

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 1 MARCH 2020

WEATHER

Max: 32.8°C
Min: 20.6°C
RH: 45%
Rainfall: Nil
Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Mist likely in morning
Max/Min temp. 30/20°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Uttarayana
Tithi: Phalguna Bahula Shashthi till 11.16 am
Star: Bharani: till 6.40 am
Variyam: 7.48 pm to 91.33 pm
Durmuhurtam: 4.46 pm to 5.32 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR
Rajjab 5,1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.35 am
Zohar: 12.40 pm
Asar: 4.44 pm
Maghrib: 6.28 pm
Isha: 7.36 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.22 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.34 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 10.06 AM
MOONSET TODAY 10.58 AM

COUNTER POINT



I prefer Rajya Sabha... we need to buy just a few MLAs, not lakhs of voters!

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SUNDAY CHRONICLE

A FORCE TO RECKON WITH: PRACTICAL APPROACH NEEDED

TABLOID CELEBRITIES AND THEIR QUIRKY TRAITS

SOP OPERA FOR A WELFARE STATE

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US, Taliban ink peace deal

14-month timeframe to withdraw troops from Afghanistan

Doha, Feb. 29: The United States signed a landmark deal with the Taliban on Saturday, laying out a timetable for a full troop withdrawal from Afghanistan within 14 months as it seeks an exit from its longest-ever war. The agreement is expected to lead to a dialogue between the Taliban and the Kabul government that, if successful, could ultimately see an end to the grinding 18-year conflict.

Taliban fighter-turned-dealmaker Mullah Baradar signed the accord alongside Washington's chief negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad, at a gilded desk in a conference room in a luxury Doha hotel.

The pair then shook hands, as people in the room shouted *Allahu Akbar* (God is greatest). US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo looked on as the two inked the deal, after urging the insurgents to "keep your promises to cut ties with Al-Qaeda".

On the eve of the signing, US President Donald Trump urged the Afghan people to embrace the chance for a new future.

"If the Taliban and the government of Afghanistan live up to these



US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar shake hands after signing a peace agreement during a ceremony in the Qatari capital Doha on Saturday

commitments, we will have a powerful path forward to end the war in Afghanistan and bring our troops home," he said.

However, the position of the Afghan government, which has been excluded from direct US-Taliban talks, remains unclear and the country is gripped by a fresh political crisis amid contested election results.

The Doha accord was drafted over a tempestuous year of dialogue

INSIDE

Page 13: Intra-Afghan talks by March 10

marked by the abrupt cancellation of the effort by Trump in September.

The signing comes after a week-long, partial truce that has mostly held across Afghanistan, aimed at building confidence between the warring parties and showing the Taliban can control their

forces. The United States and its allies will withdraw all their forces from Afghanistan within 14 months if the Taliban abide by the terms of the accord.

After an initial reduction of troops to 8,600 within 135 days of Saturday's signing, the US and its partners "will complete withdrawal of all remaining forces from Afghanistan" within 14 months.

— AFP

Uneasy calm as bodies of riot victims returned

VINEETA PANDEY | DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 29

The eerie silence in violence-hit Old Mustafabad was shattered by wails, as the bodies of riot victims, released by the authorities, began arriving Saturday morning. Fear still stalks nearby Shiv Vihar, now destroyed, whose mostly Muslim residents have taken refuge in nearby Chaman Park, fearing another attack. As a brittle peace settles in northeast Delhi, officials have started assessing the damage for compensation.

The bodies of brothers Aamir (27) and Hashim (17) were fished out of the nearby "nala" where other bodies were found. Some with bullet marks, some with severed limbs, and some torn in two. Death did not come easy; it was brutal.

The locality mourned the deaths even as some kept their fingers crossed that their missing loved ones would turn up. The violence continued even after National Security Adviser Ajit Doval toured the riot hit area - twice.

"He (Doval) said nothing will happen, but that night petrol bombs were hurled at our homes, bullets fired and acid thrown," Asif said. Nadeem said over 400 calls were made to the police control room in one hour, but the cops refused to come.

