

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 25 FEBRUARY 2020

WEATHER

Max: 34.7°C
Min: 19.6°C
RH: 31%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Partly cloudy.
Misty morning.
Max/Min temp. 33/20°C



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Weinstein is guilty of rape



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TABLOID
Mehreen clarifies: 'I paid the hotel bills'



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Vehicles were set ablaze as protesters throw stones during clashes between a group of anti-CAA protesters and supporters of the new Citizenship Act at Jaffrabad in north-east Delhi on Monday. — PTI

4 killed in Delhi riots over CAA

Pro, anti-CAA protesters clash; set houses, shops, vehicles on fire

New Delhi, Feb. 24: A head constable was among four people killed and at least 50 others, including several paramilitary and Delhi Police personnel, were injured as violence spiralled over the amended citizenship law in north-east Delhi, turning it into a battlefield on Monday with frenzied protesters torching houses, shops, vehicles and a petrol pump, and hurling stones. This is the second day of clashes in the city where US President Donald Trump arrived on Monday evening on the main leg of his India visit. Police fired tear gas shells and also resorted to lath-

charge as clashes broke out between pro and anti CAA groups at Jaffrabad, Maujpur, Chandbagh, Khureji Khas and Bhajanpura. Security personnel conducted flag marches and prohibitory orders were clamped to bring the situation under control. Ratan Lal (42), a head constable, died after he sustained injuries during stone pelting at Gokalpuri. Three other civilian succumbed to injuries in the clashes, a Delhi government official said, adding 50 people with injuries had come to hospital for treatment. At least 11 police personnel were injured while trying to quell the protests.

Two CRPF personnel were also injured, sources said. Sources said the violence in the national capital appears to have been "orchestrated" by some for publicity as it comes at a time when Mr Trump is visiting the country. Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla said the situation in the national capital was fully under control and sufficient forces were deployed on the ground. All schools in Northeast Delhi district will remain closed on Tuesday in the wake of the violence. The violence-affected areas witnessed several rounds of stone-pelting from pro and anti-CAA pro-

testers. The roads were strewn with bricks, stones and glass shards. In Maujpur, pro and anti-CAA protesters indulged in stone pelting and at least three vehicles were torched. Even closed shops were vandalised. Pro-CAA protesters were also seen gheraoing and assaulting a man at Maujpur. Blood was oozing from his head, while some of the attackers raised provocative slogans. At Bhajanpura Chowk, a fire tender was damaged by the protesters after it responded to an emergency call in the area. There were many who were caught in the crossfire. — PTI

Trump backs India in fight against terrorism

Says India will always hold a very special place in his heart

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, FEB. 24

US President Donald Trump said both his country and India are firmly united in their iron-clad resolve to defend their citizens from the threat of radical Islamic terrorism. He said his administration is "working in a very positive way with Pakistan to crackdown on terrorist organisations and militants that operate on the Pakistani border". Standing with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad, which is the world's largest cricket stadium, Mr Trump also declared that the two countries would "sign deals" of \$3 billion on Tuesday involving the sale of military helicopters and other equipment to the Indian armed forces.

He said the US "looks forward to providing India with some of the best and most feared military equipment on the planet". These remarks are being seen as further acceptance of India's concerns on cross-border terrorism from Pakistan and also indicate how the US is eyeing India's growing defence market. The US President, who is on a two-day visit to India, also said that the two countries were "in the early stages of discussion for an incredible trade agreement to reduce barriers of investment". He added that Mr Modi is a tough negotiator. In his initial remarks, Mr Modi described Indo-US ties as "not just another partnership" but rather a



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets US President Donald Trump with a hug as First Lady Melania Trump smiles, upon their arrival at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad on Monday. — PTI

"far greater and closer relationship". "Friendship is where trust is unshakable", he said. "Long-live Indo-US friendship", Mr Modi chanted, as the huge crowd chorused after him. Mr Modi also praised the US President and his family members, describing President Trump as a "big thinker", adding, "I present to you my friend — Donald Trump". The US President told the one lakh-strong crowd at the stadium that "America loves India, America respects India, and America will always be faithful and loyal friends to the Indian people". He also hailed the co-existence of all religious communities in India, and the country's rise as a "peaceful, democratic, tolerant" nation.

"India has become an economic giant, the largest democracy ever to exist, and one of the most amazing nations anywhere in the world... Your nation has always been admired around the Earth as the place where millions upon millions of Hindus and Muslims and Sikhs and Jains, Buddhists, Christians, and Jews worship side by side in harmony; where you speak more than 100 languages and come from more than two dozen states, yet you have always stood strong as one great Indian nation. Your unity is an inspiration to the world." Mr Trump said. "From this day on, India will always hold a very special place in our hearts," the US President said. Significantly, towards the end of the event, Mr Modi also mentioned the aboli-

tion of instant triple talaq (divorce) benefiting Muslim women as one of the achievements of his government. Referring to Mr Modi's humble origins, Mr Trump continued, "Prime Minister Modi, you are not just the pride of Gujarat — you are living proof that with hard work and devotion, Indians can accomplish anything — anything at all, anything they want." Earlier, Mr Trump and First Lady Melania Trump visited Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram accompanied by Mr Modi. Mr Trump later visited Agra along with his accompanying family-members and others in the delegation to see the iconic Taj Mahal before reaching New Delhi later in the evening where he will hold talks with Mr Modi on Tuesday.

India bets on heat, remains unprepared for coronavirus

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

India is not prepared to handle an outbreak of coronavirus (Covid-19) if it broke out or spread anywhere in the country. The only narrow focus of the health system has been to preventing a breakout of the disease by putting all efforts in trying to prevent anyone affected by it from coming into the country and hope we are spared of the epidemic. Union health minister Harsh Vardhan said on Sunday that a "robust screening system has prevented and kept Covid-19 out of India." According to senior health officials, if a secondary breakout does occur anywhere in the country as has been the case in South Korea, Italy and Iran, then all bets are off in containing the dis-

WHAT STOPS VIRUS IN INDIA?

- Hot and humid conditions in India could be one of the reasons for the containment of the virus. Experts believe higher temperature kills the virus.
- Another reason could be the lower virulence of the virus. If the human body that carried the virus had better immunity to fight it within the body, the virus emitted out of the body would not be virulent.
- Self-reporting and isolation followed by those coming back from China and Kerala's robust monitoring system could have played a crucial role in containing the spread of deadly virus. ■ Report on Page 7

ease. "God forbid, if we have a situation like in Wuhan," a top Telangana official said on Monday, adding, "we are only prepared to isolate identified cases in small numbers." India's present strategy rests solely on preventing entry of the virus through a rigorous screening process of all international travellers from countries that have been hit by coro-

navirus, officials aver. "It is for the Centre to take a call on how to deal with an outbreak, if it occurs. All states are strictly focused on following the Central guidelines. The Centre has restricted itself to screening of international passengers," a senior health official said.

■ Page 7: Police says it's ready for crowd control

Virus fear shakes markets, gold up

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD and SANGEETHA G
MUMBAI/CHENNAI, FEB. 24

The rapid spread of coronavirus outside China has raised alarm bells in the global markets and led to around two per cent drop in Sensex and Nifty-50 indices. As the market opened after a long weekend, the Sensex and Nifty-50 had a gap down opening in line with the sharp fall in the Asian markets with South Korea's benchmark Kospi index down 3.9 per cent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index down 1.79 per cent. Heavy selling commenced in the afternoon as European markets opened sharply lower and US equity futures also indicated sharp fall in the US market. The Sensex fell over 850 points intra-day, its second big fall in 2020, touching a low of 40,306.36 before the final close at 40,363.23 down

806.19 points or 1.96 per cent. Nifty-50 index breached 12,000 levels as it fell 2.08 per cent or 251.45 points to close at 11,829.40.

The mood was so negative that all stocks in both Sensex and the Nifty closed in the red. "A big global risk off could potentially result in outflows from emerging markets and trigger a flight to safety," said IFA Global Research. Gold crossed ₹44,000 in India on Monday along with the global prices hit a seven-year peak of \$1,700 on safe-haven buying. "Short term target for gold can be \$1,725 and this could translate a movement of over ₹1,000 in the domestic market. The prices are likely to cool down when the coronavirus trigger subsidies," said Himanshu Gupta, vice-president, Globe Capital. ■ Full coverage on Page 13

Justice Gupta says no idea is so holy that it can't be criticised Dissent isn't anti-national, says SC judge

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, FEB. 24

Describing dissent as the essence of democracy, Supreme Court judge Justice Deepak Gupta on Monday said that criticising a government is different from criticising the country and a person can't be branded an anti-national for holding views different from that of the government. The right to dissent, Justice Gupta said, is inherent to democracy, human

right and the right to life. "Dissent must be encouraged. Any attempt to curb dissent will be dangerous." In an apparent reference to the prevailing scenario, where dissent is labeled as anti-national inviting prosecution, Justice Gupta said, "What is troubling is that dissent is being considered as anti-national. You may be disrespectful to the country, but being disrespectful to the government was different from being disrespectful to the country."

Democracy is a rule of majority but practicing majoritarianism is anti-thesis of democracy.

— JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA
Supreme Court judge

Describing as "dangerous" the labeling dissent as anti-national, Justice Gupta said that no idea was holy which can't be criticised and "if there has to be a clash of ideas, there has to be a dissent."

The cause being espoused by those dissenting may not always be "just or right" but at the same time governments too are not always right, underlined Justice Gupta. Delivering a lecture on *Democracy and Dissent*, he said, "Dissent is the very basis of society. Society will not develop if there is no dissent; it will stagnate if there is no dissent." He attributed to the emergence of Jesus Christ, Prophet Muhammad,

Buddha, Guru Nanak, Karl Marx, Martin Luther King Jr to their questioning the prevailing notions and practices of their times. Elaborating on the theme of democracy and dissent, Justice Gupta said, "Democracy is a rule of majority but practicing majoritarianism is anti-thesis of democracy." He said that the government is not just for those who voted it to power by the entire people, including those who voted against it.

