

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 19 FEBRUARY 2020



**WORLD | 12**  
Ghani secures second term



**SPORTS | 15**  
Boulton brags about taking Kohli wicket

**TABLOID**  
Aditi Rao replaces Samantha



## WEATHER

Max: 33.6°C  
Min: 16.7°C  
RH: 24%  
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy.  
Misty morning.  
Max/Min temp. 33/17°C

## ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Uttarayana  
Tithi: Magha Bahula Ekadasi till 3.05 pm  
Star: Poorvashada  
Varjyam: 4.14 pm to 5.56 pm  
Durmuhuram: 12.06 pm to 12.53 pm  
Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm  
HUIRI CALENDAR  
Jumada al-Sani 22, 1441 AH  
PRAYERS  
Fajar: 5.41 am  
Zohar: 12.40 pm  
Asar: 4.42 pm  
Maghrib: 6.24 pm  
Isha: 7.32 pm  
SUNSET TODAY 6.19 PM  
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.40 AM  
MOONSET TODAY 2.21 PM  
MOONRISE TOMORROW 3.20 AM

## COUNTER POINT



He is a minister... getting security clearance before meeting Prashant Kishor!

## Plane's engine catches fire

Mumbai: A Bengaluru-bound GoAir plane, carrying more than 130 people, aborted takeoff on Monday at Ahmedabad airport after one of its engines caught fire following a bird strike. All people deplaned safely and the aircraft was towed away from the runway, according to the airline. A GoAir official said there were 131 passengers and three infants onboard the aircraft besides crew when the incident happened. The airline official claimed the engine was hit by a bird. — PTI

## Pak may remain in FATF grey list

New Delhi: A sub-group of the global terror financing watchdog FATF on Tuesday recommended continuation of Pakistan in the 'Grey List' for its failure to check terror funding and a final decision will be taken on February 21, sources said on Tuesday. The decision was taken at the meeting of the FATF's International Co-operation Review Group, held at the ongoing Paris plenary. A final decision will be taken on Friday when the FATF takes up the issue. — PTI

## Indians to get lowest pay hike

Hyderabad: Employees in the Indian organised sector may see 9.1 per cent growth in their salaries, the lowest since 2009, according to a survey conducted by global human resource consultant Aon Plc. The survey, however, showed that around 39 per cent of the companies surveyed are expected to give as much as 10 per cent increase in pay. E-commerce and professional services firms are expected to give double-digit pay hike this year. — PTI

## Delhi cops: Imam instigated stir

New Delhi: The Delhi police has named Sharjeel Imam as an "instigator" in its charge sheet filed against 17 people in a case related to violence during protests against the amended citizenship law at New Friends Colony near Jamia Millia Islamia university last year. The accused, none of whom are students from Jamia, have been charged with rioting, attempt to murder among others. — PTI

# Another car falls off flyover

## One dead instantly, five injured in accident at Bharatnagar

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

Less than two months after businessman Kalvakuntla Krishna Milan Rao's overspeeding car flew off the newly inaugurated Bio Diversity flyover, killing a bystander underneath, the city witnessed a repeat on Tuesday, when a 27-year-old man was killed while his five friends suffered injuries when the car they were travelling fell down from the Bharatnagar fly-

over in Sanathnagar under the Cyberabad police commissionerate during the wee hours. The injured persons were shifted to the Gandhi Hospital for treatment. According to police, the incident took place when six friends, including Mohd Sohel, were returning to Borabanda after consuming tea at a hotel. Mr Sohel, a resident of Pandit Nehru Nagar in Boarabanda, runs a hotel along with his father Md. Shafi. On Monday, at



Mohd Sohel

around 10.30 pm, Sohel, along with his friends Irfan, Ashfaq, Ghouse and Sohail, all residents Boarabanda area, and driver

Sunil, went to Balanagar in a car (AP11 R9189). At around 2 am, they were driving towards Borabanda with Sunil being behind the wheels of the car. At around 2.15 am, the overspeeding car, while going towards Erragadda, rammed into the cement barriers of the Bharatnagar flyover and fell on the ground from at least 25 feet height, and landed in an upside-down position.

Page 3: Driver admits he lost control of car

# NPR, CAA expose cracks in Maharashtra alliance

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, FEB. 18

Despite the opposition of its alliance partners, the NCP and the Congress, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said on Tuesday his government would not block the National Population Register (NPR) exercise in the state.

"The NRC (National Registration of Citizens) and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) are two different issues. No one has to worry even if the CAA gets implemented. But the NRC will not be implemented in the state," Mr Thackeray said on Tuesday. On the NPR, Mr Thackeray said he would personally check the columns in the National Population Register to ensure there would not be

- Maha CM said he would check the columns in the NPR to ensure there would not be any problem.
- Pawar said it is Mr Thackeray's personal opinion

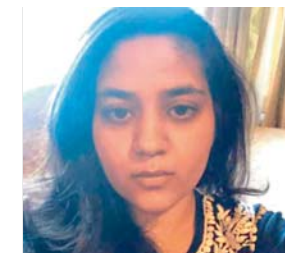
any problem with the exercise. "NPR is a census and I will go through columns given in the form. I don't think there will be any problem with it. The Census is carried out every ten years," the chief minister said while addressing the media at Sindhudurg. "If the NRC is implemented, it will affect not only the Hindus or the Muslims but it will also

affect the Adivasis. However, the Centre has not discussed the NRC as of now," he added.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar, however, said that Mr Thackeray is entitled to his personal views but all coalition partners in Maharashtra would soon have a detailed discussion on the CAA. "We will convince Mr Thackeray on the CAA," he said.

The differences among the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government constituents – the Sena, NCP and Congress – came to fore after the Shiv Sena walked out during voting in the Rajya Sabha but spoke out against the CAA, whereas the NCP and the Congress voted against the law.

Later, Mr Thackeray made it clear that there is no reason to be afraid of the citizenship law.



Iltija Mufti

## MEHBOOBA'S DAUGHTER TO SUE CENTRE

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 18

Days after former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti was slapped with the Public Safety Act while remaining under detention, her daughter Iltija on Tuesday said she felt Kashmir was looking at a very bleak future. She also indicated the possibility of suing the Central government and demanding compensation from it.

Full report on Page 9

# Baldia is known for dirt: KCR

## CM asks new representatives to change civic bodies' image

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

Chief Minister K. Chandrababbarao said on Tuesday that the term 'municipality' has become synonymous with drainage, dirt and garbage. "Baldia (municipality) has become synonymous with corruption. It is often referred to among people that Baldia khaye, peeya, chaldiye (municipality staff came, ate, drank and left)," Mr Rao said.

He appealed to newly elected urban bodies' representatives to remove this slur and adopt transparent policies and try to put an honest system in place.