"You wanted *azadi*, now take *azadi*" was how they responded," said Nadeem. His neighbour Ram Singh (name changed) arranged safe passage for over 200 trapped Muslims.

"They were outsiders but also local boys involved in arson, loot and violence. I could never think that our own boys will kill," said Ram Singh, breaking down as he narrated the horrific three days. He blamed 'right wing' groups.

Shiv Vihar's gali no. 7 suffered the brunt. It is a mix of Hindu and Muslims who lived in harmony for years. While Hindu houses were also destroyed, others were surprisingly spared.

"The houses with Jai Shri Ram scrawled were untouched. But I will help my Muslim neighbours restart their life when they return," said Vishal. His property was untouched while the mosque next door was burnt.

Women are traumatised, claiming there were acid attacks and rapes. "One girl was gang-raped and is missing," claimed Nazma (name changed) as she showed the photograph of an acid attack victim.

Amid a pall of gloom there was a ray of hope. A nine-month pregnant woman who rioters kicked in the belly delivered a baby boy in Al-Hind Hospital.

'Shoot traitors' slogan in Metro

New Delhi, Feb. 29: Pro-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) sloganeering and incendiary chants of "shoot the traitors" were made inside a train on Delhi Metro's Blue Line and also at the Rajiv Chowk metro station here on Saturday by a group of young men.

The five-six men, wearing saffron T-shirts and kurta, started the sloganeering when the train was about to halt at the metro station. After disembarking the train, they continued chanting pro-CAA and provocative slogans like "shoot the traitors" and one more literally meaning that the "youth of the country is out to support and defend CAA".

While some commuters joined the CAA supporters in their sloganeering, others were quick to get their cameras out to make videos. Many at the station were seemingly taken aback by the spontaneity and the unusual choice of the venue.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel, responsible for the security of the Delhi Metro, intercepted the

SIX YOUTHS were seen shouting slogans at the Rajiv Chowk metro station. They were immediately intercepted by CISF personnel and handed over to the Delhi Metro Rail Police officials for further action.

— CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE

protesters and handed them over to the Delhi Police. "On February 29, at about 10.25 am, six youths were seen shouting slogans at Rajiv Chowk metro station, Delhi. They were immediately intercepted by CISF personnel and handed over to Delhi Metro Rail Police officials for further action. Metro Rail operation remained," the CISF said in a statement.

A senior CISF official said the youths were raising pro-CAA slogans. DCP (Metro) Vikram Porwal said, "We have detained six men and they are being questioned".

A video of the sloganeering has gone viral on social media.

— PTI

State to hike taxes to net ₹20,000 cr in recession

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

With a looming economic recession, the TRS government has targeted around ₹20,000 crore of additional revenue for 2020-21. With the state government already having increased RTC fares and giving the green signal for hiking power tariffs, the finance department is considering increasing land registration fees, and revising land value across the state.

The RTC fare hike and power tariff will not bring the state government additional revenue as that income goes to the respec-

tive institutions. But it will save the state from granting subsidies to those departments. It has reportedly directed the electricity department to hike power tariff to fetch an additional ₹2,000 crore, but without impacting common people.

After TRS came to power it has not hiked power or registration charges, though the latter is to be revised every two years. Officials say this has cost crores in additional revenue. They added there is a big gap between market rates and government rates, also causing revenue loss. The finance department is studying

how much of a hike can be affected.

Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu has directed that the 2020-21 budget be prepared taking an economic recession into account. In the current financial year, Telangana presented a budget of ₹1,46,544 crore but did not receive the projected funds from the Centre; till January 2020 it received revenue receipts that were 70.28 per cent of projected receipts, with just a month to go. The 2018-19 budget was ₹1,61,607 crore and went down last year; it is expected to reduce further in the next annual budget.

