

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 7 FEBRUARY 2020



WEATHER

Max: 33°C
Min: 19.4°C
RH: 34%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 32/20°C



WORLD | 9

US Senate acquits Trump



SPORTS | 16

Paanipuri seller rises in cricket

TABLOID

'I'm married... want a family... it will happen'

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AP, KIA DENY SHIFTING PLANT TO TAMIL NADU

NAGABHUSHANAM HOSKOTE | DC ANANTAPUR, FEB. 6

A report by international news agency Reuters about South Korean auto major Kia Motors planning to shift its manufacturing facility currently located in Penukonda, Anantapur district, to neighbouring Tamil Nadu created ripples in Andhra Pradesh political and industrial circles, but going by official clarifications that followed, seems to be a case of a false alarm.

Officials and representatives from the state government, Kia Motors, besides the Tamil Nadu government, denied media reports on shifting of the facility even as the opposition led by Telugu Desam (TD) launched a scathing attack against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for what they described as "a retrogressive approach, driving away industry".

The TD, which has been trying to make the CM's decision to relocate the executive capital to Visakhapatnam a national issue, raised the now contested news of the shifting of Kia, in parliament.

Page 6: Opposition criticises Jagan govt.

Home, car loans will get cheaper

FALAKNAAZ SYED | FC MUMBAI, FEB. 6

As expected, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday unanimously voted to keep the policy repo rate unchanged even as predicting a higher inflation at 6.5 per cent in April-June quarter and a lower economic growth at six per cent in the next fiscal.

However, the central bank announced several regulatory measures to make funds cheaper for banks and borrowers, enable faster transmission of its past rate cuts to borrowers and incentivise the flow of credit to productive sectors of the economy.

In an attempt to boost credit flow, banks will be given a relief on cash reserve ratio (CRR) — a percentage of deposits that a bank has to hold in cash or with RBI — on incremental credit sanctioned for the purchase of automobiles and residential housing. The relief would also be available for loans sanctioned to MSMEs.

The move is expected to improve monetary transmission to crucial sectors like automobiles, real estate and MSME which are currently struggling due to NBFC crisis and



- For the 2020-21 fiscal, the RBI forecasts GDP growth rate at 6 per cent.
- It has raised upwards its retail inflation projection for the last quarter of the current fiscal to 6.5 per cent on increase in prices of milk, pulses

slowdown in the economy.

The RBI has also given a one-time permission to the banks for restructuring of MSME loans. For commercial real estate projects facing genuine difficulties, the date of commencement of commercial operations has been extended by one year. This will allow the banks to continue showing these loans as standard assets on their books and therefore do not need to make provisions.

Full coverage on Page 13

RAPIST KILLER OF HAJIPUR GETS DEATH

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Almost 282 days after the arrest of serial killer Marri Srinivas Reddy, the fast-track court at Nalgonda on Thursday found him guilty in three offences, and awarded him the death penalty in two. In the third case, he was sentenced to life.

Hajipur, a village of nearly 300 families, were a look of dread, with only the bereaved and their supporters sitting outside the gram panchayat office waiting for the morning till the special judge pronounced his verdict late in the evening.

Reddy (29) was a lift mechanic who was arrested on the allegations of kidnapping, rape and murder of two minor girls, and the kidnap and murder of a minor girl from the same village.

The accused was arrested by the police on April 30, when the police recovered the body of a missing 14-year-old girl from an abandoned well belonging to Reddy.

Srinivas Reddy confessed to the kidnap, rape and murder of the victim in April 2019.

Page 4: Fear of public ire forced rapist's kin to flee

PM defends NPR, CAA, hits out at Opposition

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 6

With the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) agitation having spread to the whole country with Delhi's Shaheen Bagh protests being the fulcrum of dissent against the law, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose the floor of Parliament to pour scorn on the so called "tukde gang" associated with the opposition, whom he blamed for provoking the protests against a notified law.

In his almost 100-minute speech in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister repeatedly took digs and made cryptic comments against



NEHRU WANTED to defend minorities in West Pakistan and East Pakistan. Was he communal, did he want to create a Hindu Rashtra...? I want to ask the Congress"

NARENDRA MODI, PM

Mr Rahul Gandhi and the leader of the Congress in the lower house Adhir Ranjan Choudhury.

The comments, often sarcastic and even tauntingly personal, left the treasury benches constantly in splits, as he compared Mr Gandhi to a 'tubelight', saying that it took the

Congress leader around half-an-hour to react to his speech, when the former got up to question Mr Modi on unemployment.

Mr Modi, who was replying to the motion of thanks on the President's address first in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday afternoon and then later in the Rajya

Sabha in the evening, said that for him every citizen was an Indian and not somebody belonging to a particular religion or community, adding that Muslims were being misled by those who speak the language of Pakistan. He chose to emphasise that CAA was not against any minority community and no citizen of the country would be endangered by the law.

He ridiculed the Congress and attacked it for imposing the Emergency, partitioning the country in 1947 and instigating the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Page 8: Modi says protests will lead to anarchy

Coronavirus fears takes root in city

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Fear of the novel coronavirus has begun taking its toll in the city, as 20 more persons were admitted to hospital to test for the infection. In one curious case, two Chinese nationals employed by a private company here were not allowed back at work after they

returned from a holiday in China.

In another case, a private hospital jumped the gun and sent samples collected from a patient to Gandhi General Hospital for testing but in the process flouting government guidelines regarding the suspected infection.

Officials said 11 persons were admitted to Gandhi

and nine others to Fever Hospital on Thursday for check-ups and testing for coronavirus. The results are expected on Friday. So far, tests on 37 patients have returned negative.

In a case that highlights the fear over the disease, two Chinese nationals returned to Hyderabad from China in early January. They were tested, but still

the employer prevented them from joining work. They were back at Gandhi General Hospital for a second round of tests.

"The results of the first test we conducted were negative," Gandhi Hospital superintendent Dr Shrivani said on Thursday evening.

Page 2: Private hospital flouted testing rules

Sri K Chandrashekar Rao
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

SRI G KISHAN REDDY
Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, G.O.I

SRI K TARAKA RAMA RAO
Hon'ble Minister for MA & UD, Industries & IT & C

SRI MD MOHAMOOD ALI
Hon'ble Minister for Home, Prisons and Fire Services

SRI T SRINIVAS YADAV
Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Dairy Development & Cinematography

SRI T PADMA RAO GOUD
Hon'ble Dy. Speaker, TS Legislative Assembly

DR. SRI BANTHU RAMMOHAN
H. W. MAYOR, GHMC

L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Limited is proud, as Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana State, Sri K. Chandrashekar Rao dedicates Corridor II : Green Line - JBS to MGBS, Hyderabad Metro Rail to the citizens of Hyderabad today!

Highlights of the Hyderabad Metro Rail Project

- ☑ The world's largest Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project in the metro sector
- ☑ JBS - MGBS - 11 Kms – 9 stations - Corridor II - Green Line. The Hyderabad Metro Rail Project is dedicated to the citizens of Hyderabad
- ☑ 9 Stations – JBS, Secunderabad West, New Gandhi Hospital, Musheerabad, RTC X Roads, Chikkadpally, Narayanguda, Sultan Bazar and MG Bus Station
- ☑ JBS - Hyderabad's second largest bus terminus; Parade Ground Station, the tallest metro station with 5 levels
- ☑ 69.2 Km network will now be in operation with the inauguration of the JBS to MGBS stretch
- ☑ Best-in-class, eco-friendly urban mobility system for the people of Hyderabad
- ☑ Project utilises cutting edge technologies (Communication Based Train Control, Modern Regenerative Rolling Stocks, Ballast less Tracks, QR Code Ticketing, etc.)
- ☑ The project has already won 150 plus awards thus far

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No escape

Rachakonda commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat says Hajipur case judgment shows that arms of judiciary are long and no one can escape

IN BRIEF

MLRIT hosts MHRD event

Hyderabad: The Marri Laxman Reddy Institute of Technology organised the Ministry of Human Resource Developments' (MHRD) Innovation Ambassador Training Programme on Thursday. The event, which would end on Friday, saw participation from several academicians. The MHRD has taken an initiative to train faculty members in various aspects including, design thinking, innovation, entrepreneurship, intellectual property rights. This training was organised in MLR institute in the city as a part of the MHRDs initiative.

TAXMEN ARREST BIZMAN FOR GST FRAUD

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

A director-cum-chartered accountant of a private company was arrested for issuing fake GST invoices worth ₹69 crore by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Hyderabad.

During their investigation, DGGI-H sleuths stumbled upon the company of the accused and found the chartered accountant was indulging in fraud. Following this, officials conducted searches at over 12 premises on January 22 and February 5 in the Greater Hyderabad limits.

Several incriminating documents including copies of fake invoices issued on the letterheads of various firms, which existed merely on paper, were seized.

The key operator behind these firms, a chartered accountant, was organising invoices for works, contract services and LED electrical equipment, two widely diverging businesses.

