in the crowd to go back to the university," he urged.

Protesters can't block roads: SC

SC says Shaheen Bagh stir can't continue indefinitely

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 10

The Supreme Court on Monday said that a "protest cannot go on indefinitely" and those protesting against the CAA at Shaheen Bagh can't block the road and cause inconvenience to the public. "Protest has gone on for many days. It can't be for an indefinite period. There must be an area identified for protest," a bench of Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice K.M. Joseph said, and issued a notice to the centre and Delhi government on two petitions seeking eviction of the protesters.

"There is a law and people have grievances against it. The matter is pending in court. Despite that, some people are protesting. They are entitled to protest," the Supreme Court bench said. The apex court said that protest at Shaheen Bagh has been going on for long but it cannot create inconvenience for others. "Can you block a public road? You cannot block it. Suppose there is a public park, you cannot hold protest there," the bench said.

The court observations came in the course of hearing of two petitions — one by Amit Sahni and another by Nand Kishore Garg, a BJP leader — both seeking directions for the removal of protesters, who have been protesting since December 15, 2019.

The court declined to pass any interim order as urged by advocates for the petitioners. The court said that it can't pass any ex-parte order without issuing notice to the government on the notice. As lawyer for the peti-

CAN 4-MONTH-OLD CHILD TAKE PART IN PROTEST, ASKS SC

New Delhi, Feb. 10: "Can a 4-month-old child be taking part in such (Shaheen Bagh) protests?", the Supreme Court asked on Monday while warning some women lawyers for making "explosive submissions" that children participating in these anti-CAA demonstrations are being called names, 'terrorist', 'gaddar' (traitor), 'Pakistani', in school. "Don't make explosive submissions. Please do not make such statements. We do not want people to use this platform to further create problems," said a bench, comprising Chief Justice S.A. Bobde and Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant, when two women advocates instantly started making submissions.

When the bench said it was taking suo motu cognizance of the letter written by a national bravery award winner Zen Gunratan Sadavarte, seeking that minors be barred from participating in any type of protest and agitation, the advocates interrupted claiming that children participating in the protest are being called names, 'terrorist', 'gaddar' (traitor), 'Pakistani', in schools.

tioner pressed for some order. Justice Kaul said, "If you have waited for 58 days, you can wait for some more."

Page 8: SC judges reprimand advocates

INDIAN CREW ON STRANDED SHIP SENDS SOS TO PM

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

With reports of another 66 passengers on board the cruise ship *Diamond Princess* testing positive for coronavirus on Monday, taking the total to 136, Indian crew members issued an urgent appeal to the Centre to rescue them.

In a video shared on Monday, Binay Kumar Sarkar, a crew member who first took to Facebook days ago explaining the fear that has gripped the ship, said "we are scared. There are more than 60 positive cases today." "I appeal to the Prime Minister of India to intervene. I urge the United Nations for help. Urgent segregation is needed of those who are healthy," he said in the video that also showed some of his Indian crew colleagues.

Page 7: Japan to test all on board stranded ship

City proxies work to 'help' NRIs

Techies make money by working remotely for US employees

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

For several years, a number of Indian techies working in the US have faked their way through job applications, interviews and day-to-day work. They are enabled by an ecosystem of "recruiting consultancies", many located in Hyderabad, that offer services like hiring someone to do a job interview on their behalf and even performing their job while the US-based techie makes big bucks.

According to engineering graduates who moved to the US for an MS degree, they are incapable of finding a job on their own. Placements being rare, they associate with a consultancy, Mahesh (name changed), working in Dallas, said "Most Indian consultancies own or rent properties across America — called guest houses — where people like me are asked to move. Here they teach us a little in the

28.43 L
Indians stay in the United States (0.9% of US population)

4.15 lakh or 14.5 per cent of Indians in the US are Telugu-speakers.

domain we want a job in, like databases or web design. All this is free of cost. We pay them 20 to 30 per cent of our take-home salary once we get a job." This is where it gets shady. Naresh (name changed), who works near Kavuri Hills in a "staffing agency", explains the modus operandi: the graduates are "marketed" to IT firms. "Eventually companies show interest and invite for interviews. If it's a one-on-one interview, we can't help. But when it is

Indian graduates passed out from US universities seek the help of recruiting consultants to secure a job in America.

Consultants support the graduates by providing proxies to attend online job interviews and work remotely during initial period.

done via video-call, we get a domain expert from India to take the interview for him. The candidate just has to move his lips. The off-screen proxy speaks the whole time," he said. The proxy interview, said a graduate from Raleigh, North Carolina, becomes necessary since most consultancies fake resumes to an astonishing degree. "Our resumes show 7-8 years experience. The interviewer expects us to be well-versed with our

jobs. Since we aren't, we have no choice," he said. But once they get the job, how do they survive? "Once a person reports for work, we arrange someone from India who can do his work," Naresh says. "The person enables remote access to his computer, brief the proxy about the work, and then relax. The proxy does the rest." Depending on the work's complexity, proxies make between ₹30,000 and ₹60,000 a month, which is just a fraction of what the new recruit is making in America.

Of course, some get caught. Mahesh from Dallas, said: "One day I was sitting in my cubicle, watching a movie on Netflix while the proxy was connected. My supervisor walked in and saw the mouse moving on the screen without any input from me. She understood immediately."

Page 2: Proxy says remote help is for limited time

HC: Why post IAS officials as V-Cs?

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

The Telangana High Court sought an explanation from the state government on appointing IAS officers as vice-chancellors to universities in the state.

While dealing with a PIL that challenged the state's action in appointing eight IAS officers as in-charge vice-chancellors, the division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A.

Abhishek Reddy on Monday issued notices to the government to submit its explanation within four weeks. Dr S. Karunakar Reddy, assistant professor in the department of botany, Osmania University, filed the PIL seeking a direction to suspend the circular issued by the Chief Minister's Office making appointments. But the state failed to follow the rules, he contended.

Page 6: State violated UGC norms, claims petitioner

CANDID | TALK

Jagan confident of revenue growth and implementing Navaratnalu unhindered

'I visualised the future of youth for 20 years'

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday hinted that the executive capital would be shifted to Visakhapatnam within three to four months.

In an informal chat with a select group of mediapersons, including *Deccan Chronicle* principal correspondent G. Sampat Samaritan, Chief Minister Reddy justified the decentralisation of administration, saying decentralisation would lead to greater development.

In a freewheeling chat on a plethora of issues for the first time after he took over as Chief Minister, Mr Reddy shared his views on

a plethora of subjects. Excerpts. *When is the executive capital moving to Visakhapatnam? How prudent is idea of shifting the capital?*

The setting up of an executive capital in Visakhapatnam would be done in another three to four months. The tier II city of Visakhapatnam would quickly become a tier I city, after which, it can compete with Hyderabad. It is a well thought of decision to ensure equal growth of all regions.

What would be the fate of Amar-

avati after this shifting? Farmers who gave away their lands for an integrated capital there are in arms against the move?

We will retain Amaravati as the legislative capital. All Assembly sessions would be held here, so it will witness a natural economic growth in due course of time. No injustice would be done to farmers as we have enhanced the annuity payment to 15 years and farm labourers are being paid ₹5,000 per month against present ₹2,000.

Page 5: CM is like a father figure to the state, says Jagan



THE CHIEF Minister is like a father figure to the state and the people. Failing to develop a state even after having authority to do so is a sin.

Y.S. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY, CM

IN BRIEFS
Teacher arrested for harassment

Adilabad: Police arrested a government teacher on charges of sexually harassing a 28-year-old Adivasi widow that led to her committing suicide. The accused Jadhav Sakaram works as a teacher in the government school in Andhoor. Both police registered a case against Jadhav Sakaram, under section 306 and shifted him for remand. Villagers of Andhoor staged a massive protest at the Boath road two days ago alleging that the victim Naitnam Lalitha committed suicide as she was unable to bear the sexual harassment by the accused.

Inter student commits suicide

Nirmal: An intermediate first-year student committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree in the premises of the Social Welfare Residential college in Mudhole on Monday morning. The student was identified as Gangadhar. Relatives and family members staged a protest at the Mudhole main road and held the college principal Shivaram responsible. They said that Gangadhar would be alive if the principal had reacted early. The family said that Gangadhar had an affair about which he wrote in his diary that today was the last day of his life.

2-YR-OLD GIRL DROWNS IN WATER SUMP

DC CORRESPONDENT NIZAMABAD, FEB.10

In a tragic incident, a two-year-old girl drowned in a sump of water at GK Thanda in Indalwai mandal on Monday. According to information, Vasuki accidentally drowned in the sump while playing in front of her house. She was one of the three daughters of Vasanth and Mala. Vasanth has gone to the Gulf in search of livelihood. Mala was thus looking after her three daughters. On Monday, two of the older daughters had gone to school. The third, Vasuki accidentally drowned in the water sump while playing. Family members rushed her to the Indalwai primary health centre and then a private hospital. However, doctors declared that the girl had been brought dead. Indalwai police have registered a case.

2 YOUTH FROM TS STRANDED IN DUBAI

DC CORRESPONDENT NIZAMABAD, FEB.10

Two youth from Nizamabad district have been stranded in Dubai for the last few days. Palem Gangadhar and Katkuri Gangadhar of Morthad mandal went to Dubai in search of employment last December. A travel agent of Metpally had sent them there by collecting ₹3.20 lakh from them. The agent assured them a suitable job in the Gulf and sent them on a visitor's visa, family members of the victims said. Palem Gangadhar and Katkuri Gangadhar found work only for two days in Dubai and then lost their employment. They tried to contact the agent, but he was not available. The victims and their family members have urged the state government to ensure their safe return from Dubai.

Protesters asked to gear up for long battle

NPR will affect other communities too, says JAC convener

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 10:

Ms Sara Mathews, city convener of Alliance against CAA, NPR and NRC, said, "we have to prepare for a protracted battle to protect the constitutional rights of citizens. We should adopt various ways and means to prolong the ongoing battle against CAA, NPR and NRC."

She made this observation while addressing students of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU).