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ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Uttarayana
Tithi: Phalguna Suddha Vidiya till 1.40 am (Wednesday)
Star: Poorvabhadra till 7.10 pm
Varjyam: 5.57 am to 7.45 am (Wednesday)
Durmuhurtam: 8.59 am to 9.46 am and then from 11.14 pm to 12.04 am (Wednesday)
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR
Jumada al-Sani 29, 1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.37 am
Zohar: 12.39 pm
Asar: 4.43 pm
Maghrib: 6.27 pm
Isha: 7.35 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.29 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.37 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 7.09 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 7.01 PM

COUNTER POINT



It should be world's biggest deal... our PM wants everything big!

IN BRIEF

Pregnant woman dies of Swine Flu

Hyderabad: A 26-year-old woman suffering from swine flu died at Gandhi Hospital on Monday morning. She came from Karimnagar and had delivered a child in a private hospital there. After the delivery she was diagnosed with swine flu and shifted to Gandhi Hospital. Doctors said the patient came too late and it was not possible to save her. The child is safe.

Governor talks to Kashmiri students

Hyderabad: Governor Dr Tamilsai Soundararajan interacted with Kashmiri students who came to Hyderabad under Youth Exchange Programme "Watan Ko Jano" 2019-2020 started by Ministry of Home Affairs. The students said they were happy to witness the cultural and historical heritage of Hyderabad, as most of them did not even visit their state capital city and places outside their region. One Harmat Hameed, a Class IX Student from Bandipora district said that she would like to continue in further studies in Hyderabad. She also invited the Governor to visit Kashmir. One Zahida, BA 1st year student from Baramullah district said she was delighted to see the Raj Bhavan heritage buildings.

KISHAN: DELHI RIOTS TIMED FOR DON VISIT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy on Monday said the rioting in northeast Delhi, which has claimed the lives of four people, could be a conspiracy timed with the visit of US President Donald Trump. Speaking to media at the state BJP office here, the minister said that the protesters were trying to create disturbance in the country. He said the police had been ordered to take action against those who were involved in the rioting and the death of the policeman. "Some sections of people are creating divisions among the religions which is not good for the country, he alleged. "Who is responsible for the incident? Rahul Gandhi and Asaduddin Owaisi should answer," said the minister. Peaceful protests have not been a problem but violence will be dealt with sternly, Mr Kishan Reddy said. The minister challenged the TRS to show how the Citizen Amendment Act affects Indians. "Is the TRS trying to favour Pakistan and Bangladesh by passing a resolution in the state Assembly against the CAA? Show us a faulty point in the CAA and the Union government will change the law," the minister said.



Muslim women protest against CAA, NRC and NPR at the Dharna Chowk near Indira Park in Hyderabad on Monday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

Speak openly against NPR, Owaisi tells KCR

MIM condemns Delhi riots, condoles cop's death

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

AIMIM president Mr Asaduddin Owaisi has said that passing a resolution in the Legislative Assembly against CAA is not enough. There is a need to put a stay on NPR on par with Kerala to deny NRC.

Addressing a protest meeting of the United Muslim Action Committee at hockey ground in Masab Tank, Mr Owaisi said in their bid to convince Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, a delegation will meet once again and try to convince about the need to put a stay on NPR.

"Our MLAs will raise the issue in the House during the session and insist on a stay on NPR exercise in the State, as it will provide scope for declaring any individual as a doubtful citizen. He said a government teacher in Bareilly applied for passport for Haj pilgrimage. The passport authorities asked her to submit a service proof letter from her department. When she approached with Aadhar card, PAN, EPIC, she was denied a service letter on charges that she is a Pakistani and terrorist.

Mr Owaisi disapproved of fresh violence in Delhi and condemned the deaths of police official Ratan Lal and a youth Farhan. According to him, the videos showed police personnel hurling stones along with the rioters. It was shameful that violence erupted in the national capital at a time when the President of a foreign nation is in town, he said. It is also condemnable that a former MLA of the ruling party is threatening to end the protest within three days. He said that Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi is nourishing snakes in his patio.

He said rioters are openly burning a Dargah and firing on unarmed people. He also advised the State Home Minister, Mr Mahmood Ali to understand the difference between Census and NPR. If he is unable to understand, he should sit with a lawyer and get himself acquainted.

State Secretary CPI-ML, Mr S. Venkateshwar Rao criticized the government for creating unnecessary hurdles for the common people. He said the government is seeking details from individuals about the date of birth, place of birth of their parents, while Mr Modi has shown three different dates of his birth on different occasions. He said the hidden agenda of this government is to end reservations for deprived communities. Dr Asma Zehra, convener, women's wing of AIMPLB, said people are terrified of possible detention in case they failed to prove their domicile. Two groups who will be most affected will be women and poor. The people of Assam, who were aware about NRC, for more than



Imran Pratapgarhi, popular Hindi-Urdu poet and politician addresses a massive public meeting against CAA-NRC and NPR at Quli Qutub Shah Stadium at Afzalgunj in Hyderabad on Monday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

Cong slams TRS 'support' to NPR, says KCR is agent

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

Former minister and ex-Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Mohammed Ali Shabbir has strongly condemned Home Minister Mahmood Ali's announcement that the Telangana Government would implement the National Population Register (NPR) in the new format.

Addressing a massive 'Mushaira' held against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), NRC and NPR at Quli Qutub Shah Stadium on Monday evening, Shabbir Ali strongly condemned home minister Mahmood Ali for announcing that NPR would be implemented in Telangana with six additional questions that require people to report the date and place of birth of their parents during the NPR survey.

He reminded the audience that it was the Congress-led UPA Government which had

launched the population register in 2010. It was a simple form with 21 basic questions and no community or individual had any objection to it. However, the BJP government has made it contentious by adding six new parameters which include Aadhaar number of the resident, voter ID, PAN, driving licence number and mobile phone and date and place of birth of parents and the last place of residence.

"Before asking people, let KCR and Mahmood Ali tell us the date of birth of their parents and furnish documents to prove it," he said.

Shabbir Ali reiterated the allegation that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao was a BJP agent and his government would implement CAA, NRC and NPR in Telangana. He said that the TRS opposing the Citizen Amendment Bill in Parliament was only an eye-wash to mislead the people, especially the

Muslims. "If TRS was really opposed to CAA, then what is preventing KCR from making an open announcement that CAA, NRC and NPR would not be implemented in Telangana?" he asked.

The Congress leader also slammed MIM leader Waris Pathan for his controversial '15 crore Vs 100 crore' remark. He accused the MIM leaders of helping the BJP in implementing a communal agenda in the country. "With his controversial remarks, the MIM leader has tried to sabotage the Shaheen Bagh and other anti-CAA protests. People belonging to all religions and communities are taking part in the anti-CAA protests. But Waris Pathan, at the instance of the BJP and RSS, has tried to give a wrong impression that anti-CAA agitation belongs to only one particular community," he said.

He further slammed the TRS and Hyderabad city police for denying permission to anti-CAA protests.

Women appeal to KCR to reject CAA

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

About 100 women protested against CAA, NRC and NPR at Dharna Chowk in Indira Park on Monday. The women appealed to the state government to reject all three of them. They want the government to look at all the three as one and not in isolation from each other.

The women wanted the government to completely do away with the National People's Register (NPR) and not implement it at all. They stated that

Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is unconstitutional and that NPR and NRC are only backdoor entries for this Act.

They demanded that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao come clear on his stand and not carry out any 'unconstitutional acts' in the state. The women came from different parts of the city and were allowed to protest only till 5 pm.

They were told that the permission is only from morning to evening and they have to disperse after that.

Ivanka's security breach reviewed to secure Don KCR to fly today, gift Charminar replica

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, who has been invited for the dinner being hosted for US President Donald Trump by President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday, is not the only Telangana connection to the visit of the first family of the US. When the Special Protection Group (SPG), which secures Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the Secret Service which protects the US President, sat down to chalk out multiple strategies for the security of the two leaders several days ago, a security breach that occurred during the visit of Ms Ivanka Trump, the President's daughter, to Hyderabad in November 2017 was one of the critical aspects that was discussed. Both agencies then fine-tuned the security aspects based on the Hyderabad episode to ensure there was no security breach this time — especially leaks from the control rooms monitoring the visit of Trumps and the media coverage.

Highly placed sources in New Delhi told Deccan Chronicle that in November 2017, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted a dinner for Ms Trump at the Falaknuma Palace in Hyderabad, an event that was barred for the media, a local TV channel obtained live feed from the control room set up in Hyderabad police commissioner's office and began live telecast of the event.

As part of security measures, the police had installed several cameras for internal and external surveillance of Falaknuma Palace. The cameras were linked to the control room in the police commissioner's office.

As the dinner commenced, the channel got access to the control room and took live feeds and began live telecasting them. Minutes into the telecast, the matter reached New Delhi which led the SPG officials to call up Telangana DGP M. Mahendar Reddy after

KCR to fly today, gift Charminar replica

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao who has been invited to dine with US President Donald Trump at Rashtrapati Bhavan will leave for Delhi on Tuesday morning on a special flight. President Ram Nath Kovind is hosting a dinner on Tuesday evening in honour of Mr Trump, who arrived in India on Monday for a two-day visit.

According to sources in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Mr Rao will be carrying a representation of the iconic Charminar as a memento to give Mr Trump.

He is also gifting the famous Pochampally and Gadwal silk sarees to US First Lady Melania

Trump and Ms Ivanka Trump, the President's daughter.