The accused was remanded to judicial custody in Chanchalguda Central Prison and further investigation is underway, the DGGI-H said.

PROTESTS LED BY COMMON PEOPLE: BALAJI

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Mr N. Sai Balaji, former president of JNU Students Union, said that those who were elected to govern the nation now want to decide who will be called a citizen.

Addressing students of Nizamia Tibbi College who are protesting against the CAA, Mr Balaji said on Thursday that all the protests against the decisions of the Union government were being led by the common people.

"We the people of India have fought for freedom against the British and laid down our lives for the cause. After independence, we adopted the Constitution and decided to have a pattern of governance in which people would have the right to elect their representative to govern the nation," Mr Balaji said. "People who are sitting in Shaheen Bagh and those who are striving to safeguard Kashmiriyat have adopted the path of satyagraha and non-violence, the pattern given by our father of the nation. We are not against anyone, but we are against the ideology which is harmful for the unity of the country," he said.

Mr Balaji that in a democracy everyone has the right to differ from the opinion of others. "Our freedom fighters also had dissenting opinions on various issues but they were not against each other. Dr Ambedkar had differences with Gandhi on certain issues but they resolved them with negotiations. Today, people in power are not allowing their opponents to have a different ideology from theirs and want to end the differences by suppressing others," he said.

Mr Balaji said that Gandhi was an orthodox Hindu but he never imposed his faith on the others. Gandhi strived till his last breath for the unity of the nation. He said the British had depredated our assets and wealth, but the present rulers are transferring the nation's wealth to their own friends in India.

ADDRESSING STUDENTS of Nizamia Tibbi College who are protesting against the CAA, Mr Balaji said that all the protests against the decisions of the Union government were being led by the common people.

Experts: Don't ease up just because of summer

Etala Rajendar had said that the threat from nCov would diminish in summer

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

A popular perception that rising temperatures in the forthcoming summer will help in combating any possible spread of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCov) appears to be based not on any established science but more on hope. The theory that hot weather contributes to killing of the new strain of the coronavirus is probably based on the belief that some viruses do not survive in temperatures in excess of 45°C.

"The new coronavirus is what is called an 'envelope virus' in that it has is covered by a sheath. While it is a reasonable assumption that heat can make certain viruses ineffective in heat, a blanket rule that all says viruses will be affected by hot weather is not possible. The ability to survive such conditions varies from virus to virus," a senior researcher in viruses with a highly reputed research institution in New Delhi said.

It may be recalled that health minister Etala Rajendar had on January 29, told a news conference here in the city that with temperatures set to rise in the coming weeks and months, the threat from the virus would diminish.

For instance, the researcher explained, that the very contagious Noroviruses, that cause diarrhoea, a commonly occurring round-the-year disease, are known to have not just survived for long but also survived repeated transfers up to seven times, through human contact from one surface to another.

"There is so little known about the novel coronavirus that we cannot take any chance with it," the researcher said.

Dr Suneetha Nareddy, an infectious diseases specialist from Apollo Hospitals here, said, "the novel coronavirus is not a fully known phenomenon. We should take all possible precautions." She said that the Adenovirus, which among other things causes Pink Eye or conjunctivitis, can be seen more in summer, at least in the USA from where more data is available on this virus.

"Unless we have all the information, practicing best possible hygiene and safety is the best option in addition to medical interventions for testing for the disease, and preventing its spread," she said.

According to Dr Seyed E. Hasnain, head of Jamia



In its bid to contain the coronavirus outbreak, the Gandhi Hospital management allotted a lift only for coronavirus patients and staff. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Pvt hospital flouted norms

From Page 1

"But their employer is reported to insist they be tested again. We have collected their samples and the results will be available tomorrow."

He added: "They are in a miserable situation. They are asymptomatic. They are not even from Wuhan, the epicentre of the disease outbreak. They come from a village about 1,200 km away from Wuhan. We will do everything we can to help them."

FOR INSTANCE, a researcher explained, that the very contagious Noroviruses, that cause diarrhoea, a commonly occurring round-the-year disease, are known to have not just survived for long but also survived repeated transfers up to seven times, through human contact from one surface to another.

ACCORDING TO Dr Seyed E. Hasnain, head of Jamia Hamdard Institute of Molecular Biology, available research on the novel coronavirus says up to 50 per cent of people infected by it do not display any symptoms for at least two weeks.

Hamdard Institute of Molecular Biology, available research on the novel coronavirus says up to 50 per cent of people infected by it do not display any symptoms for at least two weeks.

Gandhi Hospital also saw unexpected action on Thursday when a popular private hospital, in contravention of the laid-down procedures with respect to testing or treating of a possible coronavirus case, sent samples from a patient it suspected of having the disease for testing.

"There is a laid-down protocol for these procedures," Dr Shravan said. "No private hospital is allowed to collect samples as this procedure has to be done as per the Central

government's guidelines. They cannot collect samples and send them for testing. What the private hospital should have done is to refer the patient to us for further investigations and possible treatment."

The samples were rejected. The private hospital was advised to refer the patient to Gandhi Hospital. Till around 7 pm on Thursday, the patient did not arrive. It is believed that the private hospital did not refer the patient as advised.

placement on the hope that hot weather will stop the disease," Dr Hasnain, a former staff scientist at the National Institute of Immunology and former head of the Centre for

COPS BOOK CASE AFTER FAKE NEWS GOES VIRAL

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

The Hyderabad cyber-crime police has recently booked a case against a few unidentified persons, who circulated fake messages stating the novel coronavirus was found in milk being sold by a supermarket chain.

While another such message chain claimed that broiler chicken was spreading coronavirus. GHMC chief veterinary officer, P. Venkateshwar Reddy, clarified that there is no scientific evidence to back this claim.

Dr Vekateshwar Reddy said, "The photos that are being circulated of birds having succumbed to this virus are of birds infected with the 'Ranikhet' disease."

He added that the methods of cooking meat in India makes the food extremely safe. "We expose the meat to a temperature of 100°C, at which no virus can survive. Viruses cannot survive temperatures more than 45°C. In addition, Indian cooking includes an abundant use of turmeric and other spices, which have antibiotic benefits."

Dr Venkateshwar Reddy appealed to the public not to believe the fake information that is being spread through social media.

Meanwhile, the staff from the supermarket chain approached the Hyderabad cybercrime police and lodged a complaint against the fake message chain. "Hyderabad cybercrime police has booked a case of forgery for purposely harming the supermarket's reputation, under the Information Technology Act," said Mr Mohan Rao, Hyderabad cybercrime inspector.

DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics lab here in the city, said.

"All we can try and do is to prevent it from spreading. By practicing good hygiene like washing hands frequently after coming home and before eating anything is the way not just to cut the chances of contracting a disease like the one caused by the new coronavirus. This will also mean that the disease, even if some cases are found, can be stopped from spreading," he said.



Special arrangements are being made for the two-day religious meeting at Idgah Mir Alam — P. SURENDRA

JAC set to go to HC for CAA protest nod

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

The Telangana-AP Joint Action Committee against CAA-NPR-NRC has announced that it will organise a dharna on Sunday at Dharna Chowk against the Citizenship Amendment Act. Dr Asma Zehra, convener, women's wing, All India Muslim Personal Law Board, said, "We have to approach the High Court for this programme as the police was not ready to grant the permission."

Addressing the media, JAC convener Mohammed Mushtaq Malik said, "We wanted to hold a 48-hour dharna with women, but the police rejected our applications thrice. We had earlier planned to have the protest either on Darushifa grounds, Idgah Mir Alam or Idgah Bilali at the Masab Tank hockey ground. We were forced to approach the High Court on whose directions the police has granted permission to have the protest at Dharna Chowk, Indra Park, on Sunday between 11 am and 5 pm."

Dr Zehra said the women were upset over the cancellation of the event as they also wanted to lodge their protest towards the ongoing movement. Participation of women will strengthen the struggle against the CAA, NPR and NRC. She said that attempts were being made to divide the nation on religious lines, with Muslims being excluded from CAA.

State President, Wahadat-e-Islami, Moulana Naseeruddin raised objections over the attitude of the police. "People are deprived of their right to express. They are not allowed to protest peacefully. The TRS is in power in the state but it seems that the police machinery is in allegiance with the

2-DAY WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AT IDGAH MIR ALAM

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

The two-day All India Women Conference will be held at Idgah Mir Alam on Saturday and Sunday. Dr Mufti Mohammed Mastan Ali, rector of Jamiatul Mominath, an Islamic institution for girls, said the purpose of the conference was to educate and train womenfolk on Islamic principles.

Important topics like family disputes and solution, role of parents in training their children, rights and duties of women, hazardous effects of using of internet and mobile, duties and responsibilities of husband and wife, Sharia rulings and demanding dowry and national integration and Muslims' responsibilities.

He claimed that more than 10,000 women and girls will participate in the conference. Jamia Nizamia VC Moulana Mufti Khaleel Ahmed will inaugurate the conference at 9 am on February 8.