Ms Mathews said foreign kingdoms invaded India many times and mostly "we failed to defend our boundaries due to wrong strategic approaches adopted by our forces. Likewise, we never attacked any dynasty, because India was rich with full of resources and our people did not want to step out of the comfort zone. If we do not leave our comfort zone and fail to adopt a wise strategy, then we will lose our fight against criminal ideologists. We need to explore changing methods."

She said the fight against CAA, NPR and NRC is not a struggle of only Muslims as other communities will also be affected once NRC is implemented.



Maulana Azad National Urdu University students organise a protest against CAA, NRC and NPR inside the campus

The most affected communities will Muslims, minorities and dalits.

She pointed out that initially Mr Amit Shah excluded Muslims and now he does not mention about Christians while detailing about the communities who will get citizenships, which means they will deprive the communities one after another community. Woman activist Ms Khalida

Parveen said that this was a struggle of minorities, dalits, poor and women. Women and students have shown a direction for a movement against CAA, NPR and NRC. She condemned the fresh police brutal attack against students of Jamia Millia Islamia in which dozens of students have been severely injured.

She said "we are apologetic that in Telangana we could not demonstrate like Shaheen Bagh. We also aspire to demonstrate here. We try daily to express our feelings, but the police do not allow us to conduct even peaceful protests. We are not afraid of criminal cases."

Mr Shaik Umer Farooq Quadri, President Students Union MANUU, welcomed the gathering. Students staged a drama, read poetry and sang songs.

Drying up



Despite residents' attempt to save the Ramanthapur Lake, the nearly-dried up lake has become a new spot to dump garbage for nearby traders

— GANDHI

Consumer forum fines SpiceJet

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

Hyderabad District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum has fined SpiceJet Limited for deficiency in services.

According to a complaint filed with the forum, Mr Jay Prakash Minda, 42, booked three tickets from Hyderabad to Chennai and back.

A day prior to their journey on July 15, 2017, they received a message from SpiceJet informing them that due to terminal congestion at Hyderabad, they would have to report for check-in 120 minutes prior to the departure

time. After two hours of receiving the message, they got a message from SpiceJet informing that the scheduled flight from Hyderabad to Chennai was cancelled due to operational reasons.

Even for their return journey, they did the same due to delay in the arrival of the scheduled flight. The complainant added that they were forced to book tickets with another airline due to such deficiency in service.

SpiceJet contended that flights were cancelled because of operational reasons which were beyond their control. They informed the complainant well in advance about the

developments. As regards to the refund of amount for tickets booked, they directed the complainants to contact the help desk, which they did not do.

SpiceJet stated that the claim of complainants for payment of difference amount spent for their flight journeys with other airlines is untenable as they are contrary to Provisions of the Carriage by Air Act 1972, Rules and Regulations. The airline contended that there is no deficiency in service on their part.

The Hyderabad District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum opined that in view of this finding, SpiceJet is not liable

to pay the difference amount as claimed by complainant. However, in regard to refund of the amount related to the booked tickets, the company is liable to pay the amount, which it has not done so far.

SpiceJet also did not evince any interest or initiative in refunding the amount for tickets booked, which allegedly caused mental agony. This shows deficiency in service on their part.

The forum ordered SpiceJet to refund ₹4,818 towards the amount for tickets booked, ₹7,000 as compensation for mental agony and suffering, and ₹3,000 as costs of litigation.

Women show growing interest in martial arts

GEETA VALABOJU | DC HYDERABAD FEB. 10

Although most women have never showed much interest in learning any form of martial arts for self-defence techniques, the Disha gang-rape and murder that shook the nation has forced a change of mindset.

Today, learning self-defence techniques and getting trained in the martial arts like karate is a priority for many women, both in urban and rural.

Martial arts instructors from Hyderabad are reportedly being flooded with calls from women, including college girls, to take them on board.

Many are willing to join classes over the weekends.

On their part, the Cyberabad, Rachakonda and Hyderabad police commissionerates are organising special drives in school, colleges, and other institutions to urge women to learn self-defence techniques.

Dr G.S. Gopal Reddy, who has 14 world records in martial arts, has started training sessions at the Madapati Hanumantha Rao School in Narayanguda. He says that women of every age group are keen to enroll themselves.

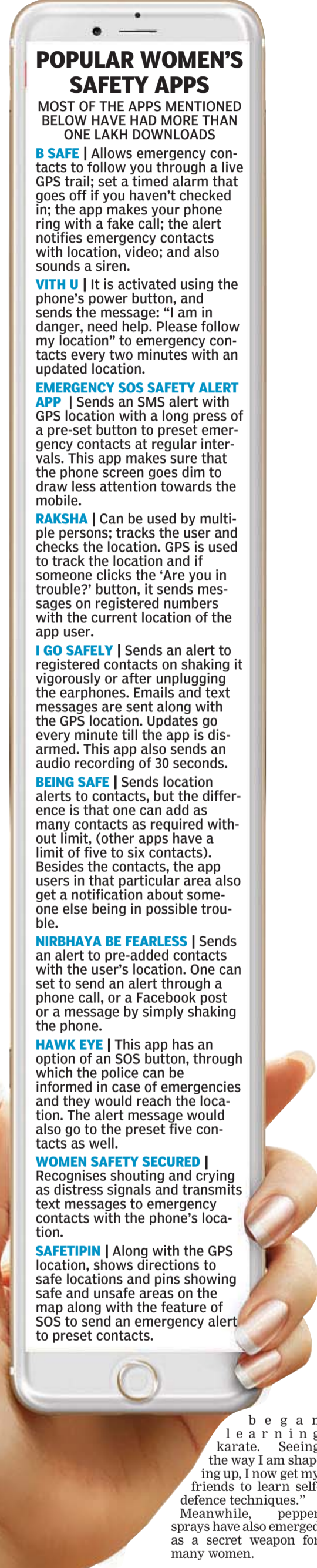
Cyberabad DCP SHE Team in-charge C. Anusuya said, "we conduct special sessions for the IT sector. The number of sessions, and women's enrolment, have increased after the Disha incident. When girls become capable of defending themselves and fend off physical assaults, it changes the mindset of people and promotes gender equality."

Malleswari, a Class 12 student said, "When I first saw the horrific incident on TV channels, I began thinking of my safety I now believe that self-defence skills are something every woman must have."

Radhika, pursuing an undergraduate degree said, "when something wrong happens, we find we are not equipped adequately to defend ourselves or to avert an assault. I felt karate is something that will protect me without any weapon. I schedule my time everyday for karate after my classes."

Two other college students, Priya Diya and Anuroopa, are among the many who have decided to take self-defence courses. It is not just students showing an inclination to learn karate. A 47-year-old doctor who is also on the same path, said, "I have been attending classes for the last two years. It's always frightening to go out late in the evenings, especially because I need to attend meetings. I learnt about pressure points and other techniques that are basic and simple to practice. This has bolstered my confidence. I wish every woman learns it because we don't know when an incident occurs and in what form. This technique will help us be prepared."

Saujanya, a college student, told *Deccan Chronicle*, "we are targeted when we least expected it. It has been almost 18 months since I



POPULAR WOMEN'S SAFETY APPS

MOST OF THE APPS MENTIONED BELOW HAVE HAD MORE THAN ONE LAKH DOWNLOADS

B SAFE | Allows emergency contacts to follow you through a live GPS trail; set a timed alarm that goes off if you haven't checked in; the app makes your phone ring with a fake call; the alert notifies emergency contacts with location, video; and also sounds a siren.

VITHU | It is activated using the phone's power button, and sends the message: "I am in danger, need help. Please follow my location" to emergency contacts every two minutes with an updated location.

EMERGENCY SOS SAFETY ALERT APP | Sends an SMS alert with GPS location with a long press of a pre-set button to preset emergency contacts at regular intervals. This app makes sure that the phone screen goes dim to draw less attention towards the mobile.

RAKSHA | Can be used by multiple persons; tracks the user and checks the location. GPS is used to track the location and if someone clicks the 'Are you in trouble?' button, it sends messages on registered numbers with the current location of the app user.

I GO SAFELY | Sends an alert to registered contacts on shaking it vigorously or after unplugging the earphones. Emails and text messages are sent along with the GPS location. Updates go every minute till the app is disarmed. This app also sends an audio recording of 30 seconds.

BEING SAFE | Sends location alerts to contacts, but the difference is that one can add as many contacts as required without limit, (other apps have a limit of five to six contacts). Besides the contacts, the app users in that particular area also get a notification about someone else being in possible trouble.

NIRBHAYA BE FEARLESS | Sends an alert to pre-added contacts with the user's location. One can set to send an alert through a phone call, or a Facebook post or a message by simply shaking the phone.

HAWK EYE | This app has an option of an SOS button, through which the police can be informed in case of emergencies and they would reach the location. The alert message would also go to the preset five contacts as well.

WOMEN SAFETY SECURED | Recognises shouting and crying as distress signals and transmits text messages to emergency contacts with the phone's location.

SAFETIPIN | Along with the GPS location, shows directions to safe locations and pins showing safe and unsafe areas on the map along with the feature of SOS to send an emergency alert to preset contacts.

began learning karate. Seeing the way I am shaping up, I now get my friends to learn self-defence techniques." Meanwhile, pepper sprays have also emerged as a secret weapon for many women.

BIG | FRAUD Deal wouldn't be final before customer is happy with proxy's knowledge

Firms boldly advertise on social media

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

The consulting firms' ecosystem is well developed in USA, with robust support structures in India. However, very little has been written about them in popular and mainstream media outlets. Currently, such firms boldly advertise their work on social media websites such as Facebook.

■ The search term "Proxy interview support" returns multiple pages/businesses on Facebook.

■ **SHAIK BASHA**, a middleman of sorts in the city, had advertised his services on many Facebook posts. He said, "We charge \$800 for five proxy interviews."

Selenium (testing tools). "Reach 96401***34 for enquiries," reads one page. Another page says, "Interview support available for both male and female proxies." When this reporter pre-

tended to be in need of proxy interview support for a friend in America, he was told that the services are offered in a "package".

Shaik Basha, a middleman of sorts in the city, had advertised his services on many Facebook posts. He said, "We charge \$800 for five proxy interviews."

He assured the reporter that the deal wouldn't be final before the customer is happy with the proxy's knowledge.

Basha said he was a software engineer working in a firm in the city, and he connected clueless techies in America and experts proxies in India for the extra money.