In 2017, Ms Ivanka Trump had visited Hyderabad and received a grand welcome from the Telangana state government. Mr Rao had met with her then.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi may have a brief chat with all the Chief Ministers who have been invited to the dinner.

CMO officials said that if Mr Rao manages to have a word with the American President he may discuss bilateral issues. Hyderabad has the second largest number of IT companies and multinationals in the country.

Mr Rao may also stay on in Delhi to meet Union ministers and discuss pending issues related to Telangana state.

The police top brass during the Ivanka Trump visit had no clue that the live transmission of the dinner hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi dinner was being facilitated by the police control room. Then in-charge police commissioner V.V. Srinivasa Rao had even confirmed that the SPG had taken a strong objection to the live transmission.

which the telecast was stopped immediately. Even Mr P.K. Misra, the then additional principal secretary to the Prime Minister, is said to have taken a strong objection to the airing of live visuals of the high profile event.

"This was not only breach of privacy, it was also a major security breach and protocol which could have had serious implications for the

security of both the Prime Minister and Ivanka Trump," sources who were associated with finalising the strategies for the 'Namaste Trump' event, said.

"Events like dinners involving dignitaries are strictly private in nature. More importantly, in the days of threat from drones and other weapons, the exact coordinates of which hall or room the dignitaries are present goes out if there is a live telecast of the event. This has serious security concerns," sources, privy to the discussions for 'Namaste Trump' event said. They said that the security breach during the Ivanka Trump visit to Hyderabad figured multiple times during the meetings of SPG and Secret Service, based on which security aspects, particularly media coverage of the Trump visit were fine-tuned.

This time around, the security agencies ensured delayed visuals of the VVIP movement, wherever required.

Tax sops to U.S. leads to Go Back Trump protests

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

Teachers and student unions in the city protested against the US President's visit, holding up placards saying 'Go Back Trump', at the RTC Crossroads on Monday.

Representatives of the teachers' union said that Trump has visited India only to get taxes on imports reduced, which is a loss to the country.

The protesters said that Trump is coming to India only to destroy the wealth of the country by demanding reduction in taxes.

One of the protesters, also a teacher, E. Raghunandan, said that the Trump visit "would only damage India's market economy as the US government wants the Indian government to reduce import taxes on poultry and dairy products, which would result in the degradation of our economic status."

Students said the Indian government should not be softened up by the Trump

Flash stir against Don stuns people

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

A handful of people gathered at Nalgonda crossroads, Malakpet, and held up placards with slogans critical of US President Donald Trump at 5 pm in Hyderabad. The placards read, "Trump's 'steal' of the century", "Trump's deal in the dustbin", referring to Trump's insistence on India lowering tariffs for various American imports.

The men dispersed fast, before the police could arrive. They later splashed pictures of the

visit but should stand firm on maintaining the tariff barriers. There was about a 100 metre rally by teachers and students unions holding Go Back Trump ban-

brief protest on social media. They had gathered randomly at the traffic junction and removed placards from their bags, which took people on the road by surprise.

Moulana Naseeruddin, State Organiser, Wahadat-e-Islami was placed under unofficial house arrest, resulting in a few workers staging a symbolic demonstration. They were detained and later released.

Moulana Naseeruddin said they were protesting against the deceitful peace pact 'Trump Deal' for Israel and Palestine.

Later Chikkapally police intervened and stopped the protest and took 11 people into preventive custody.



People hold placards against US President Donald Trump during a flash protest at Nalgonda Crossroads in Hyderabad on Monday. — GANDHI

POWER | SHUTDOWN

Banjara Hills Sub-Division Jubilee Hills Road No. 22 sub-station

10 am to 12 noon
Roads No. 5, 10, area behind Trinetra super market, PR Office, Surya Paper, Bata Chowrasta, Woman Co-Op Society, Madhurangar, State Home, Shishu Vihar, Sairam Krishna Community Hall.

Kalyannagar sub-station

10 am to 2 pm
Jawaharnagar, Youselfguda, Madhurangar, Saibaba Temple, Siddhartha Community Hall; State Home, Shishu Vihar, Sairamkrishna Community Hall area, Youselfguda substation; IOA Institute, Road No. 12 substation, Gowri Shankar Colony, Roads No. 8, 10, 11, Cargo Office, Gaffur Colony, Devender Goud PT area.

3 pm to 5 pm:
Rahmathnagar

LV Prasad sub-station

12 noon to 2 pm
Venkatagiri water works, Kalyannagar substation, Rahmathnagar; Bangaru Mahamma temple area, Amar Point Hotel area, kallu compound area, Mosque area.

IN BRIEF

KTR holds meet on SRDP projects

Hyderabad: Minister for Municipal Administration K.T. Rao held a review meeting on the SRDP projects works and asked the agencies to deploy additional manpower and machinery to take up parallel works simultaneously. He reviewed the ongoing 18 works and instructed the officials to speed up the works and government agencies to shift the utility services in advance so as to take up the works. —*INN*

'Vegetarian' ploy to rent house to Brahmins only

Another condition of house owners, 'for Andhra people only'

GEETA VALABOJU
HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

House hunting in the 21st century Hyderabad feels like a tribulation thrown at you as a time travel experience – and exposes you to the bitter medieval tendencies in the minds of vicious bigots who have one thing more in common – they have a property to let out. Paradoxically, a lot of this exercise harnesses the best of technology and globalisation – apps with house rentals advertisements, thrown in with algorithms powered by AI.

Come to residential areas around Khairatabad, especially Anand Nagar Colony, most landlords will refuse to rent out their property to you if you are not a Brahmin, but the excuse would be "vegetarians only". Add to it, a regional prejudice for Andhra folks only. If you are at the receiving end, your heart sinks every time a potential landlord tells you, without any sense of shock or shame, "we let out only to people who are from Andhra only... who are also vegetarians." Such was the repeat experience around Anand Nagar Colony in Khairatabad, an area in the heart of the city, for Ravi Kumar,



a private sector employee, who was openly told that rooms, either for rent or for sale, are only for those from Andhra. Mr Kumar, a native of Telangana State, said, "I wanted a house close to my office located in Banjara Hills. Khairatabad was a perfect location – so I thought, I was in for a rude shock. They let out houses here only to people who are from Andhra Pradesh only."

This led to some bitter arguments with both real estate agents and landlords, because it was hard for a Telugu speaking person to understand the basis of denial. In the area, there are 'to-let' boards put around in many small lanes, but at the start of a conversation, the landlords quickly say that do not let their homes.

No reason given in most cases. Mrs P Meenakshi (name changed), said, "When I was looking for an

Money not identity: Start-ups preferred

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

While religion and caste dominate the older parts of the city, money alone seems to be guiding owners of properties in the new-age points – Begumpet, Gachibowli, Hitech City, Banjara Hills, Jubilee Hills and Kondapur and surrounding areas – making it the preferred areas for youth, single people, outsiders and those who don't get a place elsewhere.

But in most of these areas, landlords are preferring to convert their flats or homes into guests houses or offices for start-ups or tech companies. Most 2- or 3-bedroom, hall and kitchen (2 or 3BHK) flats are being refusing to directly let to families, and instead prefer rent-

accommodation for our joint family. I was politely asked about my caste besides questions as to from which part of Andhra Pradesh I hail from. To be asked his question in Hyderabad in these times was very

shocking." There is a relentless volley of questions that landlords throw at you because they want to know a lot about their potential tenants. In another lane in Khairatabad, house owners stated point

blank that they give their homes only to Andhra Brahmins. Sriram R, landlord, (name changed), explained, "We have no bias against anyone based on religion or caste. But we have rituals we believe are good for our wellbeing, like regular puja, which have to be performed. For that reason, owners are particular about whom to rent. It is a personal choice and must not be needlessly misrepresented as bias or coloured-vision."

Tony Metalhead, currently a tenant in Sainikpuri, who was looking for a new house to let, said, "I am from north while my wife hails from the north-east. It has been quite a task for both of us to find a house as people ask my wife all sorts of questions of what she and I eat. People reject us, but very politely."

S. Rama Raju, a techie, said, "I have seen a change in Himayatnagar, where a lot of people from Andhra have bought homes. Earlier there was a good mix of people but now that is not so. People are increasingly becoming more particular about religion, region, and caste which is a changing trend that is engulfing colony after colony, area after area."

HC responds to PIL on Medchal dist. land grab

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

The Telangana High Court on Monday sought full details on a public interest litigation, which alleged that precious government land on survey number 221 of Gajularamaram village in Quthbullapur mandal of Medchal district has been encroached by realtors, and government officials were not responding to complaints against encroachers.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan issued notices to the revenue department, Medchal district collector and others to submit details in this regard within four weeks.

Manchu Naveen Kumar, social worker and resident of Tirumalgherry, Hyderabad,

filed the PIL seeking a direction to the Telangana government that its land be protected. The petitioner submitted that M/s. Mathrubhumi Infra, a real estate firm, has illegally encroached upon the said precious government land in survey of making plots in other survey numbers, which are surrounded by survey number 221. Though the petitioner made a number of representations to revenue officials against the illegal encroachment, development and plotting by the said real estate firm continued, as officials turned a deaf ear on his representations. The petitioner thus sought that the High Court direct the Telangana government to initiate stringent action against the real estate company.

LAST DATE FOR HAJ PAYMENT ENDS TODAY

Hyderabad: Telangana State Haj Committee chairman Md. Masullah Khan on Monday informed that the last date for remittance of Advance Haj Amount is February 25.

He informed that 25th February is the last date for remittance of Advance Haj Amount ₹81,000 each by the provisionally selected pilgrims of Haj 2020.

He also said that the payment challan can also be generated from the website.

—*INN*

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New centre to fight cyber crimes

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy on Monday dedicated to nation the National Cyber Research and Innovation Centre (NCR&IC) established at the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) here.

Speaking on the occasion, he said cyber research is the need of the hour. With proliferation of information technology, life has become easier, which is good. But technology is a double-edged weapon, which can also be misused by criminals for their ulterior motives, he pointed out.

The Cyber Research Centre is one of the seven verticals under Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C). Its formation highlights the growing relevance of continuous

research and innovation in the country's fight against cyber crime. The Union minister hoped the centre would help bridge any gap in investigation and cater to the needs of law enforcement agencies across India. He wished the centre well in finding research-based solutions for threats emerging in cyber space and imparting state-of-the-art cyber training to stakeholders.

Kishan Reddy said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has highlighted on several occasions that while cyberspace is a source of great opportunity, cyber security has become a major concern. The government has anticipated the danger of cyber threats and has taken several landmark steps in the recent past. A dedicated division was created in October 2017 under the Ministry of Home Affairs for address-

UNION MINISTER G. Kishan Reddy hoped the centre would help bridge any gap in investigation and cater to the needs of law enforcement agencies across India.

ing cyber security threats, he pointed out. The minister said innovation in cyber crime research is highly important. Criminals, who exploit vulnerabilities of smart devices and high-end technology, are clever and crafty. Therefore, the responsibility of this centre is greater. Emerging technologies across the globe need to be understood and research carried out to see if they could be used negatively. This will help develop deterrent measures accordingly, he stated.

In his welcome address, V.S.K. Kaumudi, DG,

Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) said, "The inauguration of this centre is an important landmark for BPRD and specifically for CDTI. Dependence on the internet has left us with that much more vulnerable in every walk of life. It is just the beginning of the process to make the society safe, vigilant and sustainable, which is the underlying concept of United Nations sustainable development goals 2030". Kaumudi pointed out that CDTI, Hyderabad, has been declared a Centre of Excellence in "Police Information Technology and Cyber Crimes". He hoped the centre would live up to its high standards, enhance the skills of investigating officers, and find solutions and tools to combat cyber crimes and emerging threats to the country.



Mir Najaf Ali Khan (Centre) pays floral tributes to his grandfather Mir Osman Ali Khan Bahadur, the last Nizam of Hyderabad, on his 53rd death anniversary at Masjid Jodhi, King Kothi, on Monday. —*S. SURENDER REDDY*

Tributes paid to the last Nizam

DC CORRESPONDENTS
HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

The 53rd death anniversary of the last Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Osman Ali Khan, was observed in a simple manner. Members of the erstwhile royal family and of various social organisations paid floral tributes at his mausoleum at Masjid Jodhi, King Kothi. A prayer congregation for absolution of the departed soul was also held here. Members of the family, historians, social activists and students of Osmania University, which he

founded, paid floral tributes. Captain L. Pandu Ranga Reddy and Dr Chiranjeevi Kolluri, both historians, Najaf Ali Khan, grandson of the Nizam, Mohammed Affan Quadri, secretary of Mehr Organisation, Mohammed Farooq, founder secretary of the Maulana Gouse Khamoshi Trust, Abdul Sattar Mujahid, president, Muslim League, Shaikh Mahboob Multani, vice president TNGOs, Subia Jaweria, secretary, Rabta Foundation, and students of Osmania University attended the absolution prayer. The Telangana

Rashtra Samithi, which used to remember Mir Osman Ali Khan on his birth and death anniversaries during the struggle for statehood and elections, sent no representative this time.

The Urdu department of the Osmania University College for Women, Koti, has organised the first Mir Osman Ali Khan Memorial Lecture on February 26 at the college premises. A collection of handwritten poetry of the last Nizam written during his last days will be displayed on the occasion. Students of Osmania

University also commemorated the death of the last Nizam at an event organised by the Dalit Minority Students Association (DMSA) in which several students and professors participated.

The student community has demanded that a permanent vice-chancellor be appointed to the university and all vacant posts be filled as soon as possible.

Speaking on the occasion, DMSA state president Dudapaka Naresh said: "The Nizam was one of the great secular kings in the country."

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IN BRIEF

7-year jail for sexual assault

Hyderabad: The Ranga Reddy district court on Monday convicted a man of sexually assaulting a minor and sentenced him to seven years of imprisonment on Monday. The case against P. Shivudu, 32, was booked on November 16, 2014, following a complaint to the Vikarabad police by the parents of the minor girl. Accused Shivudu was arrested and a chargesheet was filed before the Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court at LB Nagar in April 2015.

MANAGER BOOKED FOR HARASSMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

A complaint was lodged against divisional manager Gadipa Nagaiah of Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd, for alleged harassment.

According to the police, Mr Pankaj Khanna, DGM of the Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd, regional office, a complaint was received from a branch manager and a business centre incharge, alleging harassment by the accused. He forwarded the complaint to the regional committee constituted under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place Act, 2013.

On Sunday evening, Nagaiah, allegedly barged into the regional office premises along with some other employees and started abusing all employees particularly the women who were present at that time.

He allegedly threatened the staff and officials with dire consequences stating that some of the employees will be stabbed. Nagaiah allegedly pulled an employee, Mr G. Venkatcharyulu, by the shirt and slapped him. Based on the complainant, the Punjagutta police booked a case of trespassing and outraging the modesty of women against Nagaiah.

TECHIE'S BODY FOUND IN GACHIBOWLI

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

A 30-year-old software engineer from Kolkata was found dead at his flat in Gachibowli on Monday. The police registered a case of suspicious death for the probe and sent the body to Osmania General Hospital for an autopsy.

According to the Gachibowli police, the techie, identified as Agneshwar, was living in a flat along with another techie, Saptarshi Mukherjee, at Prasanthnagar in Kondapur.

Saptarshi who went out on work on Sunday returned on Monday at around 7.30 am. Agneshwar who had bolted the door from inside did not respond. Saptarshi alerted the police. On opening the door forcibly, Agneshwar was found hanging from the ceiling fan, said the police.

The room was searched but no suicide note was found. Based on the complaint from Saptarshi, a case of suspicious death was registered.

HELMETLESS BIKER FALLS ON STONE, DIES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

A 25-year-old man who was driving a two-wheeler without a helmet died in a road accident at Railapur in Medchal on Monday.

According to the police, B. Mahesh, 25, of Girmapur, was working as a labourer in a private company at Kompally. At around 9 am on Monday, he left home for work on a bike. When he reached the main road near a temple at Railapur, he lost control of the bike and fell down.

Passers-by alerted the police who informed the parents of the victim. They initially expressed suspicion about the death of Mahesh. However, the police Clues team recovered hair of the deceased from a cement block on the roadside. It appeared that his head had hit the stone when he fell.

"Mahesh was not wearing a helmet and died on the spot with a critical head injury. The family members of the deceased were shown the hair collected from the spot," said Medchal sub-inspector K. Naidu.

Pallu caught in wheel, pillion rider is killed

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

A woman pillion rider on a two-wheeler died when her sari pallu got caught in its rear wheel. The incident took place at JAC function hall Aatmakuru in Yadadri Bhongir district when Pittala Saidulu and his wife Durga were returning home after attending a wedding on

Monday morning.

Aatmakuru assistant sub-inspector M. Anjaneya said that Durga did not realise that her pallu was trailing behind her. It got stuck in the rear wheel hub and Durga was yanked off the vehicle and fell to the ground. This caused her husband who was driving the motorcycle to lose control and he too fell down.

The victim was yanked off the bike when the sari got entangled in the bike's rear wheel.

Saidulu survived with minor injuries but Durga was badly injured on her neck and head. He called for an ambulance but it was the police who helped Saidulu take his wife to

the Bhongir area hospital where she was declared dead on arrival.

The couple has two children aged eight and 10 who were at school when the tragedy occurred. "We have lost the most important person in our family. A mother is someone who carries every emotion at home. This can't be digested by any one of us," Saidulu said, weeping.

Smoking menace



An autorickshaw spews smoke as it vents its way through traffic in Tolichowki on Monday morning. There are few checks on polluting vehicles. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

MCA DROPS OUT OF COP SCHOOL, ENDS HIS LIFE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

Unable to complete his police constable training, an MCA graduate from the city committed suicide by jumping in front of a moving train at Sanathnagar on Sunday night.

Sai Ram, 24, of Swarupnagar, Uppal, was undergoing training at Karimnagar Police Training Centre for the last 40 days. On Sunday, he took permission for outing and did not return by evening. His body was found on the track at Sanathnagar. Police recovered a note from his trousers in which Sai Ram had written: "I am unable to complete the training. I do not want to blame my instructor, it is my mistake that I am unable to do training. That is why I am taking this step."

The note also said: "Do not waste time with inquiries into my death. If I go home without completing training, people will question me and I cannot answer everyone. Sorry amma, sorry daddy, I wasted your efforts."

Hyderabad GRP police has registered a case of suspicious death.

Woman agent accused of cheating Gulf migrants

GEETA VALABOJU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

Among those sending women to Gulf countries with promises of well-paid jobs, women agents are the most active, according to records of the National Welfare Trust India.

There have been 25 cases of women being duped in the manner in January and February and 95-100 cases in 2019. In the cases investigated, an agent named Tulasi cropped up frequently, though she is known to change her name often. Two women she has sent to the Gulf are stuck there, unable to return and being paid little or no salary for the menial work they do, said Sister Lessy of the National Welfare Trust.

There are at least five women agents that send poor women abroad falsely promising them remunerative salaries. Chilla Roja Meri from Bheemawaram has four daughters and was hard-pressed to earn a decent wage. She went on a visitor's visa obtained through a travel agent named Ravi to do household work in Muscat. It's been 11 months since she went and she has not been

The name of an agent, Tulasi, has cropped up during investigations into many cases where women have been lured to go to the Gulf with promises of high salaries. They end up being paid a pittance.

Tulasi is known to frequently change her name, which makes it difficult to trace her.

paid a penny though she was promised ₹20,000 a month by the agent Tulasi. The agent forced Meri's family to pay ₹15,000, said Meri's husband Chilla Augustin.

There are many like her who have been beguiled by agents who claim to know people who have done very well after going to Gulf countries. The acute poverty at home tempts them to go abroad.

Sister Lessy said strong action should be taken against those who are misleading these women who end up worse off than there were before. Mr Augustin told Deccan

Chronicle, "Pattabhi Ramana was a close friend of mine. One day he came my home and started the conversation saying his wife Jyoti went to Muscat two years ago and now she's earning not less than ₹30,000 per month. We took it seriously but now we are sceptical if his wife really went to Muscat since he has trapped many people like us. Unfortunately, we came to know all this after my wife got stuck there."

Recently, Meri tried to get in touch with her family. She told them that when she had phoned to talk to her children six months ago, agent Tulasi changed her name to Laxmi snatched her mobile and beat her up and said, 'you are not allowed to call anyone because you are a slave'.

Advocate Nalli Shankar said, "Whoever goes to another country on a visitor's visa has to pay hakkam (residence permission) for the time period of their stay. But here the agents do not pay any taxes and take away all the money. When I was going through the cases, I found that Jyoti will send Meri back in 20 days. It seems Jyoti and Tulasi are working together."

Motorcyclist dies trying to save stray dog

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

A two-wheeler rider fell on the road and died while trying to avoid running over a stray dog near Jubilee Hills check post on Monday morning.

Police said the victim, Charan Yadav, 23, a BBA third year student in a private college, was going from KBR Park towards the Jubilee Hills check post when the dog suddenly came on to the road. Charan braked hard and apparently lost control of the motorcycle and fell down, said Jubilee Hills sub-inspector K. Sattaiah.

Charan died on the spot and the dog too was killed, Mr Sattaiah said.

According to his family Charan used to go to KBR Park for a walk everyday. He left home at Lal Bungalow Ameerpet, on Monday after informing his family that after his regular morning walk he would visit his friend at Hitec City before returning home.

The Jubilee Hills police booked a case and shifted Charan's body to the Gandhi Hospital for autopsy. The body was later handed over to the family after the completion of formalities.

JH police also warns of dogs

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD FEB. 24

Residents in Jubilee Hills are facing difficulty due to the presence of stray dogs. Many have complained that it is difficult to walk on the roads with plastic bags as dogs sneak up from behind and snatch them.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Mr D. Harish, a commuter, said, "the stray dog menace is very high in Jubilee Hills starting from Kavuri Hills to Road No. 12 Agrasen statue, Filmnagar junction and others areas. This is especially so at night. With summer approaching, there are chances of the dogs attacking people." He also pointed out that

peacocks from the KBR Park wander on to the footpaths and the roads.

A Jubilee Hills traffic police officer said that there were nearly 10 strays at the check post. "Though we haven't received any formal complaint, we have requested the GHMC to vaccinate and rehabilitate them," the officer said.

It is feared that the heat stress caused by the summer in addition to lack of food and water could provoke dogs to attack passers-by, said Mr Paneeru Teja, an animal rights activist. To prevent this, he requested the public to keep water bowls for dogs. He appealed to the GHMC to work out a solution.

HC relief for Jayesh Ranjan

Hyderabad: Giving relief to IT principal secretary Jayesh Ranjan, incharge VC of JNTU, the High Court stayed the summons issued by the National BC Commission asking him to be present before it on February 25.

Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili, while issuing stay on the memo of the commission, directed the registrar of the university to be present before the commission and explain the reasons for non-compliance of its orders.

The commission had issued summons to the VC on a complaint made by one Loganathan who alleged that the university did not select him, though he had an opportunity to be appointed under the BC quota.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY

Dr. M.V.A. LAKSHMI
D.O.D: 25.02.2018
Missing your gentle presence
(M) 9848092435

IN LOVING MEMORY

You will be deeply missed and we will always love you.....

HEMADRI GURRAMKONDA
DOD: 23.02.2020
Inserted by
Family, Relatives and Friends
Dalavai Ramnath : 9959816222

OBITUARY

DEWAN SHANTA BAI
DoD: 25th February, 2015
Inserted by:
SONs: Dewan Srinivas, Dewan Gopi, Dewan Arjun, Dewan Shyam
DAUGHTER: Gudas Nagamani

10th DAY CEREMONY

Dr. S. KRISHNA RAO
DOB: 16-08-1943, DOD: 16-02-2020
"Your memories are always in our heart forever. May your soul rest in peace."
Inserted By: Wife: INDIRA, Son: SANDEEP
Daughters: AVANI, NANDINI, ROHINI,
Sons-in-law and Grand Children.
10th Day Ceremony on 26-02-2020,
at H. No: 10-58, PVN Colony, Mirjalaguda,
Malkajgiri, Secunderabad - 500047.

PAYING GUEST, 22, FOUND DEAD IN MALAKPET HOUSE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

A 22-year-old woman committed suicide by hanging in the house where she was living as a paying guest on Monday. Malakpet police identified the victim as P. Himabindhu, 22, a beautician from Suryapet district.

She had come to the city three years ago was staying at the house of a family friend, Ms Swathi, in Dhatriinilayam, Malakpet.

Late on Sunday night, Himabindhu's father Papatla David Raju received a call from Ms Swathi's brother Sai Kishore about the suicide. Mr Raju approached the Malakpet police suspecting the role of Sai Kishore.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

SHRI C.G. GIRMAJI RAO CHUTKE
S/o. CHUTKE GOPAL RAO
DOB : 25-02-1932
"We miss your love, Affection, Care, Concern and Selfless thinking"
May his soul rest in peace.
WIFE: RUMMINI BAI CHUTKE & ALL FAMILY MEMBERS
SRI VISHWANATH GROUP
MD - C.G. SAJJAN KUMAR
Ph:23731404, 9848041404

OBITUARY

RAHMATULLAH KHAN
S/o Yaseen Khan
Expired on 24th Feb, 2020
Namaz-e-Janaza on 25th Feb, Tuesday after Isha at Jamia Masjid, Chilkaiguda, Secunderabad.
Contact: Moosa Khan - 9866866467
Muhammed Khan - 8639163216
(S/1920/D01901)

IN LOVING MEMORY

Gone too soon, rest in peace my dear you were too great to ever be forgotten.

P. BALA KRISHNA
DOB: 03.09.1961 DOD: 16.02.2020
11th Day Ceremony on 26.02.2020
Inserted by:
Dinesh Vellanoor & Brothers
(S/1920/D01898)

OBITUARY

We deeply regret the sad demise of

GANGAM VIDYA SAGAR
IFS Retd.
DOB: 5th May 1941 DOD: 23rd Feb 2020
Funeral to be held at Bansilipet Funeral Grounds on Tuesday i.e., 25th Feb, 2020 between 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.
Inserted by: Gangam Family
Ph. No: 855030962
(S/1920/D01903)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

SURENDER KUMAR SHARMA
DOB: 25.04.1943 DOD: 25.02.2018
Inserted by: Wife, Children & Grand Children
(S/1920/D01904)

SAD DEMISE

Dhananjay Kumar J Doshi
DOD 24th Feb 2020
Funeral on 26th Feb, 2020 starts from Home at 10.15 AM, Final rites at 11.00 AM, Mahaprasanam Next to Whisper Valley
Doshi Family
9246502898

MAJOR | CRIME ■ Activist says fear of girls eloping forces parents' hand

511 minors married off in 2019

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB 24

Even as slogans of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' ring out, child marriage is a reality for young girls in Telangana state.

Although the number of such marriages has gone down in the past six years, some 500 girls have had underage marriages from April to December 2019, across Telangana state, says a report released by the state government on 'Status on Child Marriages'.

According to the report, there were 1102 child marriages in Telangana state in 2015-16, which has now come

down to 511 cases. From 2014 to date, the district of Khammam has alone had the highest cases of child marriages (532), with 29 cases in the period April-December 2019. In Mahbubabad there have been 37 cases of child marriage during the same period.

On Saturday, a girl child was rescued from the SR Nagar area in Borabanda, as she was being forcibly married off by her parents. She has now been sent to a state home and case has been registered against the parents.

Child marriages are a social evil, no doubt, but they cannot be dealt with without acknowledging the fact that increasing

SAD READING

4,000 CHILDREN HAVE BEEN MARRIED OFF IN SIX YEARS

Year	Child marriages
2014-15	373
2015-16	1,102
2016-17	728
2017-18	662
2018-19	720
2019-20*	511
Total	4,096

* Cases from April to December 2019

Increasing financial insecurity and lack of education is keeping this practice alive, according to an activist.

financial insecurity and lack of education, especially in urban and suburban areas is keeping this practice alive. "There is a fear of girls eloping with their 'boyfriends' which makes parents perform child marriages. Education, awareness and voluntary leadership by these girls are the only deterrent to this

social evil," said Mr Achyuta Rao, president of Balala Hakkula Sangham, a child rights organisation.

Mr Rao added that he has sent an appeal to Parliament to amend the legal age for girls to marry to 21 years from the current 18 years.

Mr Venkataswamy, an official with the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, a centrally sponsored scheme that aims at building a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances, said that while there is no denying the practice of child marriages, the Central and state governments have been working to eliminate it by "various

IN BRIEF

BJP seeks probe on Aadhaar

Hyderabad: Alleging that several Rohingyas have secured Aadhaar cards in Telangana state by producing false documents, the BJP on Monday demanded that the Director General of Police conduct a probe in all districts to weed out illegal immigrants. Non-Indians securing all such cards is a matter of serious concern, but unfortunately the state government, it appears, has not viewed the issue with adequate seriousness, the party said in the memorandum. Whenever the BJP has raised the issue, for reasons best known to the administration, their submissions were not given due importance, the BJP said in a memorandum submitted to the DGP. "However, there have been revelations in the recent past that over 127 people secured Aadhaar cards producing false documents and cases have been registered against them at the behest of UIDAI. It further came to be known that of the 127 people, to whom notices have been served, 124 are Rohingyas," it said. The BJP claimed 124 is not even a fraction of the number of the illegal immigrants staying in the state.

10 join race for TS BJP top post

Central representatives quiz leaders for 6 hrs

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

As many as 10 senior leaders of the state BJP are said to have asked the party's national observers to consider their candidature for appointment as its Telangana state unit president.

BJP general secretary Anil Jain and party vice-president Baijayant Panda on Monday visited the city to elicit the opinions of the party state core committee leaders. The one-on-one meetings were held in the state party office here.

Sources in the party disclosed that incumbent TS BJP president Dr K. Laxman, BJP MP Bandi Sanjay, Arvind Dharmapuri, former MP A.P. Jitender Reddy, former minister D.K. Aruna, former legislators Ch. Ramachandra Reddy and N.V.S.S. Prabhakar, party official spokesperson Krishna Saagar Rao and senior leader P.

● TS BJP president Dr K. Laxman pitched for a second term for himself

● Others to throw their hat in the ring were BJP MP Bandi Sanjay, Arvind Dharmapuri, former MP A.P. Jitender Reddy, former minister D.K. Aruna, former legislators Ch. Ramachandra Reddy and N.V.S.S. Prabhakar.

● Others like TS BJP official spokesperson Krishna Saagar Rao and senior leader P. Chandrasekhar also staked claim to the top party post in the state.

● Many of these leaders did not have a reply when party leaders them asked for alternative names for the top post.

Chandrasekhar requested the leaders that they be considered for the post. Sources revealed that all

the claimants faced an inconvenient situation when the national BJP leaders asked them to suggest alternatives.

The duo also secured the opinion of some vice-presidents of the BJP state unit and official spokespersons the party besides the core committee members.

Sources disclosed that a majority of the leaders expressed the opinion that the state leadership should be changed, against the backdrop of reports that the party may retain Dr Laxman.

Other leaders told the observers that they will secure the opinion from ground-level leaders before submitting a report to party president J.P. Nadda. The observers spent six hours to poll the opinions of the state leaders.

Sources said that in a couple of days there will be likely to be clarity on how the state leadership will be shaped.

HARISH CALLS FOR MOVEMENT AGAINST TRASH

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

Finance minister T. Harish Rao has called for a people's movement against trash, plastic, mosquitoes and flies in urban areas of the state. He was speaking after launching the Pattana Pragati programme at the Sangareddy municipality on Monday.

The minister assured that developmental works in municipalities will be taken up in a phased manner, which will totally change the way they look. He pointed out that the Palle Pragati has already been implemented in two phases. This has ushered in development in villages.

Following Palle Pragati, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has now taken Pattana Pragati for development of urban areas in the state. Mr Harish Rao said the new municipal act has given some rights and responsibilities to people. The act has also brought in transparency and accountability on part of employees.



State minister V. Srinivas Goud (left) and Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy (right) speak to Congress leader J. Geetha Reddy at an event to mark the death anniversary of her mother J. Eashwari Bai. — DC

Tribute paid to Eashwari Bai

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

Rich tributes were paid to J. Eashwari Bai, who is generally acknowledged as the first woman to raise a voice for Telangana, during the annual award ceremony instituted in her memory at Ravindra Bharati on Monday.

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy, said the pioneering work done for the downtrodden by Dr B.R. Ambedkar and Eashwari Bai had result-

ed in their enjoying equal rights. He said that keeping aside differences and political agendas, people should strive to work for a better society.

Her daughter and Congress leader Dr J. Geetha Reddy is chairperson of Eashwari Bai Memorial Trust, which organised the event in collaboration with the state department of language and culture.

Excise minister V. Srinivas Goud said Eashwari Bai's life was an

answer to those who mocked at people who spoke of a separate state. She envisioned a society where the downtrodden are accepted in society.

The ministers presented Eashwari Bai memorial awards to B. Vijaya Bharathi Tarakam, writer and former director of Telugu Academy, Kondaveeti Sathyavathi, Editor Bhoomika magazine, Dr Manisha Bangaru, social activist K. Bharathi, Telangana Body and Organ Donors Association.



Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is all smiles on seeing a painting of him with his mother Y.S. Vijayamma and sister Sharmila while launching a scheme at Vizianagaram on Monday. The painting was made by artist Balakoteswara Rao of Addanki. — DC

Jagan sees Oppn as 'monsters'

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, FEB. 24

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said that his government will go ahead with welfare programmes to justify the mandate given to them despite the false propaganda being spread by their political detractors, whom he called 'monsters'.

Unable to digest the people-friendly schemes, the 'monsters' are misleading the people with baseless allegations against the state administration.

While launching the Jagannana Vasathi Deevana in Vizianagaram on Monday, Mr Reddy said that all sections of people are happy that there is a just distribution of benefits. He alleged that his critics are publishing paid articles in their chosen media organisations to show the state in a poor light and writing that

industries were closing shop.

"We are firm and resolute. We take forward our agenda and will not be cowed down by such tactics. While we are working towards the three capitals concept for decentralised development, the detractors are instigating mob fury," Mr Reddy said. In this regard, he mentioned the recent mob attack on Bapatla MP Nandigam Suresh and earlier attacks on other YSRC leaders and MLAs.

He asked the people to bless him for trying to provide education, health and drinking water for all regions, uplifting farmers' morale and providing employment to youth. "I am waging a war with demons and I am fighting not just against media channels that are spreading canards but also maniacs, in the guise of agitators," he said.

AP explains why it suspended cop

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

Explaining the reason for suspending senior IPS officer A.B Venkateswara Rao, former head of the AP Intelligence Wing, the AP government on Monday told the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) that he had used his office to unduly favour his son's firm.

The AP government on Monday furnished an affidavit rebutting the allegations of Mr Rao. "His allegations that the government did not give him posting with mala fide intention is baseless. Cogent evidence must be given for his allegations and the burden of proof and establishment of mala fide lies on him."

The AP government stated that the Election Commission during the general elections last year had given directions to the then DGP to not assign any election duty to Mr Rao.

Explaining the reasons for placing him under suspension, the government said: "In the process of procurement of aerostat and unmanned aerial vehicles worth ₹25.50 crore, Mr Rao colluded with an Israeli defence equipment manufacturer called RT Inflatables Private Limited to illegally award critical an intelligence and surveillance contracts to his son Chetan Sai Krishna. His son was the CEO of Akasam Advanced Systems Pvt. Ltd."

IN LOVING MEMORY

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- Bhagwad Gita Chapter 8, Verse 4 -



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IN BRIEF

Venkatadri Exp coaches detached

Tirupati: The Venkatadri Express from Kacheguda to Chittoor escaped a disaster near Mamandur railway station, located close to Renigunta junction when five of its coaches got separated from the train due to a break of the coupling. According to reports, coupling of one of the coaches broke due to a problem with the pressurisation when the train departed from Railway Koduru station on Sunday. The train pulled away while the rest of the coaches remained at the station. The train had travelled half-a-kilometre.

Rapist of 6-yr-old girl gets death

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, FEB. 24

A special court in Chittoor on Monday awarded the death penalty to 27-year-old Pathan Mohammad Rafi, accused of raping and murdering a six-year-old girl in Chittoor district on November 8, 2019.

The sentencing of Rafi, a lorry cleaner and resident of Molakavarihalli near Angallu, by special court judge M. Venkata Harinath came in less than 76 days after the police filed the chargesheet in the case. The victim's parents hailed the verdict, saying

it should be a deterrent in future to those who resort to such inhuman acts.

Judge Harinath, who is also the First Additional District Magistrate, held Rafi guilty under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the POCSO Act.

He broke the nib of the fountain pen after signing the order awarding the death sentence, as is the custom.

According to the prosecution, Rafi had raped and murdered the girl and dumped her body in some bushes behind the KNR Convention Centre at Chenethanagar in

● RAFI HAD raped and murdered the girl and dumped her body in some bushes behind the KNR Convention Centre at Chenethanagar in Angallu in Kurabalakota mandal of Chittoor district.

Angallu in Kurabalakota mandal of Chittoor district.

"The judge fast-tracked the case and awarded the death penalty to the accused Mohammad Rafi on Monday. As required,

the order of death sentence was sent to the AP High Court for confirmation," public prosecutor Lokanadha Reddy told mediapersons here on Monday. "I am satisfied with the judgment. It should act as a deterrent to anyone who entertains such nasty ideas," he added.

DSP Ravi Manohara Chary believes the extreme punishment will act as a deterrent and send out the message that no one can escape the law.

He said Chittoor Superintendent of police S. Senthil Kumar took a proactive role in pursuing

the case, personally directing the entire department right from collecting evidence and nabbing the accused to filing the charge sheet in record time.

"Our department did a good job of collecting evidence. We secured post-mortem and forensic science laboratory (FSL) reports in record time to nail the accused. We had over 41 witnesses to the crime and worked as a team to crack the case. We requested judicial officials for a speedy trial and finally a satisfactory verdict was out on Monday," Mr Chary said.

KCR's help sought to 'save Amaravati'

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 24

Amaravati Parirakshana Samiti JAC (APSJAC) has decided to meet Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) to urge him to use his good offices to ensure that Amaravati stays as the only capital of Andhra Pradesh.

APSJAC leaders said that they will intensify the ongoing 'save Amaravati' movement as part of which they will petition KCR and his

party MP K Keshava Rao seeking support to Amaravati. They are also planning to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on March 2 and 3.

Addressing a press meet here on Monday, APSJAC Krishna convener RV Swamy and APSJAC woman JAC leader Sunkara Padmasree said that pro-Amaravati farmers have decided to intensify their agitations vexed with the adamant attitude of the YSRC government.

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IN BRIEF

GHMC survey finds 17,365 illiterates

Hyderabad: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) survey on population of illiterates found that there were about 17,365 people who could not read and write among the 1,23,106 households on Monday. Of all the zones, Kukatpally zone had the highest number of illiterates with 4,772 people, followed by Secunderabad zone with 3,678 people.

KTR wants SRDP project on fast lane

Hyderabad: Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development K. Taraka Rama Rao, held a review meeting on the SRDP project works and asked the agencies to deploy additional manpower and machinery to take up works simultaneously instead of doing it one after another to finish the projects at the earliest. The minister also reviewed the 18 ongoing works under SRDP and instructed the officials to speed them up and government agencies to shift utility services in advance so as to take up the works and complete them at earliest without any hurdles. After reviewing the project details of works and their status, the minister asked the engineering officials to instruct the agencies for each unit to work in shifts round the clock so as to complete the project soon. Further, if required traffic diversion can be taken up at important places in consultation with traffic police, he added. He further asked the officials to come out with innovative solutions to overcome problems and finish the works.

'Hot' India didn't allow Covid-19 to take root

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 24

Asymptomatic carriers of coronavirus have led to the spread of Covid-19 cases in South Korea, Iran and Italy; there is no spread of the disease in India even though there were three confirmed cases in Kerala. This has raised questions in medical circles both nationally and internationally about why the virus has not spread in India.

Despite India's geographical proximity to China, and also travel and trade ties between the two countries, India has not seen a spread. Why?

One of the reasons is rising temperatures in India. The shift from cold to hot and humid conditions is seen as one of the reasons for the containment of the virus.

Dr G. Navodaya, consultant, general medicine, Care Hospitals, said that researchers in the National University of Singapore believe that increase in temperature kills the virus.

"A regular coronavirus survives 30 times longer in temperatures of 6 degrees C compared to temperatures of 20 degrees C. The seasonal pattern of Covid-19 is similar to that of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. The flu season starts in December and peaks in January or February and is over during the summer months. How the virus behaves

POLICE SAYS IT IS READY FOR 'CROWD CONTROL'

FROM PAGE 1

"In our kind of society, if an outbreak does occur, then it will be out of our hands," the official said.

The Centre appears to have placed its bets on heat, and hope. Opinion gathered after speaking to a series of officials indicate to a belief of the Centre that the virus would not survive in India's tropical temperatures range of 32 degrees or 33 degrees Celsius, and higher, given that the summer season is looming ahead. "The fact is we

after that in countries which it has entered through human to human transmission is yet to be seen," Dr Navodaya said.

Another reason could be the virulence of the virus. Dr Subakhar K, professor of Pulmonology, explained, "The three cases in Kerala could be less virulent and were contained in time. The host, the human body that carried the virus, had better immunity to fight it within the body. Due to this reason the virus being emitted out of the body was not that high. This also helps in containing the spread of the virus."

All those who have come back from China have self-reported and followed the pattern of isolation, which is another reason why it has not spread.

are still learning about the virus. China is reporting some 350 cases of disease recurrence in people, after they were treated and declared Covid19-free. So far, it has been observed that the countries where the outbreaks are being reported from have temperatures varying from five degrees to 15 degrees Celsius. How exactly will the new coronavirus behave in heat is a matter up for debate," an official involved in India's battle against COVID-19 said. Within the state too, an

"In India, winter months have seen continuous swine flu cases (H1N1) and that has kept people on edge. The protocols of precaution to be followed in H1N1 are to be followed in the case of corona virus too. This could also have worked in our favour to contain the spread. But we have to continue our vigilance as travel and trade keep the window of opportunity open for the entry of the virus," Dr Subhakhar warned.

Experts believe that Kerala's robust monitoring system has helped in a big way and played a crucial role in containing the spread.

Dr Nalini N., senior consultant Pulmonary and Sleep Disorders at Continental Hospital, said, "Kerala has learnt from the Nipah virus out-

break in July 2018 and their response to Covid-19 has been extremely effective. There was timely dissemination of information, surveillance and quarantine which has helped to contain the spread. They have rightly followed the protocols set by the World Health Organisation which ensured that there was no spread like that seen in other parts of the world."

Does this mean Indians are off the radar for corona virus?

"No," said Dr C. Vijay Kumar, senior pulmonologist at Apollo Hospitals. "We have to wait and watch when the temperatures dip. That will be seen during the monsoon months, in July, and in the winter months. Those will be the testing times."

Chicken price plummets to ₹60/kg on account of virus

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 23

The false news that the coronavirus disease Covid-19 is caused by eating chicken, has hit the chicken markets of the city.

Social media is full of these false rumours and retail traders have seen the price of poultry tumbling.

Mr Md. Iqbal who manages an outlet of Tawakkil Wholesale and Retail Centre at Nampally, said, "Chicken which was close to ₹200 has now dropped to ₹45 in the wholesale market and ₹60 in retail outlets."

He said that before the false news was spread on social media normal retail sales were around 700 to 800 kg of chicken per day, and on Sundays close to 1,500 kg. Mr Md Saleem, owner of Afzal Chicken Centre at King Koti, said there is a drop of 20 per cent in sales. As the price is attractive, people who are aware of the truth are buying chicken without any hesitation.

Mr Chakradhar Rao, president of the Indian Poultry Equipment Manufacturers Association, said, "As this is a perishable good, farmers have no option but to sell at half its production cost. The farmer will suffer great losses."

He said baseless studies are being quoted to put in the heads non-vegetarians that eating poultry will cause some damage. Such rumours spoil the market. "There is no connection between chicken and coronavirus, but still, rumours killed the market." He said chicken and eggs are the most easily digestible protein, which is available at the lowest price.

MEAT OF THE MATTER

● **SOCIAL MEDIA** is full of false rumours and retail traders have seen the price of poultry tumbling.

● **CHICKEN WHICH** was close to ₹200 has now dropped to ₹45 in the wholesale market and ₹60 in retail outlets.

● **BEFORE THE** false news spread on social media, normal retail sales were around 700 to 800 kg of chicken per day, and on Sundays close to 1,500 kg.



● **MUTTON SALES** have gone up. Goat and sheep meat is in high demand because of the chicken scare.

Mutton sales have gone up, said Mr Md Wasim who owns a number of mutton shops. He said goat and sheep meat is in high demand because of the chicken scare.

"Chicken is not a carrier of coronavirus, and the virus cannot sustain in higher temperatures. Anyway it's always better to cook any meat well as it will kill any bacteria," said Dr Sanjeev Singh Yadav, secretary, Indian Medical Association, Telangana state.

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SHORT TAKES

Man gets death for raping, killing 4-year-old

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, FEB. 24

A fast-track court in Indore on Monday sentenced a man to death for abducting, raping and then killing a 4-year-old girl in December last.

Special sessions judge Varsha Verma handed out death penalty to Ankit Vijayvargiya (28), after convicting him in the crime, local prosecution officer said.

Vijayvargiya abducted the minor girl in Mhow in Indore district on December 1, 2019, while she was sleeping on the pavement along with her parents who eked out their living by begging in streets.

He took the girl to a secluded area, raped her and then strangled her to death. As many as 29 witnesses, including parents of the victim, were examined during course of the trial.

The convict was nailed in the case after the footage of CCTV installed in the area found him with the victim on the fateful day, besides the DNA tests, the prosecution officer said.

The incident had triggered a public outrage then forcing the state government to set up a fast-track court.

Kashmir schools reopen after 7 months

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, FEB. 24

Schools in Kashmir Valley and 'winter zone' of Jammu and Kashmir's Jammu division reopened on Monday after winter break but in effect after seven long months, bringing smiles on the faces of students, teachers and parents alike.

The Centre had days before stripping J&K of its special status and splitting it up into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019, ordered closure of schools and other educational institutions across the erstwhile state "as a precautionary measure".

Though the authorities announced reopening of schools up to higher secondary level in a phased manner later and, in fact, teachers and other staff also started reporting to duty, a vast majority of parents refused to send their wards to these for a variety of reasons including apprehensions over their safety. The life in the Valley had remained disrupted for about four months over the August 5 contentious move during which board examinations were conducted in challenging circumstances.

In December, the authorities announced 12-week winter vacations in schools. Subsequently, colleges, universities and various other professional institutions were also formally closed.

2 Customs officers removed for smuggling

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB 24

Two Customs preventive officers allegedly involved in gold smuggling cases in Kerala were removed from service on Monday.

Radhakrishnan B. superintendent of customs and Rahul, inspector of Customs were removed for their involvement in gold smuggling cases, according to top customs officials.

"Two Customs officers of the customs preventive commissionerate Cochin, who were involved in gold smuggling were removed from service by Sumit Kumar, Commissioner of Customs Preventive Cochin," said an official statement.

The commissioner said that both cases were registered and investigated by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. While show cause notice under Customs Act 1962 has been issued against Radhakrishnan, investigation is under progress in the other case. "Both officers were removed from service after due process of law under Rule 19 of the Central Civil Service (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules 1965," the release said.

Radhakrishnan was involved in attempted smuggling of gold weighing 24,998.61 grams having a market value of over ₹8 crore through Thiruvananthapuram international airport on May 13, 2019. Rahul was involved in attempted smuggling of gold weighing 11,035.54 grams valued at over ₹4 crore through international airport on August 19, 2019.



A protester brandishes a pistol during clashes between a group of anti-CAA protesters and supporters of the new citizenship Act, at Jaffrabad in north-east Delhi on Monday.

— PTI

Petrol pump, vehicles, shops, fire tender torched in Delhi

All government, private schools to be shut in North East Delhi

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, FEB. 24

A civilian succumbed to injuries hours after a police head constable was killed in the clashes that broke out between pro- and anti-CAA groups in the aftermath of the tension that escalated in northeast Delhi on Monday afternoon. About 50 people, including 30 police personnel and a deputy commissioner of police (Shahdara) were also injured in the violence. Protesters also torched a petrol pump, two houses, seven shops, a dozen-odd vehicles and a fire tender in Jaffrabad and Maujpur, where clashes occurred for the second consecutive day.

A total of eight CRPF companies have been deployed in North-East Delhi area, including two companies of Rapid Action Force (RAF) and a company of women security personnel. Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said all government and private schools to be shut on Tuesday in violence affected North East Delhi. He said he has requested HRD minister to postpone board examination scheduled on Tuesday in North East District of Delhi.

BJP spokesperson Meenakshi Lekhi on Monday said the death of a Delhi Police head constable in violence over the amended citizenship law was a "ploy" to embarrass India during US President Donald Trump's visit and likened it to the massacre of Sikhs in Chattisinghpura in 2000 during the then US president Bill Clinton's trip to the country.

"Shocked to hear the death of HC Sh Ratanlal in a brutal & barbaric manner. This reminds me

Sedition case: Bengaluru advocates' car stoned

VITTAL SHASTRI | DC HUBBALLI, FEB. 24

Three advocates from Bengaluru, who arrived in Dharwad to move a bail application in favour of three Kashmiri students who were arrested on the charge of sedition for raising pro-Pakistan slogans, were accorded a hostile reception with a dozen members of the Dharwad Bar Association pelting stones at the car they were travelling in, damaging the glass at its rear. As the car ferrying the advocates was about to leave the Dharwad court premises, the lawyers pelted stones, resulting in a tense situation. The police who were deployed at the court, rushed to the spot and had a tough time controlling the situation. The students had raised pro-Pakistan slogans in a video circulated on the anniversary of

of massacre of Sikhs in Chattisinghpura during Clinton's visit. Incidents change but anti India forces remain the same. Ploy to embarrass India, Request all to remain calm & maintain peace," she said in a tweet.

CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury held the Centre responsible for the violence that has erupted in Delhi over the CAA and appealed to all to maintain peace.

Four cases have been registered in connection with the violence during protests between pro and anti-CAA groups in northeast Delhi's Jaffrabad and nearby

Pulwama terror attack. Earlier in the day, the advocates representing the accused students, were ferried to the court complex amid tight security as per the high court's order. The high court had asked Hubballi-Dharwad Police Commissioner R. Dileep to provide total security for the advocates. This decision came in the backdrop of the Hubballi Bar Association's decision not to plead in court in favour of the accused students.

Over 300 policemen were deployed in and around the court complex. The Dharwad Bar Association members raised pro-India slogans and asked the visiting advocates not to plead for anti-nationals. As a precautionary measure, the police did not allow any advocate to enter the court hall and this provoked the local advocates

the Delhi Police for failing to maintain law and order in the city and criticised Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for having "shaken off his responsibility", saying people of Delhi are paying the price of a political blame game.

Gandhi said peaceful protests are a sign of a healthy democracy, but violence can never be justified. "The violence on Monday in Delhi is disturbing and must be unequivocally condemned. Peaceful protests are a sign of a healthy democracy, but violence can never be justified," he tweeted.

The party also blamed

to raise slogans against the police. The visiting advocates from Bengaluru were whisked away to an unknown place by the police.

The court headed by principal district & sessions judge Eshappa Bhute, however, did not admit the bail application citing procedural lapses. The Dharwad Bar Association advocates raised objection to the bail plea and said that the advocates for the accused have not followed the procedure while moving the bail plea and hence, the court should not entertain the application.

Upholding the objection, the judge asked advocates Maitri and Narendra to file the application with documents at the office according to procedure. Following the court's direction, the advocates left the court amid tight police security.

REPORT ON SHAHEEN BAGH SUBMITTED

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 24

The Supreme Court appointed mediators — senior lawyer Sanjay Hagde and Sadhana Ramachandran — on Monday submitted in a sealed cover the report on their interaction with the protesters at Shaheen Bagh who are protesting against CAA, NPR and NRC since December 15, 2019, resulting in serious hindrance to movement of traffic.

The report by two lawyers who had series of meetings with the protestors at Shaheen Bagh was submitted to a Bench of Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice K.M. Joseph in a sealed cover. While Hagde along with Sadhana Ramachandran had visited the protest site thrice, Ramachandran visited the place four times.

Observing "We will like to peruse it", Justice Kaul said that they would hear the matter day after tomorrow (Wednesday).

As the lawyers for the petitioners — Amit Sahni and former BJP MLA in Delhi assembly Nand Kishore Garg — seeking the eviction of the protestors, sought a copy of the report submitted by the court appointed interlocutors, Justice Kaul said that the report was only for them and they were not taking it on record.

"It is only for us. We are not taking it on record," Justice Kaul heading the bench said and listed the matter for hearing on Wednesday.

2 more Indians on Japanese ship test positive for Covid

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency input NEW DELHI, FEB. 24

More bad news continues to come from Japan where two more Indian crew members on board Diamond Princess tested positive for novel coronavirus (COVID19) on Monday. Indian Embassy in Tokyo while giving the news said total number of Indians who are receiving treatment for COVID19 so far is 14.

"PCR test results announced on Monday, from the samples collected earlier, included 2 Indian crew members, onboard Diamond Princess, testing positive for COVID19. Total number of Indian crew members tested positive so far is 14 — responding well to treatment. IndianEmbTokyo hopes that the last groups of results expected to be announced on Tuesday and day after will not have any more Indian nationals included in it, enabling the Embassy to further facilitate Indian nationals on board Diamond Princess," the embassy tweeted. (sic) Meanwhile, two more officials who were sent to the cruise ship to help with on-board efforts to contain the

coronavirus have contracted the illness themselves. Japanese authorities said on Monday. The announcement came as experts warned the next one to three weeks would be "crucial" to preventing widespread infections as fears deepen that the isolation of the virus-stricken Diamond Princess has been ineffective.

A quarantine officer in his 50s and a health ministry official in his 40s tested positive and are in hospital, Japan's health ministry said.

The new infections come after Japan on Sunday reported a third death among people who spent time on the ship — a man in his 80s who died from pneumonia. Six officials linked to containment work on the boat have now tested positive, fuelling doubts about the effectiveness of the quarantine.

More than 690 ship passengers have so far fallen ill with the pathogen, and off the vessel Japan has confirmed over 140 cases across the country, including an elderly woman who died. At least 20 foreigners evacuated from the boat have tested positive after returning home.

Poojari was holed up in Burkina Faso

M.K. ASHOKA | DC BENGALURU, FEB. 24

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) will start investigating the dreaded 52-year-old gangster Ravi Poojari with the 1st ACMM court handing him over to their custody till March 7 in connection with the double murder which took place on February 15, 2007 in Tilaknagar.

Sources confirmed that the focus would be on Poojari's alleged political connections in Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Meanwhile, ADGP Amar Kumar Pandey and Joint Commissioner of Police Sandeep Patil held a press conference and disclosed that Poojari was holed up in Burkina Faso, a West African country for 12 years. He was into textiles and the electronic goods industry. He had also opened a hotel named

'Maharaja' in Senegal. He was brought to Bengaluru in the early hours of Monday by a police team.

He possessed a Burkina Faso passport and was arrested in Dakar, the capital of Senegal on January 19, 2019. Poojari had changed his name to Anthony Fernandez and was also known as Rocky Fernandez.

He had gone missing in 1994 after obtaining bail in a murder case in Mumbai. Since, then, he has travelled in 12 countries and ran industries. Tanveer Sait, former minister and present Congress MLA from Mysuru, who received an extortion call from Poojari when he was a minister, said that many legislators had been threatened by him. As many as 42 criminal cases have been lodged against him in Bengaluru. 32 cases in Mangaluru and 11 cases in Udupi.

CENTRE FOR MATERIALS FOR ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY (C-MET)
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CoE Advt. No.: 03/2020

Engagement of PROJECT STAFF against temporary positions WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

C-MET invites applications from eligible and highly motivated candidates for Walk-in-Interview on 14.03.2020 (SATURDAY) to fill up the following temporary and time bound positions under MeitY sponsored project entitled "Establishment of Centre of Excellence on E-waste Management". The positions are purely temporary and are co-terminus with the project duration (i.e. 29.09.2024).

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Sd/- DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
SERIOUS FRAUD INVESTIGATION OFFICE
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B-3 Wing, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
Ph: 011-24369593

2/1/2020-Admn./SFIO
NOTICE FOR EMPANELMENT OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT FIRMS

Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) invites applications from eligible Chartered Accountant Firms for empanelment to take up assignments relating to forensic audit, analysis of financial data, interpretation of financial statements etc. in connection with investigations under the provisions of Companies Act, 2013.

The detailed guidelines for empanelment of Professional CA Firms are available on the website www.sfiio.nic.in/www.mca.gov.in. Interested and eligible CA firms may send their applications in the prescribed form, complete in all respects, along with all supporting documents as stated in the application form to the Director, Serious Fraud Investigation Office, 2nd Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, B-3 Wing, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

Additional Director (Admn.)

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