TTD TO CONSTRUCT HANUMAN TEMPLE IN JUBILEE HILLS

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, FEB. 29

The TTD Trust Board, headed by its chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy, who met here on Saturday, resolved to construct the Anjaneya Swamy temple, Pushkarini, Vahana Mandapam, Kalyanotsava Mandapam and other works at Venkateswara Swamy temple at Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad.

The Trust Board meeting of TTD was held at Annamaiah Bhavan in Tirumala on Saturday where the chairman said that budget will be soon allocated to take up the works.

Cops reject bird 'missing' plaint

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

A Class VIII student from a private school got his first taste of life's hard realities when police refused to lodge a complaint about his missing pet bird, an Australian Cockatiel.

"We are looking into it, but no case will be booked," inspector S. Murali Krishan of the

Sanjeeva Reddy Nagar police told DC. The boy lives in Yellareddyguda. According to his father, Rama Lingeswara Rao, an employee with APGenco, the bird fled on Thursday.

"The bird flew out of our home through the main entrance at around 9.30 am," he said. "We allowed it to roam freely inside the house, after making sure all windows and doors were closed. But this time the door was somehow left

open when the bird was not in its cage."

The bird was people-friendly and usually hung around the house. It was bought 10 months ago from a shop at Nagarjuna Circle, for about ₹3,000.

"We were searching for it since Thursday and reached out to the cops on Saturday," Mr Rao said.

Dr M.A. Hakeem, Nehru Zoological Park veterinarian, said that the bird's chances of surviving were

slim. "It is a caged bird and will not be able to live by itself in the wild. They become a meal to birds of prey like hawks," he said.

The Australian Cockatiel that went missing



WOMEN | SAFETY

Patrolling increased as locals seek change in liquor policy allowing 5 outlets in 2 km radius

3 months after Disha rape, police steps up vigil

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC SHAMSHABAD, FEB. 29

Three months after the case that reminded the country of the gruesome 2012 Nirbhaya rape case. Three months after a gut-wrenching case that filled women in the country with fear and insecurity. Three months since veterinarian Disha was raped and murdered, her body charred by four men on the NH-44.

A week ahead of International Women's Day, DC decided to do some

stock-taking on the measures on women's safety in the area that is now infamous for the brutality of the Disha case. Surprisingly, it seems that the Shamsabad police have sprung into action.

Upon visiting the scene of the crime, one finds the compound where the rape took place sealed and a wall built around. But does that ensure women safety? The locals say that the police has started patrolling the area through the evenings, more often

than before. "We are happy. The police keep a check around the area regularly since the incident. Women feel safer here now," a resident nearly 200 metres from the crime spot said.

Another resident who owns a small cigarette shop in the same area said: "Only last night the cops came to my shop while patrolling at around 3 am, and instructed me to close it."

Similarly, while one did see trucks parked on the

Bengaluru-Hyderabad highway, cops say the parking of trucks in the area till Tondupally is prohibited. "We are working on the situation regularly. Major dark spots along the highway have been identified, CCTVs have been installed and the parking of trucks has been prohibited, with sign boards installed for the same," inspector R. Venkatesh from the Shamsabad Old Police Station told Deccan Chronicle.

However, there are some

issues on which residents still await police action. Those living near the Tondupally plaza are demanding an amendment to the new liquor policy which permits five liquor shops to open in a two-kilometer radius.

"Liquor sale along the highway is the biggest factor that makes our localities unsafe," a resident in Shamsabad village said.

Another factor that raises questions on the safety of women is the existence of SOS booths on the

Bengaluru-Hyderabad highway. They seem to be of little use. The first SOS booth one finds is at least seven kilometers away from the Shamsabad Old Police Station or the RGIA Police Station.

Moreover, upon attempting to make a distress call, there was no response from the control station. Inspector R. Venkatesh maintained that the booths in question fall under the jurisdiction of National Highways Authority of India.