Home minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali and others will speak at the event. An exhibition on Islamic calligraphy will be held. Deputy Mayor Baba Fasiuddin and Wakf Board member Waheed Ahmed, inspected the arrangements.

Union government." He said, "We Muslims shed our blood during the freedom movement and now we are being asked to prove our patriotism." He demanded the release of Sharjeel Imam and Dr Kafeel Khan, who were detained under sedition charges.

JATARA | TIME

Festival commemorates the sacrifices made by tribal rulers during their opposition of a law

Medaram sees steady rise in non-tribal devotees

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA | DC WARANGAL, FEB 6:

Medaram Sammakka Saralamma Jatara is conducted entirely according to tribal and adivasi traditions and showcases their colourful culture. However, over the years it has caught on with non-tribals, who worship the presiding deities Sammakka and Saralamma with equal reverence.

This is one of the reasons for the massive devotee-surge. There has been a steady increase and today it is acknowledged as one of the biggest religious congregations of the country.

The festival is celebrated to commemorate the sacrifices made by the tribal rulers Sammakka and Saralamma, who fought the mighty Kakatiya rulers opposing an unjust law in the 13th century.

Legend has it that while the tribal king Pagiddida Raju and his son Jampanna were killed during the war, the daughter and mother marshalled resources, fought bravely and caused colossal damage to the Kakatiya rulers. However, they could not withstand the combat-



A women dressed as 'Shivasattu' at Medaram on Thursday.

— DC

trained Kakatiya knights. While Saralamma was killed in action, Sammakka, who was seriously wounded, disappeared into the thick jungle on Chilakalagutta cursing the Kakatiya dynasty. Almost immedi-

ately thereafter, the dominance of the Kakatiya dynasty started declining and ended. Since then, the Koyas, Waddaras and other Indian tribes and castes have been organising the festival dedicated

to Sammakka and Sarakka.

Even as tribal started flocking from all over, a noticeable aspect was that non-tribal devotees began patronising the festival. According to data, they

Sammakka's arrival brings vibrancy to Medaram

DC CORRESPONDENT WARANGAL, FEB. 6

Superintendent of police Sangramsingh G. Patil fired 10 rounds in the air from an AK-47 to mark the arrival of Goddess Sammakka from the sacred grooves of Chilukalagutta in Medaram.

On hearing the shots, the waiting crowd burst into a roar. This is the day the Medaram jatara is filled with energy as the most revered deity of the tribals takes her place at the altar in the temple. Chief priest Kakkerla Krishnaiah conducted prayers for three hours to appease and awaken the Goddess.

outnumber tribal devotees during the Jatara.

Traditionally, tribals used to visit Medaram on bullock carts or even by foot with family members and carrying cooking material. They spent some

time at the temple after giving their offerings to the deities. People take a holy bath in Jampanna Vagu and offer 'bangaram' (jaggery) of a quantity equal to their weight to the goddesses. There is no

drum beats and women got into a frenzy. After going through the streets of the village overseeing a crowd, the Goddess finally took her place at the Medaram temple alongside her mother Saralamma late on Thursday night.

Friday in the most auspicious day of the jatara as both the deities, Sammakka and Saralamma, can be seen at their respective altars. Earlier in the day, the tribal priests conducted rituals at the Sammakka temple in Medaram. They also decorated the altar of Sammakka before her arrival.

vedic or Brahmanic influence on this festival. Because of the huge crowd during the jatara and the security concerns, some of the rituals that were originally followed are being forgotten.



Hi-tech cops

DGP Mahendar Reddy says police has leveraged artificial intelligence based real-time crowd monitoring to ensure safety at Medaram Jatara

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Uttarayana
Tithi: Magha Shuddha Trayodasi till 6.25 pm
Star: Punarvasu till 11.56 pm
Vijyam: 12.36 pm to 2.07 pm
Durmuhurtam: 9.06 am to 9.51 am; 12.53 pm to 1.38 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon

HIJRI CALENDAR
Jumada al-Sani 12,1441 AH

PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.45 am
Zohar: 12.40 pm
Asar: 4.38 pm
Maghrib: 6.19 pm
Isha: 7.28 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.14 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.46 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 4.18 PM
MOONSET TODAY 4.50 AM

COUNTER POINT



No cash, no liquor... bullets will do!

SHORT TAKES

TELANGANA KVs HAVE 178 VACANCIES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

There are about 178 vacancies to be filled in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KV) in Telangana state. Some KVs don't even have a principal and vice principal for this academic year, according to information provided by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

There are no principals in about six KVs — Mahbubnagar, Mahbubabad, Jharasangam, Sircilla, Tirumulgiri and Karimnagar.

Three other regional KVs do not have vice principals as well. The schools which lack principals are being temporarily run by vice-principals.

There are 35 Kendriya Vidyalayas or central government schools functioning in the state of Telangana. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, which oversees the functioning of these schools, has informed that there are 178 teaching posts lying vacant against 1293 sanctioned posts in different KVs located in the State of Telangana, which includes principals and vice principals.

An official of a Kendriya Vidyalaya who did not want to be named, said, "It's not just the Telangana region, countrywide there are about 5,000 vacancies in various KVs. The Central government is expected to release notification soon to fill all the vacancies. Meanwhile, teachers are being taken on a contract basis as well to ensure that the teaching-learning process is not hampered."

THE CENTRAL government is expected to release notification soon to fill all the vacancies. Meanwhile, teachers are being taken on a contract basis as well to ensure that the teaching-learning process is not hampered.

POLLS | POSTPONED

₹100 crore grant-in aid for development sought

SCB to press Centre for funds

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

With the postponement of elections to the Secunderabad Cantonment Board, members are putting pressure on the Central government to release grant-in-aid of ₹100 crore for the development of the SCB.

Members claim that they have lost much time in their last tenure due to the model code of conduct in force for assembly and then parli-

MEMBERS CLAIM that they have lost much time in their last tenure due to the model code of conduct in force for assembly and then parliamentary elections, and will now concentrate on developmental activities.

mentary elections, and will now concentrate on developmental activities.

Irregular water supply and high water tariffs are major problems that resi-

dents of the cantonment have raised time and time again.

They were even demanding merger of the SCB into the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on this issue, as residents of the GHMC pay half the tariff of SCB residents.

Other developmental activities such as cleaning of lakes, construction of community halls, and laying of roads were also halt-

ed, and the board members cite lack of funds as the main reason for this.

However, now the members are saying that they are expecting at least half of the grant-in-aid funds from the Central government.

Members told this newspaper that they are mounting pressure on the Central government for funds and have received a positive response and funds would be released soon and the work start.

Metro Green Line starts today

KCR to launch 11-km route between JBS-MGBS covering nine stations

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

All is set for the inauguration of the third corridor of the Metro Rail — between Jubilee and Mahatma Gandhi bus stations — in the city by Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Naidu on Friday.

This 'Green Line' between the two bus stations is 11 km long. The line, which begins at Jubilee Bus Station covers nine stations — JBS-Parade Ground, Secunderabad West, Gandhi Hospital, Musheerabad, RTC crossroads, Chikkadpally, Narayanguda, Sultan Bazaar — and ends at the Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station. Since MGBS is the final halt of the route, L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad (L&TMRH) has built a 600-metre viaduct extending the overhead viaduct beyond the terminal station for allowing the trains to move forward and return on the alternate platform for the return journey.

The Chief Minister is expected to take the first full ride of the service on Friday evening after inaugurating the service. HMRL is the world's largest metro project in the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

The number of passengers using the Metro every day has crossed four lakh, and the new corridor is expected to add around two lakh more passengers each day, according to HMRL managing director N.V.S. Reddy.

The Red Line of the Metro between LB Nagar and Miyapur covers 29 km, and the Blue Line between Nagole and Raidurg covers a similar distance.



Workers speed up works ahead of the inauguration of Metro Rail station at Jubilee Bus station on Thursday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE



Works under progress at the Metro Rail station near Gandhi Hospital. — S. SURENDER REDDY.

Better commuter experience on anvil: L&T

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6.

The Hyderabad Metro Rail project, which has transformed the city into one of the most modern in the country by providing 'best-in-class' mobility for commuters, will mark a new era with the launching of the third corridor of the Metro Rail between Jubilee Bus



K.V.B. Reddy Station and Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station, MD & CEO, L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Limited,

K.V.B. Reddy has said. "With an integrated urban transportation using inter-modal connectivity, I am certain that the completion of all three corridors will mark the beginning of an era of seamless commuting in Hyderabad. The impact of Metro Rail has been immense for as a Mass Rapid Transport System. It has enabled the city to

realise its full potential for growth," he said. L&T Metro (Hyderabad) Limited has engaged, equipped and empowered commuters through all possible media and communication channels, educating them to understand our goals and values and understand operations and services of the metro rail system, he said on the eve of the launch.

IMD predicts thunderstorms

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

As reported in these columns, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), has issued a thunderstorm warning for the state on February 8.

The warning says: "Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely to occur at isolated places over Telangana."

