

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 15 FEBRUARY 2020



WEATHER
 Max: 33.2°C
 Min: 15°C
 RH: 28%
 Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky. Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 33/17°C

ASTROGUIDE
 Vikari: Uttarayana
 Tithi: Magha Bahula Saptami till 4.34 pm
 Star: Vishaka till 5.08 am (Sunday)
 Varjyam: 11.24 am to 12.57 pm
 Durmuhurtam: 6.46 am to 8.18 am
 Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HILJRI CALENDAR
 Jumada al-Sani 20, 1441 AH
PRAYERS
 Fajar: 5.42 am
 Zohar: 12.40 pm
 Asar: 4.41 pm
 Maghrib: 6.23 pm
 Isha: 7.31 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.17 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.42 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 12.29 PM
MOONRISE TODAY 12.09 AM

NATION | 8
Kanhaiya convoy attacked in Bihar

SPORTS | 15
Vihari scores century in NZ warm-up match

TABLOID
Did Deverakonda ghost-direct film?

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Telcos face midnight DoT deadline

Move to recover ₹1.47 lakh cr gathers pace after SC rap

New Delhi, Feb. 14: After a rap from the Supreme Court, the telecom department began issuing orders, directing companies such as Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea to clear Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues before Friday midnight. The DoT, which faced the ire of the SC for putting on hold recovery of dues from telecom firms, started issuing circle or zone-wise demand notices to firms, an order said. The order issued on Friday by the UP (West) Telecom Circle asked "all telecom service providers" to clear dues by 11.59 pm Friday. "With reference to subject cited above, you are hereby

directed to make the payment of outstanding dues of licence fee and spectrum usage charges by 14.02.2020, 11.59 pm positively," it said. One of the telecom operators, who did not wish to be named, confirmed the receipt of the said order from the circle. While in all, 15 entities owe the government ₹1.47 lakh crore — ₹92,642 crore in unpaid licence fee and another ₹55,054 crore in outstanding spectrum usage charges — it is not immediately clear just how much of that was sought by the government by midnight. The order issued the circle-based Controller of Communication Accounts came after the tele-

AIRTEL TO PAY ₹10,000 CR BY FEBRUARY 20

New Delhi, Feb. 14: Bharti Airtel on Friday offered the Department of Telecom to pay ₹10,000 crore by February 20 and the rest of the dues before the next date of hearing on the adjusted gross revenue case in the Supreme Court. — PTI

com department earlier on Friday withdrew its order that asked for no coercive action against telcos defaulting on statutory dues payment. The circular was with-

Indo-US trade talk enters key phase

US offers energy, India to buy chicken, dairy

Washington/New Delhi, Feb. 14: The US is ready to supply oil and gas to energy-hungry India as much as it wants as there is a huge potential for bilateral cooperation in the key sector, a top White House official has said ahead of President Donald Trump's maiden visit to the country. Mr Larry Kudlow, economic adviser to Mr Trump, said that talks are going on between India and the US on a trade deal that could be inked during the visit of the president. He made the statement while responding to a question about the progress on a trade deal ahead of the presidential visit. On Tuesday, Mr Trump said he was looking forward to his first visit to India this month and signalled his willingness to sign a trade agreement with New Delhi "if we can make the right deal".

ALL FOR TRUMP'S VISIT

Trump will pay a state visit to India on February 24 and 25

- India purchased 48.2 million barrels of US crude oil, a significant increase from 9.6 million in 2017.
- In return, India has offered to partially open up its poultry and dairy markets in a bid for a limited trade deal during US President Donald Trump's visit
- India, the world's largest milk-producing nation, has traditionally restricted dairy imports to protect the livelihoods of 80 million rural households
- It is far from clear whether India's offers will be enough to satisfy US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, who cancelled plans for a trip to India this week.

AAP invites PM for swearing-in

New Delhi: AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to his swearing-in ceremony in Delhi on February 16, senior party leader Gopal Rai said on Friday. Rai, the convener of AAP's Delhi unit, said a letter was sent to the PM on Friday morning. However, the PM is travelling to Varanasi on Sunday to inaugurate over 30 projects.

Coronavirus toll rises to 1,500

Beijing: The death toll in China's novel coronavirus outbreak has spiked to nearly 1,500, including six medical workers, while the confirmed cases are now around 65,000 even as the cases outside Hubei province dropped. The coronavirus has posed a big threat to the medical staff in China as over 1,700 Chinese health workers were infected while treating the patients and six of them have died.



CRPF personnel pay tribute at a memorial to the 40 CRPF jawans, who were killed in the Pulwama terror attack in February last year, at Letapora of Pulwama District of South Kashmir on Friday. — PTI

Rahul, BJP spar over who reaped Pulwama 'benefit'

DC CORRESPONDENTS NEW DELHI, FEB. 14

Exactly a year after the Pulwama terrorist attack, which may have possibly swung the election towards the BJP, a bitter war of words broke out between the ruling side and the Opposition as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi asked "who had benefited from the strike", while the BJP accused him of being a "known sympathiser" of terror groups like the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. The ruling party claimed the "so-called Gandhi family can never think beyond benefits", and that they were not just "materialistically corrupt, their souls are also corrupt". Earlier, paying homage to martyrs of the attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country will never forget the

martyrdom of the security personnel killed in last year's attack and said the slain security-men were "exceptional individuals" who devoted their lives to protecting the nation. Last year, on February 14, a convoy of vehicles carrying security personnel on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway was attacked by a vehicle-borne suicide bomber at Letapora in Pulwama district in Jammu and Kashmir, in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed. While paying tribute to the CRPF martyrs, Congress' Rahul Gandhi raised questions on

accountability for the attack. "Today, as we remember our 40 CRPF martyrs in the #PulwamaAttack, let us ask: 1. Who benefited the most from the attack? 2. What is the outcome of the inquiry into the attack? 3. Who in the BJP Govt has yet been held accountable for the lapses?" he tweeted. The BJP was quick to hit back at the Congress leader for his "dastardly comment", saying he was insulting the memory of CRPF personnel, and sought an apology from him and his party. "That was a dastardly attack. And this is a dastardly comment. Who benefited the most? Mr Gandhi, can you think beyond benefits? Of course not. This so-called 'Gandhi' family can never think beyond benefits," tweeted BJP national spokesman Sambit Patra.