An SOS booth at Shamsabad that is supposed to let a woman in danger talk directly to the Police Control Room, is not functioning.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

INSIDE

CITY.. PG2

Wakf's assets must be in its name: Chief

NATION.. PG9

Convicts want stay on noose



POWER | SHUTDOWN

Saroornagar Sub-Station 3 pm to 4 pm

Chandrapuri Colony, Central bank colony, Anitha Nagar, Mansoorabad old (vg), Suryodaya Colony and surrounding areas. Central Bank Colony, Suryodaya Nagar, Anitha Nagar, mallikarjuna Nagar, Saraswathi Nagar, Chandrapuri Colony, Sahara, Judges Colony, Vijayasree Colony and surroundings areas.

Secunderabad Sub-Station 10 am to 3 pm Autonagar Industrial Areas

Lalaguda Sub-Station
12 noon to 1 pm
Vijayapuri, Dwaraka Apartment, Jains Constructions, Sun Bakery Area, Biryani House, Pushpanilayam apartment, OU quarters, Water works.

Monda Sub-Station 3 pm to 4 pm

Gandhi Nagar PS, Old Boiguda garden Area, Government School area, Rail Kala Rang.

James Street Sub-Station 11 am to 12 noon

Chandralok, Orient Bank of Commerce, Kamath Hotel, Abhiruchi, Emerald House, Opp Nanking, BP Pump.

IN BRIEF

TOSS exams to begin in April

Hyderabad: The Telangana Open School Public Examinations of SSC & Intermediate (TOSS) are scheduled to held in April, 2020. Candidates who wish to appear for TOSS, Examinations are requested to pay the examination fee as per the due dates. Applications without fine are accepted from 2 March to 11 March. And applications will be accepted till March 16 and March 21, respectively, with a fine of ₹25 and ₹50 per paper.

Demand to reduce examination fee

Hyderabad: Students of German and French diploma courses have demanded reduction in the examination fees in the Osmania University (OU). The students said it was more than the PG or PhD exam fee. A representation has been submitted to the registrar of OU in this regard. The exams for these courses will be held in April, tentatively.

Use QR code to book train tickets

Hyderabad: The South Central Railway (SCR) has introduced QR (quick response) code ticketing at its railway stations for the unreserved passengers. Travellers can scan the code at stations and within one-kilometre vicinity through the Railways' UTS application. Gajanan Mallia, general manager, SCR said passengers could use the new system to avoid queues at stations and save time. Meanwhile, SCR has also made possible buying unreserved and platform tickets through automatic ticket vending machines (ATVM). These machines have been enabled with fast-booking features.

Private Universities Act opposed

Hyderabad: Students of Osmania University have 'rejected' the Private Universities Act passed by the state government in the first-ever student parliament held at the university. The student parliament discussed bills on reintroduction of student union elections, women's reservation in Parliament, and Representation of the People's Act, apart from the one allowing private universities in the state. About 70 students from the 24 departments of the Arts College took part in the event. The private universities Act was rejected on the grounds that privatisation of education would burden the economically backward students, and education would eventually become unaffordable for the weaker sections of society. They said education was a basic right and the government should not do anything to deny them this right. Students backed the 'One nation One election' proposal, saying it would cut down on expenses and avoid the delays caused by the repeated imposition of the model code of conduct. The idea of conducting the student parliament was a student initiative.



Members of various women's organisations hold a meeting in solidarity with the victims of the recent violence in Delhi, at the Somajiguda Press Club, on Saturday. — S. SURENDER REDDY

Delhi riots: Cops' role under lens

Former DGPs blame official apathy for violence in national capital

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

It was the failure of Delhi police and Central administration in pre-empting riots that resulted in death of over 37 people, feel several top retired police officials of Telangana State. They observed that inactivity was glaring despite the headquarters of paramilitary forces being located in Delhi. Forces were not pressed into action for almost three days, showing callousness within the powers-that-be, they opined.

Stating intelligence agencies were not optimally used, former DGP of united Andhra Pradesh, Noel Swaranjit Sen said, "The incident could have been handled much better. I'm surprised at the inaction of police. It seems as though the police was asked to go slow. As it turns out, it is the central home minister who is to be blamed, as he has jurisdiction over Delhi police. How can we ignore the basic fact? Unfolding of events in northeast Delhi also leaves room for suspicion. These incidents do not occur all of a sudden. There are many tell-tale signs that intelligence agencies should have picked up," Sen remarked.