At the state-level municipal conference held here on Tuesday, Mr Rao said the onus and responsibility of making towns and cities in Telangana state ideal in the country is on newly elected mayors, chairpersons, councillors,



Chief Minister K. Chandrababbarao listens to his son and minister K.T. Rama Rao during a meeting in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

and corporators. "Having power and position is like walking on a thin razor's edge. Public life is not an easy one. Don't lose your balance

while discharging your duties," he warned. "We got Telangana state with a lot of difficulty, sacrifices and hard work. We fought a relentless battle

believing that we will benefit from having our own state," he said.

Page 5: Politics ends after elections, says KCR

# COOP | POLLS

# Defeated candidate wants voters to return money, saris

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC NIZAMABAD, FEB. 18

In a case of the kettle calling the pot black, Pasham Narsimloo, a politician who lost an election recently despite having splurged money and distributed gifts lavishly on voters, asked them to show some honesty and return his spend.

Mr Narsimloo was defeated in the cooperative elections in Indalwai village in Nizamabad district, after which, he asked voters of his village to return their

cash and they had received from his campaign since they had not voted for him. Undertaking a bizarre padyatra after the results came out, he visited the homes of voters, asking them to return both cash and gifts he had given them. In an equally stunning development, some voters indeed returned some of the cash, but most others argued with him that they had not solicited any unlawful gain, but since the transaction was over, they would certainly not brook any requests for

a return. Mr Narsimloo, former chairman of the Indalwai primary agriculture cooperative society, recently contested from the Indalwai territorial constituency and was defeated. Of the 98 votes cast in the election, the winner got 79 votes, another contestant got a lone vote, while Narsimloo himself bagged all of seven votes. On asking voters, it was learnt that prior to polling, Mr Narsimloo had distributed ₹3,000 per vote besides giving a saree each to



Pasham Narsimloo

every lady, and made available alcohol and soft drinks for both men and women voters.

# Centre steps in to insulate India Inc

## Sitharaman to announce steps to address coronavirus impact on Indian companies

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO | DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 18

With the lockdown in China caused by deadly coronavirus getting prolonged, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday that the government will announce contingency measures after assessing the impact of the epidemic on the Indian economy.

The minister met industry representatives to review the situation following concerns were raised about the prospective shortage of certain goods and a resultant increase in prices after imports from China were stopped after the outbreak of the epidemic in the neighbouring country.

Addressing media persons later, Ms Sitharaman said she would hold a meeting with the secretaries of different ministries on Wednesday and announce steps to deal with the (emerging) situation in consultation with the Prime Minister's Office.

Industry bodies have cautioned the government about the impact of disruption in supply chain on the Indian economy, whose annual growth has already slowed down to a 10-year-low at five per cent.

"We were informed that there is a possibility of massive price hikes due to shift of import of raw material from China to Middle East or Europe. Almost all industry bodies have cautioned us about price hikes on plants, machinery, petrochemicals due to congestion at the Eastern Indian ports," said the source.

The minister, however, ruled out any concerns about price rise. "There are no concerns about price rise so far due to Coronavirus and it is too early to talk about the impact of Covid-19 outbreak on the Make in

## APPLE EXPECTS SALES TO DIP

San Francisco: Apple said on Monday that disruption due to the novel coronavirus had hit both production and demand in China, and the company was "experiencing a slower return to normal conditions" than planned.

"We do not expect to meet the revenue guidance we provided for the March quarter," it said in a statement, adding that worldwide iPhone supply would be "temporarily constrained" and demand in China had been affected.

Full report on Page 11

## L.E.D. PRICES LIKELY TO GO UP

New Delhi: Prices of LED bulbs and lights may see a rise of up to 10 per cent from March as the manufacturers face supply shortage of electronic components due to the coronavirus outbreak in China, industry body ELCOMA said.

Like mobile and electronics industry, domestic lighting industry is also affected due to the coronavirus epidemic as the supplies of electronic components are hit due to a shutdown in China, Electric Lamp and Component Manufacturers Association (ELCOMA) India said. — PTI

## TN CLAIMS CHINA RETURNEE DIED OF RENAL FAILURE, NOT CORONAVIRUS

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC PUDUKKOTTAI, FEB. 18

Seeking to put to rest the controversy over the suspected death of a China returnee in Tamil Nadu's Pudukkottai district due to the novel Coronavirus (nCoV) infection, the public health authorities here on Tuesday that 42-year-old Sakhthikumar died of renal failure as he has been suffering from jaundice for a long time.

Full report on Page 9

Dr B Kalavani, deputy director of public health services, Pudukkottai, said though the patient had tested negative for the 'nCoV virus', he was asked to remain in his village. But as his health condition deteriorated, his family admitted him to a private hospital in Madurai where he died on Saturday, the official said.

# Married two days ago, couple commits suicide

GEETA VALABOJU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

Two days ago, Aalaku Swamy and Shivaratri Umarani from Arur village in Veligonda mandal got married, taking an oath of inseparability. Today, they committed suicide by consuming poison at the Dolphin hotel in Bhongir. Reason: they had married on February 16 against the wishes of their families.

The two of them were in

a relationship for three years, but their families were not willing to give them permission to get married. The boy and girl lived opposite each other for years and belonged to the same community, Bhongir police said. The couple had come to Ghatkesar police station on February 16 after their marriage at the Kundmarugu Sai Baba temple. In their appeal to Ghatkesar police, the couple said that their family would kill

them if they learnt about their marriage. The couple approached the police for support and wanted help to deal with their family members. The police counselled the couple not to panic, promising that they would speak to and counsel both the sets of parents. However, the police did not keep their word and counsel the parents.

Page 4: Families were fighting over land



SHORT TAKES

UoH PENALISES 3 FOR ORGANISING CAA PROTEST

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

Three students in the University of Hyderabad (UoH) were penalised for organising the 'Shaheen Bagh Night Event' on January 31 on the campus. Orders stating the same were released by the UoH registrar on Tuesday. As per the university rules, there is no permission to conduct any event after 9 pm hours on campus.

A fine of ₹5,000 was imposed on three students, Faseeh Ahmed E.K., Sahana Pradeep and A.S. Adish, after the authorities have received an incident report from the security officer.

According to the report, the three students conducted the event from 9 pm to 2.30 am on February 1. The report stated that the students were also involved in painting graffiti and defacing the walls at the North Shopping complex, in spite of instructions from the security personnel not to conduct the event.

Students who got penalised said that there is a rise in such instances wherein voices were being suppressed, especially if the students belong to marginalised communities. "In such instances, we first receive show cause notice and are then penalised, but the university administration has directly released the notice this time," added the student.

The students were asked to remit the penalty amount to Gurbaksh Singh Students Assistance Fund (GBSSAF) within 10 days.