PROXY SAYS REMOTE HELP IS FOR LIMITED TIME

From Page 1

"I was fired the next day, after a lengthy talk on ethics. Fortunately, she didn't report me to the police," Mahesh said, recalling the incident of his supervisor catching him take the help of proxies.

Mahesh was making \$9,000 a month and paying his proxy \$500 when he was fired. Naresh from the firm in Kavuri Hills said, "Proxy work can only be supported for a few months. By then we expect the graduates to pick

up and be self-sufficient."

What is the end game? Once the optional practical training (OPT) period expires, consultancies kick the graduates out and stop supporting them, since they will likely have to return home.

"We look for those fortunate enough to be picked in the H1B visa lottery. Once this happens, we know we have guaranteed revenue since he can legally stay in America for the next few years and will eventually find a job," he said.

Chilly morning



Following the dip in temperatures over the weekend, children are seen with warm clothes their to school on Monday morning. — P. SURENDRA

POWER SHUTDOWN

9 am to 10 am: Dargah, Riyasathnagar, crossroads area, Indiranagar, Habeebnagar, Moin Bagh, Jawahar Colony, Fateshanagar, Dargah Bharalisha, Rawoofnagar, Kanchanbagh road, Jamal Colony, Rajunagar, Abu Bakr mosque; Old and New Santoshnagar, Owaisinagar, Hasnabad, Royal Sea Hotel, Sana Tea Point, Saraladevinagar, Canara Bank, Tarkari PT, Crystal Bar lane, IS Sadan main road; Lalitabagh, Rakshapura, Timber Depot, Akhtar PT; Kanchanbagh, Rajanarsimha Nagar Colony, Ghousenagar, Indiranagar, Riyasathnagar, Ghulam Mustafa Nagar, Owaisi ground, Midani depot, Hayath Hotel area, Pisalbanda road.

10 am to 2 pm: Noorkhan Bazaar, United Bakery, Noor Café, Komatwadi, Central Bank, Girls School, Darulshifa Chaman, Alisha Kidiki, Gol Khabar, Lal Mitti ki Dargah, GHMC office.

3 pm to 5 pm: Almari Karkhana, Santoshnagar, MIGH, 2 Number Galli, Santoshnagar colony, police station area.

IN BRIEF

HC asks govt on waste disposal

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Monday enquired about the constitution of state level monitoring committee for effective implementation of solid waste management. While dealing with the PIL regarding suffering of the people due to the stench from the Jawaharnagar dumpyard, the division bench, comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy, asked the state whether it had appointed the board to monitor the solid waste management, as per the rules framed by the Union ministry in 2016. The court also sought a reply from the state, if it had not constituted the Board so far, when it will be constituted.

Actress Anasuya lodges complaint

Hyderabad: Popular actress and TV anchor Anasuya Bharadwaj took to Twitter to request Hyderabad cyber crime police to take action against miscreants who abused her. Following this, Anasuya took up the issue with Twitter through E-mail. The Twitter support replied that 'After reviewing the available information we didn't find a violation of our rules in the content you reported.' Ms Bharadwaj then made the request to the police through Twitter. In a swift response the cyber crime police assured her action would be taken against that profile. When contacted, a police official from Hyderabad cyber crime said, "We are taking legal opinion on this after which we will lodge a complaint."

Big blow



Illegal building constructed on the premises of City Light hotel on the RP road being demolished by GHMC officials on Monday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

New GHMC Act to give more powers to chief

Plans to make elected representatives more accountable

MADHY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

TOUGH PROVISIONS

The GHMC Act will be brought in line with the new Municipal Act, which has several tough provisions.

FOR CORPORATORS

■ Commissioner can cancel any resolution passed by a civic body and even suspend chairpersons and take control of the GHMC.

■ Even Cabinet ministers do not have the powers to stay the commissioner's orders.

■ 10 per cent green budget is given from the municipal budget to improve plantation. Corporators are responsible to ensure survival of these plants or could be sacked.

■ Commissioner will check sanitation, hygiene, effective garbage disposal, greenery, maintenance of roads and drainage. Corporators can face action if these are not maintained well.

FOR INDIVIDUALS

■ Individuals who have plots of land less than 500 square metres can get self-certification and pay property tax online.

FOR BUILDERS

■ Builders to have to upload construction progress reports on the prescribed website so that investors have detailed information of the project.

■ Builders who fail to furnish the correct information have to pay a huge penalty.

The state government has asked the GHMC to send proposals to amend the GHMC Act to bring it in line with the new Municipal Act that is currently valid in other urban civic bodies in the state.

The amendments should fill the lacunae in the GHMC Act and make elected representatives more accountable.

The new Municipal Act will reduce human interface between citizens and the bureaucracy by providing facilities such as self-certification and deemed approval for building permissions.

The amendment will enable the government to implement uniform service rules (USR) for municipal staff in all urban local bodies.

It will make corporators responsible for maintaining 85 per cent greenery in their wards, improve sanitation, and ensure roads and streetlighting is provided, among others.

The amendments would give absolute powers to the municipal commissioner who can sack corporators at any time if they are found to be failing to implement the new law.

According to highly

placed sources, municipal administration and urban development principal secretary Arvind Kumar, at a recent interaction with GHMC commissioner D.S. Lokesh, asked him to send the list

of amendments, urban development principal secretary has asked Mr Kumar to mention the lacunae in the existing GHMC Act and give suggestions to rectify them. The government after

vetting the amendments will either amend them through an ordinance or get them passed in the Legislative Assembly. The corporation has begun listing the proposed amendments.

Accolades for 3 city schools

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

Three schools in Telangana state feature in the top ten nationwide in the category of 'budget private schools (BPS)' in a survey conducted by C-Fore.

Mukarram Jah School secured the second position while Sri Vijaya Sai High School, Bodhan, Nizamabad, was ranked eighth and Vasavi High School, Divyanagar at Nirmal was in the ninth place. These 'affordable schools' have been voted by a mix of parents, teachers, senior students, and educationists on 11 parameters of excellence, such as competence of

■ C-FORE conducted the 'Budget Private Schools' Ranking 2020.

faculty, academic reputation, co-curricular education, sports education, value for money, and leadership.

"For parents from low-income households who often make great sacrifices to enrol their children even in affordable private schools, making the right choice of school is even more important than in middle class and elite homes," said Mr Premchand Palety, founder CEO of C-Fore which conducted the inaugural Education Worlds BPS Ranking 2020.

TITA HOLDS 24-HR HACKATHON

Hyderabad/Warangal: Telangana Information Technology Association (TITA) organised a 24-hour hackathon on Monday and inaugurated the Telangana Innovation and Incubation Centre (TIIC) at KITS, Warangal. Rajya Sabha member Banda Prakash asked the students to take advantage of the facility to enhance their employability skills. — INN

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GUV ASKS KIDS TO MAINTAIN CLEANLINESS

Hyderabad: Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan attended National Deworming Day programme at Raj Bhavan High School here on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor asked the students to maintain cleanliness and keep their surroundings neat and tidy. She announced ₹1.5 lakh financial assistance to the school for maintenance of sanitary infrastructure. — INN

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No data of defaulters, yet GHMC fines

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) that has admitted that it does have not details about the actual number of properties in the city has decided to issue red notices to property tax defaulters and seize all movable properties if they fail to pay up.

civic body claimed that it has been issuing notices to repeated defaulters but it does not have accurate numbers. With about 45 days remaining for conclusion of the financial year, the corporation has set a target of ₹680 crore against the annual target of ₹1,800 crore pertaining to property tax. Till date, it has collected ₹1,120 crore. The estimated dues from repeat defaulters are nearly ₹400 crore. The list includes star hotels, restaurants, malls, hospitals and even educational institu-

tions. A red notice is a distress warrant that is executed for recovering movable properties under Section 269 (2) according to the GHMC Act. After seizing the movable properties, the civic body will also share the defaulter data with the electricity department and Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) for disconnection.

Officials said that though data related to repeated defaulters was not available in the headquarters, notices

have been served at the circle level from the available list. Officials said the corporation is yet to receive the purified data, which is after deleting duplicate property tax identification numbers, structures affected in road widening and other major infrastructure projects. They claimed that the corporation had prepared a list of seven categories, where the duplicate data has to be removed to make the accurate list of defaulters. Emphasis will be laid on circle offices that have the

most commercial outlets, such as Abids, Khairatabad, Serilin-gampally and Kukatpally. It has formed teams to identify defaulting malls and stores. With regard to government offices, a majority has assured payment in a week. The government has agreed to pay ₹20 crore annual property tax. Officials also hinted that the government offices did not clear their property tax dues for two financial years, which amounts to ₹60 crore, including the current fiscal.

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SHORT TAKES

CITY YOUTH MISSING OFF PUDUCHERRY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

A 22-year-old youth from Kushaiguda went missing in the Bay of Bengal at Puducherry beach on Monday evening. On learning the news, the family members of the missing boy, N. Nikhil Reddy, left for Puducherry.

Nikhil Reddy, 22, is a resident of Sainagar Colony in Kushaiguda and works at an interior designing company at Gachibowli.

Nikhil along with eight friends went to Puducherry. At around 6 pm on Monday, Nikhil went into the waters and is said to have disappeared.

TWO KILLED AS BIKE HITS DIVIDER

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

A railway employee and a student, both relatives, were killed when the bike they were travelling met with a road accident. One of the bikers was flung into the air and got stuck in the gap between an electricity pole and the wall of the sub-station under the impact of the crash, said a Gachibowli police officer.

According to the police, at around 9.15 pm on Sunday, G. Santhosh, 26, a railway employee from Akkanapally in Siddipet district and A. Rehan, 21, of Akkanapally in Karimnagar, were proceeding from Nanakramguda towards DLF Building, when the accident took place.

When the bike (TS07 BD TR 6202) reached the main road at the Gachibowli sub-station, it ramed into the road divider and the duo flung into the air. Rehan, who was flung from the bike, died on the spot, while Santhosh who suffered critical injuries was shifted to a nearby hospital where doctors declared brought dead.

The police found a helmet on the road but was unsure who was riding the bike. A case has been registered for the investigation.