Calling the incidents an incomplete jigsaw puzzle, he pointed out that there is now a general sense of insecurity. "The departments and institutions concerned should have taken pre-emptive measures," he maintained.

Another retired AP DGP M.V. Bhaskar Rao said no

advance action was taken by Delhi police.

Police did not act when BJP leaders were making statements right in front of the police. This demonstrated that riots were pre-meditated to stoke communal sentiments, he pointed out.

Mr Bhaskar Rao asserted that police are entitled to take action on their own in such cases. "Why did they not impose curfew, which is meant to prevent damage? Curfew must have been imposed at the first signs of such trouble," he said.

Citing COVID-19, the former DGP said: "You isolate patients and put them in quarantine for treatment. Curfew is like that." He also found fault with the subsequent shoot-at-sight orders and then a flag march by security forces. These would have a desired impact had a curfew been imposed first, he observed.

The former DGP said it is time to learn from the failure in Delhi. "Unlike in states, the Union government has responsibility in Delhi. It displayed ineptitude and recklessness," he commented. Mr Bhaskar Rao also dismissed Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's claim that not enough forces were available to stem the violence. "You drew forces for US President's security. It does not take much for even Army personnel to be called in. Under any circumstances, you cannot say that there was a lack of forces," the former top police officer added.

Women come out in support of Delhi violence victims

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL I DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

Women's organisations and transgender associations expressed solidarity with the victims of Delhi riots. Almost 30 organisations expressed support during a roundtable conference held in the city on Saturday.

Women and Transgender Organisation, Dalit Women's Collective, Hyderabad Muslim Women's Forum, Progressive Organisation for Women, Montfort Social Institutions were among those who took part in the event. It was organised by the Women and Transgender Organisations Joint Action Committee.

Ms Sunitha, one of the organisers, said the violence in Delhi was unleashed on a particular community along with the local police. At least 42 people have died in the violence and more than 200 injured.

She said this was done to silence the peaceful protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, and its attempt to conduct the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR). Women are protesting against the CAA-NRC-NPR throughout India to protect and safeguard the secular spir-



Audience listens to the speakers at the Somajiguda Press Club on Saturday.

it of the country. Ms Sunitha said the NRC would impact every citizen. It would primarily impact the poor, the marginalized, the illiterate, the displaced and people without documents. "It will impact the people who are at a disadvantage. This violence is basically to silence this protest."

Ms Sujatha Surepally of Dalit Women Collective said the Delhi riots resembled the 2002 Gujarat riots. "This is not an issue between Hindus and Muslims. It is the fundamentalist groups that are promoting Hindutva ideology. BJP-sponsored social media which is spreading lies, misguiding the youth and promoting hate," Ms Surepally said.

She asked, "when you (the Centre) want to ban beef, why is it that there is so much of beef being exported? Is it because those slaughterhouse are owned by the upper caste creamy layer?" Ms Vjayanthi Vasanta Mogli, a transgender activist, said inter-sex babies were abandoned by their parents at their birth. "Many don't know who their parents are, the NRC will force them to be homeless."

Ms K. Sajaya from the JAC Women and Transgender, Hyderabad, said, "we will stand by them. During Independence, India chose to be secular. Now the BJP and RSS wants to kill secularism in India, they want to promote Hindutva Ideology which is not the Hindu ideology."

She alleged that the RSS which had never been a part of the freedom struggle, was instigating communal violence. observed that revenue records have the names of Mutawallis entered against wakf properties. As such, when a Mutawalli dies, his successors take over the wakf property. The wakf chairman thus requested the revenue department to mention name of the wakf institution in the column of owner or pattadar, instead of the individual Mutawalli. He pointed out that though the Telangana Wakf Board is the richest in the country, it has been

lagging far behind in terms of revenue from the properties it owned. This is largely because its properties were in illegal possession of individuals or were under encroachment.