Fire breaks out in the Mushroom rock area of the University of Hyderabad campus

50 acres of UoH on fire

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

A major fire broke out in the grounds of the University of Hyderabad and spread across more than 50 acres towards the Mushroom Rock area of the campus. The cause of the fire is not yet known. It is suspected that several wild animals may have

died in the fire. For four hours, 25 student volunteers, security men and two fire engines worked to douse the fire. Students and security staff could be seen using large twigs to cut off the fire on the ground which was spreading through the dry grass. The University has three helipads and the grassy area surrounding

the helipads was burnt down. According to the students the fire spread across more than 100 acres. One of the student volunteers, J Karthik said, "Security guards saw the fire and soon students joined in to help them. The fire's spread was very large, more than 100 acres. The area to one side of

Mushroom Rock was burnt down." Some students said this is usual during the summer months when the grass is dry and catches fire easily. "Every year at least seven major fires occur in the University of Hyderabad campus for various reasons. The University is losing a lot of precious biodiversity. Last

time we saw snakes and other wildlife charred to death in a fire. I really don't understand why it is so difficult to procure a fire safety vehicle. Why is it difficult to give ₹ 30-40 lakh for internal safety? The fires sometimes also affect residential areas, construction sites and labs," said Dr Ravi Jallapalli, wildlife activist.

Villagers create disturbances in fear of tigress

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC TAMSU (K), ADILABAD, FEB. 18

Villagers of Tamsu (K) who were panic stricken by the movement of a tigress in their vicinity are now trying to drive it away by creating a racket, beating drums and blowing the 'pungi'.

This is not very wise as the tigress if scared may attack cattle and humans. What the forest department should be doing is sensitising the villagers to the plight of the tigress, and providing protection to her as well as the villagers. The tigress had migrated from the Tippireshwar tiger reserve in Maharashtra some days ago and strayed across the border scaring villagers. Rumours poured in regarding the movement of the tigress and the killing of cows from different places. The villagers say it's not one but more than two tigers that have strayed into the border villages of Bheempur mandal from the Tippireshwar reserve.

spillover population of tigers from Tippireshwar straying into border areas of Adilabad district after crossing the river Penganga. He said two tigers from Tippireshwar had entered the Kawal and settled there and he expects many more to come in through the Bheempur mandal which forms the tiger corridor between the two reserves. Many scared farmers have left the last picking of cotton in their fields and have lost nearly two to three quintals of cotton per acre. Agricultural labourers have lost a full season's work of cotton picking. Those farmers that are determined to continue with the cotton-picking are the ones making a loud noise using drums and blowing pungs to chase away the tiger.

Forest rescue staff is present in and around Tamsu (K) village and Gollaghat area and a tiger rescue van has been stationed and control room set up in Tamsu (K) village. Base camps with forest staff have been set up at some places and are restricting the movement of villagers and vehicles inside certain forest areas.



Forest officials set up a control room to monitor the situation that arises with the stray tiger movement in the Tamsu (K) village in Adilabad district on Tuesday.

2,892 CASES PENDING IN COURTS: WAKF

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

Members of the Central Wakf Council discussed various issues pertaining to the digitisation of Wakf records, protection of properties and legal cases pending in courts with the TS Wakf Board.

TS Wakf Board chairman Mohammed Saleem informed the visiting delegation that 77,538 acres of lands are notified as Wakf properties under 33,929 Wakf institutions in the state. A large portion of the Wakf properties were encroached. The Wakf Board is taking steps to regain possession of the encroached land, he said. The Board was issuing notices under Section 54 of the Wakf Act for eviction and registering criminal cases against land grabbers. Steps have been taken to cancel the ORCs issued against the Wakf properties.

He said that the TS Wakf Board had completed the task of digitisation and computerisation of Wakf records under first and second phases of the National Developmental Scheme, in compliance with the instructions of the Central Wakf Council. There are 2,892 cases pending in courts pertaining to Wakf properties. The Board has retained senior lawyers apart from regular counsels to argue the cases.

Mr Saleem emphasised on the need for extending interest-free loans for the development of Wakf properties towards education and health. The TS board had not applied for financial aid as of now because of its reservations with the terms and conditions laid down by the Council.

Tighten Covid-19 screening, says expert

Ensure flu vaccine is administered to elderly; is part of govt scheme, says Piot

KANIZA GARARI IDC HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

Asymptomatic carriers of Covid-19, the name given to the coronavirus strain that has claimed over 1,700 lives, mostly in China, are a cause for concern and India needs to be vigilant and further strengthen its screening and testing process as there is concern that there could be cases which are not yet detected, explained Dr Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who was in Hyderabad to attend BioAsia 2020. Excerpts from a conversation with Dr Piot.



Dr Peter Piot

Why must India be vigilant for Covid-19?

Contact tracing of people and airport screening is raising a question in scientific circles about whether it is enough. Many cases are asymptomatic; some show mild symptoms and others present symptoms that are due to common cold and flu. There is a lot of uncertainty about Covid-19 and there is still no clarity on the mode of transmission. There could be cases that are not detected and that means that vigilance will have to be maintained for the whole of 2020.

What immediate steps can India take?

India must ensure that the influenza vaccine is administered to the elderly and it

is a part of its government programme too. The influenza vaccine will help to control fatal pneumonia. Respiratory diseases and outbreak of virus lead to development of pneumonia. When a vaccine is administered the attack of the virus is less as there is human immunity that is prepared to deal with it. Increase of pneumonia cases is a burden for both developing and developed countries. The story of China is an example for India; there are lots of lessons to be learnt from it. The quick spread of the disease, containment, complete lockdown and also severe impact on the economy is very scary. To avoid these, India must have a robust preparedness where vaccination, health education and also precautions are known to people.

How can these steps be taken? It is important to understand that sample testing for the virus must be done in every state and there must be a robust diagnostic centre. One laboratory in Pune will not serve for a

98 samples test negative for virus

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

A total of 98 samples taken from people who have arrived in the city from China and other countries hit by the novel coronavirus Covid-19, have tested negative till Tuesday, the health department has said. Only one person is admitted to the Gandhi General Hospital and is under observation in the isolation ward. Test results on this person will be available on Wednesday, the department said.

country like India. You need masks and there is a major shortage of these as they come from China only. Hence manufacturing within the country is also a very important aspect. Sharing real time and real information is the key to tackling outbreaks. This requires real time data and materials. Governments also have to manage social media to a large extent as it spreads false rumours. These are the lessons from China for all. It is a huge exercise in medical management.

peratures. We have witnessed outbreaks when temperatures dip. But viruses adapt to the local climate. There are also cycles, where it will peak in one season and not do so in the other. The cycles of the virus are clear but we do not know whether it completely goes away. In the case of COVID 2019, we need to find therapy, medicines and also study the treatment modules of patients to understand what has worked and what has not. Mortality is only two per cent in severe cases. The number of severe cases is very high. Being prepared for an outbreak is the need of the hour and for countries like China and India, it is important due to their populations.