ELEPHANTS DESTROY CROPS IN AP

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, FEB. 10

Marauding tuskers went on a rampage and destroyed crops on many agricultural farms situated near the Nallamadu forest in Gudipala mandal of Chittoor district.

According to reports, two to three elephants which had strayed from the herd that has moved into the Andhra Pradesh reserve forests from the Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border were spotted in the area late on Sunday.

Villagers said that the elephants had continued rampaging in the farms even on Monday. Paddy crop and vegetable plantations were destroyed.

After being informed about the movement of the elephants, the local forest department officials roped in drumbeaters to drive away them back into the reserve forests. It is said that the situation was brought under control by Monday evening by driving away the wild elephants into the nearby forest.

Techie loses ₹45L on cricket betting

Police launches probe to nab bookies

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. I DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

A young software engineer from the city lost around ₹50 lakh to cricket bookies through online betting. His family members lodged a complaint with the Cyberabad police and preliminary investigation revealed that he bookies are located in Delhi.

During the first week of February, when the Balanagar police received a complaint about the bookies, it was suspected that there could be more

victims. The case has been transferred to the specialized Economic Offences Wing at the headquarters for an in-depth investigation.

The techie, who is in his early 20's had been paying money online to the bookies. He was lured of betting money on runs scored on every ball, player's individual performance and match-winning probability.

For about two years, the techie had been betting the money which was always sent through mobile e-wallet applications. In all, he lost about ₹50 lakh.

The family members of the techie, who noticed him becoming financially burdened, learned about the betting and warned him against it. They also tried to clear off the debts but finally approached the police.

Sources close to the Cyberabad police told *Deccan Chronicle*, "The investigators identified that the bookies have been changing their mobile numbers for every match and the techie is said to have received a new link for a new match to deposit the money."

Delivery exec robbed, 3 held

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

In two separate cases, three people who were involved in robbing passengers and food delivery executives were arrested by the Cyberabad police on Monday.

On February 3, the Jagadgirigutta police received a complaint from food delivery executive Naveen (name changed) at around 10 pm. Naveen got an order for a delivery at Jeedimetla. While he was on his way, a stranger called him on the phone and asked him to reach a place other than the one mentioned while ordering the food.

After Naveen reached the said place, he was manhandled and his mobile was stolen. The police analysed the call data records of the accused and identified them as K. Manideep, 20, of Indiranagar in Jubilee

Hills, Vinay of Borabanda and Veeresh of Jeedimetla.

The police teams on Monday arrested Manideep while the other two are still at large and the stolen mobile is not recovered yet.

In another instance, the Jeedimetla police of Cyberabad commissionerate arrested Osman, 35, an autorickshaw driver, and Mohd Jaffar, 20, who were involved in stealing mobiles from passengers.

The duo stole a mobile and ₹500 from a passenger who boarded the autorickshaw at Gajularamaram on February 6. The duo was also involved in three similar thefts at Borabanda and was earlier arrested by the SR Nagar police in 2017. The police recovered four mobile phones, and the owners of three of the phones are to be identified.

DRIVER GETS 7-YR RI FOR MOLESTATION

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

An autorickshaw driver was sentenced to seven years rigorous imprisonment for outraging the modesty of a seven-year-old girl last year. First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Suneetha Kunchala pronounced the judgment on Monday.

The sentence was delivered in about four and a half months from the date the complaint was filed in September last year.

The accused, Mohd Nayeem, 35, was hired to take a seven-year-old-girl to school and drop her back regularly. On September 29, 2019, when he came to pick up the child, her father told Nayeem to drop her at a relative's house in the evening, where his family was to attend a function.

Nayeem did as instructed. After he left, the girl started weeping. When asked about the reason she narrated her ordeal to her parents. After dropping all other schoolmates, the auto driver made her sit on his lap, forced her to hold his private part and pressed her all over th body.

Afterwards he warned her not to disclose the matter to anyone in her family and dropped her as instructed at her relatives' house.

The parents filed a complaint at the Nampally police station and the police investigation started and soon a chargesheet was filed.

During the trial in a child-friendly court, which specifically deals with cases tried under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the accused was found guilty under Section 9(m) and Section 10(d) of the POCSO Act, and under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code and was convicted under Section 235(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code, the police said on Monday.

Teen found murdered in her house

PULI SHARAT KUMAR I DC KARIMNAGAR, FEB. 10

A first year intermediate student was killed by an unidentified person in broad daylight in Vidyanagar of Karimnagar city on Monday. Mutta Radhika, studying

in Sahasra Junior College in the city, had her throat slit when she was in her house situated near the Padmavathi function hall in Vidyanagar.

Radhika's parents who are daily wage labourers were shocked to see their daughter lying in a pool of blood when they returned home from work in the evening. They immediately informed their neighbours who informed the police.

The police rushed to the house with a dog squad and started investigating under

the supervision of Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Srinivas.

The role of some students living on the top floor of the building have come under suspicion. Police teams have started looking for the murderer.

<p>FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY "Whoever hears my word, and believes him that sent me, has life everlasting; and comes not into judgement, but is passed from death to life." John 5:24</p>  <p>MATHEW PAPPACHAN DOB: 19-01-1941 DOD: 11-02-2019 Prayer Service at Mother Mary Malankara Catholic Church, Picket at 8:00 a.m. Ph: 9989819088 Wife, Children and Grand Children</p>	<p>MEMORIAL SERVICE What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah. Psalms 89:48</p>  <p>GURNOOR DEVAMMA W/o Late Gurnoor Obed DOB: 25-07-1919 DOD: 01-02-2020 Ceremony held on today at 11.00 am at residence. Inserted by: Son G. Jayaprakash, Daughters: Flarance, Pushpa & Grand Children (A/1920/D00125)</p>	<p>12th DAY CEREMONY</p>  <p>Smt. S.M. SESHU RANGAPATI DOD: 1st Feb. 2020 12th Day Ceremony on 12th Feb. 2020 at Jal Vayu Towers, Community Hall, Lower Tankbund at 12.30 pm onwards. Ph: 7893920892 (S/1920/D01826)</p>	<p>FUNERAL SERVICE</p>  <p>FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE (Flary) We deeply regret on the sad demise of our Mother on 9.2.2020. The body will be kept at Om Nagar Light House till 11.00 a.m. Funeral Services would be today at Kukatpally near Railway Station (Christian Graveyard) at 12.30 p.m. For further details contact: 8919048480, 8886330932. Inserted by: Son & Daughters (S/1920/D01829)</p>
<p>FIRST ANNIVERSARY 'I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever' - Psalms 23:6</p>  <p>MR. ABRAHAM PRATHIPATI, IAS (Retd) Former Secretary, Ministry of Power, Govt. of India Inserted by: T. Sunil Kumar & Blessing Johnson</p>	<p>17th ANNIVERSARY</p>  <p>G.H. SHARMA D.O.B: 11.02.1945 D.O.D: 11.02.2003 Sadly missed along life's way, quietly remembered everyday. In our Hearts you are always there. Inserted by: Family Members Staff - CALX International, Secunderabad Ph: 27750036, 9391057435</p>	<p>6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY</p>  <p>Smt. S. SATYAVATHI BAI W/o Pathange Venkat Rao DOB: 06-03-1957 DOD: 11-02-2014 You are near, even if we don't see you... You are with us even if you are far away... You are in our hearts, our thoughts and our lives always... We miss you Mummy... Inserted by: DIVYA, KAVYA (S/1920/D01826)</p>	<p>REMEMBRANCE</p>  <p>Md. SHAMEEMUDDIN Expired: 08.02.2020 Will Miss You Shameem Uncle Shahbaz, Rubina & Family</p>
<p>OBITUARY</p>  <p>Dr. Ramesh P. Gupta Retd. Addl. Gen. Manager, Wind Energy - BHEL (R&D) D.O.B.: 17-04-1942 D.O.D.: 09-02-2020 CREMATION ON TUESDAY 11-02-2020 Funeral Procession starts at 11.00 am from Residence: H.No.5-8-1050, Sri Lekha Apts, Flat No.203, Gunfoundry, Hyd-01 Inserted by: Bereaved Family Members PH. 8008956092</p>	<p>INTEQAL We regret to inform you of the sad demise of Hazrat Alhaj Mir Hamid Ali Sahab S/late Hazrat Mir Saadath Ali former Dy. Commissioner of Erstwhile Hyd. on 10th of February 2020. He was laid to rest at the ancestral graveyard at Dargah Hazrat Mohammed Hussain Abul Ulaai Aghapura. Zirath on 11th February after Namaz e Asar at Dargah Hazrat Mohammed Hussain Abul Ulaai Aghapura. May Almighty Exalt his ranks in the Heaven. Mir Samee Ali. 7674900509</p>	<p>WEDDING DAY REMEMBRANCE And God Blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful... Genesis 1: 28.</p>  <p>Dr. SURYA RAO & Mrs. NIRMALA SARIPALLI D.O.D: 31-7-2019 D.O.D: 27-1-2016 ...I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain... John 15:16. Inserted by: Children, Grand & Great Grand Children, Siblings and loved ones. Ph: 9676311907</p>	<p>FIRST ANNIVERSARY 'I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever' - Psalms 23:6</p>  <p>MR. ABRAHAM PRATHIPATI, IAS (Retd) Former Secretary, Ministry of Power, Govt. of India Inserted by: SUVERA GROUP OF COMPANIES</p>

Facing threats, says TV actor

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

Television actor R. Ravi Kiran has lodged a complaint with the Kukatpally police of cheating and allegedly being threatened by a friend who borrowed money from him.

Kiran, a resident of Green Hills road in Moosapet, lodged the complaint on Sunday stating that he had lent ₹45 lakh to one Sandeep, a resident of Ramnagar, a friend in the film industry. Sandeep had asked Ravi for help as he was running short of money for film distribution in September 2018.

After a few days, Sandeep returned about ₹3.75 lakh but failed to clear the remaining debt, Kiran

told the police. When he pressurised Sandeep to repay the remaining amount, Kiran was allegedly threatened. Ravi also told the police that a group of people has been following him to shooting locations and is threatening him not to ask Sandeep for repayment.

The actor alleged that he learned about Sandeep having cheated several others by collecting money on the pretext of movie distribution business and failed to repay the amounts.