YSRC, TD FACEOFF OVER I-T RAIDS ON NAIDU'S EX PS

MD. ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 14

The startling revelation by the Income-Tax department about the siphoning of monies to the tune of ₹2,000 crore in a case involving the former personal secretary of Telugu Desam supreme N. Chandrababu Naidu has led to an intense, and bitter, war of words between leaders of the YSR Congress and the principal Opposition, Telugu Desam. The ruling party pressed into service seven ministers and 10 legislators, besides two MPs, with a sole agenda of attacking Naidu and Nara Lokesh, his son and TD party general secretary. The YSRC "questioned the silence" of Mr Naidu on the raids and wondered "how much more corrupt money would be unearthed" if preliminary estimates itself revealed fraud of ₹2,000 crore.

PARVATHI'S CASE ON NAIDU ASSETS LISTED FOR FEB. 26

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

An ACB special court in Hyderabad on Friday posted to February 26 the hearing on disproportionate assets' complaint against former AP chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. NTR's widow N. Lakshmi Parvathi had filed the complaint 15 years ago seeking a probe.

COUNTER POINT

System has been corrupted after uploading corruption charges against our leader!

Kuwait visa racket busted

Hyderabad: Seven persons involved in a fake visa stamping racket to traffic women from India to Kuwait were arrested by the Cyberabad police on Friday. The police found that the fake stamps were put in Sri Lanka. The police investigation revealed that the accused were earning between ₹10,000 to ₹20,000 for trafficking a woman to Kuwait to work as a labourer.

SC: No extension for BS-IV vehicles

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday rejected the plea filed by an association of automobile dealers seeking extension of the April 1, 2020 deadline by one more month to sell Bharat Stage-IV norms compliant vehicles across the country. The BS-IV norms were enforced since April, 2017. In 2016, the Centre had announced that India would skip the BS-V norms altogether and adopt BS-VI norms by 2020.

Enumerators told to remove seven questions NPR 'no entry' signs in Old City

ATHER MOIN I DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

Residents in the Old City have started displaying notice boards on their houses telling enumerators of the National Population Register (NPR) survey not to knock on their doors unless the additional questions are removed from the form. As part of the campaign against the Citizenship Amendment Act, National Register of Citizens and the NPR, people have started hanging the boards on the gates of their houses and posting it on social media to mobilise others. Ms Najam Rasheed, a

WARNING
NPR Enumerator GO BACK
 Visit Only After New 7 Questions are removed

Q.7 (ii) Passport number
 Q.13 (i) Date of Birth of Father & Mother
 Q.13 (ii) Place of Birth of Father & Mother
 Q.14. (i) Aadhaar Number
 (ii) Mobile Number
 (iii) Voter ID Card Number
 (iv) Driving License Number

One of the sign boards put up outside the Old City. resident of Panjeshah, who had displayed a notice board on her house, said, "We are not allowed to express our concerns in a democratic and peaceful manner, which forced us to adopt alternatives." She said, "We have decided not to provide any kind of information regarding personal details which will be used

in the NRC. We are ready to face the consequences." Mr Mohammed Faheem said the government should realise the panic created among the general public over NPR and NRC. "Unless the doubts of the citizens are not cleared, the government should not start the household and Census survey. These warning boards are a sign of the alarm which shows fear developed among the public," he said. It will create difficulties and problems for the enumerators. If the authorities provide the police security to the enumerators, it will invite more disconcert.

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 Chandanagar - Ph: 040 48569797 | Saroomagar - Ph: 7266885522
 Banjara Hills: Road No. 2, Near Cinemax - Ph: 040 23544559

IN BRIEF

4 BD activists attack film critic

Hyderabad: Four Bajrang Dal activists including minors were detained after they attacked film critic Kathi Mahesh's vehicle outside Prasad Imax on Friday. Mahesh was leaving the theatre when a group of protesters holding saffron flags and raising slogans suddenly surrounded his car. They threatened him with dire consequences. Police booked a case and detained the four following a complaint from Mahesh. The cybercrime police had recently booked a case against Mahesh for a controversial statement against Lord Rama.

JNTU-H hosts Computer expo

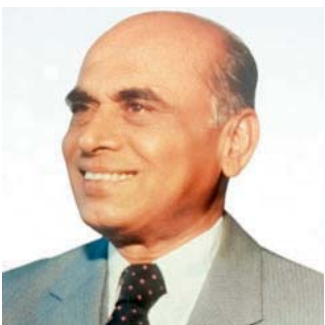
Hyderabad: The Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (JNTU-H) organised an International conference on Computational Intelligence and Informatics on February 14th in the campus. Several students and academicians from different backgrounds attended the conference. Experts said that through the conference, specialists researching in the field of computer science have come together to share their expertise on their topics.

PEOPLE IN QUARANTINE RISES TO 196

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

The number of people under home quarantine in the state rose to 196 from 185 on Thursday with 11 more passengers who arrived at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here in the city being advised to follow the 28-day quarantine procedure. As part of the daily screening of passengers arriving at the airport from COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) affected countries, so far, 8,735 passengers were screened. The health and family welfare department in its daily COVID-19 bulletin said no positive case of the disease has been detected in the state. Samples from 88 suspected cases tested so far have proven negative.

Only one person, who was admitted to the isolation ward in Gandhi General Hospital on Friday, is currently under observation, the bulletin said. The state helpline at 040-24651119 for the disease received a total of 381 calls till Friday, it added.



FORMER AP HC CHIEF JUSTICE PASSES AWAY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

Justice P. Chenna Kesava Reddi, former Chief Justice of the erstwhile AP and Gauhati High Courts, passed away at his residence in Banjara Hills on Friday. He was 96.

Justice P. C. Reddi was born in Thatimakulapalli of Kamalapuram taluk in Kadapa district on November 3, 1924. After his initial education through a contracted English teacher in his village, he went to Pulivendula High School. He completed his BA from Arts College, Anantapur, and obtained his law degree from Madras University. He was president of the Law College Andhra Students Association.

He enrolled as a lawyer in the Madras High Court in 1952 and moved to Guntur when the High Court was set up there in 1953. In 1956, he moved to Hyderabad when the High Court of undivided AP was established. He was elevated as a Judge of the AP High Court in 1972 at 47 years of age. He was Chief Justice of the AP High Court in 1984 and 1985. In September 1985, he was transferred as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court from where he retired in November 1986.