It is said that the rise in temperatures will kill the virus and it will be gone. The theory is that viruses do not survive in high tem-

DRUG SHOWS EFFICACY IN TREATING COVID-19

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

China has approved the use of Favilavir, the first anti-viral drug, to combat the novel coronavirus as it has shown efficacy in treating the Covid-19 cases. This is the first medicine which has been developed by China and approved by its National Medical Products Administration. The drug was developed for treatment for the Ebola disease and Marburg virus infections. It was found to show anti-viral activity against single-stranded RNA viruses such as respiratory syncytial virus, Junin virus, Lassa fever virus, Hendra virus and coronaviruses including MERS and SARS viruses. The drug Favilavir has been used to treat a patient in Washington who was infected with Covid-19. The drug has been tried on infected individuals with and without severe symptoms and it has worked. Mr Sanjay Reddy, president of Telangana Pharmacists Association, explained, "In the clinical trials this drug has been used. It was put to use for coronavirus patients too and it is found to work on them. For this reason the Chinese authorities have now given a green signal for production of the drug."

Turning 90



President of Deccan Chronicle Employees Union and Indian National Trade Union Congress Dr G. Sanjeeva Reddy offers sweets to his wife G. Padmavathi on the occasion of his 90th birthday celebrations organised by Deccan Chronicle Employees Union in Chennai on Tuesday. - DC

TWISTING | TALE

HC asked police to hand over ongoing Heera Group probe to SFIO

Cops move SC against Nowhera's bail

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

The police has filed a special leave petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court against the Telangana High Court order granting conditional bail to Nowhera Shaik, managing director of the Heera Group, against whom multiple cases had been registered for allegedly defrauding investors to the tune of ₹5,600 crore by collecting deposits. The High Court had granted conditional bail to Nowhera Shaik and transferred the ongoing investigation into the cases from the state police to the New Delhi-headquartered Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) in December last year. Sources told Deccan

- Nowhera Shaik was arrested on October 16, 2018.
- Besides Telangana state, cases were registered against her in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Delhi.
- The Hyderabad city police has attached her properties.
- The Enforcement Directorate has questioned Nowhera Shaik.



Chronicle that the SLP was filed mainly on two counts: Granting conditional bail to Nowhera Shaik, and transferring the case to the SFIO.

The contention of the state police is that SFIO does not have the mandate to investigate cases of this nature. Instead, the state police suggested that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) would be the appropriate agency to deal with such cases which have national and international ramifications.

SFIO functions under the ministry of corporate affairs and is mandated to conduct multi-disciplinary investigations of major corporate frauds.

In their petition, the state police said that Nowhera Shaik was running a Ponzi-like scam by attracting huge deposits to the tune of ₹5,600 crore from nearly two lakh people. The police said that Heera Group has close to 200 bank accounts through which the company was alleged to be carrying out shady details. There were foreign currency deposits to the tune of ₹250 crore and in all her business ventures, the company was said to be making profit of about 90 per cent.

"The CBI is the appropriate agency to handle the case of this magnitude and not the SFIO as it is a complex case having multiple dimensions. A thorough investigation by CBI can uncover many more aspects related to the case," the state police said. It is learnt that more than 40 cases were registered against Shaik in different states. During multiple interrogations by police of various states besides the Enforcement Directorate, Nowhera Shaik did not reveal anything about the alleged fraud. All through, investigators have been struggling to get more information of her properties abroad, particularly in the UAE and her bank accounts overseas. In fact, though the Telangana state police was earlier mulling to hand over the case to CBI, the state government never formally wrote to the agency to take over the case, reportedly under pressure from some quarters.





SHORT TAKES

HUSSAIN: BJP IS AGAINST MINORITIES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

Atrocities committed against the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities communities across the country since the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in 2014 shows that the BJP is anti-Dalit and anti-minorities, said Karnataka Congress Rajya Sabha MP Syed Naseer Hussain.

Addressing a press conference in Gandhi Bhavan in the city on Tuesday, he claimed that BJP leaders had stated that Dalits and Valmikis are not citizens of this country.

He criticised the Supreme Court verdict regarding reservation in promotions for SCs and STs, which was the same argument used by the lawyers of the BJP government.

Mr Hussain said that the Congress had been working for equality in the country for the past 70 years and the Congress will oppose efforts by the BJP to bring in the Bill against reservation.

He alleged that the BJP is trying to divert the attention of the people from its failure in providing employment through issues such as the NRC, CAA and NPR.

Replying to a question with regard to the Majlis-e-Ittihadul Muslimin's criticism of the Congress, he said MIM was like the River Musi and Congress was an ocean. MIM leaders were targeting the Congress to get cheap popularity.

● SYED NASEER Hussain said that the Congress had been working for equality in the country for the past 70 years and the Congress will oppose efforts by the BJP to bring in the Bill against reservation

SRINIVASAN URGES HC TO QUASH CASES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

India Cements chairman and managing director N. Srinivasan has approached the Telangana High Court urging it to quash the cases filed against him and the company by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the quid pro quo case pertaining to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He also sought exemption from making a personal appearance before the special CBI court that hears cases of the Enforcement Directorate.

Justice Ghandikota Sridevi who was hearing the petition was not inclined to give interim directions in the exemption petition and adjourned the case to April 15.

In the petition, Mr Srinivasan submitted that it has become difficult for him to appear before the trial court every time at his advanced age of 75 years and with several health problems. He urged the court to quash the cases lodged by the ED against him.

His counsel T. Niranjan Reddy submitted to the court that the Supreme Court had earlier quashed the CBI case against Mr Srinivasan and urged the High Court to quash the ED case too.

ED counsel said that the case cannot be compared with the CBI case as it pertains to the special law of Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

In cases registered against Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy in the disproportionate assets case, both the CBI and ED have filed chargesheets against Mr Srinivasan and India Cements, charging them with making huge investments in Mr Reddy's firms in exchange for benefits such as limestone leases and additional water allocation extended to India Cements by the AP government between 2004 and 2009 when Mr Reddy's father, Y.S. Rajasekar Reddy, was chief minister. The ED has tracked the flow of money from India Cements to Mr Reddy's firms and described them as proceeds of crime under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

● IN THE petition, Mr N. Srinivasan submitted that it has become difficult for him to appear before the trial court every time at his advanced age of 75 years and with several health problems



Union railway minister Piyush Goyal and Union minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy laying the foundation for infrastructure at Secunderabad railway station. BJP state president Dr K. Laxman, TS minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav and BJP leader from AP C.M. Ramesh are also seen.

Goyal asks KCR not to politicise CAA

Union minister hopes for wiser counsel in TS

RAJESWARI PARASA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

Railway minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said no state government can oppose laws that are passed by Parliament. It is unfortunate that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao under the influence of MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi was insulting the Constitution by not abiding by the laws.