Going by the IMD's glossary, isolated places translates to rains over 25 per cent or less number of stations of a region (usually a meteorological subdivision) reporting at least 2.5 mm rainfall.

The rainfall is owing to a confluence zone forming over the state due to the meeting of humid winds from the Bay of Bengal, and dry winds from the west — and there

THUNDERSTORMS accompanied with lightning very likely to occur at isolated places over Telangana

IT MEANS rains over 25% or less number of stations of a region will be chances of some rainfall.

"The winds carrying the humidity are meeting with the dry winds of the west over the state, forming a confluence zone. Under its influence there are chances that there would be light rainfall over the state. Apart from bringing rain, the clouds will form a layer of moisture over the area, preventing the sun's heat from escaping," said Mahesh Palawat, chief meteorologist of Skymet.

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Speed up Metro Rail in Old City, says Owaisi

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi, the Hyderabad MP, has raised objection to the delay in constructing the Metro Rail corridor in the Old City.

Reacting on a tweet of Hyderabad Metro Rail on

the inauguration of Metro Corridor 2 from Jubilee Bus Station (JBS) to Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) on Friday, Mr Owaisi asked the authorities when the work will be started on the MGBS-Falaknuma stretch. He said "Amazing that you have funds for JBS & MGBS, when will

@hmgov start and complete MGBS to FALAKNUMA (sic)." In another tweet, he wrote, "What about the Dar Ul Shifa to FALAKNUMA Metro line you have funds to lay & start JBS Metro station but when it comes to South of Hyderabad you have no answer (sic)."

Activists cry foul over forest land to naval unit

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

The state government's decision to hand over 2,900 acres of forest land in Damagundam to the Central government for naval authorities to establish a VLF (very low frequency) radar centre, has prompted a city-based welfare society to launch an online petition addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking for the radar construction to be stopped.

"This project is a great threat not just to the lush green forest reserve but also to fauna that exists there. The facility sought to be built in the Damagundam Reserve Forest is an Extremely Low

AROUND 1,000 acres of forest will have to be cleared to create the base and this is deadly for both flora and fauna, activists feared.

DEFENCE personnel inspected the site. Frequency (3 to 30 hertz) base station which will be used as a communication hub for submarines," Ram K. Challa, of B the Change Welfare Society told *Deccan Chronicle*.

He said some 1,000 acres of forest will have to be cleared to create the base and this is deadly for both flora and fauna.

"There is a wide variety of fauna in the forest. It is home to deer species

such as sambar, black-buck, cheetal (spotted deer) chowsingha (four-horned antelope), chinkara (Indian gazelle), mouse deer, as well as jungle bakri (wild goat), rabbit, hare, wild boar, bush pig, porcupines, python, monitor lizards and many more creatures. They will no longer have a habitat and they could encroach into cities or become endangered," he added.

When contacted for a comment, defence personnel in the city said that they are not at liberty to share any details on the radar or its purpose.

"Recently, there was a site inspection of the works," was all that a defence official could say.

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Buenos Aires	105,933	339,375
Rio de Janeiro	111,040	336,660
Santiago de Chile	112,751	336,271

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Buy more

Agriculture minister S. Niranjan Reddy writes to the Centre to increase quantum of procurement of red gram from Telangana

SHORT TAKES

HOAX BOMB THREAT DELAYS EXPRESS TRAIN

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

A hoax bomb threat to Train 12796 Lingampally-Vijayawada Intercity Express caused some anxious moments at the Secunderabad railway station early on Thursday.

The police received the call on Dial 100, and informed the Government Railway Police (GRP) who alerted the control room. The caller said a bomb was planted near the battery of the C1 and C2 compartments. Bomb detection and disposal squads were immediately alerted and rushed to the spot. The train which had started from Lingampally at about 4.30 am was stopped at Secunderabad station.

ILLICIT LIQUOR RACKET BUSTED, 1 ACCUSED HELD

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Sleuths of the excise and enforcement department of Ranga Reddy district busted a spurious liquor racket and seized spirit and spurious liquor and arrested a person involved in the case.

The excise police received information of illegal liquor being transported when they were conducting a route watch. They intercepted a car (AP09 BN 3123) and checked it only to find spirit, empty bottles of a famous liquor brand and three litres of spurious liquor.

During investigation, the accused, P. Mahender, confessed that he was manufacturing spurious liquor at his residence in Ghansimiyanguda of Ranga Reddy district. Mahender said that he was in the business for two years, said Mr K. Pavan Kumar, assistant prohibition and excise superintendent.

DRUG BUYERS ATTACK MAN FOR CALLING COPS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

A man who tipped off the Special Operations Team of the Rachakonda police regarding ganga peddling in Malkajgiri was attacked by two persons who were purchasing the narcotic on Wednesday. The two, Mahesh and Kelvin Raju, are said to be absconding. SOT sources said the duo was purchasing ganja from one Chintu when the local, Mohammed Sameer Khan, tipped off the police. The police went to the spot and arrested Chintu.

Mahesh and Kelvin Raju invited Mohammed Khan to drink liquor with them. While they were drinking, the accused stabbed Mohammed Khan on his right buttock.

CRIME | PUNISHMENT

2 infants aged between 15-20 days rescued

Six arrested for child trafficking

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

The Alwal police and Special Operation Team (SOT) of Balanagar police busted a child trafficking racket and arrested six persons including two women. Two infants aged about 15-20 days were rescued and handed over to a shelter in

Medchal district. The accused were identified as Vemula Babu Reddy, Vakapally Gangadhar Reddy, Bikkavolu Ramesh, Mudavath Raja Naik, Jaligama Sun-itha and Vanamala Lakshmi. Police said the prime accused Babu Reddy and Gangadhar Reddy were working as brokers for various

hospitals in the twin cities where in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) facilities are available and providing egg donors and surrogacy mothers on commission basis. The hospitals were paying about ₹3,000 for egg donors and ₹30,000 and ₹70,000 for providing surrogacy mothers.

Since the demand was increasing, they developed their own network and procured women from various localities for the business. The accused Babureddy and Gangadhar Reddy were purchasing infants for about ₹20,000 to ₹30,000 and selling them to couples for ₹4 lakh to ₹7 lakh. The middlemen were paid ₹30,000.

Hajipur victim's families happy

Villagers sit on road demanding justice

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

The sentencing of Marri Srinivas Reddy to death for the kidnap, rape and murder of minor girls brought cheers to the families of the victims and the villagers of Hajipur.

On Wednesday morning, the families and the villagers had gathered at the gram panchayat office and sat on the road holding posters demanding justice. Hajipur, a village housing about 270 families with 1,200 residents, wore a deserted look.

The anxious villagers were seen discussing about the some sensational cases of rape and murder including that of Nirbhaya and Samatha.

Soon after the reports of death penalty was out, the villagers celebrated by bursting crackers and distributing sweets among themselves.

"We are very happy with the judgment. We had faith in the judiciary. We are relieved with the judgment but we expect the punishment to be implemented within a week," said the mother of a victim with tear-filled eyes.

"I had a son and a daughter. She was innocent and very young girl. Srinivas Reddy killed her ruthlessly, and he should be given the same way to give justice to my daughter," she said.

The father of another victim, who has three other daughters, said, "She was my youngest daughter. She was studious and highly aspiring." He said that even after she went missing, her mobile phone was on for two days.

"My daughter was a degree first year student. She had been to the college to write the last examination. She didn't return home. I thought she is alive and had gone somewhere, but the police told me that my daughter was also a victim of Srinivas Reddy," said the father of 17-year-old victim.

He added that if the body of the third girl to go missing had not been found, "the deaths of our daughters would have not even come to light." The sister of the 11-year-old victim said, "We are happy with the judgment. The day Srinivas Reddy is hanged is the day my sister will get justice and it will give us peace. His immediate hanging is what we demand."

Ms T Kavitha Vekatesh Goud, sarpanch of Hajipur, said that though the villagers were happy with the judgment, necessary measures should be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents. Implementation of the punishment at the earliest will make the victims' families happier.

"After the incidents came to light, an additional bus service has been provided to the village. Liquor sale has been banned in the village and the public has supported the initiative," Ms Goud said.



House of Marri Srinivas Reddy, which was vandalised and set ablaze by the villagers. — DC

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IMMIGRATION FRAUD BUSTED

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

The Panjagutta police on Thursday arrested a man for allegedly collecting money from some persons by making a false promise of sending them abroad.

Police said the accused, Md Ilyas, 50, floated a company in 2017 named Beckon Overseas in Punjagutta. He promised to send students to Canada and Australia by taking

care of all immigration formalities for a fee ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹70,000.

Some persons who paid him the money were not sent abroad. They began doing the rounds of the office for a refund. Two days ago, Ilyas closed the office. The victims then approached the Punjagutta police and lodged a complaint.

The police arrested Ilyas on Thursday and sent him to judicial custody.

11th DAY CEREMONY Smt. Jetty Rajalaxmi W/o. Late J.V. Satyanarayana (S G Rty) DOB: 08-12-1933 Died on 28-01-2020 May her soul rest in peace.