He said according to GO MS No. 3 dated 19-02-2016, there shall be a District Wakf Protection and Coordination Committee for every district headed by the respective district collector to monitor, manage and protect wakf properties. However, unless there is coopera-

tion from revenue and police departments, wakf board will be unable to check encroachments. The board chairman asked revenue officials to avoid issuing land pattas or grant occupancy rights certificates against wakf properties in Ranga Reddy and Vikarabad districts. In both these districts, thousands of acres have been notified as wakf lands. But land mafias are active in grabbing these lands using fraudulent documents.

Stir to continue till CAA is revoked, say activists

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

Anti-CAA, NPR activists reiterated that their resistance would continue till they achieve their goals.

At a 'We are Indian Protest' gathering in Moghulpura against the Citizenship Act and the proposed NPR. Mr Qavi Abbasi, Treasurer of All India Majlis-e-Inquilab-e-

Millat, said that for the first time in independent India, Muslim women were stepping out for a common cause. Their overwhelming participation has strengthened the movement everywhere, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms Javeria Subia, Secretary of Rabita Foundation, said that people were vexed with the contradictory claims over

National Register of Citizens. She asked the state government to clear its stand over CAA and NPR. She said women are more worried because it is very difficult to prove their domicile residency with documents. Hundreds of families migrated from other parts of the country and they are not in a position to prove themselves that they are born here.

Wakf assets must be in Board's name

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

Officials of the revenue and police departments belonging to Ranga Reddy and Vikarabad districts attended a meeting presided over by Telangana Wakf Board chairman Mohammed Saleem. A key result was revenue officials assuring reconciliation between the revenue and wakf records pertaining to various properties belonging to the wakf. Mohammed Saleem

observed that revenue records have the names of Mutawallis entered against wakf properties. As such, when a Mutawalli dies, his successors take over the wakf property. The wakf chairman thus requested the revenue department to mention name of the wakf institution in the column of owner or pattadar, instead of the individual Mutawalli.

He pointed out that though the Telangana Wakf Board is the richest in the country, it has been

FUND | CRUNCH

Clear indication that the govt may increase power tariff

2 discoms seek more time to file ARR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

Confusion continues to surround power tariff proposals for 2020-21, with the two electricity distribution companies (discoms) seeking more time to file their Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) with the Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission. The northern and southern discoms have received multiple extensions to file the ARR. February 29 was the third deadline set by TSERC after which the commission passes orders.

The filing of the ARRs forms a crucial part of the proceedings of TSERC which evaluates the financial requirements of the discoms as laid out in these documents. It may then approve the proposals for expenditure and revenue, that may include tariff changes, or reject them. The approval process includes calling for objections from the public to the ARR proposals, holding public hearings, gathering responses to the hearings from the discoms after which the commission passes orders.

● THE FILING of the ARRs forms a crucial part of the proceedings of TSERC which evaluates the financial requirements of the discoms as laid out in these documents.

One of the reasons that the discoms were wary of filing their ARRs is believed to be the proposals relating to upward revision of power tariff, something that the government is believed to have held would not play out well ahead of the



series of elections since November last. The repeated postponement of filing of ARRs is a clear indication that the government has approved the power tariff hike proposals but did not want such a development to affect its chances in these elections.

The first deadline for filing the ARR was November 30 last year. The discoms sought and were given an extension till December 31, but they missed it. They sought another extension and the TSERC set January 28 as the date. The discoms on Saturday asked for the third extension. The extension was sought in view of the Budget session set to begin from March 6. While there was no word from the commission, it is learnt that the discoms have sought yet another month to file the documents.

Peace committees active once again

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

Be it a "good time" of festivals or "bad time" during riots, peace committees comprising members of both Hindu and Muslim communities have always been around in the twin cities to ensure peace.

In the past, whenever there were communal clashes, especially in Old City, peace committee members could be seen pleading with stone-pelters and angry protesters to calm down and return home. For police, these committee members were "eyes and ears".