"We request KCR not to indulge in petty politics to appease minorities," Mr Goyal said at a meeting in the city on the stand taken by Telangana state on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

Mr Chandrasekhar Rao has previously stated that the state Assembly will pass a resolution against the CAA.

Mr Goyal urged the state government not to politicise the CAA and hoped that "wiser counsel would prevail" in taking a decision.

"The CAA has nothing to do with the citizenship of the rest of Indians, it is just a process to include persecuted minorities from the neighbouring Islamic countries who are staying in India as refugees," the minister said.

The minister claimed that the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre had never differentiated people based on religion. The main agenda was 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas', he said.

Though minister K.T. Rama Rao had said at a

Laxman criticised for sharing dais with Goyal

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

The TRS and the Congress sharply criticised the presence of BJP state president Dr K. Laxman with Union railway minister Piyush Goyal at an official function in the city on Tuesday. Other BJP leaders were also seen on the dais.

Dr Laxman not only shared the dais during the function to lay the foundation stone for the Cherlapalli satellite terminal, but also praised Mr Goyal stating that he had worked hard both as coal and railway minister.

As per protocol, only ministers, MPs, MLAs and MLCs of the jurisdiction are eligible to share the dais during official functions.

Dr Laxman is not a legislator, having lost the 2018 Assembly elections from Musheerabad, and at present heads the BJP state unit.

When asked how Dr Laxman was invited to the stage when he was not a legislator, a South

Central Railway officer said they had done so on the instructions of the railway minister.

Reacting to the incident, Mr Talasani Srinivas Yadav, animal husbandry minister, pointed out that not only Dr Laxman but another former legislator, N.V.S.S. Prabhakar Rao, and small-time BJP leaders were on the dais, making it a BJP affair.

He asked what would the Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy say about the BJP leaders on stage, after he had complained that the state government had violated protocol during the inauguration of a Metro Rail corridor recently.

He said that though the state government had extended Mr Kishan Reddy an invitation, he had made an issue out of the allegation for political gain.

Advising the BJP leaders to hold the function at their party office if they wanted to sit beside the railway minister, Mr Srinivas Yadav demanded Mr Kishan Reddy reply for Tuesday's inci-

dent.

The minister also took exception to the remarks of Mr Kishan Reddy that "Telangana people know only the red bus (a reference to district buses) and it was the BJP that had brought the railway to the state."

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy pointed out that the incident was the best example to show that neither of the ruling parties in the state and at the Centre were respecting elected representatives of Opposition parties.

Stating that such violation of protocol was not good during official functions, Mr Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the people were observing the acts of the BJP at Centre and the TRS in the state.

It is worth mentioning that in the mention K. Raghurama Krishnam Raju, YSRC MP from Narasapuram, was also seen sharing the dais with Mr Goyal at Cherlapalli.

He asked why the state government was reluctant to implement Central government schemes like Ayushman Bharat and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

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Cong asks timeline for loan waiver

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

Senior Congress leader and MLC T. Jeevan Reddy has demanded that the ruling TRS government spell out as to when it will fulfil its promise of waiving off the loans of farmers.

Addressing a press conference here, he pointed out that farmers are in deep distress with non-implementation of loan waiver. They are also unable to get crop loans. He advised the newly elected PACS presidents and directors of ruling party to try and get funds for societies and extend loans to farmers, instead of continuing to celebrate their recent victory.

Jeevan Reddy appealed to government that it allocate sufficient budget for providing loan waiver to farmers in the upcoming 2020-2021 budget. He was critical that the ruling party is always trying to blame the Centre whenever farmers demand Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their products, stating that MSP is not under the purview of the state government.

He said if the state government asks banks to re-extend loans to farmers on 6 per cent interest, the farmers can get major relief. Otherwise, all farmers will have to pay interest for loans at commercial rates.

The senior Congress leader asked Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to learn from neighbouring CM Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who has offered ₹6,850 as MSP for a quintal of turmeric. He ridiculed agriculture minister S. Niranjan Reddy for writing just a letter to centre seeking increase in the number of centres for purchasing red gram, instead of also



T. Jeevan Reddy

● JEEVAN REDDY advised the newly elected PACS presidents and directors of ruling party to try and get funds for societies and extend loans to farmers, instead of continuing to celebrate their recent victory

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following up on the issue. Elsewhere, Congress leader and former MP V. Hanumantha Rao held the state government responsible for the suicide by Narsaiah, a research scholar who could not find employment. He pointed out that all the unemployed had hoped that once Telangana becomes a separate state, they would get jobs. But their hopes had been dashed after TRS came to power in the new state.

KCR: POLITICS ENDS AFTER ELECTIONS

From Page 1

He said that for him politics was up to the level of fighting elections and there was no politics after that. "If you closely watch the implementation of government programmes and schemes, you will understand this," he said.

He advised the newly elected public representatives not to indulge in false talk.

"Don't make false promises to people that you will get all the work done overnight. Do proper planning before undertaking any work or task. Have proper awareness of the subject. Prepare a comprehensive action plan before plunging into the execution," he said.

The Chief Minister told his audience to develop towns and cities with people's participation and have less photo-ops, and concentrate on executing the work.

In the end, the Chief Minister quoted a poem, Subhshita Trisati by the Sanskrit poet Bhartrhari to the effect that a person who is not confident in himself will not do any work, afraid of the difficulties he may come across.

● K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO advised the newly elected public representatives not to indulge in false talk

● HE TOLD his audience to develop towns and cities with people's participation and have less photo-ops, and concentrate on executing the work

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IN BRIEF

No road cutting after May 15

Hyderabad: No road cutting permission after May 15; shifting of beggars to shelter homes; regulating street vending zones; installing CC cameras and delegating powers to zonal commissioners for works under CRMP are some decisions taken at a meeting chaired by Additional DGP Jitender and GHMC Commissioner Lokesh Kumar on Safe City Project at GHMC Head Office here on Tuesday. Jitender said about 10,000 cameras have been installed and they have to be synchronised to Command & Control Room for monitoring traffic.

# Robots aid farm-fresh veggies at home

GEETA VALABOJU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

If you are looking for fresh vegetables untainted by insecticides and pesticides, robotic farming is the way to go.

Robotic cultivation, also known as 'square feet farming' and 'precision farming', uses a robot-based system and can be done in small spaces such as balconies, terraces and backyards.

For crop farming, robots need to autonomously navigate their environment and perform actions at set locations, for example, picking a fruit, spraying a

pesticide, planting a seed, imaging a plant, or making a measurement. The ground is often fitted with tracks which the robots follow to reach the target locations. The robots are wirelessly connected to a central operator to both receive updated instructions regarding the mission, and report status and data.

To a certain extent, the technology is similar to that of autonomous cars. Where it differs is that farming robots often need to manipulate their environment, picking vegetables or fruits, applying pesticides in a localised manner, or planting seeds.