Family members of the fallen soldiers attend the remembrance ceremony on Friday. — DC



Bajrang Dal activists pay tributes to the fallen soldiers in Pulwama attack. — DC

CRPF remembers fallen soldiers

Family members were felicitated on the occasion at the CRPF SS headquarters

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. I DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

CRPF Southern Sector, Hyderabad, observed on Friday the anniversary of Pulwama terror attack, wherein 40 CRPF personnel had laid down their lives.

On the occasion, the city CRPF sector also remembered the bravery of its 18 martyrs, including deputy commandant B. K. Shyam Nivas, head constables M. Obalesu, K. Venkanna, and M. C. M. Reddy, constables P. Veera Reddy, K. Chandra Shekhar Reddy, G. Narasimha, A. Vijay Bhaskar Reddy, C. Praveen, R. Govardhan Reddy, K. Ram Mohan and Godse Satish Goud. Family members of these 12 martyrs were felicitated on the occasion at the CRPF SS headquarters in Jubilee Hills. A two-minute silence was also observed.

Condemning the Pulwama attack, Inspector General (SS), CRPF, Hyderabad, M.R. Naik said that there were no martyrs from the Telugu states in that attack, not just the CRPF, but the entire nation stands with the families of

TS yet to give compensation to martyr's family

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

Six years after R. Govardhan Reddy, the constable of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), from Mahabubnagar district, was killed in an IED blast at Chhattisgarh in December 2014, his family members are still awaiting for the full compensation from the Telangana government.

This includes ₹5 lakh cash to be given by the state, in accordance with a Central guideline, to family of any soldier (irrespective of rank) serving in any Central force who are killed in action in the state or outside.

due to the sacrifices made by its personnel. The entire nation stands by families of the bereaved," the IG said. Recollecting the memories of Aleti Vijay Bhaskar Reddy, his father A. Prathap Reddy said his son was killed in a gun-

fight with Maoists at Metala forest in Gooltore of West Bengal on October 1, 2012. He had got married just a year ago and did not even have children. "I objected to Vijay getting into the armed forces, but he insisted. I still remem-

ber his words 'anywhere I have to die... if death comes I will take it on duty'," recalled Prathap Reddy. "My husband was killed in firing by Maoists at Padiguda village in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh. Our son was

district administration official claimed, "our records show that family of martyr R Govardhan Reddy was given 200 sq yards of land in Mahabubnagar town. We can give more but they have to fill in an application form and submit. We would definitely examine it and do the needful."

Incidentally, this is not the first instance when the family of a war hero or a martyr is neglected and ignored by the government after a while. At the peak of emotion, leaders make promises but officials make families run from pillar to post subsequently, using excuses like forms, applications, details among others.

"We received a piece of land from the state government but we deserve better compensation after losing our son. We approached local MLAs, leaders and some officials earlier, but our request was never considered," said Karna Reddy. When contacted, a senior

two years old when my husband sacrificed his life for the country," said P. Susheela, wife of martyr P. Veera Reddy. Susheela wept while recollecting the memories of her husband and saluting his photo.

Fraudster fooled 20 people, nabbed

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU I DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

A 42-year-old fraudster who floated a fake company and cheated people by taking money in return for providing holiday packages was arrested by the central crime station (CCS) police on Friday.

About 20 victims approached the CCS police. Investigation officials suspect that there could be more victims.

The matter came to light on November 19 last year after a woman, Ganga Bhavani, approached the CCS police. Police identified the accused as Vikram Shukla who floated a fake company, LandMark Infra Services. He hired marketing executives and agents to lure customers by offering inexpensive holiday packages. After collecting money from them, the accused disappeared.

Inspector M. Srinivasa Rao of the White Collar Offence (WCO) Team I of CCS, told *Deccan Chronicle*: "The accused used to collect phone numbers of people from different marts and super markets in the city. They would tell them they had won a lucky draw and asked them to collect their prize at a hotel. Once there, the victims were lured with attractive offers like land at low rates."

Once the victims fell for it, the gang would milk them for more money. Shukla opened an office in Himayatnagar and later shifted to Banjara Hills and theh Boduppal. He used to collect money through a e-PoS only.

There was much tail wagging at the Integrated Intelligence Training Academy (IITA) of the police at Moinabad where 37 dogs took part in a graduating parade on Friday. After completing an eight-month training course, the K9s are to join the ranks of existing K9 units for different state security units and security agencies.

Lord Rama owes ₹14.28 cr to TS

RAVINDRA SESHU I DC KHAMMAM, FEB. 14

The Telangana Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Amendment Act 2007 has turned out to be a curse for Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy Temple in Bhadrachalam.

Under the Act, Lord Rama owes ₹14.28 crore to the state government. The debt has become a burden to the temple, whose revenues are not impressive because of various reasons, including cancellation of trips to Papi Hills after a boat capsized in September last year.

According to provisions of 2007 Act, each temple or Hindu religious institution in the state must contribute certain sums to Endowments Department every year towards Endowment Administration Fund (EAF), Audit Fee (AF), Common Good Fund (CGF) and Archakas Welfare Fund (AWF).

Every temple whose annual income exceeds ₹50,000 should pay 12 per cent of its income towards EAF and 65 (1) of the TSCHRIE (Amendment)

Act 2007. The Bhadrachalam temple has to pay ₹8.24 crore under this section. It has to pay another 1.5 per cent totalling to ₹2.08 crore towards AF under section 65 (4) of the Act. In addition, ₹2.8 crore is due to the government under AWF as per section 161 (1) of the Act. AWF is charged at the rate of 3 per cent on temples whose annual income exceeds ₹20 lakh. Under CGF, the dues are ₹1.17 crore. This is to be paid by each temple with annual income more than ₹50,000 at the rate 5 per cent CGF. In all, Bhadrachalam has to pay 21.5 per cent of its income under the four heads. Payment of around ₹5.30

crore under these four heads has been pending from 2007-14 period. The temple had spent ₹80 lakh on Mukkoti and allocated another ₹80 lakh for Sriramanavami festival. Though the temple authorities budget for ₹50 crore every year, Bhadrachalam temple gets revenue of only ₹22 crore. Authorities are thus finding it difficult to pay salaries even to its employees, leave alone incurring other expenditures. The temple administration has written a letter to the government seeking waiver of dues by the Bhadrachalam temple keeping in view its poor financial condition.

CAA protesters in lurch over permission

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

The organisers of the women's protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Population Register (NPR) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) are facing uncertainty as they have neither received permission for their agitation scheduled for Sunday nor have they got a rejection letter.