Following his complaint, the Kukatpally police booked a case against Sandeep on the charges of cheating, criminal intimidation and breach of trust and have taken up the investigation.

When asked about the reason she narrated her ordeal to her parents. After dropping all other schoolmates, the auto driver made her sit on his lap, forced her to hold his private part and pressed her all over th body.

The parents filed a complaint at the Nampally police station and the police investigation started and soon a chargesheet was filed.

During the trial in a child-friendly court, which specifically deals with cases tried under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the accused was found guilty under Section 9(m) and Section 10(d) of the POCSO Act, and under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code and was convicted under Section 235(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code, the police said on Monday.

Cops lax in guarding rifles

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY I DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

The police has come under the scanner in the wake of their failure to achieve a breakthrough, leave alone nailing the culprit, with the regard to the sensational disappearance of an AK-47 in 2017.

That incident is back in the news after police personnel recovered the AK-47 and a 9mm carbine from a shepherd living at Akkannapet in Siddipet district. They could never find out where the weapon that went missing was. The laxity drew condemnation because the missing weapon was used by the gunman of a circle inspector.

A case was registered into the incident. Pointed questions related to how an assault rifle went missing from the police station,

how one could walk away so easily with an AK-47 and, most importantly, who had dared to do it.

It was quirk of fate that it was traced when the shepherd D. Sadanandam opened two rounds of fire at his neighbour.

In 2014, a Greyhounds police constable was held by the Hyderabad police after he opened fire at the busy KBR Park in Banjara Hills in an attempt to escape after a vain bid to kidnap a pharma company owner.

The constable, Obulesu, had stolen the AK-47 in 2013, and it was only after a year, and on his arrest, that the weapon was recovered from his possession.

Apparently, the department has not lessons from this experience. Safeguarding arms and ammunition is a fundamental duty of the department. It would prove disastrous if

they go into the hands of criminals and those with such a bent of mind.

A similar incident had taken place at Siddipet district.

Meanwhile, the shepherd using the weapon has put in more fear among the public. They are concerned over safety aspects and wonder what could have happened if the firing had taken place at a crowded place or if the accused had opened fire indiscriminately.

Weapons are allotted to each police station from the Bell of Arms at the district police headquarters and details would be noted. At the police station level, the allotment of weapons would be noted by a station writer or by the in-charge of Bell of Arms.


In the Husnabad incident, it was said that the details of weapons and live

rounds issue were reportedly not noted. Once or twice in a year, an inspection has to be done by senior officials to check the condition of the weapons issued and the count of live rounds, which was also reportedly not done in this case.

The reasons for the police officials not disclosing full details about Husnabad firing and also on how the weapons landed in the hands of a common man have also raised several doubts.

Meanwhile, the inspector of the police station at the time the weapon went missing is now retired and the then superintendent of police has since been elevated and posted in another wing. Senior officials at the headquarters are tight-lipped on who has to be held responsible for this incident. And that is a bigger tragedy.

In Memory



Sri S.P. SAMPATHY
22-10-1927 : 11-02-2005

This day that year, we woke up with no fear, dawn broke out like ever as sweet, little did we know that as the day goes by our hearts were destined to miss a beat. It has been one and a half decade,

We were once little angels, your path helped us soar like eagles, With closed eyes & heavy hearts, we savor those moments.

Your aura still exists as ever, our love & faith in you shall die never, We shall be truthful & loyal tomorrow & now, and we swear to uphold human values, a Pledge that we give to our dear Sir with Love.

Inserted by the Management, Staff and Students of S.P. Sampathy's Siva Sivani Group of Institutions, Kompally

Smt. S. Aarathy President	Sri Sailesh Sampathy Vice-President	Smt. Deepika Sampathy Secretary
Dr. Neeraj Sampathy Member	Dr. Preeti Sampathy Member	Dr. V.G. Chari Member
Sri Z. Ramesh Kumar Member	Smt. P. Mamatha Member	Sri Y. Anand Reddy Member
Smt. Mamata Shah Member	S.P. Sampathy's Siva Sivani Educational Society, Regd.No. 2906 of 1997	

IN BRIEF

TS names 5 info commissioners

Hyderabad: The Telangana government on Monday appointed five information commissioners. Orders announcing the appointments were issued by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar. The orders were issued once the Governor accepted the proposal for the appointments from the state government. Mr K. Shekar Reddy, Mr M. Narayana Reddy, Mr G. Shankar Naik, Mr Syed Khaleelullah and Dr Mohammed Ameer Hussain will be the new state information commissioners. The order said that the State Information Commissioners will hold office for three years from the date of assuming office or till they attain the age of 65 years whichever is earlier.

New film institute for State soon

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has decided to develop a film institute with international standards in Hyderabad near Shamsabad, said Minister of Film and Cinematography, Talasani Srinivas Yadav. The minister held a meeting with prominent film actors, officials of revenue department, home department, law department officials and other concerned departments at Annapurna Studios in Banjara Hills on Monday. The minister said that the state government is willing to provide the necessary support for the development of the Telugu film industry and its workers.

MLA ASKED TO PROVE CITIZENSHIP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

The Telangana High Court directed TRS Vemulavada legislator Dr Ch. Ramesh to produce an official and authentic document issued by the German authorities which says that he was not a citizen of Germany.

Dealing with the plea of Dr Ramesh for staying a Union home ministry's order which cancelled his Indian citizenship, Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili on Monday directed the petitioner to submit the affidavit and evidence that he has relinquished the German Citizenship and which was also approved by the German government. The judge extended the interim stay, issued earlier by Justice Challa Kodandaram, on the citizenship suspension order of the home ministry against Dr Ramesh by another two weeks.

The Centre informed the court that Dr Ramesh had the German citizenship and had submitted that he had travelled to other countries on the German passport. With that, the judge directed the petitioner to submit the evidence. Ravi Kiran Rao, counsel for Mr Adi Srinivas, petitioner before the Union home ministry, informed the court that Dr Ramesh had concealed crucial information pertaining to his stay in India prior to the elections and that he is still a citizen of Germany though he has contested elections.

Welcoming Lankan PM



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa is received on his arrival at the Sri Padmavathi guest house in Tirumala on Monday. Mr Mahinda, who is on a five-day visit to India, will offer worship at the Lord Balaji temple on Tuesday.

— DC

No more joint collectors in TS

KCR initiates additional collector's system

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

Ahead of the district collectors' conference, Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao has initiated reforms in the administration and revenue departments. Mr Rao has removed the age old joint collector's system and replaced it with the additional collector's system. There will be no joint collectors in the district administration now.

The Telangana government has appointed 47 additional collectors to the districts. In some districts the existing joint collectors have been redesignated as additional collectors. In some districts the state government has posted two additional collectors, one to

look after revenue matters and the other to look after local bodies. Two additional collectors have been appointed in 10 districts. IAS officers and non cadre officers have been appointed as additional collectors in some districts. The removal of the joint collector's post and creation of additional collectors is part of the proposed revenue reforms of the Chief Minister.

The collectors' conference will be held on

Tuesday. The CM is expected to explain the proposed revenue reforms and the new revenue bill to be introduced in the Assembly in the ensuing Budget session.

At the district level, mandal revenue officers and revenue divisional officers are likely to lose some powers as per new Revenue Act. Though some revenue employees' associations have opposed the reforms, the CM is very keen on the reforms and will explain their importance to the district collectors.

In any government, the revenue department is the most corrupt, as several surveys have shown, and the CM hopes to make this department corruption free by introducing the reforms.

Farmers to stage protests

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee on Monday announced a nationwide protest against the Union Budget, which, the group said, has deceived farmers and imposed significant cuts in support to agriculture and the rural economy.

The AIKSSC's state unit will organise protests in all districts and explain to people how the Budget has short-changed farmers and failed to declare any measures to improve their incomes, and the purchasing power of rural households.

The AIKSSC accused the Narendra Modi government of reducing the share of the rural economy in the Budget from 9.83 per cent of

the total budget in 2019-20 to 9.30 per cent for the forthcoming year.

"It is mostly a rehash of existing schemes including failed schemes, and a couple of flashy announcements such as Kisan Rail and Krishi Udaan, all of which are not expected to increase real incomes of small and marginal farmers," AIKSSC's national working group member Kiran Kumar Vissa told reporters.

The Modi government is yet again communicating to farmers that they do not matter to them, he said.

The budget also disappointed with no provisions for tenant farmers/land lessees despite ground level evidence pointing to high levels of land leasing for cultivation, and acute distress of such farmers who cultivate on leased lands.

Nirmala says TS got ₹1.5tr in 6 yrs

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that the Centre has released ₹1,15,799 crore to Telangana state under various heads in the last six years. However, TRS leaders say that the state did not get anything in addition when compared to other states. They say all these are statutory allotments.

Replying to a question by Congress MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy in the Lok Sabha, Ms Sitharaman said that state Budget documents show that Telangana state is a revenue surplus state since 2014-15. She said that the debt-GSDP (Gross

State Domestic Product) ratio from 2014-15 to 2019-20 the Budget estimates, though on a rising trend, is within the envelope prescribed by the 14th Finance Commission for its award period and also in line with the medium-term fiscal policy statements of Telangana state.

Ms Sitharaman said that the grants in aid to the states are released based on the applicable guidelines by the Union government. She said that the utilisation certificates submitted by the state government of Telangana against the Central assistance released, wherever applicable, are carried out by the concerned ministries and departments.

FUNDS RELEASED IN SIX YEARS

Head	Amount
Tax devolutions	85,013
Disaster Management Fund	1,289.04
Assistance to backward districts	1,916
Rural development	3,853
Centrally sponsored schemes	51,298.84
Women and child development	1,500.54
Local bodies	6,511

(Figures in ₹ crore)

BJP leader steps down from post

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

State BJP spokesperson M. Raghunandhan Rao has decided to stay away from party activities following the allegations made against him. He faces a case of alleged rape and extortion filed against him as an advocate by a woman.

Sources in the party said that Mr Rao wrote to BJP state president Dr K.

Laxman and in-charge Krishnadas that he is morally responsible for the allegations made against him.

The letter stated that he has decided to stay away from party activities until the case is decided by the court.