All these tasks require sensing, manipulation, and processing of their own. The robots navigate plant rows, sense the plants, and send the data to the farmers to help optimise seed breeding. Once the field is ready, it sends a notification to the farmer.

The only time the farmer needs to lay his hands on the crops is when it is being harvested, said Mr Manmohan from Opol Cyber Solutions Pvt Ltd, which is implementing the system.

"The system costs up to ₹2.5 lakh with a warranty of 15 years. There are 120 varieties that can be culti-

vated with the help of robotic farming.

It can be done from anywhere in the world through technology, as a camera is inserted which gives current feedback.

Some 30 varieties of vegetables can be grown in an area of 1.5 metres by 3 metres, which is sufficient for four people. Double that number of varieties of vegetables can be raised in a plot of 1.5 metres by 6 metres," he said.

Ms Satyawani, who lives in the MLA Quarters and has opted for robotic farming. Over a period of three months she has raised 20 varieties of vegetables and

fruits. "With no human interference this seems easier for busy working people. We go to supermarkets where we get vegetables sprayed with chemicals which have lost their taste. We got the idea of implementing robotic farming on our terrace. It is now surprising to see 20 varieties of fresh, chemical-free, non-toxic veggies and fruits which are healthier," she says.

This type of farming is best suited to people living in independent houses with open spaces or gardens around and where there will be no need of any third person interference.



A picture of the robotic farming device installed in the garden.

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**IN BRIEF**

**Rape verdict postponed again**

**Tirupati:** The verdict in the rape and murder of a five-year-old girl, which was reported in Chittoor district in November last year, was postponed again on Tuesday, to February 24. According to reports, the special court in Chittoor dealing with case took up the recall petition filed by the accused, Mohammad Rafi, 25. Additional District and Sessions Judge, Chittoor, M. Venkata Harinath then postponed the verdict. "As per the law, the accused is allowed to file a recall petition to advance his arguments," a public prosecutor said.

**2ND SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASE IN VISAKHAPATNAM**

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, FEB. 18

A 19-year-old girl was admitted to the Government Chest and Infectious Hospital in the city late on Monday evening on suspicion that she could have contracted the Covid-19. She was suffering from fever, cold and had been coughing since she arrived from China. The girl is pursuing her first year of MBBS in a city 1,500 km from Wuhan. District medical and health officer Dr S. Tirupathi Rao told *Deccan Chronicle* that her throat and nasal swabs have been sent to Hyderabad laboratory and the results are expected on Wednesday. "Today her temperature has dropped and diarrhoea is under control," the DMHO said and added that this is the second suspected case in the city ever since the virus broke out. The first case was that of a boy who flew from China via Dubai and was admitted into hospital.

**New AP districts to come up in '21**

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 18

The formation of new districts in Andhra Pradesh may take place only in 2021. AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, during his Praja Sankalpa Yatra before the Assembly elections last year, had promised that the number of districts will be increased from 13 to 25 for decentralisation, better administration and taking governance to doorsteps of the people. In its election manifesto, the YSR Congress promised to turn every Lok Sabha constituency into a district.

Taking forward this promise, Mr Reddy has taken up the exercise for formation of new districts. However, the Union home ministry has directed all states not to make any jurisdictional changes from January 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021. This is in view of house listing operation (HLO) being taken up, along with updating of National Population Register (NPR), as part of Census of India-2021. Consequently, the state government is not in a position to form new districts till the census is completed.

The state administration and the Chief Minister had earlier thought that delimitation of Assembly constituencies will be completed in a year. They decided to form new districts after



Veteran Tollywood actress Jayasudha gives her son's wedding card to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at Tadepalli camp office on Tuesday. —DC

that. But the Centre instead decided to take up delimitation exercise in the two Telugu states along with that of other states "after the first Census after 2026". Because of this, the state government decided to take up the exercise of forming new districts.

At a recent media conference in Visakhapatnam, a close associate of Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy, Mr V. Vijayasai Reddy, MP, asserted that the state government will form new districts soon. Incidentally, the Telangana state government has already formed new districts, increasing the number from 10 to 34.

In his Praja Sankalpa Yatra, Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy had also promised to name some districts after their prominent leaders and freedom fighters. He promised to

name one district in Krishna area after N.T. Rama Rao, renowned Telugu actor and founder of the Telugu Desam.

It is believed the state government will name Gudivada after NTR district because Nimmakuru, the birthplace of NTR, falls under this district.

The Chief Minister had announced renaming Krishna district itself as NTR district but the proposal received criticism from several quarters.

Continuing his refrain during the Praja Sankalpa Yatra in Visakhapatnam district, the Chief Minister had announced that one district would be named after Alluri Sitarama Raju, the great freedom fighter. The state government may consider naming Araku district after Alluri Sitarama Raju.

**OCCULT RITUALS WORRY PEOPLE IN KOVUR TOWN**

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, FEB. 18

People of Kovur town in Nellore district are worried over occult rituals performed in an open ground of the neighbourhood on Sunday night. A large portrait of Goddess Kali was painted on the ground with different colours and nails were found hammered around it. The sorcerers also sacrificed a black rooster, which was found lying around amid pieces of lemon and pumpkin.

The occult rituals came to notice after students went to the ground to play cricket. According to locals, the site, full of bushes, belongs to a defunct real-estate firm. Some of the students cleared part of the bushes some time ago, so that they could play cricket. This cleared area came in handy for sorcerers to perform occult rituals.

Locals believe that going by the nails hammered into ground and sacrifice of the rooster, black magic - Chathabadi - was performed to eliminate their rivals.

When contacted, Kovur sub-inspector Krishna Reddy said he was not aware of the incident. He, however, assured that a team would be sent to inspect the area and take necessary action.



The site where occult ritual was performed.

**Jagan asked to file petition in SC against 'black laws'**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 18

A protest meeting against CAA, NRC and NPR held here on Tuesday asked Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to file a petition in the Supreme Court requesting the apex body to reject laws that harm people. The meeting conducted by Muslim Muttahida Mahaz (All-Minorities Associations Network) was attended by the leaders of various parties, including Telugu Desam, Brahmana Chaitanya Vedita and other organisations.

AIMIM president and MP Asaduddin Owaisi asked the CM to reject the laws which harmed the people. Welcoming the statement of TD MP Kesineni Srinivas alias Nani against the laws, he urged TD supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu to openly speak against them without fearing Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Mr Owaisi said Mr Modi, who would not reveal his educational qualification, was ordering the public to show their certificates to get citizenship. The laws violated Article 14 of the Constitution, which is a



AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi, MP Vijayawada Kesineni Nani, ex-MLA Jaleel Khan at a meet against CAA, NPR and NRC, in Vijayawada on Tuesday. —DC

black spot in the history of the country.