The Telangana-AP Joint Action Committee against CAA-NPR-NRC is trying to organise a protest for last 20 days but the police has denied them permission thrice. The JAC is now planning an agitation on February 16 but it has not yet received permission. JAC convener Mushtaq Malik said that the police authorities were informed on Saturday evening. In addition, Congress leader V. Hanumanth Rao and MIM had also applied for police permission on the same date at the same place.

He said, "We had applied for the fourth time along with the High Court's order which instructs the

authorities to consider our petition as per the law. Now the police authorities are saying that it received petitions from other

groups. He said we have no objection if they grant permission to others along with us because in the past it was given to more than

one party." Mr Malik added, "If the authorities allow us we will ensure that the women's protest will be held in a disciplined and peaceful manner; otherwise we will observe Sunday as 'protest day' in the city."

COPS ARREST 7 FOR CHEATING WOMEN WITH FAKE VISA STAMP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

Seven people were arrested by the Cyberabad police for providing fake visa stamping in an attempt to traffic women from India to Kuwait. The police found that the fake visa stamps were received from Sri Lanka.

The police investigation revealed that the gang was earning commissions varying between ₹10,000 to ₹20,000 for trafficking each woman to Kuwait to work as a labourer.

Following complaints from three women, who alleged that they were cheated by a travel agent issuing fake visas, the Special Operations Team (SOT) of the Shamshabad zone apprehended R. Kubender Rao, 32, Shaik Basheer Ahmed, 60, K. Mohan Rao, 41, I. Augustin, 40, S. Ruthamma, 44, Y. Sunitha, 36 and K. Venkata Rama Krishna, 35. Meanwhile, Balu Prasad of Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu, is still at large.

Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said that Kubender, a native of Tanuku in West Godavari, worked as a welder in Singapore and Africa for seven years and returned to India in 2014. He started an air ticketing business in 2016 and was taking help from Basheer who was procuring fake visa stickers, Kuwaiti revenue stamps, and notary stickers from Sri Lanka.

Balu Prasad, a travel agent from Kumbakonam, used to supply rubber stamps. Local agents Augustin, Mohan Rao, Rama Krishna, Sunitha, and Ruthamma used to procure passports of women who wanted to work abroad. "The women were given a visit visa to Dubai. From there, they go to Kuwait without clearance from the Protector of Emigrants. At Kuwait, four people were in place to provide employment to the women and give a commission of ₹10,000 to ₹20,000 to Kubender," Mr Sajjanar said.

The SOT officials seized ₹2 lakh cash, 13 visa papers, 25 stamps, and stamp pads, printer and 16 passports from the accused, and they were handed over to the RGI Airport police.

FOLLOWING COMPLAINTS FROM THREE WOMEN, WHO ALLEGED THAT THEY WERE CHEATED BY A TRAVEL AGENT ISSUING FAKE VISAS, THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAM (SOT) OF THE SHAMSHABAD ZONE APPREHENDED R. KUBENDER RAO, SHAIK BASHEER AHMED, K. MOHAN RAO, I. AUGUSTIN, S. RUTHAMMA, Y. SUNITHA, AND K. VENKATA RAMA KRISHNA. BALU PRASAD IS STILL AT LARGE.



Anti-CAA protest at Mumtaz Bagh on Friday.

— P. SURENDRA

POWER SHUTDOWN

10 am to 2 pm: Sai Enclave area, area behind Pension Office, Konda Vishveshwar Rao house area, Bondalagadda, Deccan Chronicle MD house area, Amrutha Valley Apartment; Banjara Hills Road No. 12, Renuka Chowdary house area, Sriramnagar; CRPF area, Care Hospital area, R. Sankaran house area, SBH Staff building; Aurunodaya Colony, Hitech Theatre area; Sainagar; Mega Hills, Sriram Colony, Guttala Begumpet, Ravindra Society, Kavuri Hills Phase-I, Harijana Basti, Andhra Basti, Doctors Colony, Vemral Garden; Ayyappa Society area, Image Garden, Silicon Valley, My Home Apartment underground cable.

2 pm to 5 pm: Jubilee Hills Roads No. 1, 10, 13, 15, 22, 25, 32, 36, 41, 44, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 64, 66, 67, 68; Collector's Building; Pizza Hut building area; Star Hospital, area opposite Karvy circle; Ghafar Colony area; Kavuri Hills Phase-II, Amar Co-Operative Society, Kalyannagar, Anjaninagar, Balakrishna house; Chandrababu Naidu house area covered by underground cable.

Preserve heritage



The historic Clock Tower in Secunderabad needs immediate repair works. The tower was inaugurated in February 1897. — GANDHI

₹4,500 daily target worries RTC staff

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

Drivers and conductors working in depots across the state are being "harassed" by their respective higher authorities by setting up very high targets, an employees leader alleged. Earnings, occupancy ratios and mileage are the areas where targets have been reportedly set.

"Most of the targets depend on factors that are not in our hands. However, the employees have to take the blame if these unrealistic targets are not met," said an employee on the condition of anonymity.

Recently, a conductor in Musheerabad depot was allegedly not marked attendance nor assigned duty the next day as his ticket sales were ₹3,500 against the target of ₹4,500. Employees say that similar instances occurred have in several depots.

Drivers are being penalised for not reaching the higher level of fuel savings in terms of kilometres per litre. It was alleged that increments were being withheld and staff was not being given leave even in an emergency.

Mr K. Raji Reddy, general secretary, TSRTC Employees Union, said, "None of the higher authorities are bothering about



DRIVERS ARE being penalised for not reaching the higher level of fuel savings in terms of kilometres per litre. It was alleged that increments were being withheld and staff was not being given leave even in an emergency.

the word that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had given to the employees. They are treating employees without any respect. The employees are being harassed citing administrative grounds. Eleven employees including drivers and conductors have been transferred without any valid reason."

When contacted, an RTC official said that they had set up employees' welfare boards. If there were any such issues, employees can complain to the boards and action would be taken.

ICRISAT OPENS NEW FACILITY FOR CROP BREEDING

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

The city-based International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (Icrisat) on Friday unveiled its new facility on Friday to accelerate plant lifecycles in light, temperature and humidity-controlled conditions.

Breeding a new crop variety takes about a decade or more, with six or seven years spent in seasonal generational advancements to arrive at the elite lines. RapidGen (Rapid Generation Advancement), the new facility, will shorten the six-seven year window significantly. When used with the full suite of breeding acceleration techniques, RapidGen can reduce the breeding cycle by an estimated 40 per cent for most crops.