A senior leader from the BJP said that Mr Raghunandhan Rao also stated that he is quitting the post of official spokesperson.

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F.No. 2-34/SERB-RNA/2020 10th February, 2020

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

A Walk-in-interview will be held on 17th February, 2020 at Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), Hyderabad for selection to the position of JRF under project/schemes. For details with regard to number of positions, eligibility, etc., you may visit IIRR website www.iirr.org.in

Sd/- Senior Administrative Officer

TRS isn't present in 2 TS districts

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi has created a record by having party offices in all districts in the state. Construction of offices remains to be completed only in two districts — Peddapalli and Suryapet.

The offices will be inaugurated as soon as Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao has the time to do so. The TRS has spent

₹19.20 crore on these party offices at the rate of ₹60 lakh for each office.

The state government allotted one acre of land to the TRS in each district to construct the party headquarters. The land was allotted at the market rate of ₹100 per square yard, which works out to ₹4.84 lakh per acre. The project began on June 24, 2019 and the CM wanted all the offices to be ready by Dasara last year. But the construction in some dis-

tricts was delayed.

Now that all the offices bar two are ready, inaugurating them depends on the CM. With the budget session of the state assembly coming up in the last week of this month or first week of March, the inauguration cannot be held then, so if it is not done before, then March 25, the eve of Ugadi (Telugu New Year) is the likeliest date for the inauguration.

No other political party has offices in all dis-

tricts. The decades old Congress party does not have a party office in the state capital, Hyderabad — the Telangana Congress party office is run from the Gandhi Bhavan Trust in Hyderabad for which a nominal rent is paid.

When Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy was CM of the undivided state, his government allotted land to the party for construction of an office at Ambedkar Basthi near Nampally, but it was stuck in a legal dispute.

ANDHRA PRADESH

CM is like a father figure to the state: Jagan

From Page 1

Visakhapatnam, the opposition says, is prone to cyclones?

All nine coastal districts, including Guntur and Krishna where the capital city Amaravati was proposed to be developed, are vulnerable to natural calamities, like cyclonic storms. We had witnessed one in Diviseema in Krishna district and the Hudhud in Visakhapatnam — no district is completely immune.

As per the TD government's own estimates, it would cost more than ₹1 lakh crore to develop Amaravati. With only around 10 per cent of that amount, we can develop Visakhapatnam into a ready capital for our state. We are already paying an annual interest of ₹500 crore on funds spent on Amaravati so far. Besides, it is the prerogative of the CM and government to locate the capital, keeping administrative convenience in mind. Let us also not forget that BJP had also promised to locate the High Court in Kurnool in its manifesto.

You seem to be on a path of 'creative destruction' as can be seen from the way you have initiated steps to revolutionise education

by making English the mandatory medium of instruction in primary education, and opting for reverse tendering of several projects initiated by the previous TD regime, the "navaratnalu" welfare measures, or the drastic measures to reduce alcohol consumption?

The CM is like a father figure to the state and the people. Failing to develop a state even after having authority to do so is a sin. A CM's vision can make or break a state. I have visualised the future of our young generation for the next 20 years. If our children have to pursue higher studies and find more employment opportunities globally, they need to be thorough with English. We all know that only poor families send their children to government schools and we are determined to teach them English at zero cost. Similarly, health is of paramount importance to our government. We will increase teaching hospitals from the present 11 to 27 in the next five years. We will supply 510 varieties of medicines having WHO and good manufacturing practice standards to all government hospitals by end of April. Our government will fill all vacant posts in hospitals to

provide better healthcare to people. We have already demonstrated that we can save thousands of crores of rupees by opting for reverse tendering of contracts awarded by the previous TD regime, which were marred by corruption. In Polavaram alone, we saved ₹830 crore.

The opposition says the government is delaying Polavaram in the guise of reverse tendering.

The Polavaram project got stalled because the previous TD regime mishandled its execution. Without constructing a spillway, they rushed to build a coffer dam, which resulted in the rise of water levels leading to inundation of more villages. Our government has issued orders to take up construction of spillway immediately and works are going on in full swing. We are going to complete the Polavaram irrigation project by June, 2021. There may be some delay in the execution of Polavaram power project, maybe by a year or so. Relief and resettlement is estimated to cost us around ₹33,000 crore but we will implement it as per statute.

How confident are you of implementing your flagship welfare programme of Navaratnalu

(nine gems) given the precarious financial position of the state?

You have all been witnessing how committed we are to implementing our poll promises. Some schemes were launched well ahead of schedule of promise made in the manifesto. They will generate economic activity. It is true our financial resources are not good but they are expected to improve, year on year. We will be able to implement all welfare schemes.

The Special Category Status (SCS) would have been of great help to the state. The BJP has time and again said that it is a closed chapter. What is your stand?

Getting SCS to a state can never be a closed chapter. We have been insisting on getting the status persistently. Whenever we meet the Prime Minister, we are raising this issue. Perhaps, I believe that when Centre requires support of MPs from AP in the Parliament on some issues, then we will put more pressure on the centre and use every chance to get such status. We are confident that in due course of time AP will get SCS.

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IN BRIEF

Kaleshwaram covers Chennur

Hyderabad: The state government has issued an order to initiate a survey in order to provide Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation project water to Chennur constituency of Mancherial district. With this, the government's ambition to provide water to the agricultural lands of the neighboring areas of Kaleshwaram will become a reality. The water will irrigate about 1.35 lakh in the constituency. During the 2018 Assembly elections, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had promised the people of Chennur that the government would provide Godavari water to their region. Chennur TRS MLA Balka Suman thanked Mr Chandrasekhar Rao and TRS working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao for keeping up their promise. — *INN*

HC takes up DLF land deal

Revanth claims 31.35 acre govt land allotted to realty firms illegally

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA I DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

The Telangana High Court on Monday directed the state government and certain real estate companies to respond to a public interest litigation filed against them by Congress MP A. Revanth Reddy who sought a direction to the state government to take back about 31.35 acres of land at Rayadurg in Serilingampally, Ranga Reddy district, from DLF Rayadurg Developers Private Limited.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy on Monday issued notices to

the Chief Secretary, principal secretaries of industries and commerce and municipal administration departments, vice-chairman of the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd, DLF Ltd, DLF Rayadurg Developers, Acqua Space Developers, and My Home Constructions represented by its managing director Jupalli Rameshwar Rao. All these officials and respondents have to file their response within four weeks.

Mr Revanth Reddy said that the authorities had acted arbitrarily and illegally in parting with the government land in favour of private entities and allowed them to make

■ **MR REVANTH Reddy** said that the authorities had acted arbitrarily and illegally in parting with the government land in favour of private entities and allowed them to make huge profits at the cost of the state exchequer.

■ **IF THE land parcel** was auctioned in the open market, it would have fetched ₹2,926 crore for the state exchequer.

huge profits at the cost of the state exchequer. If the land parcel was auctioned in the open market, it

would have fetched ₹2,926 crore for the state exchequer. Mr Revanth Reddy said Acqua Space Developers was a wholly-owned entity of My Home Constructions. "Rather, it is a shell company of My Home Constructions," the PIL said.

The ultimate beneficiary of the land is My Home Constructions belonging to a person close to ruling party leaders of the state, Mr Revanth Reddy added.

According to the Congress MP, the erstwhile undivided Andhra Pradesh government had allotted about 424 acres of land to set up an integrated IT Park at Rayadurg in favour of Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (subsequent-

ly Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation).

Later, a part of this land, or 31.35 acres, was offered by the TSIC to developers as per the state's information technology policy. One of the applicants was DLF Limited.

In 2014, Aqua Space Developers made a representation to TSIC for exchange of land transferred in its favour which was given in the name of DLF.

Mr Revanth Reddy has alleged that the authorities acted in violation of the relevant statutory provisions, rules and regulations to benefit private parties.

The hearing was adjourned for four weeks.

State violated UGC norms: Petitioner

From Page 1

Contending that it was a violation of UGC regulations and the Universities Act, the petitioner submitted that regular V-Cs and members of executive councils (ECs) have to be appointed without delay. Further, the state had not bothered to fill the EC positions meant for Class-II members the past five years.

"As per the Universities Act, an EC panel with 11 members has to decide on elevating the V-C to that particular university and vice-chancellor should have worked as a Professor. This rule was upheld by the Supreme Court several times," the petitioner submitted.

■ **THE PETITIONER** sought a direction to the state to appoint the senior-most faculty of the respective universities as in-charge vice-chancellors till the new regular vice-chancellors are appointed.

The petitioner sought a direction to the state to appoint the senior-most faculty of the respective universities as in-charge vice-chancellors till the new regular vice-chancellors are appointed.

The bench directed the state to file its counter. It also issued notices to all universities in the state to submit their contention on the issues raised in the PIL.

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SHORT TAKES

SEARCH FOR HOAX CALLER CONTINUES

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

Five days after the hoax bomb threat on Thursday, the Railway police is yet to nab the miscreant who made the call which threw passengers into a panic and delayed the Vijayawada intercity express for two hours.

On Thursday at about 5.30 am, the police received a call saying a bomb had been planted near the battery of C1 and C2 compartments of the Train 12796 Vijayawada Intercity Express.

GRP inspector K. Adi Reddy told *Deccan Chronicle*, "a special team has been formed to trace the miscreant and investigation is going on. Call data shows the call was made from Hayathnagar and after some time the phone was switched off at Nizampet. The address proof shows that the caller is from West Godavari district."

The train which started from Lingampally at around 4.30 am was stopped at Secunderabad station. GRP and RPF personnel with the help of the bomb squad and sniffer dogs launched a search for the explosive. After two hours of searching and confirming that it was only a hoax call, the train resumed its journey to Vijayawada at 7.30 am.

The police has booked a case for giving false information, obstructing a public servant in discharging duty, statements conducive to public mischief, and criminal intimidation.

■ **ON THURSDAY** at about 5.30 am, the police received a call saying a bomb had been planted near the battery of C1 and C2 compartments of the Vijayawada Intercity Express

State continues to remain free of nCov

Total 74 individuals who were tested, found free of virus

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

The State health department on Monday said that Telangana state continues to remain free of novel coronavirus cases. All samples from possible suspect cases tested so far have been found to be negative.