7th ANNIVERSARY V.T. GEORGE DOB: 25.10.1939 DOD: 07.02.2013 A tribute of love from Wife, Son, Daughters, Sons-in-Law, Daughter-in-Law, Grand Children

8th ANNIVERSARY Rajesh Vrajlal Babaria Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed & very dear. I WE MISS YOU VERY MUCH BABARIA FAMILY

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY 07-02-2020 ADDEPALLI RAMALAKSHMI W/o Late SRI A.SITAPATHY (DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE) "We all love you and remember you every day and you always live in our hearts."

OBITUARY Mrs. RACHEL OOMMEN W/o. Late Mr. K.G. Oommen DOB: 15-11-1930 DOD: 04-02-2020 Funeral services on 07-02-2020, Home 9 a.m. Ascension Mar Thoma Church, Chikkadpalli 10.00 a.m. Garrison Cemetery Trimulgherry 11.30 a.m.

11th DAY CEREMONY DEEPAK TEMKER DOB: 28.01.2020 11th Day Ceremony on 07.02.2020 at our residence: 12-11-390/61, Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Jamai Osmania, Hyderabad-500061. Lunch follows from 1.00 p.m. Inset by: Temker Family Mobile: 9849173591

UTHAVANA SRI KRISHNA AGRAWAL (Prop. / M/s. Vikas Engineering Industries, Balanagar) S/o. Late Sri Gyaniram Ji Agrawal of Chandra Transport Company Expired on 05-02-2020 Uthavana on 07-02-2020 from 12:30 PM to 1 PM at Harayana Bhavan, Paradise Circle, Secunderabad. IN GRIFEF: Vidya Agrawal (Wife) Vikas, Padmaja & Kunal, Rachana Kulkarni, Neeraj & Saahil & Agarwal Family

75th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE S.K. TEJAMANI (Retd. Teacher) DOB: 07-02-1945 DOD: 27-6-2006 Though you are not with us today but always live in our hearts & remembered each day in our lives. Late S. Krupa Rao (Husband), Ex-President, Greater Hyd. City Congress, Secretary APCC, Sons, Daughters-in-law, Only Daughter, Son-in-law & Grand Children.

OBITUARY K.J. ABISHEKAM (Retd. Physio Therapist) O.G.H., Hyd. S/o K.R. Jacob & Sis. Karinamma Called to glory on 05-02-2020 Funeral Service will be held at Hebron Church, Golconda X Road, on 07-02-2020 at 2.00 pm. There after Burial at 4.00 pm, Narayanga Cemetery, Hyderabad. Inset by: FAMILY MEMBERS Ph.No. 9849207827, 9704390095 (CA-3227)

First Death Anniversary K. Yogesh Jodir 9th April 1985 - 7th Feb 2019 In life we loved you dearly. In death we do the same. In Our Hearts, Forever & Always. Mother, Sister, Wife, Son, Auntsies, Uncles & Cousins. Remembrance Mass: 7th Feb, 6:00 PM, Shrine of Our Lady of Health, Khairatabad

12th DEATH ANNIVERSARY Mrs. ROSALIND SAROJINI (W/o. Late T.E.V.Prasada Rao) DEAR MOM, D.O.D. 07-02-2008 Though 12 years rolled over us in your absence but still we remember your beautiful face always waiting for us... Our love is immeasurable Maa. Love U Mom Children, Gr. children & Grt. Gr. children

3rd ANNIVERSARY RANGA RAJU GOUD D.O.B:09-01-1972 D.O.D:07-02-2017 Inset by: Wife:Ranga Sangeetha Sons: R.Sohan, R.Varun And Family Members

2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY SHRIKANT SHARMA D.O.D: 7-2-2018 You will always remain in our hearts. Sharma Family Mob: 9676595050

UTHAVANA SMT. SITA DEVI SONTHALIA (W/o. Kantilal Badegaon Wale) Date of Birth: 30.11.1943 Expired on : 5.2.2020 Uthavana Today, 7th Feb. 2020 Between 12 Noon to 1 pm at : Kalinga Bhavan, Agrasen Chowk, Road No. 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. Inset by : Kantilal (Husband), Ramprasad, Vijayram, Shivram (Son) Firm : SHIVDATRAI GULABRAI #56/A, Nandagiri Hills, Jubilee Hills, Hyd. Ph. 9949088887, 8008001239 Mahavir Ispat Pvt. Ltd. | Mahavir Ferro Alloys | Venkatabalaji Steel Rolling Mills Pvt Ltd Banjara Imports and Exports | Ram Pars Ferro Fouled | Gulab Surk Ferro Alloys Pink Lotus Iron and Steel Trading FZC | GK Steel Ferro Alloys | GK Times Square

In loving memory of Sri K.V. Subba Rao (D.O.B.: 20.11.1922 D.O.E.: 07.02.2002) Our Former Secretary & Vice Chairman It is now eighteen years... Your memories of strong leadership and hard work continue to guide and inspire us. Sponsored Institutions: MWSR Engineering College, Nandagiri, Hyderabad. Matri Education Society, Matrusri Institute of Post Graduate Studies, Saidabad, Hyderabad.

2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY SHRIKANT SHARMA D.O.D: 7-2-2018 Miss you every day SHRIKANT Your memories will always be treasured Usha Sharma (Mother) Sonia Sharma (Wife) Adheesh (Son) Aaryan (Son)

13th Day Ceremony With profound grief, we inform about the sad demise of Smt. Chandrakala Devi W/o Late Dr. Jagmohan Singh on the 26th January, 2020. The 13th Day Ceremony will be held on 7th February 2020 at Plot. No. 14, Sripruram Colony, Malakpet, Hyderabad-500036 Deeply mourned by Family Members Praveen Kumar - Ph: 8519802897

SHRADHANJALI DEEPAK TEMKER DOD : 28th Jan 2020 S/o Temker Swatantra Kumar & Smt Vidhya "Your memories will last forever. You have been a perfect gentleman. We miss you every moment." Inset by: Temker Sisters and Brother-in-laws

IN MEMORY G. JANA BAI On 08-02-2020, Saturday Pooja and Lunch 1:00 pm onwards. Address: 6-3-1216/50F1, Methodist Colony, NEST Apts, Road Adjacent to Lifestyle, Begumpet, Hyd. GS KUMAR & Family Ph: 9849047827

With a heavy heart we want to inform the sad demise of our beloved Mother Smt. AKRAMUNNISA W/o Mir Raza Ali Khan, Former Executive Engineer, Hyderabad Metro Water Works, (HMWSSB) On 3rd February 2020. May Allah grant her the highest place in the Paradise. By: MIR MOHAMMAD ALI & MIR MUSHTAQ ALI KHAN (Sons) Ph #: 9652044463, 9701988875. (A/1920/D00122)

DEAR BADE PAPA On Your 2nd ANNIVERSARY SHRIKANT SHARMA D.O.D: 7-2-2018 We miss you and treasure your memories. Akash Sharma Ayushi Sharma Anchit Sharma Ananya Sharma Anusha Sharma

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE "The gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord" Rom - 6:23 B. Vishal Alexander DOB: 7-2-1982 DOD: 29-7-2010 Our hearts are full of memories, with pride we speak your name, though life goes on without you, it will never be the same. Inset by: Dad - B.S.Christopher Mom - Sampurna Sister - Sushma, Brother-in-law - Praneeet & Family Members

6th ANNIVERSARY "She exchanged her temporary tent for a permanent home." II Cor. 5:1 Mrs. GODALA VIMALA ANANTHA RAO W/o Late Rev. Godala Anantha Rao Inset by: Mrs & Mr G. Santosh Karunakar & Fly Mr G Vinod Dinakar & Raymond Jordan Mrs & Mr G. Prem Krupakar & Fly Mrs & Mr G. Rohit Varun, Lovi Jayden 964058999, 906351232, 9441278773 (S/1920/D01804)

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY Mr. M.P.C. VIJAYA RAJ (Ex T.O. in RNIN) DOD: 07-02-2016 "Your memories always remain with us till our last breath" Inset by: Wife, Daughter, Son-in-law, Son, Daughters-in-law and Grand Children Ph: 9866161332 (S/1920/D01775)

IN FOND REMEMBRANCE SHRIKANT SHARMA D.O.D: 7-2-2018 Dear SHRI, You will always remain in our memories, and be our guiding light. Inset by: Simmi - Suryakant Reena - Vishal Prayrana - Abhishek



Pharma City probe

Congress MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy wants Centre to conduct high-level inquiry into land encroachments at Pharma City

IN BRIEF

Strikes barred at NTPC in state

Hyderabad: The government has extended the prohibition of strikes in all services in the National Thermal Power Corporation by notifying it as an essential service under the provisions of the Telangana Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1971, for a period of six months from January 21. Therefore, strikes in all the services under the NTPC have been barred, a press release issued by the government said.