Mr Owaisi affirmed that they were not against giving citizenship to the Hindus of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan but opposed laws in the name of religion. He alleged that the BJP government was raising sedition charges against minority youths for protesting against the black laws, but saving Hindu extremists who fired on the protestors of Shaheen Bagh. He alleged that 19 lakh people were denied citizenship in

Assam in which five lakh were Muslims.

TD MP Srinivas stated that the party will fight against the black laws and asserted that Mr Modi cannot divide the country in the name of religion. He announced that the TD MLAs will extend support to the CM if he moved a resolution against such laws in AP Assembly.

Former MLA Jalil Khan and other leaders asked the CM to pass a resolution and file a petition in the SC against the laws.

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IN BRIEF

Dantewada touches new heights

Dantewada: Once plagued by Naxal violence, today Dantewada is touching new heights just like Maddaram with drastic drop in Naxal incidents, decline in the level of malnutrition, women are defying the old age superstition by joining the unconventional enterprise like production of sanitary napkins and farmers have themselves become a brand in terms of organic products. Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel said, "If we don't provide plough to the hands, they will hold the gun. This is the only way to eliminate Naxalism. He emphasised the need of eliminating problems like malnutrition and malaria because they are more dangerous than Naxalism.

Panchayats polls in J&K postponed

Jammu: The bypolls to panchayats scheduled for March 5 in Jammu and Kashmir has been postponed due to security reasons, J&K Chief Electoral Officer Shailendra Kumar said on Tuesday. By-election to over 12,500 panchayat seats in Jammu and Kashmir was scheduled to be held in eight phases from March 5. "The bypolls to panchayats has been postponed for three weeks due to security reasons," Kumar said. He said this step was taken after inputs given to him by the home department over security issues. The eight-phase poll was earlier scheduled to be held from March 5 to March 20 on a party basis. The polling was slated for March 5, March 7, March 9, March 12, March 14, March 16, March 18 and March 20.

SEER 'BLAMES' MENSTRUATING WOMEN

Ahmedabad, Feb. 18: A religious leader from Gujarat has said that menstruating women who cook food for their husbands will take birth as dogs in their next life while men consuming food prepared by women having periods will reborn as buffaloes. Notably, Swami Krushnaswarup Dasji, who made these remarks, is associated with Swaminarayan Temple which runs a college in Bhuj whose principal and female staff had allegedly forced more than 60 girls to remove their undergarments to check if they were menstruating for "breaking a hostel rule that girls having their periods are not supposed to take meal with other inmates". "....It is certain that men will be born as buffaloes in their next life if they consume food cooked by menstruating women. "I don't care if you do not like my views, but this is all written in our shastras (scriptures). If a menstruating woman cooks food for her husband, she will be definitely born as a female dog in her next life." Swami said while delivering a sermon in Gujarat, the video of which has gone viral. The swami belongs to "Nar-Narayan Devgadi" of Swami Narayan Sect. The principal, the hostel rector and the peon of Shree Sahajanand Girls Institute were arrested on Monday for the alleged incident which occurred on February 11. Krushnaswarup Dasji also warned men from consuming food prepared by menstruating women.

Taj set for Trump visit



American security personnel along with CISF and ASI personnel visit the historic Taj Mahal for inspection ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit, in Agra, on Tuesday. President Trump accompanied by First Lady Melania Trump will pay his maiden visit to India from February 24. — PTI

Pak tried to portray 26/11 as 'Hindu terror': Maria

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, FEB. 18

Former Mumbai police commissioner Rakesh Maria has claimed in his memoirs that Pakistan had planted fake documents on the 10-member 26/11 terror squad in a bid to masquerade the attacks — which claimed at least 174 lives — as an act of 'Hindu terror'. Maria's long-awaited book *Let Me Say It Now* was released on Monday. The retired IPS officer wrote in his book that the sole terrorist who was caught alive, Mohammad Ajmal Kasab, was found to be in the possession of an identity card that mentioned him as Samir Chaudhary, a Bangalore resident.

The former top cop, who also headed the terror attacks investigation, wrote in his book that Pakistan's notorious Intelligence agency, the Inter State Intelligence (ISI), and terror outfit Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) gave a contract to fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim, who is holed up in Pakistan, to kill Kasab. Excerpts from Maria's book stated, "If everything went according to plan, Kasab would have died as Chaudhary, and the media would have blamed 'Hindu terrorists' for the attack". On a photograph of Kasab released after the terror attack, Maria said, "It was the handiwork of central agencies. The Mumbai police tried hard not to disclose any details to the media fearing for security." In the photograph, Kasab is seen wearing a red thread on his right wrist, which is sacred to Hindus. "But alas, it had not worked that way and here he was, Ajmal Amir Kasab of Faridkot in Pakistan," Maria's book stated. He also said that mar-

tyred Mumbai constable Tukaram Ombile's heroic feat of capturing Kasab alive was the key to foiling this plan. Kasab was indoctrinated into believing that Muslims were not allowed to offer namaaz in India and he was taken to a mosque near Metro INOX Cinemas in a bid to rubbish his belief, the book stated. The book further revealed the details of Kasab's journey prior to his arrival here, stating that he was allowed to stay with his family for a week and given ₹1.25 lakh before he left for Mumbai.

KERALA WANTS TO EVICT CAA PROTESTERS

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB. 18

While the CPM is wholeheartedly backing Shaheen Bagh protest in Delhi, the government led by the party in Kerala has issued eviction notice to people who are agitating against CAA and NCR outside the state secretariat in the heart of capital Thiruvananthapuram. The anti-CAA, NRC NPR protesters including women have erected a small pandal on the pavement in front of secretariat. Human rights activists, cultural leaders and people from various walks of life are holding 24x7 dharna for the past 16 days. On Monday night cops came to the protest site and noted down the details of the participants. As a follow up action, the cops turned up on Tuesday and asked the protesters to dismantle the pandal. They cited an earlier directive of the High Court which prohibited pandals in front of the secretariat citing security reasons. The protesters, however, rejected the police directive and resolved to continue the agitation.

DEATH OF 6 KIDS OF A FAMILY TRIGGERS SUSPICION

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB. 18

The death of six children of a family in Cherambaram in Tirur of Malappuram district in Kerala has led to serious doubts among the police department over the cause of deaths. The children, three girls and three boys, are of Thramal Rafeeq and Sabna. The latest was the death of a three months old child on Tuesday. A case was registered by the police following a complaint lodged in connection with the death of the infant. Subsequently the police exhumed the body which was buried in the morning and shifted it to Tirur district hospital for post-mortem examination. The police said that a case of unnatural death has been registered in connection with the death. With the locals raising suspicion about the previous deaths of five children belonging to the couple, the police has decided to probe the matter in detail. Of the six children, the third girl child lived till the age of four. The rest died before turning one. "The post-mortem will be conducted on Tuesday. Efforts are on to obtain the medical records of the children who died earlier. The cause of death will be ascertained with the help of medical and forensic experts," said a cop. Meanwhile, the relatives of the couple have ruled out foul play in the death of the children. According to them, the doctors had informed that the deaths had occurred due to some genetic disease.