With four samples tested Sunday returning negative for the disease, the total number of individuals tested for the disease and found to be free from it, is 74.

On Monday, two persons checked into Gandhi General Hospital for screening for the disease, the health department said. Their test results are expected on Tuesday.

The department again appealed to people to call



Patients at Gandhi hospital face severe problems at the entrance due to lack of wheel chairs and stretchers. Attendants carry the patients on chairs.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

the 24-hour telephone helpline, 040-24651119 set

up by the government if they have any questions

or concerns related to the coronavirus.

Japan to test all on board stranded ship

From Page 1

"What is the use of coming to rescue after things get out of hand?" he asked.

"Please save us. Life is more important than a job," he told *Deccan Chronicle* via a phone message.

Meanwhile, First Secretary Anil Kumar Kalra of the Indian Embassy's consular wing at Tokyo told *Deccan Chronicle* on Monday that there were no Indian passengers that tested positive.

■ **FIRST SECRETARY** of the Indian Embassy's consular wing at Tokyo told that there were no Indian passengers that tested positive

"We are in touch with the Indians on board through the Foreign Ministry and the Japanese Health Ministry. Some of the passengers are in touch with us directly through email," Mr Kalra said.

Reports in Japanese media quoting Health Minister Katsunobu Kato

said the government was considering testing all crew members and passengers. The ship has about 3,700 passengers and crew.

"So far only 500 people have been tested," Sarkar said. "Right now, only those who are reporting more than 37.5 degrees of body temperature are being tested," he said.

In an update, Princess Cruises confirmed an additional 66 cases of Coronavirus from Australia (four), Canada (one), England (one),

Japan (45), Philippines (three), Ukraine (one) and USA (eleven).

"We are following guidance from the Japan Ministry of Health on plans for disembarkation protocols to provide medical care for these new cases. Since it is early in the quarantine period of 14-days, it was not unexpected that additional cases would be reported involving individuals who were exposed prior to the start of the quarantine," the company said.

GHMC goes against state govt, evicts 50K hawkers

MADHY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 10

While the state government mentions the system of hawkers with pride, the Enforcement, Vigilance and Disaster Management (EVD) wing of the GHMC is busy evicting them from the streets.

The state government had in a report submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), India, stated that the hawker system in Hyderabad was the backbone of the city's economy with nearly two lakh people engaged in this activity. However, the EVDM has allegedly kicked out about 50,000 hawkers from their spots as part of its enforcement drives.

According to highly placed sources, Hyderabad city, which was awarded the title of 'Creative City of Gastronomy' from Unesco recently, had explained the importance of hawkers and their effort in strengthening the economy of the city.

The government, in its report to Unesco had said that apart from selling creative food at affordable prices, the hawker commu-

■ **THE GOVERNMENT**, in its report to Unesco had said that apart from selling creative food at affordable prices, the hawker community also provided employment for 2 lakh individuals in the unorganised sector

■ **ON THE** on the hand, public representatives in the GHMC council meeting held on Saturday alleged that the footpath encroachment removal drive and defacement drive taken up by EVDM has displaced 50,000 hawkers

nity also provided employment for 2 lakh individuals in the unorganised sector. It had pointed out that the information technology community has generated four lakh jobs, but this is only restricted to one part of the city.

However, public representatives in the GHMC council meeting held on Saturday alleged that the footpath encroachment removal drive and defacement drive taken up by EVDM has displaced 50,000 hawkers. The allegations were made by MIM MLA Meraj Hussain, MIM MLC

Syed Amin Jafri and corporators cutting across party lines.

Members present in the council unanimously agreed that this was a great loss to the city's economy. They demanded that Mayor Bonthu Rammohan explain under what provisions the EVDM wing was set up.

The members said that they were not against penalising violators, but the harassment and hefty penalties that are being slapped on people were unjustified. The elected representatives also said that the as many as 50,000 hawkers lost their livelihood, which was against the interest of the city's economy.

Though the council did not make any effort to reinstate the 50,000 hawkers, the objections did convince the council to rethink the hefty penalties, and a resolution was passed for a committee to be constituted to decide the penal amounts.

But the million dollar question which was not answered was how the GHMC would provide employment to the large number of hawkers who have lost their livelihood.

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SHORT TAKES

MAHA TEACHER SET ON FIRE BY STALKER DIES

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, FEB. 10

The 25-year-old woman lecturer, who was allegedly set ablaze by a stalker at Hinganghat in Wardha district last week, died Monday morning. Expressing grief, chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said the case would be tried in a fast-track court.

Vikesh Nagrale (27) had allegedly set afire Ankita Pisudde on February 3. She suffered 35 to 40 per cent burns and was undergoing treatment at the Orange City Hospital and Research Centre.

Pisudde sustained deep burn injuries on the scalp, face, right upper limb, left hand, upper back, neck and eyes along with severe inhalation injuries. She died of "septicemic shock" after suffering from deep dermal burns along with severe inhalation injuries, respiratory distress and related complications, the hospital said in a medical bulletin. "Doctors at the hospital declared her dead at 6.55 am today," Hinganghat police inspector Satyaveer Bandiwar said. Pisudde was cremated in the presence of thousands in Daroda village Monday evening.

B'LURU CAA STIR ATTRACTS POLICE IRE

M.K. ASHOKA | DC BENGALURU, FEB. 10

Hundreds of men and women along with their children sat on an indefinite dharna against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the proposed NRC near Bilal Masjid on Tannery Road in the city despite the police repeatedly warning them to evacuate the place.

The protesters voiced their dissent through art, music, skits and speeches and are also considering screening movies on Mahatma Gandhi. One of the students who participated in the protest said, "The police have warned service providers like the shamiyana contractor and the sound system provider to take away their equipment. But we are not moving an inch."

Another protester held a placard which read, 'A cow ate my document.' She said, "This is not about minorities. They (the government) will target the vulnerable and the weak and continue to be discriminatory. It is heartening to see women here with children, the situation had empowered them," she explained.



COUNCILLOR OF TMC COMMITS SUICIDE

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, FEB. 10

A female Trinamul Congress councillor committed suicide by jumping in front of a speeding train at Shreerampore in Hooghly on Monday. Rama Nath (48), the deceased, was a spinster. She was the councillor of Ward Number 16 of the Trinamul-ruled Shreerampore municipality. The incident took place at around 12 p.m. at Shreerampore railway station.

Nath was seen sitting on a bench at Platform Number 2 for a long time, the tea-stall owners recalled. As the Down Sheorafuli local train entered the platform, she jumped in front of it. Later, the body parts were recovered by railway police and sent for post-mortem at Sreerampore Walsh Hospital.

No suicide note has been recovered so far. According to local residents, Nath's name cropped in the illegal fill-up of a pond in the area recently. Trinamul district president of Hooghly Dilip Yadav, however, indicated that Nath's name might have been dropped in the upcoming municipal election in the state.

"A list of candidates under the reservation category has come out in view of the ensuing civic polls. Ward Number 16 falls under the same category," he said.

RAHUL SAYS IT'S IN BJP-RSS DNA TO ERASE QUOTA

New Delhi, Feb. 10: It is in the DNA of the BJP and the RSS to try and erase reservations, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Monday and asserted that his party will not allow doing away with quota.

Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, he said, "We will not allow reservation to be done away with, no matter how much Modi Ji or Mohan Bhagwat dream of it." Gandhi's attack on the ruling party came over the BJP government of Uttarakhnad contending in the Supreme Court that there was no fundamental right to claim reservation in appointments or promotions in public posts, and there was no constitutional duty on the part of the state governments to provide reservations. "The RSS and the BJP cannot stand the idea that Dalits, tribals and OBCs have reservations," he told reporters outside Parliament. —PTI



WE WILL not allow reservation to be done away with, no matter how much Modi Ji or Mohan Bhagwat dream of it

RAHUL GANDHI, Congress leader

SC/ST Act valid, rules apex court

Pre-arrest bail if no prima facie proof

PARMODO KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 10

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the amendment to the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act by which Parliament had restored the stringent provisions of the law which were watered down by the court by its March 2018 judgment.

Upholding the amendments to the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act brought in to neutralise the dilution of the stringent provisions by the Supreme Court's 2018 ruling, a bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Vineet Saran said that "in cases where no prima facie materials exist warranting arrest in a complaint, the court has the inherent power to direct pre-arrest bail".

Speaking for the bench, Justice Mishra said that a "preliminary inquiry is permissible" only in certain circumstances and "if the complaint does not make out a prima facie case for applicability of the act, the bar created by Section 18 and Section 18A(i) shall not apply".

Justice Mishra added that a court can, "in exceptional cases, exercise powers under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for quashing cases to prevent misuse of provisions on settled parameters..."

A BENCH of Justices Arun Mishra and Vineet Saran said that "in cases where no prima facie materials exist warranting arrest in a complaint, the court has the inherent power to direct pre-arrest bail"

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Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, while agreeing with Justice Mishra, said: "Any interference with the provisions of the Act, particularly with respect to the amendments precluding preliminary enquiry, or provisions which remove the bar against arrest of public servants accused of offences punishable under the Act, would not be a positive step."

On the issue of the SC/ST law being used to level false allegations, Justice Bhat said: "It is important to keep oneself reminded that while sometimes (perhaps mostly in urban areas) false accusations are made, those are not necessarily reflective of the prevailing and widespread social

prejudices against members of these oppressed classes."

Recalling the journey the law has undertaken over the years and the fears of its misuse, Justice Bhat said: "All these considerations far outweigh the petitioners' concern that innocent individuals would be subjected to what are described as arbitrary processes of investigation and legal proceedings, without adequate safeguards." He said that the right to a trial with all safeguards are available to those accused of committing offences under the Act and they remain unchanged by the amendment.

The court said this while declining a challenge to the amendment to the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, by which Parliament had restored the stringent provisions of the law, including bar on anticipatory bail, which were watered down by the court by its March 2018 judgment. The 2018 judgment had led to widespread protests across the country, which had turned violent in some places.

The verdict came on a batch of PILs challenging the validity of the SC/ST Amendment Act of 2018, which was brought to nullify the effect of the apex court's 2018 ruling, which had diluted the provisions of the stringent Act.