Jagga Reddy slams BJP MP

Hyderabad: Sangareddy MLA T. Jayaprakash 'Jagga' Reddy demanded action against BJP MP Anant Kumar Hegde for his remarks against Mahatma Gandhi. While taking to press reporters he said that it is unfortunate that BJP leaders are insulting the father of the nation by saying Godse is better than Gandhi. He said Mahatma Gandhi is revered in every household in the country, and BJP leaders are insulting him on the one hand and seeking votes in his name on the other hand by naming several programmes after him. Playing the statue game, he said he will install a 130-ft statue of Gandhi in his constituency and will invite Congress president Sonia Gandhi and party Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi to inaugurate it.

BHAGWAT, SWATI LAKRA ARE ADGPs

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Thirteen IPS officers have been promoted as DIGs, IGs and additional Directors-General of Police by the state government.

Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat, Women's Safety Wing Inspector-General Swathi Lakra, Mr R.S. Praveen Kumar, secretary of the Telangana Residential Education Society, and Mr V.V. Srinivasa Rao, Telangana Police Recruitment Board chairman, all belonging to the 1995 batch of IPS, were promoted from Inspector General rank to Additional DGP.

Mr Rajesh Kumar, DIG of Counter Intelligence Cell, Mr N. Shivashankar Reddy, Nizamabad range DIG, and Dr V. Ravinder, Warangal police commissioner, all belonging to the batch of 2002, were promoted to the rank of Inspector General.

Mr Kartikeya, Nizamabad police commissioner, Mr K. Ramesh Naidu, Traffic DCP of LB Nagar of Rachakonda police commissionerate, Ms B. Sumathi, SP of Women Protection Cell, M. Srinivasulu, CID SP, and Mr A. Venkateswara Rao, DCP of Madhapur zone in Cyberabad, were promoted as DIGs.

KTR WARNS HEADS OF CIVIC BODIES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Municipal administration and urban development minister K.T. Rama Rao on Thursday cautioned commissioners of municipal corporations and newly posted IAS officers in the department that the new Municipal Act is very stringent and corrupt officers could lose their jobs.

Giving an overview of the New Municipal Act he urged the officers to implement it with zeal and spirit. He said that municipal commissioners should ensure adequate supply of drinking water, sanitation maintenance and increase in green cover in municipal corporations.

Mr Rama Rao said that the new Act will be citizen-centric and people-friendly and will provide fast, transparent, and corruption-free governance. He told the officers that unlike any other state in India, the TS-BPass will grant permissions to a citizen within 21 days to construct a house and the building permissions should be granted within the given timeframe and in a fair manner.

Any corruption will call for stringent action against the officials, he said, and innovative programmes for sanitation works in municipalities should be implemented.

Old vs new fight in BJP

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

A silent war is going on between the old timers and newcomers in the Bharatiya Janata Party. The newcomers allege that senior leaders are not prepared to work with them stating that the newcomers have no idea and understanding about the party ideology. In recent times several former ministers, MPs, MLAs and MLCs joined

the BJP after quitting the Congress and Telugu Desam in the state. The BJP leadership invited them into the party to strengthen the BJP. The BJP high command instructed the state leadership to encourage the newcomers and give them priority so that there would be more such defections to the BJP. But now the newcomers are complaining that their ideas for conducting various programmes

to attract the new cadre are not implemented and they too are being ignored during meetings and programmes. Privately they say that the state unit has been divided into three groups and that national-level leaders are encouraging group politics. Some senior members are said to have been lobbying with the high command not to give the post of state president to a newcomer as it would demoralise seniors and

lower level functionaries who have been with the party for decades. Senior leaders from the Congress who defected to the BJP initially thought of getting their cadres into the party to increase their own strength. But because of the group politics, they have shelved the idea, said a leader on condition of anonymity. There is also talk in the party that a check should be put on newcomers from other parties joining the BJP.

Loans not repaid, 13 lakh farmers lose right to vote

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

Thirteen lakh members of Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) have lost their vote rights after the government made it a condition that members who have not cleared ₹1 lakh loan and failed to pay the share capital will not have the right to vote and will lose their right to contest the elections.

According to officials in the cooperative department, there are 32,99,088 voters in the 905 PACS, and as many as 13,98,257 have lost their right to vote and contest as they had not repaid their dues. With this, the strength of the voters has come down to 19,00,83. The nominations for the elections commenced on Thursday. As a majority of the members have lost their voting

and contesting rights, Opposition parties are accusing the ruling TRS of taking over the PACS by disqualifying the huge number of voters. Telangana Kisan Congress chairman Anvesh Reddy alleged that the ruling party imposed the condition being well aware that many of the farmers who are voters in the PACS are not in a position to repay the ₹1 lakh loan.

TRS leaders keep it all in the family, workers lose

S.N.C.N ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

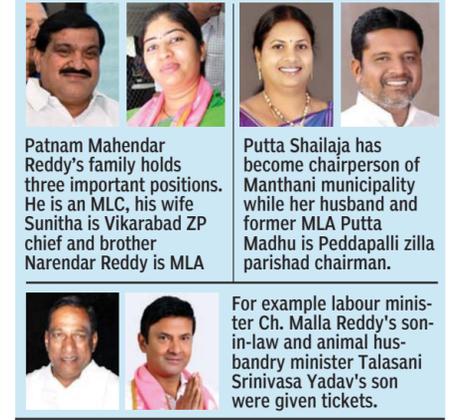
Dynastic and family politics have become commonplace. It can be found in almost all major political parties, especially so in regional parties, including in the two Telugu states. The TRS is no exception to the rule. In a way, the fallout has been ominous. The die-hard party workers are left in the lurch. Despite having dedicated their life for the party, they are upstaged by members of one political party or other, who call the shots. The dominance is such that when it comes to nominating candidates for any election from the Parliament to panchayat ward member, it is the family member who gets the preference while workers and cadre are rarely considered.

The real workers are confined to carrying the party flag on their shoulders. The TRS workers, who have been active since the separate Telangana movement, are still to be recognised or rewarded by the leadership.

In the recent Municipal and ZP elections, several family members of TRS leaders enjoyed the privilege and now some of the party leaders have set eyes on Cooperative elections and the Chairman posts for any family member. Unfortunately, TRS workers are not being considered for nominated posts. One fails to understand the yardstick. For instance, some families have three important posts in their kitty.

Prominent in this, post-municipal elections are Jogu Premachandrar is the new Adilabad municipal chairman; his father Jogu Ramanna is a minister in the state Cabinet.

FAMILY MEMBERS RULE THE ROOST, PARTY WORKERS FALL BY THE WAYSIDE



Patnam Mahendar Reddy's family holds three important positions. He is an MLC, his wife Sunitha is Vikarabad ZP chief and brother Narendar Reddy is MLA

Putta Shailaja has become chairperson of Manthani municipality while her husband and former MLA Putta Madhu is Peddapalli zilla parishad chairman.

For example labour minister Ch. Malla Reddy's son-in-law and animal husbandry minister Talasani Srinivasa Yadav's son were given tickets.

MLA Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy's wife Gandra Jyothi is chairperson of the Warangal rural ZP.

Putta Shailaja has become chairperson of Manthani municipality while her husband and former MLA Putta Madhu is Peddapalli zilla parishad chairman. Government Whip Balka Suman's mother was elected as municipal ward member.

This trend was noticed even during the Lok Sabha elections, where family members were preferred over party leaders. For example labour minister Ch. Malla Reddy's son-in-law and animal husbandry minister Talasani Srinivasa Yadav's son were given tickets.

Former Minister Patnam Mahendar Reddy family boasts of three important positions. He is an MLC, his wife Sunitha Mahendar Reddy is Vikarabad zilla parishad chairperson and brother Narendar Reddy is MLA from Kodangal.

Former MLA Teegala Krishna Reddy's daughter-in-law Anitha Reddy is Vikarabad zilla parishad chairperson. Bhupalpally

MLA Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy's wife Gandra Jyothi is chairperson of the Warangal rural ZP. In the municipal elections, kin of several TRS leaders were elected as ward members.

A senior TRS leader explained that in the local body elections, the party leadership gave a free hand and powers to MLAs to select candidates. Some MLAs have given importance to their family members instead of loyal party workers.

Meanwhile, in some constituencies where MLAs who had defected and joined TRS were considered at the cost of dedicated party workers. This line was also used in nominated posts for MLA and MLC categories.

Ironically, while senior leaders are changing parties if they are not given tickets for assembly or Lok Sabha elections, the genuine long-standing workers, who strive for the nominee's win, are always ignored.

Ex-babu moves HC over police nod for protests

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

A retired civil servant, Mr Md. Shafiquzzaman, has filed a public interest litigation in the High Court seeking its intervention on the Hyderabad police not according permission to individuals, organisations, political parties and others to hold peaceful rallies, dharnas and meetings as a means to express their dissent against certain decisions taken by the Centre.