"Climate and exponential population growth have to be considered for rapid development of improved food crops is essential. But we also need to look at what has been achieved to sustain food security and achieve nutrition security," said Dr Peter Carberry, DG, Icrisat. RapidGen comprises three installations — testbed optimization chambers, lighting controlled greenhouse bays and a temperature-regulated light deprivation polyhouse. Depending on the crop and the requirements of breeding programmes, researchers can scale up their activities.

HC seeks report on dengue, viral control

Fight aggressively to check coronavirus, govt told

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

The High Court on Friday asked the state government to be as aggressive as possible in combating the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) that is causing havoc in China, and said that it should not allow the virus to have opportunity for local transmission.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy directed Chief Secretary Suresh Kumar to file a detailed report on the steps taken by the government to curtail the further spread of swine flu, dengue fever, malaria and the novel coronavirus, by February 26.

The bench was adjudicating on two public interest litigations (PILs) relating to the

THE BENCH was adjudicating on two public interest litigations (PILs) relating to the inaction of the authorities in controlling the emerging epidemic diseases like dengue, swine flu, malaria and viral fevers, which were widespread during the monsoon.

inaction of the authorities in controlling the emerging epidemic diseases like dengue, swine flu, malaria and viral fevers, which were widespread during the monsoon. Justice Chauhan asked Advocate-General B.S. Prasad how well the state government was prepared to tackle the threat from the coronavirus.

He pointed out that three persons had tested positive for the new virus in India,

"This menace has come from China and is spreading very fast. The government should take firm steps to stop it from further spreading. Even though the coronavirus issue is not the subject of the PILs, this court wants to know from the state what its preparedness is to tackle this new virus," Justice Chauhan said.

The Chief Justice said, "Any person returning from southeast Asia or from China is being subjected to strict screening at the airport and is directed to get clearance from the doctors. What about the large number of people who have already come from there and China and are travelling in Telangana by buses and trains? How are these people subjected to foolproof screening?"

Advocate General B.S. Prasad informed the bench that there was no case of dengue fever in

the state since the last one month and 44 swine flu cases had been recorded.

Explaining about the handling of people coming in from coronavirus-affected zones, Mr Prasad said that in most government hospitals isolation wards had been set up to screen the travellers. All medical officers had been directed to adhere to the instructions given to them to tackle cases, he said.

Mr Kovvuturi Pavan Kumar, counsel representing petitioner Dr Karuna, alleged that Chief Secretary Suresh Kumar after taking office had not constituted swine flu technical committees. Counsel said reports had not been filed before the court.

The counsel urged the court to direct the state government to take necessary steps to tackle swine flu.

CM b'day: GHMC to plant 2.5L saplings

Hyderabad: To mark Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's 66th birthday on February 17, Mayor Bonthu Rammohan on Friday appealed to corporators to participate in Haritha Haram programme and plant more saplings. Arrangements are being made in all 150 wards in the city and around 2.5 lakhs of saplings from 36 nurseries would be made available at parks and traffic junctions. The mayor asked the corporators to take inspiration from minister K.T. Rama Rao and plant more saplings along with citizens at parks and open places.

1.2 kg gold bars seized at airport

Hyderabad: The Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of the Hyderabad Customs seized 1.2 kg gold bars from four passengers, including three women, who arrived at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport from Jeddah on Friday. Acting on specific intelligence, the AIU officials checked their baggage of the four passengers and found the gold biscuits concealed in weighing machines that they were carrying in their luggage. The gold, valued at ₹48 lakh was recovered by the officials.

Mercury drops 3° below normal

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

The city witnessed a drop in the minimum temperature on Friday. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said the minimum dropped to 15° Celsius, which is 3°C lower than the normal for this time of the month. The lowest temperature recorded last year in February was on the 10th when the mercury went down to 15.2°C.

According to the Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDDS) some places in the city registered recorded lower temperatures including Moula Ali (12° C), Qutbullahpur (13°C) and Bolaram (14.9°C). These readings were recorded in the 24-hour period from 8.30 am on Thursday.

"There is an anti-cyclonic circulation that formed over parts of Madhya Pradesh. This circulation has begun pushing the cold northern winds towards Telangana state. Under its influence there is a dip in the minimum temperature," said Mr Mahesh Palawat, chief meteorologist, Skymet.

He added that this phenomenon would only for three days. "We predict that the circulation would dissipate in the next 72 hours, after which the heat will be back on," he said. The fall in the temperature was due to the lack of clouds. "Whenever there are clouds, they trap the heat and keep the nights warm. Since there are no or very less clouds the sun's radiation that comes in during the day is reflected back in the form of long-wave radiation," said Mr Palawat.

SCHOOL BUS MOWS DOWN 18 MONTH-OLD GIRL

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

An 18-month-old girl was mowed down by a private school bus at Medipally on Friday. She was playing in front of her house when the driver ran over her. Medipally police inspector, B. Anji Reddy, said that the victim, Jangam Avani, was the daughter of J. Kankar Rao, a labourer living near the gram panchayat office in Parvathapur. The incident occurred at about 8 am. The girl received severe injuries and was immediately shifted to Kamala Hospital where she was declared brought dead. A case has been booked against the driver.

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SHORT BRIEF

STUDENT INJURED AT SCHOOL DIES

GEETA VALABOJU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

The eighth class student of Viswa Bharati School located in Jaya Prakash Nagar, who sustained severe injuries after jumping from the school building on January 29 on being allegedly chased by his teacher, succumbed on Friday afternoon.

Following the death of the student Mahesh, SR Nagar police have registered a case and are investigating. The boy's father Nageswar Rao said Mahesh repeatedly complained that his teacher was subjecting him to corporal punishment. He regretted that the teacher never tried to contact him over the issue. "The teacher harassed my son for silly reasons," he stated, holding the school management responsible for his son's death.

Balala Hakkula Sangam president Achyuta Rao said, "We have asked the Hyderabad police commissioner and D. I. G. Women and Child Safety wing to initiate criminal proceedings against the teacher and school management. The state government must cancel the recognition granted to the school as it has failed in protecting the interests of its students."

THE boy's father Nageswar Rao said Mahesh repeatedly complained that his teacher was subjecting him to corporal punishment. He regretted that the teacher never tried to contact him over the issue.