MP CM to take call on NPR after reviewing it

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, FEB. 18

Amid mounting pressure from a powerful faction in ruling Congress to reject National Population Register (NPR), which is scheduled to begin on April 1, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Tuesday sought to play safe indicating that he would take the call on it after reviewing the whole issue. Talking to reporters here, Nath said, "We will examine the issue. We have no plan to implement it now". The Chief Minister has sought to play safe on NPR even as he had earlier categorically said that the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) would not be implemented in MP under Congress regime.

- THE CHIEF MINISTER has categorically said that the contentious CAA would not be implemented in MP under Congress regime.
- OPPOSITION BJP on Tuesday slammed the Chief Minister for showing reluctance to implement NPR.

Earlier, Congress MLA Arif Masood threatened to quit party if the NPR would be implemented in the state. "What is the use of remaining in Congress if NPR will be implemented in MP where there is a Congress government," he told reporters here. Sources said a powerful factional leader in Congress in MP was behind Masood's move to force the Chief Minister not to execute NPR in the state. The Kamal Nath government which has strength of 114 in 230-member state Assembly, one less than majority mark, survives by support from two Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLAs, one Samajwadi Party (SP) legislator and 5 Independents. BJP has strength of 109 in the House.

RACING | POWER Nishanth Shetty covers 143 mts in 13.61 secs

New Kambala record set

GURURAJ A. PANIYADI | DC MANGALURU, FEB. 18

The buffalo race Kambala continues to make waves in the world of sport. And this time, another record has been topped with Kambala jockey Nishanth Shetty covering 143 metres in 13.61 seconds during the traditional race held at Venur on Sunday. He has thus beaten Srinivas Gowda, who created a record last week covering 142.5 metres of the Kambala track in 13.62 seconds during an event held at Aikala on February 1. So if Gowda covered 100 metres in 9.55 seconds Shetty has done it in 9.52 seconds!



Kambala jockey Srinivas Gowda participates in a buffalo race in Kambala of Karnataka district.

Gowda's achievement had gone viral with Kambala lovers declaring that he had covered 100 metres faster than speed legend Usain Bolt had done. The state government had even felicitated him with a cash prize with Union minister of state for sports, Kiren Rijiju inviting Gowda to the Sports Authority of India (SAI), which the Kambala sportsman is reluctant to accept as he feels the running pattern of Kambala and an athletic race are different. Now with Nishanth Shetty setting a new record covering 100 metres in a record 9.52 seconds, it remains to be seen how the state government and the SAI will react. The Kambala season has almost reached its end with only three races scheduled in the next three weeks, the last one being on March 7 at Bangady. Kambala lovers feel that with jockeys covering the muddy fields which serve as tracks in record time this year, the next three events will definitely be a crowd puller.

Pawar for SIT probe into Elgar case

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, FEB. 18

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar is still sulking over the handing over of the Elgar Parishad investigation to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Justifying his demand for a parallel probe by a state agency, Pawar on Tuesday claimed that the Devendra Fadnavis government had misused the Maharashtra police machinery in the case. The Congress also voiced its opposition after Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray agreed to hand over the case to the agency. Pawar made it clear that his party had misgivings regarding the conduct of the police, especially the Pune police, and the then-officials and officers in the government. "We have been continuously demanding the setting up of an SIT (Special Investigation Team) comprising a retired judge of the Supreme Court, retired police officer and an IAS officer. The SIT should probe the investigation and evidence that has been collected in the case and bring the truth before the people," Pawar said. The NCP chief exuded confidence that if an independent investigation were conducted, the truth pertaining to those who have been behind bars would come out. According to him, the probe will reveal that injustice had been done to them. In addition to this, "those who have misused power will be exposed", he claimed. Pawar, who was a chief architect of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), wrote a letter to the state government, demanding the setting up of an SIT in January 2020. After this, deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar and home minister Anil Deshmukh held a review meeting with the Maharashtra DGP Subodh Jaiswal, state Intelligence commissioner Rashmi Shukla and the Pune police in cases related to the Bhima Koregaon and Elgar Parishad violence. After this meeting, the Centre decided to transfer the case to the NIA. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Congress president and revenue minister Balasaheb Thorat alleged that the decision to transfer this case to the NIA was an attempt of the Central government to label people who are associated with progressive, Dalit and pro-Ambedkar movements Naxalites. "It is wrong to take action against them only because they have spoken out against the government. This is an attempt to gag progressive, and pro-Ambedkar voices," he said. Meanwhile, after handing over the investigation into the Elgar Parishad case to the NIA, Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday said his government would not hand over the case to the Bhima-Koregaon violence case to the Centre. "Elgar and Bhima-Koregaon are two separate topics. The issue facing my Dalit brothers is about Bhima-Koregaon and I will not give it to the Centre. I want to make it clear that there will be no injustice to Dalit brothers," Thackeray tweeted. It may be recalled that the violence at Bhima-Koregaon was a result of the alleged inflammatory speeches delivered at the Elgar Parishad conclave at Shanidarwada in Pune on December 31, 2017.

Department of Atomic Energy Hyderabad Regional Purchase Unit. Corrigendum to e-Tender Notice. 1. Last Date for Submission of Online Bid against NIT No.: DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/CAP/11083 is extended upto 02/03/2020 upto 2.00 PM. visit https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in for details [DPS/HRPU/NFC/1920/32C1]

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited. Office of Superintending Engineer / Thermal Operation Circle. Notice Inviting Tender (For Press). 12/02/2020. Short Description: To provide assistance of eighteen (18) No. B.Sc. Chemistry qualified Graduates / B.Tech for the Operation of Water Treatment Plant and Chemical Dosing Systems...

TSRTC TENDER NOTICE. No. OS3/8801(1/2020-POIR) dt:17.02.2020. Sealed Tenders are invited for outsourcing of plain paper photo copying work at MD's office, Bus Bhavas, Mushrabad, Hyderabad by installing their own serox machines...

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY SEASON TENDER NOTICE. No. ECR/CAO/CON/TS/2019-20/14. E-Tender No. -22/19/0260/TS (e-open). SEALED OPEN TENDER IS INVITED ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED WORK.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY DIRECTORATE OF PURCHASE & STORES NRB PURCHASE & STORES UNIT (NRBPSU). E-TENDER NOTICE. NRBPSU invites ONLINE tenders for the supply of items mentioned below as per the tender notice given in our E-Tender portal https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in. Details of EMD, Pre-Bid Meeting (if applicable) are given on the above portal. Bidders shall ensure that minutes of pre-bid meeting and / or corrigendum if any uploaded on the E-Tender portal would be viewed / verified for any modification before uploading their offer.