This PIL has been filed in the backdrop of the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act in Parliament and the proposed National Register of Citizens. This is being opposed by political parties, organisations. To protest the same, they are approaching the commissioner, Hyderabad police, seeking permission to hold protests. The police is denying permission after keeping the applicants on tenterhooks.

The petitioner submitted that upholding the right to freedom of Assembly is guaranteed in the Constitution and police cannot restrain a citizen to exercise his right. He contended that every citizen has a right to demonstrate and disseminate opinions. The Indian Police Act,

1861 and the Hyderabad City Police, Act, 1348 F provide for regulation of public assembly or processions and Section 30 of the Indian Police Act, 1861 and Section 22 of the Hyderabad City Police Act, 1348 F clearly envisage that permissions should be accorded for peaceful assembly or procession. In certain extreme conditions, where the police think permissions cannot be granted, then the magistrate of the district or its sub-division should certify that such an assembly will cause breach of peace. In such extreme conditions, the police should grant permission by imposing conditions. Contrary to the above, Hyderabad police is not according permissions for peaceful assembly, dharnas and rallies.

The petitioner asked the court to issue a direction to the police commissioners of Hyderabad and Cyberabad to produce the number of applications seeking permission in December last year and January. He sought a direction to the police commissioners to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Indian Police Act, 1861 and the Hyderabad City Police, Act, 1348 F and to take a decision within seven days from the date of receipt of application.

● Former civil servant Md Shafiquzzaman wants the police to give permission for protests in a certain timeframe.

Rly officials want 2 cadres, not 1

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 6

The Union railway ministry's plan to merge all service cadres under it has rattled its bureaucrats. In December 2019, the Cabinet had green-lit the ministry's proposal to merge its eight cadres — three civil and five technical — into the Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS). Members of civil cadres believe they will be overshadowed by those of the technical cadres.

Recruitment to the civil cadres — the Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS), Accounts (IRAS) and Personnel (IRPF) — is done through the annual civil services examination by UPSC. Members of technical cadres — Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRES), Signal Engineers (IRS-SE), Mechanical Engineers (IRSM) and Stores Services (IRSS) — are also recruited through the Indian Engineering Services (IES) exam held by the UPSC.

Among the civil cadres, the IRTS has always held the most "prestige". Their work makes them highly visible to the general public. It is the IRTS cadre that will stand to lose the most once the merger happens. An IRTS official serving in the South Central Railways (SCR), speaking on the condition of

WHAT BROUGHT ON THE MERGER?

The decision to merge the services came out of the blue. However, it is learnt that the need was felt after a turf war between the mechanical and electrical departments over ownership of the semi-high speed Train18, also known as Vande Bharat Express. A senior official said the mechanical department wished to continue manufacturing the train, while the electrical department wanted to outsource the operation. "This led to delays in the launch. The railway ministry decided to work towards preventing turf wars like this in the future. They want to merge all services for this."

anonymity, said the railways has a complex bureaucratic structure, with functioning checks and balances. "Engineering officers are concerned with the technical side of the railways. They have very little experience of the operations management side. How can the two be combined under one group when their roles are so different," he asked.

Another IRTS officer from SCR said members of the civil cadres are already at a disadvantage due to the age-based promotion system. "Civil servants in the railways usually miss out on senior positions like the zonal general manager's post. They are, on average, older than engineering officials. This is because of the nature of the examinations they take for recruitment. By the time an IRTS or IRAS

officer is eligible for the GM's post, he will be very close to retirement and hence, overlooked," he said. This situation, he added, would be replicated across the hierarchy after the merger. The two officials said the merger would have ramifications on passenger safety and the railways' profitability. "Normally, when an engineering department proposes, say, a new track, the proposal is scrutinised by many departments. Each department is manned by officials of various services, who answer to their own bosses. This allows them the freedom to reject the proposal without worrying about subordination. If all belonged to the same service, no junior employee in any department would be able to reject a senior's proposal. This doesn't bode well for anyone," he said.

Interestingly, the railway ministry, the UPSC and the department of personnel and training (DoPT) are yet to announce the modalities for recruitment to the merged cadre. Both officials and aspirants to these services are awaiting clarity. IES aspirants, who recently wrote the preliminary examination and are awaiting the results, don't know if railway posts are even up for grabs. Civil service aspirants, meanwhile, would be fighting for a couple of hundred fewer vacancies than usual if railway services were removed from the exam. The officers hope the railway minister will make amends by having two merged groups instead of just one. They want the civil cadres to be merged into one, and the engineering ones into another.

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VIII CONVOCATION

The VIII Convocation of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Kakinada, Kakinada is tentatively scheduled to be held in the month of April/2020 for the students who have completed degree programmes in the academic year 2018-19. The date and venue of Convocation, Gold Medalist details, fee and other details can be viewed from www.jntuk.edu.in. The application can be submitted ONLINE from 06-02-2020 through the web link www.jntuk.edu.in. The last date for the submission of online application is 29.02.2020.

Sd/- Registrar

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

NOTICE

1. Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations/1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations/2014 for determination of Transmission Tariff from DOCO to 31-03-2019 for:

Petition-1: Transmission Asset: Replacement of 3x167 MVA, 400/220KV ICTs with 1X500 MVA ICT at Somnathali substation, **Asset 2:** Replacement of 4x167 MVA, 400/220KV ICTs with 1X500 MVA ICT at Somnathali substation, **Asset 3:** Replacement of 1x500MVA Bus reactor with 1x125MVA Bus reactor at 400/220KV Narendra Substation, **Asset 4:** 01 Nos. 500MVA, 765/400KV Regional Spare ICTs at Thivulam substation and **Asset 5:** 01 Nos. 500MVA, 765/400KV Regional Spare ICTs at Raichur substation under **System strengthening-XXIII** in Southern Region.

2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (a) KPTCL (b) APTRANSCO (c) KSEB (d) Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd (e) Electricity Dept. of Goa (f) Electricity Dept. of Puducherry (g) APEDCL (h) TSSPDCL (i) APSPDCL (j) TSNPDCL (k) BESCOM (l) GESCOM (m) HESCOM (n) MESCOM (o) CESC (p) Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited (q) TNEB.

3. Tariff details:

Name of the Asset	Asset 1	Asset 2	Asset 3	Asset 4	Asset 5
Assets as mentioned above					
Approved Capital cost (₹ Lakhs)	2573.66	2435.52	1234.19	1715.53	1658.77
Authority which has approved Capital cost	Board of Directors of POWERGRID				
Schedule DOCO (FR)	29.07.2017				
DOCO (Actual)	16.03.2017	31.03.2017	25.01.2017	28.03.2017	06.02.2019
Estimated Completion Cost (₹ Lakhs)	2191.18	1869.68	804.31	1283.01	1342.80
Tariff for year 2014-19 (Rs in Lacs)					
2014-15	-	-	-	-	-
2015-16	-	-	-	-	-
2016-17	12.13	0.59	20.14	1.47	-
2017-18	316.19	261.47	123.35	159.86	-
2018-19	348.31	301.13	129.03	192.14	17.21

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com.

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3, 4th floor, Chandrababai Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurgaon Sd/-
Date: 03.02.2020 DGM (Commercial)

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Big loss

TD MP Galla Jayadev says shifting of KIA Motors will have a negative impact on investments, employment

AP govt denies Kia exit, opposition criticises

FROM PAGE 1

Telugu Desam MPs, who wanted the Central government to intervene in the three capitals issue, raised a similar demand on Thursday, sought to know "what the central government would do when multinational companies were subjected to harassment". The YSRC government has been on a fire-fighting exercise since the morning when the news of Kia shifting first broke out. Rajat Bhargava, special chief secretary, industries, who is currently in

Lucknow participating in the defence expo, issued a statement that both the AP government and Kia Motors deny the reports of shifting. Later, he spoke to his Tamil Nadu counterpart, and came up with another statement by evening, in which Mr Bhargava said stated that the TN principal secretary, industries, had conveyed to him that they were not in talks with Kia Motors and there were no discussions between them in this regard. "Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu enjoy cordial relations," said Mr Bhargava. Kia Motors, which denied

any plans to shift the plant from AP to Tamil Nadu in the news report of the foreign agency itself, again dismissed the report as "baseless". Manohar Bhatt, national head of sales and marketing, Kia Motors, said that the news report had "indeed shocked the company". According to an official press release from the government, Mr Bhatt called that the news report the "worst form of imagination and concoction". "I don't know who is behind this news," Mr Bhatt was further quoted by the

government press release. Finance minister Buggana Rajendranath convened a press conference at Amaravati and described the news as "propaganda, aimed at tarnishing the state's image". YCP Parliamentary Party leader V. Vijaya Sai Reddy also tweeted against the news report. Meanwhile, former chief minister and TD chief N. Chandrababu Naidu came down heavily on Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, saying he was "driving away industry from the state".

"I had to struggle a lot to bring Kia Motors here. Now the Chief Minister says the incentives promised to them would not be honoured," Naidu said, adding that the Tamil Nadu government officials confirmed having talks with Kia. Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan too joined the issue, saying that there is every reason to believe the report, as it came from Reuters, a world renowned news agency. He said that youth of the state would have to pay heavy price as industry after industry has been leaving the state.