DY. SARPANCH HUSBAND OPENS FIRE

PULI SHARAT KUMAR | DC PEDDAPALLI, FEB. 14

A retired army man, the husband of the local deputy sarpanch, opened fire during a wedding baraat after a small dispute, creating panic in Shayampet in Dharmaram mandal of Peddapalli district late on Thursday night.

According to DCP Ravinder Reddy, the retired soldier, Baddam Thirumal Reddy, had purchased double barrel gun with 20 rounds from Jammu and Kashmir after his retirement. He opened two rounds from the gun during the dispute.

Mr Ravinder Reddy said that Mr Thirumal Reddy had previously opened fire in the air during the local New Year celebrations and also after his wife has won as deputy sarpanch in the village.

He has so far opened 14 rounds of fire in the air till date, the deputy commissioner of police said. There were no casualties.

Upon receiving information about his latest firing incident, police arrived in village early on Friday and took Mr Thirumal Reddy into custody and shifted him to the Peddapalli police station.

Assistant commissioner of police (ACP) Habib Khan said that Thirumal Reddy was joined Army service as Naik in 2002 and retired last year. Police seized the gun and the ammunition and registered a case under the Arms Act. Forensic teams reached Shayampet on Friday and collected shells and empty cartridges for analysis.

MR RAVINDER Reddy said that Mr Thirumal Reddy had previously opened fire in the air during the local New Year celebrations and also after his wife has won as deputy sarpanch in the village. He has so far opened 14 rounds of fire in the air till date, the DCP said. There were no casualties.

I-T raids at JB Infra

₹200 cr scam found: I-T

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

Income-tax sleuths are understood to have detected unaccounted transactions worth over ₹200 crore at JB Infra projects and its sister concern SV Projects in Hyderabad on Friday.

An 18-year-old real estate firm, JB Infra has developed a wide range of real estate ventures in and around Ibrahimpatnam and Adibatla on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

Sources in the income-tax department told Deccan Chronicle that a survey was conducted at JB Infra and SV Projects which led the sleuths to a large number of incriminating documents.

The sleuths are understood to have stumbled upon concrete evidence suggesting huge cash payments made for major land deals and unaccounted transactions.

Huge cash receipts and duplicate (second set) of books of accounts was also found. The total unaccounted transactions of more than ₹200 crore was detected and investigation is underway, sources said adding that the survey was conducted by the Hyderabad investigation directorate of income-tax.

AP school staffer turns a pervert

D. SIVA RAMI REDDY | DC NANDYAL, FEB. 14

In a bizarre incident, a computer operator of a school in Nandyal allegedly measured penises of boys studying in Class IX and X with a scale. Nandyal DSP Chidananda Reddy said that a case has been registered under PCO Act against Charan, the computer operator of Nava Chaitanya School. Charan had been working with the school for six months. He was stated to be a friend of Yashwant, chairman of the school. Yashwant's father Hanamantha Rao is the school's cor-

respondent. Town circle inspector Subramaniam said special classes were being conducted opposite the school at the residence of the school chairman on the request of parents. Charan asked four of the male students at the special classes to undress and measured their penises with a scale. It is alleged the accused used his mobile phone to video-graph the naked students.

Charan has been booked for deviant behaviour and remanded to custody. He is also accused of passing lewd comments against girl students of the school.

Mother, daughter killed at home

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

A 60-year-old woman and her 32-year-old daughter were found dead with their throats slit at their home in Tadlakunta of Chandrayangutta on Friday morning.

The victims were identified as Shahzadi Begum and her daughter Farida Begum. Shahzadi's husband Mohd Hussain had sent two daughters of Farida to school in an autorickshaw around 8.30 am. He then went to have tea in the nearby hotel at Chandrayangutta crossroads.

When Hussain returned at about 8.50 am, he found Rehaman, brother-in-law of Farida, and another person coming out of his house. The moment they saw Hussain, they fled. Suspected something amiss, Hussain rushed inside his house only to find his wife and daughter lying dead in a pool of blood. Rehaman and Farida's husband Mehtab Qureshi worked in Dubai, police said. Together they had bought a house at GM Colony in Chandrayangutta. The house was registered in Farida's name. Recently, Rehaman returned to India and started demanding his share of property. The issue was settled after a certain amount was paid to Rehaman. Subsequently, Rehaman started insisting that the entire house be transferred in his name. When that did not happen, Rehaman is suspected to have killed Farida.

Fraud cheats Colonel's wife

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

The wife of an Army Colonel was cheated by a fraudster who befriending her by pretending to be a London-based businessman.

According to the cyber crime police, the victim Swapna (name changed) received a friend request on social media from an account named Kim, businessman from London. She accepted the request and started a conversation.

After a month, the fraudster informed her that he was coming to the city to meet her. Two days later, she received a call from Kim stating that he had landed in Delhi airport. Later he claimed that he was abducted by some persons who were demanding a ransom. A man pretending to be the abductor spoke to her and demanded ₹1.5 lakh ransom to release 'Kim'. Swapna transferred the money to the bank account given by the fraudster.

The fraudster again approached her and began blackmailing her. He told her that Kim's phone had a picture of her and her family members and he threatened to morph the pictures and spread them on social media if she did not give him ₹10 lakh. Realising that she was cheated, Swapna informed her husband who is deployed in Kashmir. The Colonel rushed to the city and approached the cyber crime police. The police booked a cheating case and investigation is underway.

THREE YOUTHS KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, FEB. 14

Three youngsters travelling on a two-wheeler died when a RTC bus coming in the opposite direction collided with them near

Gangadevipally of Geesugonda mandal in Warangal Rural district on Thursday night. They sustained severe head injuries and died on the spot. Police identified the victims as Nyala Naveen, 20, Itla Jagadish, 19,

of Gangadevipally and Lakavath Ganesh, 21, of Mansingh thanda of Narmetta mandal. Naveen and Ganesh were working in a hotel in Hyderabad and Jagadish at a welding shop in Hanamkonda.



MEMORIAL SERVICE
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever Psalms. 23:6
Late. MYTHRI SUKUMAR
DOB: 21-07-1943 DOD: 09-02-2020
Memorial service will be held on 15. Feb. 2020 @ 6.00PM, at Centenary Methodist Small Church, Chapel Road, Abids, Hyderabad.
Inserted By:
Wife: M. Hemalatha Sukumar, & Family
Ph: 9676907277/ 9000532945

JOIN US IN SOLEMN REMEMBRANCE
MEMORIAL SERVICE
O. NIRMALA JYOTHI
W/o P. Naveen Raj
DOB: 5.6.1966 D.O.D: 11.2.2020
On 15th February, Saturday @ 7.00 p.m.
Venue: C.S.I. Lalaguda Church, Secunderabad.
Inserted by: Family Members
(S/1920/D01853)

And the dead in Christ will rise first 1 Thessalonians 4:16
MS. GURNOOR SHIREEN DAVID
D/o Late Gurnoor Kankiah David
DOB: 6-3-1958 DOD: 14-2-2020
Funeral will be held today 15-02-2020 at Narayanguda Cemetery at 11:30 am. Memorial service will be held on 18-2-2020 at H.No.8-3-228/184/b, Rahamathnagar, Yousufguda, Hyderabad-45, at 11:00 am.
Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS 903032403, 6281012325.

PRAYER MEET
CA VIKRAM SISODIA
(S/o Late Premalata - Late Dhannaji Sisodia)
Passed away on Thursday, 13th Feb. 2020
Prayer Meet: Saturday, 15th Feb. 2020
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.
Venue: Shri Punam Chand Gandhi Jain Sthanak, Kachiguda, Hyd.
In Remembrance: Sisodia Family
Residency - Prem Dhan Nivas, Bogulunta, Hyd.
Contact: 9885102212, 8331609115
(B/1920/D00207)

PAGDI
Smt. MEERA VANGANI
W/o Late Basanraj Vangani
D.O.D: 12.02.2020
Pagdi on 15.02.2020 Saturday from 4.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Hira Hall, Abids, Hyderabad. For Ladies & Gents.
Inserted by:
Sons: Ghanshyam, Sunil, Vijay, Manu and Vangani Family
(B/1920/D00206)

IN REMEMBRANCE
Whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord. Whether we live therefore, or die, we are the LORDS'. Rom : 14 : 8.
To live in the hearts of those we love is never to die.
Bro. Jonas Toppo
HMT(1953-2014)
Zion Prayer Hall, Sanathnagar
Inserted By:
Wife, Glad, Kamalakr, Ruby , Ryan

BHOG CEREMONY
with Profound grief we inform you that our beloved
SARDAR DEEP SINGH IDL
has left us for heavenly abode on 29-01-2020. For the peace of departed soul Samapthi Sri Akhand Path Saheb will be held on Saturday 15th February 2020 at 11-45am Kirtan & Ardas Guru ka Langer at 12-30pm. at Gurudwara Saheb Ameerpet, Hyderabad.
Inserted by:
Sardarni Mahender Kaur (Wife), Son, Daughters, Son-in-Laws

In Loving Memory Of
MARSHALL SAVIO FRANCIS
DOB: 12.01.1984 DOD: 09.02.2020
7th Day Ceremony
Holy Mass on 15-02-2020 at 6.00 a.m. & 6.00 p.m. at St. John Maria Vianney Church, New Bhoiguda, Sec'bad.
Prayer at 7.00 p.m. H.No. 6-2-78, New Bhoiguda, Secunderabad-3.
Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS
Cell: 9885576903, 9052982472
(CA-3241)

OBITUARY
P. KRISHNAIAH NAIDU (BABLU)
DOB : 11-04-1961 DOD : 14-02-2020
FUNERAL AT BANSILAL PET TOMORROW (15-02-2020), 12 PM

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY
Those who are righteous will be long remember - Psalm 112:6
Mrs. MARY FLORENCE
On 15th Feb 2020
W/o Duddae Solomon David
D/o Madella Daniel
"We all love you and remember you every day and you always live in our hearts."
Venue: Georges Pre Primary School Opp. to Rosary Convent School at 06:30 pm.
Inserted by: D. Solomon David, Melanie Anoushka & Family Members
Phone: 9885027607, 8247750677

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Late Sri K.R.BABULAL
alias **K.R.LAL**
Class I Civil Contractor
Who left us on 15-02-1991
Inserted By:
FAMILY MEMBERS

8th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
ROSE MARY THOMAS
DOB: 04.06.1951 DOD: 15.02.2012
Bearing another grief in our hearts, we remember you for all the true love and labour for our family.
From: Husband, Elder Son, Daughter-in-Law and Grand Son
Mobile No. 7799196516, 9133696107
(S/1920/D01854)

14th ANNIVERSARY
BONDILI PRASAD SINGH
(Asst. Manager S.B.I.)
1952 - 2006
While we mourn the loss of this great soul, we are confident that the angels in heaven are rejoicing as they welcome one of their own with open arms. We pray for peace and happiness in his after life.
Wife : Jyothi Rani
Son: Balaji, Daughter in law: Meghna
Daughter: Durga. Son in law: Shailender
Grand Daughter's: Rajnandini, Tejaswini, Amara
Family, Friends & Relatives
(S/1920/D01841)

OBITUARY

Justice P.Chenna Kesava Reddi
Former Chief Justice of erstwhile AP High Court & North East High Courts

Passed away peacefully on 14 Feb (Friday) at 12 noon. You can pay last respects on 16 Feb, Sunday 8.00 am to 12 noon at his Residence on Road No.10, Banjara Hills. Cremation at Punjagutta burial grounds at 1 PM.

Palem Family Members

PAGDI
Late Shri TIKAMDAS TEKWANI
Attained Moksh on 13.02.2020 at 11:27 am.
May his soul rest in peace
Pagdi at Sindhu Bhawan, P.G. Road on 15.02.2020, 5.00 pm to 5.30 pm.
From: Nirmala Tekwani (Wife) and Family & Bahirwani Family
(S/1920/D01848)

SHRADDANJALI
K. VIJAY ANAND
DOB: 21.08.1971
DOD: 06.02.2020
The pain of losing you is immeasurable. We know the biggest star in the sky that is shining the most is you. God has you in his arms we have. You in our hearts. May your soul may rest in peace.
From All Your Family Members
(CA-3243)

PEDDA KARYAM
DOB: 10.07.1949 DOD: 06.02.2020
SELA SUBBARAO
Venue: Pedda Karyam On 16.02.2020 at 1.00 p.m. 122C, Vengalrao Nagar, Ayyappa Grounds, Hyderabad-38.
Wife: S. Aichayamma
Sons:
S. Sateesh (Advocate) & S. Mallesh
Daughters-in-law:
S. Rajyalakshmi & S. Moulleshwari.
Grandson: S. Monish Rao.
Grand Daughters: S. Durgachitra, S. Shanmukha Valli & S. Keerthi Akshaya

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
SUSAN IRIS XAVIER
20.10.1964 - 09.02.2020
Inserted by Family
Ph: 9391146182, 8801362567
(S/1920/D01849)

SHRADDANJALI
PROF. A.K. RAO
Expired On : 01-02-2020
Prof. IIMB, SDM & ICFAI
In fond Remembrance
PGP 1980 - 82 Batch IIMB
(CA-3242)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Dead in the christ shall rise again
J. GABRIEL JOHN J. MANJULA
DOB: 10-06-1929 DOD: 10-04-1939
DOD: 13-10-2001 DOD: 15-02-1989
Inserted by: Family Members
Picket, Secunderabad.
Ph: 9849969829
(CA-3242)

THANKSGIVING SERVICE
The memory of the righteous is a blessing. Prov 10:7
BANKA PREM KUMAR
Retd SGO - HQ Trg Wing MCEME
DoB March 15th, 1957 - DoD Feb 9th, 2020
Service will be held at 11.30 am on Sat 15th Feb 2020 CSI Holy Trinity Church Community Hall Bolarum.
Phone: 91004 01312, 98662 61951
(S/1920/D01850)

BHOG CEREMONY
with Profound grief we inform you that our beloved
SARDAR DEEP SINGH IDL
has left us for heavenly abode on 29-01-2020. For the peace of departed soul Samapthi Sri Akhand Path Saheb will be held on Saturday 15th February 2020 at 11-45am Kirtan & Ardas Guru ka Langer at 12-30pm. at Gurudwara Saheb Ameerpet, Hyderabad.
Inserted by:
SARDAR INDERJEET SINGH FAMILY
(S/1920/D01844)

IN FOND REMEMBRANCE
Late G.R. VISHWANATHAM
Traffic Inspector (S.C. Rly)
Wife Late SARASWATHAMMA
Inserted by:
Sons: G. Devender, Retd. Chief Controller (Rly) G. Surya Prakash (HAL).
Daughters:
G. Sai Kumari, G. Saroja, G. Ranga Sree
Grand and Great Grand Children
Cell: 9866598305
(S/1920/D01844)

3rd ANNIVERSARY
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Late CHAVVA NARAHARI RAO
Retd. Central Bank Manager
You are always in our Hearts forever
Inserted by: CHAVVA FAMILY
(S/1920/D01841)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
14th Death Anniversary
S. PRABHAKAR
Inserted By
FAMILY MEMBERS

3th ANNIVERSARY
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever Ps.23:6
BUDALA JOHN 15-02-2012
Retd. Officer, Survey of India
Your memories will keep you close to us in thought and spirit forever
Inserted by:
Wife: D. Jayamani Luke
Son-Daughter-in-law: B. Subhas - B. Annapurna
Daughters: B. Sailaja - B. Sriathapna
Daughter - Son-in-law: B. Saritha - CN. Raju
Grand Children:
Angel, Hadassah, Alex, Aryan, Eva, Ariv
(S/1920/D01841)

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IN BRIEF

No stay on Rao's suspension

Hyderabad: The Central Administrative Tribunal, Hyderabad Bench, on Friday declined to suspend the suspension orders issued to AP former intelligence chief A.B. Venkateswara Rao. The CAT Bench headed by B.V. Sudhakar asked the AP government why it had not paid the petitioner his salary for eight months. The bench inquired whether the state had informed the Centre of the suspension orders. Mr Desai Prakash Reddy, senior counsel representing AP, said the salaries had been made ready to be paid.

YSRC favours raids on Naidu

Party alleges father-son duo had amassed wealth through corrupt means

From Page 1

YSRC ministers suggested raids on Opposition leader N. Chandrababu Naidu's house to unearth the scandal related to his former personal secretary's wealth. "Raids on Chandrababu Naidu's houses would bring out more skeletons," said K. Kannababu, agriculture minister, who demanded an immediate inquiry by the Enforcement Directorate into the assets of the TD chief. Leading the counterattack, Mr Lokesh sought to

turn the tables against Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who said, "Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy former said sees corruption in everyone else, because he himself is highly corrupt." In a tweet, Mr Lokesh sought to clarify that the press release from the Income Tax department talked only about irregularities by infrastructure companies, whereas the ruling YSRC party was "indulging in false propaganda" by linking the raids to his party. "It is but natural that a

person who spent 16 months in jail wishes everyone else to undergo imprisonment but we don't invite such a situation," Mr Lokesh said. The TD also sought to distance itself from Mr Naidu's former aide Srinivas, with party senior leaders claiming that neither Mr Naidu nor his son have anything to do with Srinivas's actions. "On the contrary, we have already exposed Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy's corruption and are ready to prove that he, and his aides, bought 39,935 acres

of land in and around Visakhapatnam district," alleged P Anuradha, TD official spokesperson. YSR Congress leaders alleged that the father-son duo had amassed wealth through corrupt means in the execution of Polavaram, Pattiseema and other projects. Terming Pawan Kalyan as a "TD partner", they questioned the silence of the Jana Sena chief on the I-T raids. "The exposure in the I-T raids are the tip of the iceberg. It is high time Mr Naidu makes an announcement on raids conducted on his for-

mer PS and infra companies owned by the Kadapa district TD president," Botsa Satyanarayana, municipal minister, said. Ministers Balineni Srinivas Reddy, Avanti Srinivas, S B Amjad Bhasha, deputy chief minister, Ch Srinanganatha Raju and D Krishna Das addressed press conferences in different places and demanded immediate action against Mr Naidu. "The former CM did not allow the CBI into the state fearing exposure of corrupt practices," Vellampalli Srinivas, endowments minister, said.

ACB court to hear Parvathi plea

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 14

A special court of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in Hyderabad on Friday posted the hearing of the complaint in the disproportionate assets of former Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu to February 26. The complaint was filed fifteen years ago by N. Lakshmi Parvathi, widow of N.T. Rama Rao, former AP chief minister, seeking a probe into the ille-

gally accumulated assets of Mr Naidu. On Friday, Samba Shiva Rao, principal judge of the ACB special court, made it clear that the court would take a decision on the complaint by its next hearing. Ambiguity prevails due to stay orders issued by the then united AP High Court in 2005, which restrained the special court from going further on the complaint. The counsel representing Mr. Naidu tried to tell the court about his client's contention.

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