Centre to blame for order: Oppn

DC CORRESPONDENTS NEW DELHI, FEB. 10

Even before the Delhi assembly poll results could be announced, the battle for Bihar began with Opposition led by Congress attacking the BJP-led NDA government on the SC, ST reservation issue both in parliament and outside.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi alleged there is a big conspiracy underway to take away rights of deprived sections following Supreme Court ruling that states are not bound to provide quota in appointments and promotions. The Congress announced launch of a nation-

wide agitation on the issue. The SC, ST issue also forced NDA ally Lok Janshakti Party to take a stand.

Party chief Chirag Paswan said the government should immediately interfere into the matter and put reservations for SCs and STs in the Ninth Schedule. This would prevent people from approaching the Supreme Court on these issues.

Reservation is likely to be a poll plank for the Bihar assembly polls later this year. It might be recalled that Mohan Bhagwat's statement on reservation was said to be one of the reasons for NDA losing in Bihar in 2015.

Govt says it was not party to case

New Delhi, Feb. 10: The government on Monday informed Lok Sabha that it was not a party to the case in which the Supreme Court ruled that states are not bound to provide quota in appointments and promotions, after the Opposition accused it of failing to defend the reservation system.

Making a statement in Lok Sabha, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot said the Supreme court order pertains to a

2012 decision of the previous Congress government in Uttarakhand and asserted that the central government is "committed" and "dedicated" to reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and OBCs.

Gehlot made it clear that the Centre was not asked to file an affidavit in the matter and said the issue is being discussed in the government at the "highest level" and it will take "appropriate steps" in the matter. —PTI

SABARIMALA RELATED CASES IN SC FROM FEB. 17

PARMODO KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 10

The Supreme Court will commence from February 17 the hearing on issues relating to gender justice vis-a-vis essential religious practices. It held on Monday that a five-judge bench, in a limited review jurisdiction, could refer to a larger bench the question of law germane to the issue before the court.

Upholding the November 14, 2019 reference order by a five-judge constitution bench, Chief Justice S. A. Bobde heading the nine-judge constitution bench said, "We hold that this court can refer questions of law to a larger bench in a review petition." The issue focuses on the right of women under Article 14 and the essential religious practices under Article 25 and 16.

The hearing is likely to last for three weeks, as the court has given seven days each to both the sides, with Solicitor General Tushar Mehta given a day's time to make submissions on behalf of the central government. Kerala government too would get separate time to address the court. However, the court accepted that the time schedule is not cast in a rigid frame but would be flexible. However, the court expected the counsel to stick to the schedule and complete the arguments.

Gargi students demand stern action

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, FEB. 10

Scores of students of the all-woman Gargi College on Monday held a protest against the alleged molestation of girls by a group of men who had gatecrashed a cultural festival, demanding strict action against the intruders.

The Delhi Police said it has launched a probe into the incident and is scanning CCTV footage to gather evidence.

Police, however, have not received a complaint in this regard, a senior officer said.

The incident came to light after some students took to Instagram to narrate their unpleasant experiences during the February 6 college fest.

Over 100 students held a protest outside the gate of Gargi College.

They alleged that the college management did not take any action even after the students took up the matter with it.

They also alleged that Rapid Action Force and Delhi Police personnel were deployed close to the gate from where the men entered the college, but they did nothing to control the unruly crowd. "There was a complete lapse of security. The students were groped, molested and even assaulted by the men who



Delhi Commission For Women chief Swati Malwal (in green sweater) addresses students during a protest at Gargi College in New Delhi on Monday. —PTI

appeared to be in their mid-30s. The college had claimed to have made security arrangements. I don't think such an incident has taken place on any college campus across the country," a student said on the condition of anonymity. A political science stu-

dent, who also did not wish to be named, said, "Some men jumped over the gates, some broke open the gates and some jumped over walls. They were drunk and went berserk." The men groped and dragged girls and performed obscene acts,

Some girls ran towards washrooms, she said. Delhi Commission for Women Swati Malwal also reached the college, in the Siri Fort area in the heart of south Delhi, to take stock of the situation. The DCW issued a notice to the college and the Delhi Police for "inac-

tion." Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, "The misbehaviour with our daughters at Gargi College is extremely unfortunate. This cannot be tolerated at all. The culprits should be given stringent punishment."

SC chides advocates

From Page 1

"They (children) come home crying," she submitted. The intervention by advocates Shahrukh Alam and Nandita Rao, did not go down well with the bench, which said: "We will not hear you on this. Don't make such types of irrelevant arguments."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta opposed them saying, "Can it be a ground for sitting on dharna with a four-month-old child or can they oppose this on the ground that children are being called names like gaddars in school."

The bench asked, "A four-month old infant had gone to protest? But tell us which four-month-old child goes on its own to protest sites."

Advocate Alam said she was appearing for mother of two daughters and given that India has rati-

fied UN Conventions on children's right to protest it was not appropriate for the apex court suo motu taking up the matter.

The bench said the two lawyers were deviating from the main issue of which it has taken cognizance of.

"We are not considering either CAA or NRC. We are not considering the abuses like Pakistani hurred in schools," the bench said.

The bench made it clear that it was not stifling anybody's voice.

"We are not stifling any voice. This is a properly constituted suo motu proceedings by the Supreme Court of India," the bench said.

"We have the highest respect for motherhood, and highest concern for children. Don't make arguments to raise and create guilt," the bench said. "A child has died. Instead of causing more

trouble, mothers should back this cause," the bench said.

The lawyers had submitted that "these women (who are sitting at protest site) live in slums and have no option but to take their children along to the protest site."

"The right of children to protest is also recognised under the UN convention...and children are brought along to fairs, jagratas etc where also they could be at a risk of some harm", Alam submitted. The two women lawyers said they were seeking intervention on behalf of journalist and activist John Dayal and the mother of two children.

The 4-month-old baby had passed away in his sleep on the night of January 30 after returning from Shaheen Bagh where his parents had taken him during the anti-CAA protest. —PTI

BJP dares MP CM to stop census

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, FEB. 10

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya on Monday dared MP Chief Minister Kamal Nath to stop Census officials from recording tribals as Hindus. He was addressing a rally that was organised to protest the blockade of a road leading to Mahakal temple in district headquarters of Ujjain by anti-Citizenship Amendment Act activists for the last several days.

Mr Vijayvargiya said, "He will not remain in office even for a day if he restrains the census officials from recording our Hindu tribal brothers as Hindus." He was referring to

the recent remarks by Mr Nath about how legal action would be taken against RSS activists if they coerced the tribals to give them a particular religious identity in the 2021 Census. Mr Nath was reacting to the reported call given by RSS supremo Mohan Bhagwat to the sangh cadres to ensure that tribals recorded themselves as Hindus in the upcoming census.

Mr Nath said the RSS would not be allowed to create disturbance in the peaceful life of tribals by resorting to such tactics. Earlier, senior BJP leader Gopal Bhargav accused Mr Nath of hatching a conspiracy to identify the tribals as Christians at the behest of Congress high command.

Govt living in denial on economy: PC

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 10

Accusing the Modi government of living in denial in regard to the state of the economy, former finance minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Monday claimed that the country's economy was "perilously close to a collapse" and was being attended to by "incompetent doctors". "Because of its refusal to admit mistakes, because it lives in denial, because of its predisposition, the government either does not know or if it knows is not willing to make it clear that this is the state of the economy," said the Congress MP in the Rajya Sabha while initiating a debate on the Union budget. He said despite the country facing rising unemployment and falling consumption, the government continues to live in denial. The former finance minister said with an unprecedented six consecutive quarters of falling growth, the economy

is facing demand constraints and is investment-starved.

The former finance minister said more money needs to be put in hands of people and not give "extraordinary powers" to junior taxmen to unleash "tax terrorism."

Quoting Mr Modi's advice given in November 2013 to him when he was the Union finance minister, he said "On November 2, 2013, a very distinguished political leader said "Economy is in trouble. The youth wants jobs. Devote more time to the economy, not on petty politics. Please focus on the job at hand. Very wise advice. I can't do anything better than reading this piece of advice to the finance minister." Noting that every competent doctor that the govt could ever find has left the country, he listed out former RBI governors Raghuram Rajan and Urjit Patel, former CEA Arvind Subramanian and former NITI Aayog VC Arvind Panagariya as persons who quit.

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CONTEST FOR DEMONSTRATING INNOVATIVE PROTOTYPES FOR STARTUPS

Applications are invited from Science, Engineering Students and Research Scholars with Innovative Prototypes working towards Sustainable Development Goals for the above contest. The selected Prototypes will be exhibited in the Innovate India 2020 conference. TA by train 3 AC and accommodation would be arranged by NRDC for the selected applicants. **First Prize: ₹ 50,000/- (1 No.), Second Prize: ₹ 40,000/- (1 No.), Third Prize: ₹ 30,000/- (1 No.), Consolation Prize: ₹ 10,000/- (2 Nos.).** **How to Apply:** Applicants must submit a business plan and short video of innovation along with the application. To download the application form and guidelines please visit NRDC website www.nrdcindia.com. Last date for receipt of Application is 21st February, 2020. For more information please contact: **Dr. Sanjeev Majumdar, Manager: 9310031212** davp 36206/11/0016/1920

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
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 GSTIN 03AAFCPS120Q12C

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Enquiry No.: 1222/O&M/PC-2141 Dated 07-02-2020

Short Description: Heavy Chemicals viz. Caustic Soda Lye (47.5%), Hydrochloric Acid (30%), Liquid Chlorine and Aluminium Sulphate for the year (2020-21) in (Segregated supply).

Quantity = As per NIT.

Last date & time for downloading of documents 12-03-2020 up to 11.30AM. Last date & time for receipt of e-tenders 12-03-2020 up to 11.30AM. Last date & time for opening of e-tenders 19-03-2020 at 12.00 Noon.

Tender Specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Details regarding E-Tendering is available on website www.pspcl.in.

Note:- The prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office (Intending Officer-96461-17731) and/or M/s GePNIC Contact number 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284, 0120-4001002 in case of any difficulty regarding upload of the tender well in time. All the prospective bidders are requested to get their digital signature well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.

Note: It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in news papers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

GHTP-06/2020
 RO - C-8935

For Dy.Chief Engineer/HQ, Chief Engineer/O&M, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat.