

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 27 FEBRUARY 2020

WEATHER

Max: 31.8°C
Min: 21°C
RH: 41%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy.
Misty morning.
Max/Min temp. 32/21°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Uttarayana
Tithi: Phalgun Suddha
Chaviti full day
Star: Revathi till 1.07 am
Varyam: 11.37 am to 1.25 am
Durmuhurtam: 10.32 am to
11.19 pm and 3.12 pm to 3 pm
Rahukalam: 1 pm to 3 pm
HJRI CALENDAR
Rajjab 2,1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.36 am
Zohar: 12.39 pm
Asar: 4.43 pm
Maghrib: 6.27 pm
Isha: 7.35 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.21 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.35 AM
MOONSET TODAY 9.22 PM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 8.55 AM

COUNTER POINT



Not rioters, let's detain all political leaders to control riots!

One killed in Gulf Oil blast

Hyderabad: One person was killed and four others suffered injuries in an explosion at the Gulf Oil Corp. Ltd (GOCL) in IDL Kukatpally on Wednesday. Police have shifted the injured to a nearby hospital. Kukatpally inspector B. Laxminarayana Reddy said the explosion took place in block number 46-C of GOCL. E. Vasudeva Sharma, 62, a contract employee, died on the spot.

Full report on Page 4

Smith pips Kohli in test rankings

Dubai: India skipper Virat Kohli lost the top spot in the ICC Test Player Rankings after managing only 21 runs in the first Test which his side lost to New Zealand by 10 wickets. Kohli, who has 906 points, slipped to the second position. Australia's Steve Smith was back on top of the list for the eighth time after first occupying the top position in June 2015. — PTI

Full report on Page 12

ATMs dispense more ₹500 notes

New Delhi: Banks have started dispensing more of ₹500 notes than ₹2,000 denomination notes, a move seen as gradual phasing out of the high denomination currency note. The Reserve Bank of India in an RTI response last year had said that the central bank had stopped printing ₹2,000 denomination currency notes.

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US ready to sign deal with Taliban



SPORTS | 13

Sharapova bids adieu to tennis

TABLOID

Surrogacy is on the rise



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SC raps Delhi police for inaction

Says police lacks professionalism; claims violence erupted as police didn't stop inflammatory remarks

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 26

The Supreme Court on Wednesday pulled up the Delhi police for not taking action against those who made inflammatory speeches and said that if it had acted as required by law and in time the violence could have been averted.

Justice K.M. Joseph, who was a part of the two-judge bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, said that if you had acted the way law required you to act and stopped people from making inflammatory remarks the spiral of violence could have been averted and lives saved. "Lack of professionalism of the police is the main problem here. If you had not allowed people to get away after inflammatory remarks, all this would not have happened. If you act the way law requires to act, you will see the difference," Justice Joseph observed hitting out at Delhi police for its inaction.

The court was obviously pointing to police not taking cognisance of BJP leader Kapil Mishra making inflammatory remarks against those opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act.

"I will say," Justice Joseph retorted when Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said that the observation from the judge may "demoralise the police" during these tense times. "One of my constables has died. My DCP is injured. He is on ventilator. Let us not demoralise the police by saying anything now. We do not know what the situation on the ground is," Mr. Mehta kept imploring the court.

"This will happen if you allow people to get away. Unless you get the police to act, there will be no difference. Look at how police acts in the UK. Do they require somebody's nod? If somebody makes an inflammatory remark, police swings into action immediately," Justice Joseph said emphasising that the violence and the consequent loss of life was on account of police inaction. The bench also referred



Women look out of a window as paramilitary forces patrol a street in New Delhi on Wednesday.

— AP

to the guidelines issued by it in 2006 in Prakash Singh case relating to police reforms.

The court's disapproval of Delhi police came in the course of the hearing of two petitions seeking direction for the eviction of sit-in protestors from Shahen Bagh where it was blocking public roads.

The Solicitor-General was once again on the receiving end when Justice Kaul described as "unfortunate" the things that have happened in past few days.

As the S-G told Justice Kaul not to use term "unfortunate", Justice Kaul joining Justice Joseph said, "Who can deny that whatever has happened is not unfortunate? Yes, many unfortunate things have happened. It should not have happened."

INDIA'S IMAGE TAKES A BEATING, TWEETS KTR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

TRS working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao expressed his concern over the violence in Delhi, saying, "The image of India and lives are at stake, and the world is watching us".

On Wednesday, the state minister tweeted: "Violence in the national capital is a painful reminder to all of us Indians how hypersensitive and vulnerable a nation we are. Let's sort out difference in opinions with civility befitting the world's largest democracy".

Sonia sees conspiracy in Delhi violence, seeks Shah's ouster

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, FEB. 26

More than 72 hours after riots broke out in parts of Delhi, the Opposition came out with its first reaction on Wednesday as Congress president Sonia Gandhi addressed a rare, structured press conference, seeking the resignation of Union home minister Amit Shah for the violence. The CPI(M) and the NCP also asked him to resign taking responsibility for the violence.

The Congress will march to the President's House on Thursday and put forward their demands on the

situation in Delhi. Opposition leaders including Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and those from DMK and NCP have also sought time from President Ram Nath Kovind.

On Wednesday, the Congress' Delhi unit organised a peace march from AICC headquarters. Senior party leaders joined the march. It was stopped at Janpath, where they sat on dharna.

Earlier, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) met and it observed a minute's silence over the deaths in Delhi, following

which Mrs Gandhi addressed the press, alleging there was a "well-planned" conspiracy behind the violence.

"After reviewing the situation, the CWC is of the firm opinion that what has happened in Delhi is a colossal failure of duty for which the entire responsibility must be borne by the Central government and particularly the home minister and calls upon the home minister to tender his resignation immediately," she said, reading out the CWC resolution.

Page 9: BJP hits back at Sonia, recalls anti-Sikh riots

UNEASY CALM IN DELHI, DEATH TOLL RISES TO 27

SANJAY BASAK and SUNIL THAPLIYAL | DC
NEW DELHI, FEB. 26

As the death toll steadily rose to 27 and over 200 are reportedly injured, an eerie calm prevailed in the entire riot-hit northeast Delhi on Wednesday morning, after nearly 48 hours of unchecked communal conflagration that has left in its wake not just charred remains of homes, business establishments, and even entire localities in Jafraabad, Maujpur, Chand Bagh, Karawal Nagar, but also a delicately maintained harmony.

Heavy deployment of police, paramilitary forces was visible in these areas on Wednesday, the day National Security Advisor Ajit Doval reached the riot-torn spots assuring protection and safety after facing public ire. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal also made his first appearance in the riot torn areas late Wednesday evening.

After US President, Donald Trump's departure last night, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the third day of riots, reacted for the first time and appealed for peace and brotherhood.

While the administration appealed for peace, the body of an IB employee was recovered from a culvert at Chand Bagh area Wednesday morning.

While who killed whom will remain a matter of endless police inquiries and judicial probes, the Delhi Police said that it has arrested 106 people for their alleged involvement in the violence and registered 18 FIRs.

Chand Bagh, which was one of the busiest areas, teeming with people from all communities and known for its frenetic pace, has turned into a ghost town.

Page 9: Streets littered with remains of vehicles

Anxiety grips China returnees in city

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Fear of contracting coronavirus or transmitting it to loved ones is haunting those who returned from China in the last week of December. Despite self-isolation and no symptoms, they are not able to accept that they do not carry the Covid-19 virus.

At least 10 cases of anxiety and depression due to the fear of coronavirus have been reported by psychiatrists in the city. Termed "corona-anxiety" by psychiatrists, it is taking a toll as they struggle

Global recession is looming

New Delhi, Feb. 26: A global recession is likely if coronavirus becomes a pandemic, and the odds of that are uncomfortably high and rising with infections surging in Italy and Korea, Moody's Analytics said on Wednesday.

"The coronavirus has

been a body blow to the Chinese economy, which now threatens to take out the entire global economy," chief economist at Moody's Analytics Mark Zandi said.

"COVID-19 is battering the global economy in numerous ways. Chinese

business travel and tourism has all but stopped; global airlines are not going to China and cruise lines are cancelling most Asia-Pacific itineraries," Moody's Analytics said.

Full report on Page 11

ing process began. He was so frightened that he had a major anxiety disorder and the virus threat made it a phobia. He had no symptoms but was suffering from breathlessness and high palpitations frequently. He got himself checked at the government hospital and was declared safe. But that was not enough. He had tests conducted in private hospitals. His family realised it was a mental health issue and put him on heavy medication."

Page 3: IT professional locks himself in a room

Daughter ends life, cop kicks dad

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

A sobbing ex-serviceman, disconsolate over his daughter's suicide at a college hostel and protesting that justice was not being done, was kicked by a policeman Sridhar Reddy (PC349) when he tried to prevent them from taking her body to the Patancheru Area Hospital mortuary on Wednesday.

A video of the incident went viral and raised criticism of the "friendly policing" initiative promoted by the Telangana state police.

The girl, S Sandhya Rani (16), was from Yenugonda village in the Jadcherla mandal of Mahabubnagar district. Her father S. Chandrashekar is an ex-serviceman and her mother Padma is a homemaker. Sandhya was studying intermediate first-year course at Narayana Junior College at Velimela in Sangareddy district. She committed suicide by hanging herself in the hostel bathroom on Tuesday.

Sandhya was not well for a week and the college management gave her medicine. However, she did not recover and called her parents, asking them to visit on Saturday (on

other days, they would not be allowed). On Tuesday at noon, the girl hanged herself from the geyser's pipe. Other students alerted the staff and she was rushed to a hospital in Nallagandla, but was declared brought dead.

On learning of her death Chandrashekar lodged a complaint with the BDL Banur police station alleging the negligence by the college management that led Sandhya to end her life. A case was registered against the college management and the body shifted for postmortem.

On Wednesday, a number of relatives and activists of student organisations arrived at the hospital and staged a protest, demanding justice and immediate action against the management. Suddenly, a group barged into the mortuary and broke open the freezer box. They took it to the main road and laid a roadblock.

Page 4: SP orders probe on brutal attack

HOUSE HUNTERS

Notion that singles are party animals works against them in finding a house

Houseowners not ready to mingle with singles

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

A rented accommodation is only for sleep after a long day at work. And home owners throw in a 'no parties' clause. Single persons are among those who find it hardest to rent in the city, as owners presume them to be party-animal.

"House-hunting was an arduous task for me and my friend, looking to shift into a new house near

Punjagutta," said Lily Parmes, who is still on the lookout for a place (her friend is a woman). "There were times when owners demanded steep rents or openly told us we would not be given the place."

Even Vyjayanthi, an EMCEE was given exorbitant quotes during her search for a house in Srinagar Colony, as her job entailed coming home late night after events — sometimes accompanied by guests.



"For the house owners, it was the easy way to shoo people," she said. "For a simple 2BHK, I was asked to shell out rent of ₹47,000. Considering my earnings, it was not possible, and I had to let the place go. To my surprise, I later saw it rented out to a married couple."

Nithin N., an owner in Srinagar Colony, claimed that those partying at home defile the house by drinking in it. "They usually get into fights and quarrels after

they drink," he says. "So it is best to avoid them."

Even single women who are looking to live alone are forced to persuade the owners that they would not have late night parties or bring home friends.

"I tried looking for a house on rent," said Ismat, an IT professional. "I told the owner in Somajiguda that I am a single working woman. As soon as he heard that, he asked me to tell the neighbours that I would be

living with my parents, who are out of town. Why do I have to lie to get a house?"

Being wary when letting out makes security sense, with the police advising people to keep them informed of such deals, most people skip this advice.

"There is a rule but many owners do not provide details," said an officer at the Banjara Hills police station. "If they do, we can run background checks on the tenants."

SHORT TAKES

NHRC TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING FOR SC, ST

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

The National Human Rights Commission will conduct a public hearing on the problems and grievances of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the city on March 26. Those belonging to either community who have complaints of atrocities committed by a public servant or negligence by a public servant towards their grievances may send their complaints to the commission by registered post or Speed Post.

They can address the letters to: The Registrar, National Human Rights Commission, Manav Adhikar Bhawan, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023.

TT PLAYER'S SOCIAL MEDIA A/C HACKED

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

International table tennis player Naina Jaiswal on Wednesday, through a prominent micro-blogging website, announced that her social media account has been hacked.

"Some unidentified miscreants have begun posting obscene messages on her behalf, online. I have lodged a complaint with Cyber Crime Police officials of Hyderabad. I have thousands of followers. Now, people have begun calling me asking me, what I was doing on social media?" she said.

The hackers removed her as the administrator for a few pages and reinstated themselves in the space. "I am not in control of my accounts, and do not believe anything that is posted under my name in social media," she said.

She also made it clear that she has written the details of the complaint to the City Cybercrime ACP KVM Prasad on Tuesday.

STREET PLAY CHAMPIONS GENDER ISSUES

Hyderabad, Feb. 26: Department of Social Work in collaboration with My Choices Foundation has initiated a forum called Peace Champions where volunteers are trained to aware and sensitise students at universities and colleges and also in slum communities on gender issues.

As part of this initiative, a Street Play on Gender Sensitisation with a theme 'Samaj ko aage badhana hai to ladki ko bhi padhana hai' was performed yesterday by students of Social Work.

Through the play students have demonstrated that how our society justify female subordination and their confinement to home. Male members of society need to understand that women education and empowerment is central to the development of family and society.

"Efforts like these are much needed to break misconceptions of our society on the one hand and to hone skill of Social work students on the other", opined Prof. Mohd Shahid. He expressed that this initiative would have a greater impact on the mind of young students in colleges and universities to appreciate and uphold the values of gender diversity.

Prof. Md Shahid Raza, Head Department appreciated the efforts of Peace Champion volunteers. The play was attended students from other colleges, MANUU students and staff.



In the wake of violence in the north-eastern parts of Delhi, students of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University staged a rally in protest on Wednesday

Varsity students unite to protest against Delhi riots

Urge Delhi CM to pass a resolution against CAA, NPR, NRC

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Women students of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University rallied on Wednesday to protest against the violence in north-east Delhi. They went in a procession from their hostel to the main gate condemning the violence and demanding arrest of those who had instigated it. The students have also called for a bandh.

Umar Faruq, president of the students union, said, "Delhi violence is anti-Muslim. The role of the police is questionable as they stood along with goons. They remained silent while properties were burnt and people stoned and killed. What was the police doing is a very big question," he remarked.

More than 200 students assembled at the hostel garden. They pledged that they will follow the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi and Maulana Azad while continuing their protests. They stated neither lathis nor bullets will stop them from protesting against CAA, NRC and NPR.

The students appealed to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to pass a resolution against CAA,

Students pledged that they will follow the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi and Maulana Azad while continuing their protests.

NRC and NPR in Delhi Assembly immediately to send a strong message to the central government. Meanwhile, the students have emphasised that they believe in peaceful protests and will continue to demonstrate peacefully as protesting is their right. Violence in Delhi has upmost students of the Urdu university. This is because despite the earlier attacks on various universities, the incidents are yet to be investigated and culprits brought to book.

The women's wing of the MANU University pointed out that the heinous attacks are against the "people of the country" and not against a particular community. The attacks will only increase their resolve to come together and protect themselves from the "fascist forces", which are trying to divide the country. The students underlined that they will continue creating awareness against the unconstitutional CAA, though it has been passed by the Parliament.

Owaisi: Shah has to take blame for Delhi carnage

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

AIMIM President, Mr Asaduddin Owaisi said Delhi violence is a deliberate programmed communal carnage which reminds the nations what happened in 2002 in Gujarat. He said that the government has allowed unsocial and communal elements to have filled the Delhi.

Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Mr Owaisi alleged that the BJP government at the Centre is deliberately not controlling the riots.

"It is not failure, but intentional inaction. I will not call it a communal riot as this is a programme and genocide. The Government failed to react instantly. Most unfortunate part of it is poor people have been killed and properties have been burned."

He further asked how did the Police allow the miscreants to go up to the



Minaret and damage the Masjid.

"The worst thing was that people standing on the ground were clapping when the Masjid was being damaged. The entire tire market has been burnt. It clearly shows that the government allowed these unsocial and communal elements."

He added, "We have no trust in Delhi Police. It is very unfortunate that neither the Prime Minister nor the home minister reacted so far. They are holding meetings. He asked why can't home minister visit the disturbed areas and outright

condemn it, when he can campaign nearly four days and conduct nearly 30 election meetings in Delhi. He has to visit these places and build confidence.

He said "it is high time for Mr Amit Shah to take responsibility as a Home Minister for whole loss of lives and properties. He asked the Prime Minister whether this 'Sab ka saath-Sab ka vikas', is this your belief in the constitution."

Mr Owaisi said the toll will reach the number of 30. BJP has the majority of 308 members in the Parliament. What is the benefit of this majority when you can't safe the national capital? This is not 2002, we are in 2020. He said, "BJP is responsible for the killings. The Delhi Police is equally accused and responsible. It involves in rioting. In the presence of the Police media persons were attacked. They are breaking the laws instead providing security."

Cops cosyng up to parties on CAA protests

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Strange as it may sound, but before granting or rejecting permissions to various groups to hold anti-CAA protests, a select few police officials – both at senior and lower levels – in Hyderabad city police

are said to be undertaking a "secret analysis" to ascertain whether the individual groups have the "potential" to hog more limelight than a particular political party, which is also organising protests. This is to ensure that the individual groups do not steal the thunder from the political party in question.

What is not known is whether the "analysis" is being carried out at the behest of the political party or is simply the case of some police officials trying to be more loyal to the party members by try-

ing to protect their political interests in Telangana and keep it intact. The entire exercise is purely being done at a "personal level" and based on the "equation" policemen have with the party. Sources disclosed to Deccan Chronicle that the hush-hush analysis at individual levels is reportedly being done after gathering inputs gathered from different agencies – both state and central – about the groups and the individuals who are leading the protests. If sources are to be believed, permis-

sions and groups – is being used for unofficial purposes," is what many in the police circles said about the on-going hue and cry over granting or rejecting permissions to other groups. Irked at being flooded by anti-CAA groups seeking judicial intervention for protests, even the Telangana High Court recently directed the Telangana DGP to frame guidelines for permissions for granting or rejecting permissions for protests.

Sources said that though the issue of "assisting" a political party by some officials is known to many in the state government, they have chosen to look the other way, due to the immense clout the party has on the ruling TRS party. For the political party, it is in their best interests to keep the focus of the electorate upon themselves, failing which

they might lose the grip on their voters. "A situation wherein other lesser known groups take much of the credit for anti-CAA protests, will make it appear as if the political party is losing ground in its own turf and is bound to make them uneasy," officials told this newspaper.

Each time the Hyderabad city police receives a letter from various groups seeking permission to hold a protest against the CAA, the usual exercise while vetting the request is to 1) verify the antecedents of the organisers and their members 2) based on the available inputs, gauge the mood among the particular group on whether or not they might resort to violence and 3) the timing of the protests and the geography of the area where the protest is being planned.

Tiger sighted near Neerala village

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, FEB. 26

Villagers of Neerala and Sundaragiri in Jainad mandal in Adilabad district have come across a tiger on outskirts of Neerala village while it was crossing the main road between Bela and Adilabad on Tuesday at 10.30 pm. It is not confirmed whether the tiger found at Neerala is the same as the one sighted moving near Tamsi (K) village in Bheempur mandal. It is said the tiger has been moving in the area along the river Penganga, Laxmipur barrage canal and the Sathnala project area in search of drinking water, as hot summer has already set in. A car owner captured the image of the tiger on his mobile when he saw the wild animal. The forest depart-

ment has deployed its staff at Neerala village to monitor the situation.

The tiger reportedly attacked two other cows in Sundaragiri village.

Officials say the tiger might have come to this area for drinking water from the Laxmipur canal.



The photograph shows a tiger crossing the road at Neerala village in Jainad mandal on Tuesday night.

Nizam lauded for making Urdu, Deccani popular

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

A two-day International seminar on Deccan held at College for Women Koti, saw speakers praising the last Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan for patronizing educational activities and providing world class facilities in Hyderabad.

Prof. Moula Baksh of Aligarh Muslim University said Urdu replaced Persian as the official language during the period of Mir Mahboob Ali Khan. Many eminent Urdu poets moved to Hyderabad from other parts of India. He himself was a master in Urdu.

He claimed that the first and last voice from South Asia against the colonial language, English was raised in the city, where a University was established by Mir Osman Ali Khan in Urdu media. He defied British rulers and established a varsity where various courses were imparted in Urdu.

He said the last Nizam's mentor Mr Syed Bilgrami influenced the ruler to establish a university in Urdu and also succeeded to convince him to promote Urdu.

He not only promoted the language, but donated to other educational institutions across India. He said though Deccani language was promoted during the eras of Qutub Shahi, Adil Shahi and Barid Shahi, it was at Osmania University that a lot of research had been

done on Deccani language and the last Nizam patronised the university by providing world-class facilities.

A total of 26 research papers were presented on different topics related to Deccani. Scholars asserted that Osmania University had played a key role in promoting Urdu language and in preserving Deccani.

The Deccan Study Centre was established in Maulana Azad National Urdu University recently. Scholars of Telugu and Hindi revealed that Deccani words are even reflected in Hindi and Telugu and Hindi, but they bear different meanings.

Programme Director Dr Mohammed Nazeem Ahmed, Head of the Department of Urdu and Programme Convenor Dr Syeda Naseem Sultana, also spoke of the occasion.

'Beautification' to cost civic body ₹1.7L/month in power bills alone

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Faced with the prospect of shelling out around ₹1.70 lakh a month towards electricity bills for "beautification" drive involving wrapping streetlights of city with LED light strips measuring hundreds of metres, GHMC officials, who had come up with the idea of light strips in the first place, are now said to be mulling about limiting the LED lights to festival periods.

A total of 948 streetlight poles in Khairatabad and Secunderabad zones of Greater Hyderabad Muni-

pal Corporation have been decorated with white LED light strips. A senior official at GHMC headquarters said the decision to beautify streetlight poles was taken by respective zonal offices of the corporation. GHMC, as an entity, was not privy to this decision-making process. "The zonal offices have been given the powers to take up beautification works and the head office has no say in this matter," the official disclosed.

With the cost of LED strips for each pole estimated between ₹3,000 and ₹4,000 – depending on the

length of the strip that averages to 13 metres – the two GHMC zones are estimated to have spent anywhere between ₹28 lakh and ₹38 lakh just on the cost of LED strips.

While officials maintain that LED lighting has been a hit with people with requests coming in for installing them in more areas of the city, their installation is not without risks, according to Professor K. M. Lakshman Rao, who heads the civil engineering department at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University. "These LEDs are adding

to the intensity of lighting on the streets, which is not a good thing. While each streetlight is of about 120 watts capacity, the LEDs are taking this to anywhere between 300 and 400 watts," he said. "It not just costs more in terms of power bills for GHMC, such additional lighting is not safe for road users, who might be distracted by it, or find themselves unable to adjust to the increased intensity of lighting, especially when they are hit by bright headlamps of vehicles coming from the opposite direction. Usually, people require one or two seconds of reaction

time to avoid an accident," the professor pointed out.

"The spatial dimensions of being on a road lit in this manner differ from person to person. Frankly, I am worried about the safety aspect of this additional lighting," he stated.

Lakshman Rao also said that the current LED streetlights, as well as the LED strips around the poles, are much more "cooler" in terms of their light emission. "Ideally, streetlights should be of a 'warmer' tone, something that is emitted by the likes of sodium vapour lamps of the past," he maintained.



- Poles with LED strips in Khairatabad Zone 729
- Poles with LED strips in Secunderabad Zone 219
- Average cost per pole ₹3,000 to ₹4,000
- LED strip length per pole around 13 metres
- Power required for LED strips on one pole around 25 units
- Cost paid by GHMC per unit of power ₹7.10



POWER | SHUTDOWN

Secunderabad
Zamisthanpur Sub-Station
10 am to 11.30 am
TR Apartment, Yellama Temple, Skandanagiri Area and Brooke Bond Area.

Chikalguda Sub-Station
11.30 am to 1 pm
Jayachandra Enclave, Panchasheel Park, Gharonda Enclave, Indian Gas, Sri Padmavathi Residency, Hima Bindu Residency and Food Mart.

IICT Sub-Station
2 pm to 4.30 pm
Bank of Baroda, Kimty Colony, Shirdi Sai Nagar and Street No. 1.

Monda Market Sub-Station
2.30 pm to 4.30 pm
Gandhinagar PS, Old Bhoiguda Garden Area, Govt School Area and Rail Kala Rang.

Addagutta Sub-Station
4.30 pm to 5.30 pm
Wadder Basthi, Banjara Arcade, Raja Constructions, Kalyan Rao PT, Shantiniketan, Seva Mandal and Kamalludin.

SHORT TAKES

₹170.72 CRORE PLAN FOR ROAD WORKS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation on Wednesday announced a ₹170.72 crore plan to convert 291.28 km of gravel roads on the city outskirts into cement concrete roads.

According to a GHMC news release, gravel roads in LB Nagar, Charminar, Khairatabad, Serilingampally, Kukatapally and Secunderabad will be replaced by CC roads as part of this plan.

RED CROSS SOCIETY TO HELP CHECK TB

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Indian Red Cross Society with over 1.80 lakh members will take an active role in building a Tuberculosis-free society and reach out to every person affected by TB, said Governor, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Wednesday.

The Governor reviewed the prevalence of TB in Telangana in general and Hyderabad in particular with senior medical doctors at Raj Bhavan.

Speaking on the occasion, she said it was unfortunate to note that TB continued to remain a deadly disease despite the myriad advancements in several areas.

It is important to nip it in the bud, she said while directing officials to formulate an action plan to ensure that every TB patient has access to quality treatment and support.

GOVERNOR DR Tamilisai Soundararajan reviewed the prevalence of TB in Telangana in general and Hyderabad in particular with doctors at Raj Bhavan.



A priest blesses a devotee at St Mary's Basilica in Secunderabad on Ash Wednesday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

Prayers mark beginning of Lent

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

The commencement of the holy Lent season was marked with special prayers at various churches here on Ash Wednesday, where in ash is applied on the foreheads of people.

"The Ash signifies that we are nothing but just ash, a sign of humility, and that we are fragile and return to dust," according to Rev Monsignor Swarna Bernard, the Vicar-General of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad.

The season of Lent is marked by special prayers at homes and special church services during weekdays.

"We will be preparing ourselves to be more humble. The period from Ash Wednesday till Easter is of special significance to Christians", said Rev A. Steeven, who heads the Hyderabad Regional Conference of Methodist Council of India. Lent involves turning away from sins and a season where Christians rededicate themselves to follow the path shown by Jesus Christ and share his love with the world.

LENT INVOLVES turning away from sins and a season where Christians rededicate themselves to follow the path shown by Jesus Christ and share his love with the world.

It is also a period to retrospect, soul-searching and repentance with many also observing fast during the season.

"It is how you humble yourself and move towards God," said Binobhini Paul, president, Women's Society for Christian Service, Secunderabad.

It also marks a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that ends approximately six weeks later on Holy Thursday before Easter Sunday.

Shun phones, keep eye on roads, GHMC babus told

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Officials of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) have been told to spend less time on their mobile phones while travelling in their vehicles in the city. They were asked instead to spend time paying attention to the surroundings in which they are travelling through.

"Give your cell phones a break. Use your phones only to attend to important calls while driving in the city. Pay attention to sanitary conditions, lighting, water leakages, and to potholes on the streets and roads," GHMC Commissioner D.S. Lokesh Kumar said on Wednesday.

Chairing a meeting with all GHMC zonal commissioners, Lokesh Kumar stressed on improving sanitation in the city.

Every commercial or shopping complex and other businesses that dot about 1,000 km of city roads must have two dustbins outside their establishments, one for dry and other for wet wastes.

This must be implemented even for pan shops, tea stalls and small kirana stores, he said, expressing hope that this move will create awareness among people about keeping their surroundings clean.

The cost of the dust bins should be borne by the respective establishments, he said.

Among the other issues discussed at the meeting were desilting of 344 nalas in the city, and about 50 of them are currently being desilted. The Zonal Commissioners were instructed to ensure that all the silt and other wastes removed must be moved to landfills the same day. Also discussed were repairs to existing public toilets and constructing new ones to provide 500 of these facilities in each ward.

As many as 1,661 locations have been identified for constructing public toilets, while sites were yet to be chosen for another 1,331 public toilets.

GHMC COMMISSIONER Lokesh Kumar said every commercial or shopping complex and other businesses that dot about 1,000 km of city roads must have two dustbins outside their establishments, one for dry and other for wet wastes.

TECHIE FEARS HIS FAMILY MAY GET VIRUS

From Page 1

Similarly, an IT worker who visited the country for work had cough for days. He bought lots of hand-sanitizers. He would sanitize whatever he touched as he was scared that his family would get the virus.

He locked himself in his room, worked from home and refused to come to the dining table. The worried family referred him to the government hospital which cleared him, but he was not convinced. He maintained a distance from his family.

"It was difficult to deal with the young man as he believed there was something wrong with him," Dr P.S. Reddy, psychiatrist said.

"He was very scared for his family but could not express it to them. The family thought he was on drugs. It took medication to calm him and his family had to be counselled."

Experts say that mental health issues of Covid 19 in Hyderabad are merely the tip of the iceberg. Many who have 'isolated' or 'socially boycotted themselves', and are 'confined' even within their homes from fear.

With asymptomatic carriers transmitting the disease to other parts of the world, those who have visited China in December have a big 'what if, I have the virus' weighing on their minds.

THE MENTAL HEALTH MANUAL IN EPIDEMICS HAS THESE COMMON RESPONSES TO LOOK FOR

- Fear of falling ill and dying.
- Fear of avoiding healthcare due to chances of getting infected during treatment.
- Fear of losing livelihood.
- Fear of being socially boycotted and isolated.
- Fear that the disease has no medicine and testing positive will lead to death.

Shrines on govt land worries HC

State failed to curb encroachments: Court

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday reprimanded the state government for its negligence to curtail encroachment of vacant lands earmarked for parks, ponds, lakes, bunds, which are being used for raising religious structures illegally.

The Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy came down heavily on the government for not coming up with a firm policy for dealing with illegal encroachers, who are intruding into these lands and raising religious structures.

Aggrieved by the action of the Madhavapuri Hills Devalaya Committee, Ameenpur, Sangareddy, the Human Rights and Consumer Protection Cell Trust (NGO), filed a PIL seeking action against the illegal encroaching into the land earmarked for a park, Rock Garden, and raising a temple without obtaining permissions from the concerned departments.

The Bench passed several observations pointing out the callous attitude of the government in not protecting the vacant lands.

Chief Justice Chauhan posed a series of questions to Mr Arvind Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary of Municipal Administration, Mr Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Principal Secretary of Panchayat Raj and other officials, including Sangareddy district collector Mr Hanumantha Rao, who were present before the court, as per its earlier directions.

The Chief Justice said, "Going by the fact that there are nearly 40 PILs filed in the High Court on this menace of illegal encroachment of lands pertaining to lakes, ponds, vacant government lands etc., this Court opines that the Telangana government is evincing scant interest in protecting its own lands and the state needs to take a very strong and firm stand on protecting its lands."

Further, he said, "Notwithstanding whatever religious sentiments attached to a particular religious structure, it is the State that gives wings to the illegal encroachers to raise religious structures, when it is not acting harshly against the illegal encroachers in the garb of the religion, people cannot be permitted to go amok by raising illegal religious structures." "The State cannot buckle under any pressure if the Telangana government does not implement the law, then who else will do it. The court is surprising why the state is taking the weak stand on this issue. No illegal structures to be permitted in the garb of religious sentiments. I expect the Telangana government can implement the policy like in the state Rajasthan for get rid of all such of illegal religious raisings," Chief Justice Chauhan observed.

The case was adjourned to March 16 for further hearing.

Shia body disputes report on renting

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

The Shia Youth Welfare Association on Wednesday said that a report published in these columns on February 26 on renting of houses to tenants in the city was "incorrect and not based on facts."

Referring to the report 'Muslims don't rent homes to Hindus, or Sunnis to Shias', Syed Azmath Hussain Jaffery, SYWA president, said that the report could "tarnish the image of Muslims by mentioning the Shia-Sunni communities."

The newspaper holds emphatically that the DC report is completely based on facts and there was no intention to tarnish image of any of communities.

The series is only aimed at holding up a mirror to our society and all peoples.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SARDAR PATEL NATIONAL UNITY AWARD

Government of India has instituted Sardar Patel National Unity Award as the highest civilian award in the field of contribution to the unity and integrity of India keeping in view of the contribution made by Sardar Patel Vallabhbhai Patel to the integration of independent india and in order to promote the unity and integrity of the country. The notification in this regard was issued on 20th September, 2019.

Any Indian citizen / institution / organization in India can nominate any person / institution / organization or themselves for this award. Nomination can be made by 30th April, 2020. The details in this regard may be seen on the website of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of india i.e. www.nationalunityawards.mha.gov.in.

davp 19101/11/0025/1920

BEST | REMEDY **Viral infection affects nose, throat and bronchi**

Take vaccines to avoid flu: Docs

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Even as influenza vaccination is less than two per cent, hospitalisation due to pneumonia and brain fever is around 50 per cent every year.

There were 28,000 cases of swine flu in the country last year, of which five per cent led to severe pneumonia conditions due to which vaccines are being suggested but there have not been many takers.

Experts state that epidemics during change of seasons are becoming turning rampant leading to debilitating diseases and complications, which require hospitalisation.

Vaccines are the best preventive measures. It is time the Centre makes vaccine mandatory in order to protect children and senior citizens.

Most influenza patients do not require medical treatment and recover within one to two weeks. But the infection in children, senior citizens and pregnant women leads to severe complications.

NO COVID-19 POSITIVE CASE SO FAR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

A total of 107 individuals screened in the state till Wednesday for the dreaded Covid-19 have tested negative, according to the state health and family welfare department.

While till Tuesday, 106 persons were tested, one more person who was referred to Gandhi Hospital by the health screening staff at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport on Wednesday also tested negative for the disease.

The person has been released to go home and will observe the mandatory 28-day home quarantine, an official said.

every year.

Dr V.V. Ramana Prasad, consultant pulmonologist at KIMS Hospital, explained, "In the last two years we are seeing sudden changes in climate conditions. This is also found to activate flu virus, which survives in low-temperatures and whenever there is a dip in weather."

The efficacy of flu virus has been stated to be around 60 to 70 per cent. This means that senior citizens, who are given the flu vaccine, must visit hospitals when they develop cold, cough and flu-like symptoms.

The vaccine is not a complete protection. Dr Anjul Dayal, senior consultant paediatric intensivist at Continental Hospital explained, "The flu burden is very high in winter with 60 per cent of the patients being seen in clinics and 40 per cent requiring hospitalisation every year. They have severe pneumonia and brain fever due to the virus. A quadrivalent influenza vaccine is found to have two subtypes H1N1, H2N3 and two other variants of the virus."

MOST INFLUENZA patients do not require medical treatment and recover within one to two weeks. But the infection in children, senior citizens and pregnant women leads to severe complications.

IT HAS been found that 90 per cent of influenza related deaths occur in the senior citizens category in the country.

DECCAN Chronicle Main Sponsor **BAJAJ ELECTRONICS** SINCE 1983

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IN BRIEF

Drunk man kills son with brick

Khammam: A man in an inebriated state killed his son on Wednesday. The incident took place at Gangabanda Banjara under Kusumanchi mandal. According to details, Mansoor and his son Ravi were drinking together, when an argument broke out between the two. During the argument, Mansoor threw a cement brick towards Ravi. The brick hit Ravi who sustained an injury on his head and died. After the incident, Mansoor surrendered to the police. An investigation is on.

COP ACCUSED OF GRAFT SUSPENDED

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 26

District superintendent of police, Rabindranath Babu IPS suspended a constable who is facing allegations of accepting a bribe.

Constable Naveen, who is working at the Bandara Rural Police Station and attached to the Chikakalapudi police station has been suspended from duty by the district police officer here on Wednesday.

A week ago, the police conducted a raid and arrested 15 gamblers at Bandar Mandal Garala Dibba.

It was allegedly that constable Naveen had collected a huge sum of money from the gamblers.

The matter was brought to the attention of the district SP. The SP ordered a departmental inquiry on the allegation against the constable and on Wednesday, based on the report of the officials, suspended him.

Mr Ravindra Babu said that any allegations of corruption, ranging from the top officers of the police department to the field-level staff, if proved true, will be acted upon.

● **A WEEK** ago the police conducted a raid and arrested 15 gamblers

● **IT WAS** alleged that the constable Naveen had collected a huge sum of money from the gamblers.

SP orders probe into brutal attack

FROM PAGE 1

A police team at the spot brought the body back. Chandrasekhar lay down in front of the gate. One of the four policemen kicked Chandrasekhar and dragged him away. Using force, the police dispersed the gathering and returned the body to the mortuary. A video was captured in which a weak Chandrasekhar who was holding the freezer's handle tightly is seen saying, "Kick me, kill me, kill me."

Sangareddy in-charge Superintendent of Police, Medak SP G. Chandana Deepti said, "An inquiry has been ordered and the constable who manhandled the ex-serviceman was repatriated to district police headquarters."

Police also registered cases against the protesters for damaging hospital property and taking the body from the mortuary freezer.



Police kick Chandrasekhar, father of S. Sandhya Rani who committed suicide at Narayana college at Sangareddy on Wednesday.

1 killed, 4 hurt in blast

Explosion at Gulf Oil Corp factory being probed

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

One person was killed and four others suffered injuries in an explosion at the Gulf Oil Corporation Limited (GOCL) in IDL Kukatpally area on Wednesday. Police have shifted the injured to a nearby hospital.

Kukatpally inspector B. Laxminarayana Reddy said the explosion took place in block number 46-C of the GOCL. E. Vasudeva Sharma, 62, a contract employee, was severely injured and died on the spot.

Sharma, a resident of Beerappaguda in Uppal, had retired from GOCL but rejoined on contract basis. Two others - Gorinkala Padma Rao, 60, of Miyapur, and Raju, 51, of Warasiguda, suffered severe burns



G. Padma Rao, one of the injured workers being treated at the ESI hospital on Wednesday.

and have been admitted to the ESI Hospital for treatment. Another two employees, M. Hari-kanth of Bowenpally and Naveen Kumar of

● **THE EXPLOSION** took place in block number 46-C of the GOCL.

● **E. VASUDEVA** Sharma, 62, a contract employee, died on the spot

● **TWO EMPLOYEES** who suffered severe burn injuries were admitted to ESI hospital

● **TWO OTHERS** suffered minor injuries and are out of danger

Nagole, suffered minor injuries and are said to be out of danger.

A case has been registered. Investigations are on to ascertain what caused the explosion, the inspector added.

TECH GRADUATE HARASSED FOR DOWRY ENDS LIFE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

A 23-year-old woman committed suicide by hanging herself at her house in Vanasthalipuram following harassment for dowry by her in-laws. Following that, her husband too attempted suicide and is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

According to police, the woman, Miryala Gnaneshwari, 23, an engineering graduate from Choutuppal, was married to Samala Raghavender, 31, on June 21, 2018. The couple was living at Harinathapuram Colony in the Vanasthalipuram area.

Four months after the marriage, Gnaneshwari's husband and in-laws, Venkataiah and Venkataamma, and sisters-in-law, allegedly started harassing her for additional dowry.

A panchayat was held in the presence of elders from both families and it was decided that the couple will take a divorce. But Raghavender's family subsequently refused the divorce proposal. Though Gnaneshwari went back to her husband, her harassment did not stop.

On Wednesday, she committed suicide by hanging herself. Following her suicide, Raghavender too attempted suicide by hanging. But his family members rescued him with help of locals and shifted him to a hospital for treatment.

Vanasthalipuram police said they have booked a case against Raghavender and his family members following a complaint by the victim's mother M. Mamatha.

● **FOLLOWING HER** suicide, her husband also attempted to commit suicide by hanging, but his family members rescued him and shifted him to a local hospital.

Inter student ends life at college hostel

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

A second-year intermediate student of Sri Chaitanya Junior College at Narsingi committed suicide in the college hostel on Wednesday.

According to Narsingi police, M. Sanjeev Kumar, 17, a resident of Jagtial in Karimnagar district, was studying at Sri Chaitanya College in the MPC course. For many days, the parents

of the boy noticed a change in his behaviour as he got addicted to some bad vices. The college management also noticed the same and informed his father Kashiram, who was supposed to visit the college and talk to Sanjeev.

The police said that Sanjeev might have been worried about his parent's reaction to his behaviour and ended his life. A case of suspicious death has been registered for the probe.

Singer abused at b'day party, 4 held

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Four persons, who outraged the modesty of a female singer during a birthday party and threatened her to dance at knife-point, were taken into custody by Rajendranagar police. The accused had illegally confined her and a female event organiser in a flat.

According to police, the accused identified as Amer, Ali, Saleem, and Sultan, were taken into custody for questioning. Amer, a resident of Attapur had hosted a birthday party at his flat in Attapur on

February 21, through an event management company.

The event manager, a female, was accompanied by the singer to perform at the event. The four, who got drunk demanded the singer to dance for them. When she refused, they threatened her at knife-point and allegedly stripped her and made her dance, the police said. However, the women escaped and lodged a complaint.

Rajendranagar ACP K. Ashok Chakravarthy said that the women in their mid-30s complained and a case has been registered against the four.

H'bad techie shoots lover in Bengaluru

M.K. ASHOKA | DC BENGALURU, FEB. 26

In a strange turn of events, a techie from Hyderabad shot his lover after their love story turned sour and attempted to commit suicide immediately after. They were admitted to the hospital and their condition is said to be serious.

The accused, identified as Amarendra Patnaik, 32, was working for an IT company in Hyderabad. He was in love with Shubasri Priyadarshini, 26, who worked in a reputed hospital in the city.

According to the police, both hailed from Odisha and were in love for two years. Later, Amarendra broke up with her and moved on. After that, his marriage was fixed with another girl and the engagement was scheduled.

It is said that, Shubasri had sent pictures of her and Amarendra together to his would be bride following which his marriage was called off.

Enraged by the development, Amarendra



Amarendra Patnaik

● **THE DUO** were in a relationship earlier

● **THE TECHIE** who tried to commit suicide later is critical

came to Bengaluru with a country pistol and shot Shubasri in front of her PG accommodation and ran away.

Later, he attempted

suicide by slitting his throat and nerves on his hand, after writing a 17-page emotional suicide note.

The police has moved him to the hospital. Shubasri, who suffered a bullet wound, is recovering and Amarendra's condition is said to be critical. Marathalli police have recovered the pistol and an investigation is currently underway.

Motorists aged between 21 and 30 found to violate rules most

Drunk cab drivers to lose licence

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

With an alarming rise in 'professional' drivers like those operating cabs and goods vehicles, testing positive to drunk driving, the Cyberabad traffic police is taking exception to this culture and talking tough. It has proposed to revoke driving licences of as

many as 790 persons, who were caught during drives against drunk driving.

From January 1 to February 24, they booked 4,145 drunk driving cases. Of them, 223 auto drivers, 34 heavy-vehicle drivers, and over 100 car drivers were booked, in January alone.

The police said that motorists aged between 21

● **THE HIGHEST** number of those caught were from Madhapur traffic police limits.

and 30 ranked highest (2,053) among MV Act violators, followed by 1,354 persons aged between 31 and 40, and six minors. The highest number of

those caught were from Madhapur traffic police limits.

Courts have imprisoned 662 drunk drivers while the Cyberabad police sent recommendations to Road Transport Authority (RTA) officials for cancellation of driving license of 790 motorists. About 439 drove passenger vehicles, 157 IT professionals and 99

students were caught.

"Despite creating awareness, an increasing number of accidents caused by drunken driving notwithstanding, drivers remain oblivious. Letters have been sent to the RTAs for revocation or suspension of driving licenses of 790 persons, who were caught in January," said a Cyberabad police official.

Shraddhanjali Sabha
Smt. Raj Kumari Kapur
 W/o Late M. L. Kapur
 left us for her heavenly abode on the 25th of February 2020

PRAYER MEETING
 Date: 28th Feb, 2020 (Friday) | Time: 4pm to 5pm
 Venue: Platinum Banquets, Above Ratnadeep Supermarket, Next to Ohri's Banjara, Road No. 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

Deeply Mourned by:
 Ravi Ohri (Son-in-Law), Kamal Ohri (Daughter)
 Amar - Sonal Ohri (Grandson & Grand Daughter-in-Law)
 Rajesh - Priya Dhanda (Grandson-in-Law & Grand Daughter)
 Hitesh - Rashmi Manchanda (Grandson-in-Law & Grand Daughter)
 Steve - Pallavi Verma (Grandson-in-Law & Grand Daughter)
 Great Grand Children

3rd Anniversary
 it is now Three years... your memories of strong leadership and hard work continue to guide and inspire us.

Sons - Daughters-in-law Daughter - Son-in-law & Grand Children

VENUE: Today 27-2-2020, 12 Noon H.No. 6-198, Gruhaati Yogeshramam, Lokanajeya Mandiram (Arya Samaj Mandir) Bank Colony, Suchitra, Quthbullapur, Jeedimetla Village, Hyd. Ph: 9393384566

Late Krishan Swamy Mudiraj
 Architect & Engineer
 DOB: 6.9.1934 DOD: 27.2.2017

INTEQUAL

Colonel AFMA MUQSITH, Veteran Soldier of 1965 and 1971. A man of Courage and Integrity set out for his final destination on 24-02-2020. Everyone will miss him eternally. May his Soul Rest in Peace. Contact: 998500500

PEDDA KARMA

R. VINOD KUMAR
 DOB: 10.06.1972 DOD: 10.02.2020
 Venue: H.No. 24-262, Plot No. 58, Indira Nagar Colony, Lothukunta, Secunderabad-500 015.

Inserted by:
 Father: S.K. Ramchander
 Mother: R. Jagadamba
 Wife: R. Sharon.
 Two Daughters & Family Members
 Date: 27 February 2020
 Time: 11.00 a.m. onwards

OBITUARY

C. ARUNACHALAM MUDALIAR
 DOB: 17 Sept. 1922 DOD: 15 Feb. 2020
 "O' Naina you left us"
 "A great soul never dies you will always be in our hearts: Your blessings always with us."
 Inserted by: C. Naresh Kumar, C. Amresh Kumar, A.R. Raj Kumar, V.H. Meenakumari, Sons-in-law, Daughters-in-law, Grand Children and Great Grand Children (S/1920/D01916)

CEREMONY

NARASINA VENKATESHAM
 D.O.B: 11-Jun-1938 D.O.D: 13-Feb-2020
 Ceremony at H.No. 1-1-5/A, Musheerabad Telephone Exchange lane, Jawahar Nagar, Hyderabad.
 Inserted by: Narasina Subhadra (Wife) Daughters, Sons-in-Law & Grand Children (S/1920/D01899)

MAJLIS-E-ZIYARAT BARA-E-ISALE SAWAB
 Late NAWAB SYED NADIR AHMED KHAN S/o. Late NAWAB SYED AHMED KHAN

D O D 24-02-2020. ZIYARAT On Thursday 27/02/2020 AT MASJID NOORUL UMMIR NOOR KHAN BAZAR Hyd. AFTER MAGHRIB. Contact on 9885354667 NAWAB MIR KAZIM ALI KHAN

10th DAY CEREMONY

Late. Sri G. DAYANAND
 Govt. Teacher (Retd.)
 DoB: 28/11/1940 - DoD: 19/02/2020

10th Day Ceremony will be held on 27-02-2020
 At: H.No. 18-4-505/A, Alyabad, Hyderabad-500053.
 Phone: 9849147438/ 9347232428
 "May his Soul - Rest in Peace"
 Inserted by:
Beloved Family Members

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
 I thou shall also be a crown of glory in the hands of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hands of thy God. Isaiah 62:3
 In Loving Memory of

GANDHAM DEBORAH ADONICA ALBERT
 27-02-2001 - 03-10-2012
 Inserted by:
 Father: G. J. Albert - Kumool (Gandham Johnson Albert)
 Mother: Annepoggi Surekha Albert
 Sister: Gandham Leonor Rebekha Albert
 Gr.Father: Gandham Benjamin Johnson-Hyd

I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever Ps 23:6

Mr. R. Bhushan Babu M.B.A, LLB
 D.O.B: 01-04-1962 D.O.D: 26-02-2020
 Manager AP State AGRO'S Vijayawada S/o Late R.C. Ankaiah, W/o Mrs. Anitha Elizabeth, Teacher St. George's Girls Grammar School, Abids. Funeral Service on 28-2-2020 at 11:00am at Baptist Church, Hyderabad, followed by Burial at Narayandurga Cemetery.

YOUR'S EVER LOVING
 Wife, Benhur (Bannu) & Aaron (Bunty)

20th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. BAGADAM PAUL VIDYASAGAR
 DOD: 27th February 2000

Mrs. SWARNA SAGAR
 DOD 22nd February 2015

Those who walk uprightly enter into peace... Isaiah 57:2 (NIV)
 Inserted by: **FAMILY MEMBERS** (S/1920/D01913)

WITH FOND REMEMBRANCE 33rd ANNIVERSARY

Late Shri POLKAM NARSAIAH
 Inserted by:
 Polkam Family
 944171273 (S/1920/D01910)

31st ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. SHANTHA SRIRAMULU C.
 W/o Late Sri Justice Sriramulu C.
 Inserted by:
 J. MANJULA RAO & FAMILY
 C.PRADEEP KUMAR & FAMILY (S/1920/D01917)



IN BRIEF

Collector sleeps at tribal school

Adilabad: Adilabad Collector Sri Devasena has stayed the night at Tribal Welfare Ashram School in the interior Pittabongam village in Indravelli mandal as part of 'Palle Nidra' programme on Tuesday at midnight. She arrived at Pittabongam at 12 midnight. She woke up early in the morning and interacted with the officials concerned and visited primary health centre and she went around the village. Collector interacted with the students while they were doing a drill in the morning on Wednesday morning.

TRS SHIFTS 18 DCCB, DCMS DIRECTORS

DC CORRESPONDENT ADILABAD, FEB. 26

Discussion over the selection of candidates for the post of chairman and vice-chairman of the Adilabad District Cooperative Central Bank Ltd. (ADCCB) and District Cooperative Marketing Society (DCMS) is ongoing between the TRS MLAs and minister Allola Indrakaran Reddy.

As many as 18 directors elected for DCCB and DCM were shifted to a camp in Hyderabad. They will arrive in Adilabad on the election date that is on February 29.

TRS has won 72 chairman posts out of the total 77 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACS) chairman posts. The elected chairman have elected 13 out of the 16 directors unanimously. Of the total 20 posts under the District Cooperative Central Bank (DCCB), three director posts are vacant. The director posts to four non-agriculture cooperative societies are also vacant.

EAM HELP SOUGHT TO BRING BACK 3 BODIES FROM U.S.

Hyderabad, Feb. 26: BJP Telangana unit president K. Laxman on Wednesday urged External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to help in bringing the bodies of three Indians from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh who reportedly died in a road accident in the US.

In a letter to Jaishankar, he said a couple from Hyderabad and their friend, who hails from Guntur in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, were reportedly killed in the accident in Texas.

Laxman said the relatives of the deceased couple approached him for help in bringing the bodies to India.

"I request you to kindly advise the officials concerned to coordinate with Indian Embassy in USA to help in bringing the bodies of the deceased to India at the earliest," he said.

Laxman has also written to Union Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy seeking his help also. — PTI

POET BOOKED FOR HATE SPEECH ON CAA, NRC, NPR

Hyderabad, Feb. 26: A case has been registered against poet Imran Pratapgarhi and two others here for allegedly delivering a provocative speech during a poetry event against the Citizenship Amendment Act, NRC and NPR and for conducting it beyond the permitted time, police said on Wednesday.

They said permission was given to the organisers to hold the event on Feb. 24 from 6 pm to 9 pm, but the programme continued up to 9.48 pm. — PTI



Minister for municipal administration K.T. Rama Rao interacts with women in Jangaon on Wednesday. — DC

KTR: 10% green budget for all

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC WARANGAL, FEB. 26

Minister for municipal administration and urban development (MAUD) K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Wednesday paid a surprise visit to Jangaon and inspected the progress of 'Pattana Pragathi Programme'. As part of the tour, he visited several houses in Dharmakancha and spoke to the residents and enquired about drinking water supply, household tap connections, pension, ration and sanitation.

Later, addressing the locals at Ambedkar Bhavan, he said that the state government is putting in all efforts towards development. "The state will prosper once all the 12,751 village panchayats and 141 municipalities are developed. All we need to do is increase greenery, maintain hygienic surroundings and go about with a proper

● **KTR EXPRESSED** disappointment at the poor sanitation facilities and lack of trees in the area. He appealed to the residents to plant saplings in their yards

plan. The government has already brought laws to take action against all those causing damage and hampering the growth process," he said.

However, he expressed disappointment at the poor sanitation facilities and lack of trees in the area. He appealed to the residents to plant saplings in their yards. "The local councilors will help you find the saplings that you require. Not only do they have to make sure you plant saplings, it is also their responsibility to see that 85 per cent of them survive. If they fail to do so, they will be shunted from the post and this is the law," he said in a veiled caution

to the authorities responsible for maintaining green cover.

Mr Rao said that 10 per cent of the municipal funds should be allocated to green budget in every town. He said that he will visit Jangaon again after two months and take stock of the progress of developmental activities.

KTR spoke to women and urged to make optimal use of household dustbins provided by the municipalities. He appealed to the residents not to throw garbage in open plots. He appealed to them to segregate daily waste as dry and wet waste.

"The wet waste will be used to prepare compost and that in turn can be used as urea by farmers," he said.

Panchayat Raj minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Jangaon MLA M. Yadagiri Reddy, Jangaon Collector K. Nikhila and others were also present during the inspection.

Minister, MLA in open spat

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, FEB. 26

Tribal welfare minister Satyavathi Rathod and ruling party MLA Banoth Shankar Naik from Mahabubabad entered into a bitter argument on Wednesday during a review meeting at the collectorate here on progress of Sri Ram Sagar Project stage 1.

The MLA, who arrived late at the meeting, objected that the meeting had commenced at 11 am itself when it had been agreed that it would be held after completion of "Pattana Pragathi" programme at 2 pm. "No proper system is being followed for holding review meetings. How can you start this review meeting without hearing the MLA about the local issues?" he asked.

The minister replied that everyone had agreed to meet at 11 am on Wednesday. She asked the MLA why he was making a big

issue out of it. District collector V. P. Gautham intervened at this stage saying there has been a miscommunication and he would ensure that such a thing does not repeat again.

However, Mr Naik went on to comment that such review meetings yielded no results. "We just have tea, snacks and pose for photographs. Since one year, officials have been dilly dallying on speeding up works on the project. At this rate, works will remain incomplete and we will be unable to supply water to local bodies," he maintained in front of the minister. Officials present were baffled by the heated exchanges between the minister and the MLA.

However, they breathed a sigh of relief when both of them subsequently moved on with the agenda scheduled for the review meeting. — INN

UTTAM RIDICULES KTR'S CLAIMS ON BHAGIRATHA

Hyderabad, Feb. 26: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president and Nalgonda MP N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has ridiculed the claims being made by Municipal Administration Minister K. Taraka Rama Rao on the success of Mission Bhagiratha and said not even 10 per cent of households in the state were getting drinking water under the programme. He challenged Mr Rama Rao to furnish proof of his claims.

Speaking to media persons in Suryapet on Wednesday, Mr Reddy said that the statement given by Mr Rama Rao in Pattana Pragathi programme was false and far from reality. He said the TRS government was misleading the people by making false claims. He said nearly ₹30,000 crore of public money was wasted in the name of Mission Bhagiratha. He said instead of supply drinking water, the existing roads in many areas were damaged in the name of laying of pipelines. — INN

BJP gears up for GHMC elections

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is set to rely on taking advantage of the ongoing widespread debates on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) as it prepares itself for a nearly year-long road ahead for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) council elections.

The party, which won 4 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana in the 2019 general elections, however, failed to make any dent in the subsequent elections to municipalities and local bodies in the state.

The BJP is hoping that it can ride on what it hopes to be some favourable winds it expects to be generated at a March 15 pro-CAA public meeting that is to be addressed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Senior state and city BJP leaders have been holding meetings with party cadre members from across the GHMC limits to mobilise crowds and make Mr Shah's meeting a success. Such meetings have already been held in Musheerabad, Amberpet, and Khairatabad and other constituencies.

The elections to the GHMC council, are also being viewed in the party as a mat-

Cong still in deep defeat slumber

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

The Congress party is yet to gear itself up fully for contesting the impending polls for the 150-member Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Council elections. There is absolutely no activity in areas spanning over two-thirds of the council seats seems to indicate that Congress has not yet recovered from the massive defeat it suffered at the hands of ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi in the last Assembly polls.

In the past, former ministers D. Nagender and Mukesh Goud, apart from then MP Anjan Kumar Yadav used to actively lead preparations to campaign for the elections to the corporation. However, Nagender moved on to the ruling TRS and

Mukesh Goud passed away recently. Only Anjan Kumar Yadav has been active as president of the Greater Hyderabad Congress Committee. Names of Vikram Goud, P. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy and Rohin Reddy were doing rounds for heading the city Congress but nothing much has happened on this front.

Party workers at the ground level are concerned over lack of leadership in taking on the ruling TRS, BJP or the MIM in the ensuing GHMC elections. There are also worries that since long people's issues at the city level have not been taken up by the Congress.

Though Congress suffered badly during the 2018 assembly polls, it managed to win three Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 parliamentary elections, including the Malka-

giri Lok Sabha seat, which was won by TPCC working president Revanth Reddy.

Congress has campaigned at the national level against the Citizenship Amendment Act introduced by the BJP-led government at the centre. But in the state capital, city Congress has done precious little on this front.

Congress cadres are in a dilemma with regard to the GHMC polls as in the last elections for the corporation, the party got only two seats. In elections held before 2016, the Congress had won 52 seats. Cadres and local-level leaders are worried whether they could improve the party's performance in the coming GHMC elections. Lack of activity in divisions coming under Secunderabad and Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituencies seems to be a worry.

ter of prestige for G. Kishan Reddy, the Lok Sabha member from Secunderabad and Union Minister of State for Home Affairs. A good showing in the elections is expected to raise Mr Reddy's stock in the party at the

national level.

Party leaders say that the present discussions and debates surrounding CAA would play well to its strengths among voters in the city as they are preparing to make one strong push

to occupy the Baldia. One of the primary talking points that is being drilled into party cadres is that the CAA is not aimed at people from any particular religion but a law that is required for all Indians.

Career Chronicle

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VALIANT WARRIOR Statue to be installed at Jainoor mandal HQ

Adivasis to honour Durgawati

DC CORRESPONDENT KUMARAMBHEEM ASIFABAD, FEB. 26

On the occasion of International Women's Day that falls on March 8, Adivasi women inspired by the sacrifices of Adivasi queen Rani Durgawati of Central India, will instal her statue in Jainoor mandal headquarters that falls in Kumarambheem Asifabad district.

Many non-Adivasi women are also expected to attend the event to express their solidarity with the Adivasi women fighting for their rights.

The Thudum Debbu and Adivasi Mahila Sangham leaders will unveil Rani Durgawati's statue.

The Adivasi Mahila Sangham affiliated to the Thudum Debbu has been at the forefront in the Adivasi agitation ongoing for some time in the state.

Adivasi women are actively participating in the agitation along with

their male counterparts. Many Adivasi women have emerged as leaders and are leading agitations in old Adilabad, Warangal, and Khammam districts. The Adivasi Hakkula Porata Samithi had first organised International Women Day at Gudihathoor in 2018, in 2019 it was held in Uttoor and this year it will be held in Jainoor.

On November 18, 2019, more than 10,000 Adivasi women from various villages had thronged the ITDA office in Uttoor

while demanding the removal of Lambadas from the ST's list.

In addition they also asked the officials to stop issuing agency certificates to Lambadas and demanded better facilities in all the PHCs, along with providing nutrition to women and lactating mothers who are anaemia.

Thousands of Adivasi women of nine tribal groups from the state had attended the 'Adivasi Asthivva Porata Sabha' that was held in Delhi on December 9.



IN BRIEF

Pensioner gets Collector's help

Warangal: Jayashankar Bhupalpally district Collector, Md Abdul Azeem, on Wednesday helped an elderly woman get her pension. When he arrived at his office after taking part in the 'Pattana Pragathi' program, he spotted an elderly woman in his office. The woman, 70-year-old Azmeera Mangamma of Gurumpeta in Bhupalpally, said she has not been receiving her pension for the past two years. The collector called up district rural development officer, Sumathi and directed her to streamline the monthly elderly pension.

Staff changing jobs told to return salary

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

When an innumerable number (4.5 lakh to be precise) of unemployed youth from Andhra Pradesh jumped on to the village or ward secretariat bandwagon, little they must have realised they would be at the receiving end of a corporate style of functioning where 'hire and fire' and 'perform or perish' are the buzzwords in addition to serving a notice period if they wished to quit, for whatever reason. Months into the job, most of them are caught between

the devil and the deep sea. This is more so with youngsters who wished to use the career opening as a spring-board in their quest for greener pastures.

Today, a majority of those who joined village and ward secretariats are set to pay a heavy price. They are forced to shell down money if they intend to resign during the probation period. In fact, the 'easing out' process is nerve-wrecking, to say the least. A notice period mandates that one has to either serve the period or compensate by the paying the salary amount of that

period if he wishes to be relieved immediately. However, the state government has taken extreme steps. Those who wished to resign after getting better jobs are being asked by officials to pay the entire amount which had drawn, including allowances if they wished to get reliving letters.

After YSR Congress came to power the state government established village and ward secretariats and recruited around 4.5 lakh employees in a record time. They paid ₹15,000 monthly salary besides other allowances,

● VILLAGE OR ward secretariat staff who wished to resign after getting better jobs are being asked by officials to pay the entire amount which had drawn, including allowances if they wished to get reliving letters

on two-year probation. Due to unemployment problem several people who were over-qualified also joined. If any candidate resigns during the probationary period they have to pay all their earnings

from the job, failing which their resignations would be rejected.

In Anantapur district, Maheswar Reddy, working in the Village secretariat got a job in Railways. When he resigned, he was asked to pay ₹57,095 into the government treasury for his resignation to be accepted. The officials told him that amount includes expenditure for his training period of ₹2000 and salary of three months and 25 days. In a similar case in Vizianagaram district, two employees of Village secretariat resigned after get-

ting better jobs. The district officials have directed the local officials to ask them to pay the salary and other allowances which they got for all these days to accept their resignations. The district officials told them until they paid the total amount there was no question of accepting their resignations.

A woman working in ward secretariat in West Godavari district said that she is not spending her salary and depositing in her back account. She said if she gets a better job, she has to pay the entire salary. This way she would

be prepared. Meanwhile, officials have clarified that they are following the service rules of Central Civil Service (CCS) and AP Public Service Commission rules and they are not new. They said if any employ of village or ward secretariat resigns in the probation period (two years) they have to pay entire amount they got as a salary and other allowances. After completion of probationary period they will be given basic scale, and if they resign after two years they need not to pay their earnings.

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IN BRIEF

AP to formulate new energy policy

Vijayawada: With an aim to create a conducive atmosphere for increasing power generation and bringing in more investments in the sector, the state government has decided to formulate a new energy export policy. At a review meeting on Wednesday, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the officials to formulate a new energy export policy for promoting investments and creating congenial atmosphere for those who want to set up power plants in the state. He also directed them to explore avenues to increase investments and employment opportunities in the energy sector. A proposal to lease land to industrial units in the sector was also discussed.

Three-day TTD fete concludes

Tirupati: The three-day ritual of Balalaya Samprokshanam at the TTD's Lakshmi Narayana temple, Andal Ammavari temple, Periyalwar temple and Bhaktanjaneya temple at Alipiri Padala mandapam in Tirupati concluded with Purnahuti on Wednesday morning. As part of the ritual, Punyahavachanam and Kumbha Avahanam were performed in the morning during Mesha lagnam on Phalguna Sudha Tadhya and thereafter Sarva darshan commenced at 11.30 am. The Padala mandapam complex at Alipiri hosts the group of temples which act as the gateway to the walkers path. As per the three-day ritual of Balalaya Samprokshanam, about 14 Ritwiks had performed rituals on the first day.

₹3,200 cr loss over PR polls

Central grant to lapse by March 31

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 26

Andhra Pradesh will lose a central grant of ₹3,214.80 crore if it failed to hold elections to gram panchayats before March 31 this year, causing a severe blow to development works in villages for the next few years.

The elections were due in August 2018, but the previous government led by Telugu Desam postponed them as the then Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu did not want to take a political risk before the 2019 elections. Mr Naidu feared that any adverse results in panchayat polls would dent his party prospects in the general elections.

The initiative of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's government to conduct polls to panchayats, mandal and zilla parishads, however, has been caught in legal wrangles as it decided to fix reservations for SCs, STs and BCs at 59.85 per cent.

B. Prathap Reddy, a TD leader from Kurnool, has challenged the government's decision, arguing that reservations should not exceed 50 per cent as per the judgment of the Supreme Court.

● **THE PR POLLS** were due in August 2018, but the previous government led by Telugu Desam postponed them as the then Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu did not want to take a political risk before the 2019 elections.

● **THE INITIATIVE** of the present government to conduct polls to panchayats, mandal and zilla parishads, however, has been caught in legal wrangles as it decided to fix reservations for SCs, STs and BCs at 59.85 per cent.

The AP High Court on Tuesday reserved its verdict on the issue in the backdrop of the apex court asking the former to decide on the matter in not more than four weeks from January 20 last. The timeline suggested by the Supreme Court was over on February 17 but the verdict is still awaited.

"We are sitting with fingers crossed, as the state would lose Rs 3214.80 crore if there

is any further delay and we fail to hold elections before March 31," a senior panchayat raj official told Deccan Chronicle.

The 14th Finance Commission made huge allocations to gram panchayats, and for the first time, recommended a 100 per cent release of grants to panchayats. Accordingly, AP was allocated Rs 4,065.79 crore for two financial years between 2018 and 2020. Out of this, only Rs 858.99 crore was released by the centre as first instalment. The second instalment was held back by the centre as polls were not conducted for gram panchayats.

In normal circumstances, dues of a particular financial year would be released in the subsequent fiscals, the official said. However, funds would lapse permanently this time as the tenure of the 14th Finance Commission ends on March 31 this year.

Gopala Krishna Dwivedi, principal secretary, panchayat raj department, informed the High Court that the state was keen to conduct elections immediately as a lapse of Rs 3,200 crore "will be a huge loss for development plans."

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR AP'S COASTAL AREAS

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 26

Home minister Mekathoti Sucharitha on Wednesday inaugurated an early warning dissemination system (EWDS) at the State Disaster Management Authority here.

Addressing the gathering after the inauguration, she said that Andhra Pradesh was the second state in the country to be equipped with an advanced mechanism for early warning system. The EWDS would help authorities rescue and evacuate people to safer places during natural calamities like floods, cyclones, tsunamis, rains etc, the home minister said.

"Using technology during hard times is always recommended and aids progress of state's economy. The early warning system will alert people to shift to safer places during natural disasters. It would also help the administration take up rescue operations effectively," Ms Mekathoti said.

"Before the advent of technology, people and officials faced several problems during calamities. Now, we are able to minimise loss of human life even during worst calamities because of advanced technology," she said.

On the occasion, she recalled Odisha government's successful efforts in evacuating nearly 12 lakh people to safety with help of early warning system during Fani cyclone threat. She said that EWDS can alert 75 lakh people at a time during natural calamities so that they can move to safer places. The system is enabled in 76 mandals, 16 fish landing centres and eight tourism destinations in nine coastal districts.

HC to hear plea on capital relocation on March 30

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 26

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has postponed all matters relating to the state government's decision to set up three capitals to March 30. The HC was hearing a batch of petitions on several issues related to the state government's decision to relocate the Andhra Pradesh High Court and offices of the state vigilance commissioner to Kurnool, besides the repeal of the CRDA Act, decentralization of governance and others, the AP High Court scheduled them for hearing on March 30. A division bench of the High Court heard a batch of petitions on state's move to relocate AP High Court to Kurnool from its present location at Amaravati and also on other issues on Wednesday.

Ambati Sudhakar and Ponneganti Mallikharjuna Rao, counsels for the petitioners, argued in the court that when the Telangana government appealed to the then combined AP High Court for both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states to be shifted to Gachibowli from its present location at Afzal Gunj in

● **THE COURT**, in a related matter, also asked for submission of reports of the G.N. Rao committee and the Boston Consulting Group on the development of state and the setting up 3 capitals.

Hyderabad, the court struck off the plea and issued an order stating that neither the government nor the legislature of Telangana had such a right to order the shift. At that point of time, the AP High Court observed that it would hear the case further and directed the state government not to stop ongoing works at the present High Court. The court, in a related matter, also asked for submission of reports of the G.N. Rao committee and the Boston Consulting Group on the development of state and the setting up three capitals.

Meanwhile, a lunch motion Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was moved in the AP High Court on Wednesday, listing a series of violations in allotment of lands assigned as house

sites for the poor in parts of Krishna and Guntur districts of the capital region Amaravati. Avala Nanda Kishore, a farmer from Krishya-napalem village of the capital region, filed the PIL.

Karumanchi Indraneel, the petitioner's counsel, informed the HC division bench that the state government was violating CRDA zoning regulations and the Amaravati region master plan by allotting house sites to the poor in assigned lands in parts of Krishna and Guntur districts. Counsel Indraneel said that though the CRDA master plan held a promise to allot house sites with a minimum plot area of 120 square yards, the state government had issued GO 107 to allot only one cent of land (nearly 48 square yards), which violated the norm of maintaining minimum plot area while allocating house sites.

The counsel also informed the court that once assigned lands were allotted to beneficiaries, the latter could sell them only after 20 years as the then TD government had carried out an amendment to the 1977 act on AP Assigned Lands to that affect in 2019.

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