Kia has big plans for Anantapur

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, FEB. 6

KIA Motors, the world's eighth largest automaker, with its first ever plant in India located in Andhra Pradesh at Erramanchi in Anantapur district, succeeded in producing cars within a short period. The 536-acre barren lands of Erramanchi in Penukonda mandal on

National Highway 44 close to the Bengaluru international airport was shaped into a 'Korean City' in two years. The unit had invested ₹13,000 crore and was producing Seltos cars with diesel and petrol versions for the Indian market since December last. The unit, which occupies 536 acres, is capable of an annual production

capacity of up to 300,000 units, boosting KIA's global manufacturing capability along with creating over 3,000 direct and 7,000 indirect jobs. A US\$ 2 billion investment by KIA and its vendor partners ensures availability of world-standard technologies and development of high-quality local manufacturing skills.

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Fully electric

Piyush Goyal says Railways will be 100 per cent electricity-driven in next 4 to 5 years, the largest such network in the world

SHORT TAKES

1 LYNCHED ON RUMOURS OF CHILD-LIFTING

Dhar, Feb. 5: A 35-year-old man was lynched while six of his friends were seriously injured in an attack by a group of villagers armed with sticks and stones amid rumours that a child-lifter gang was on the prowl in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district, police said. The victims, all hailing from Indore, had travelled to Baroli village, to recover money from some local labourers but were attacked by a mob, district superintendent of police Aditya Pratap Singh said. He said the labourers allegedly spread rumours that the seven men were child-lifters, apparently to avoid returning the money they had taken as advance from one of the victims.

DGCA: FOLLOW VISHAKHA GUIDELINES

New Delhi, Feb. 6: Aviation regulator DGCA has told CEOs of all airlines to strictly follow the Vishakha guidelines to deal with the cases of sexual harassment in their respective organisations, according to an official communique. The DGCA, in a letter to the CEOs, stated that it has received "numerous" complaints from women working as pilots, cabin crew and in other technical areas regarding sexual harassment by their senior colleagues. "All the airlines are hereby advised to ensure strict compliance of the Vishakha guidelines. They should also give wide publicity about this committee among the employees to facilitate hassle-free reporting and disposal of matter in accordance with relevant national regulations," the DGCA said.

Nirbhaya plea to be heard today

The Supreme Court bench agreed to hold an urgent hearing of the Centre's plea

New Delhi, Feb. 6: The Supreme Court will hear on Friday a plea by the Centre and Delhi government challenging the Delhi High Court judgment holding that all the four death row convicts in Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case will be executed together and not individually. A bench comprising justice N.V. Ramana, Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Krishna Murari agreed to hear the matter on Friday upon a mentioning by additional solicitor general K.M. Natraj, seeking an urgent hearing of the Centre's plea. The Centre and Delhi government had moved the top court on Wednesday evening hours after Delhi High Court rejected their plea against January 31, 2020, trial court order staying the execution of death sentence till further orders. Both the Centre and the

Delhi government had moved the High Court against January 31, 2020, trial court order staying the execution of death sentence till further orders. Meanwhile, a Delhi court sought response from the four death row convicts — Pawan Kumar Gupta, 25, Vinay Sharma, 26, Akshay Kumar, 31, and Mukesh, 32 — on an application by Tihar Jail authorities seeking issuance of fresh death warrants against them. The notice seeking response from four death row convicts was issued by additional sessions Judge Dharmendra Rana. Having rejected the Centre and Delhi government's plea against the trial court's order, the High Court in its judgment on Wednesday had faulted the authorities for not taking necessary steps after top court had in May 2017 upheld the death sen-

tence of the four convicts. The High Court judge Justice Suresh Kumar Kait in his order had said, "I have no hesitation in saying that after dismissal of the SLP (Special Leave Petition) by the Supreme Court in May 2017, nobody took steps for issuance of death warrants for their execution." Justice Kait had further said, "All authorities were sleeping and waiting for convict Akshay to file review petition on December 9, 2019 challenging the Supreme Court's verdict upholding his death penalty. His review plea was dismissed by the apex court on December 18, 2019." The High court said, "a horrible, dreadful, cruel, abominable, ghastly, gruesome and heinous offence of rape coupled with a bone-chilling murder of a young woman, which shook the conscience of the entire country." — PTI

7 KILLED DUE TO GAS LEAK IN U.P. FACTORY

Sitapur, Feb. 6: Seven people, including three children, were on Thursday killed after inhaling poisonous gas in a carpet factory at Jalalpur village in Bisvan area police said. The incident took place due to gas leakage, they said. "We are on the spot. More details are awaited," a senior official said. District magistrate Akhilesh Tiwari said a rescue operation was being carried out. The administration has confirmed the death of seven people including three children. The factory owner is at large after the incident, officials said. Sub divisional magistrate, Bisvan Suresh Kumar said experts have arrived for investigation from Lucknow and a National Disaster Response Force team is also present at the spot. "The affected area has been evacuated. Any information about the tragedy would be given out after investigation. Some dogs were also found dead around the factory area," the official added. — PTI

640 Indians evacuated from Wuhan: Centre

New Delhi, Feb. 6: The government has evacuated 640 Indians from coronavirus-hit China and the complex operation was done with Beijing's assistance, the ministry of external affairs said on Thursday. MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said apart from those evacuated, 10 other Indians have indicated that they want to come back from China, but were unable to clear the health screening process. "We are in regular contact with them and exploring all possibilities for their return," Kumar said. In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, normal visas and all existing e-visas from China that have been issued are no longer valid, he said. — PTI

MEA steps up efforts to fetch 21 Malayalis

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB. 6 The ministry of external affairs on Thursday initiated steps to bring back 21 Malayali students who are stranded in China following the novel coronavirus outbreak. Efforts are being made to evacuate the students who are stranded at Kunming airport in China. Of the 21 medical students of Dalian University, 15 are girls and they decided to return to India after the area in which they were residing witnessed a significant increase in the number of cases. According to reports, the students could not return earlier as their visas were to be renewed. They got their visas renewed the other day. Subsequently they decided to return on a Scoot Airlines flight via Singapore on February 3. However, when the students reached the airport they were told that only Singapore nationals were permitted to board the flight. This was due to the ban imposed on the arrival of foreign nationals from China in Singapore.

Mukerjea freed in Sheena Bora case

Mumbai, Feb. 6: The Bombay High Court on Thursday granted bail to former media baron Peter Mukerjea, arrested in the Sheena Bora killing case, observing that prima facie there was no evidence of his involvement in the crime. Justice Nitin Sambre granted bail to Peter Mukerjea on a surety of ₹2 lakh and directed that he should not contact his children Rahul

Mukerjea and Vidhi Mukerjea and other witnesses in the case. The court, however, stayed its order for a period of six weeks so as to enable the CBI to file an appeal. Peter Mukerjea was arrested on November 19, 2015 in the case, in which his former wife Indrani Mukerjea is the main accused. The court, in its order, noted that there is prima facie no evidence to

infer that Peter Mukerjea was involved in the commission of the crime. "When the incident took place, the applicant (Peter Mukerjea) was not in India. The trial in the case is already underway. The applicant is in jail since over four years and has recently undergone a bypass surgery," Justice Sambre said. "Except for statement of the approver in the case,

Shyamwar Rai, there is no reference to Peter Mukerjea in any evidence. There is no other evidence to show his involvement in the conspiracy," the court said. Justice Sambre said on April 24, 2012, the date of the alleged killing, there was direct involvement of Indrani Mukerjea and her previous husband Sanjeev Khanna in the offence, as alleged by the CBI. — PTI

nCoV: Kerala stops breath analyser tests

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb. 6: With three persons having been tested positive for novel coronavirus and over 3,000 persons under surveillance in the state, the Kerala police has decided to put on hold breath analyser tests which are carried out routinely to check drunken driving. State police chief Lokanath Behara has issued a circular directing traffic police to avoid breath analyser tests during the vehicle checks. However, vehicle checking will continue as usual for all traffic violations including drunken driving. The breathe analyser

tests will remain suspended till further orders. With the government having already declared coronavirus a state calamity, the precautionary measures and medical guidelines to check the spread of the infection will continue to be enforced strictly in the state. The state has a high rate of road accidents resulting in large number fatalities and major injuries. With drunken driving being one of the major reasons for road accidents, the traffic police have always given top priority to check the menace.

CHINESE MAN GOES TO COPS FOR HELP, RUSHED TO HOSP

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb. 6: A Chinese youth, who approached the city police here seeking help to get a hotel accommodation, was rushed to an isolation ward of a hospital for observation. The tourist, who was on a trip to India, reached the state capital on Tuesday, police said. When all efforts to get a hotel accommodation failed, he approached the city police with a complaint that he was unable to get a room. As soon as the police heard that he had arrived from China, where the coronavirus outbreak toll has climbed to 563, they rushed him to the isolation ward, they said. — PTI

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