With deadly riots in northeast Delhi, which have left over 40 dead and more than 300 injured, role of peace committees is back in focus.

With temperatures high across the country, including in Hyderabad in terms of pro and anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) protests, police are relying heavily on peace committees in the city to continue maintaining peace.

"Every Sunday, all peace committee members hold meeting and discuss various issues pertaining to different communities in our area. We have succeeded in doing our bit in ensuring peace during the anti-CAA protests. We have been emphasising on agitators the need for non-violent protests", says Hyderabad peace committee general secretary Ghulam Sadiquddin.

Confirming this is joint commissioner of police holding charge of east zone, DCP M. Ramesh. He said, "The peace committees are very active. Their members are from all walks of life and highly disciplined. They always come forward offering support to the police."

The concept of peace committees started way back in 1980s. But their role was officially recognised only in early 2000s when the then Hyderabad police commissioner M. V. Krishna Rao officially appreciated their efforts.

Since then, peace committees have been working shoulder to shoulder with police officials. However, as the city has largely remained peaceful since the last couple of years, the role of peace committees has been limited to taking people into confidence during festivals of both communities.

Sadiquddin explains that their members have the ability to sort out any issue between the two communities through dialogue and without police intervention. "We select people who have the power to negotiate and convince people to shun violence for their own future and that of the state. We do everything to maintain communal harmony," he asserts.

A senior police official told *Deccan Chronicle*, "There have been many instances wherein, despite being injured, peace committee members would plead and beg troublemakers into giving up violence. They have done remarkable work earlier. We are relying on them more in the wake of anti-CAA protests and violence in different parts of the country," he said, wishing not to be quoted.

The official pointed out that every Sunday, when peace committee members hold their meeting, the police department sends a representative, usually the area inspector, to address the issues raised.

The peace committees have zonal heads and a general secretary. Additional commissioner of police (law and order) is chairman of the peace committee, while chief of city special branch is convener.

Sri Kishan Sharma, south zone president of Hyderabad peace committee, said, "On Friday, we stood in front of Macca Masjid and created awareness about ensuring peace. We later went to Moghulpura and Malakpet, where protests were going on, for calming them down."

If there is tension brewing in any locality, peace committee members come to know about it first and accordingly alert the police to maintain law and order.

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Virus: HC asks report

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

The Telangana High Court has asked the state government to submit a detailed report on the preparatory measures it has taken to tackle Covid-19, the novel coronavirus, which spread to more than 56 countries.

A division bench comprising CJ Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy was dealing the PILs complaining about the lackadaisical attitude of public authorities in controlling epidemic diseases like dengue, swine flu and malaria.

The court directed the govt to list the steps by March 6 initiated to detect the virus-infected persons, arrangements made to isolate the patients and to combat the coronavirus.

The bench expressed concern that the virus would affect the vulnerable if it entered the state. It appreciated the setting up of exit and entry screening at Shamshabad airport for detect-

ing travellers entering the state with the infection.

The bench enquired that whether similar infrastructure had been set up in railway and bus stations.

Senior advocate Niranjan Reddy, told the court that infected persons would not be identified during screening as the time from symptom onset to hospitalisation would be more than 14 days and individuals may have asymptomatic infection that would not be detected by thermal scanning.

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Army veterans fume at Centre

T.S.S SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

Slamming the Centre of its soldier-friendly claims, Army veterans and pensioners said that the move to do away with exemption of tax benefits to disabled soldiers was unjust.

"SBI implemented the taxation policy retrospectively. It calculated tax arrears and deducted the entire pension for the month. To keep the zero balance account 'alive', they credited ₹100 in the pension account," said Colonel T. Anand, who is posted in the city.

"Most of the disabled soldiers are not employed and they only live on pension," he said.

"This is the most illogical and insensitive action that can be taken by a government against its retired and disabled soldiers," he added.

As per norm, whenever any arrears are to be recovered not

more than one third is recovered in a month from the salary or pension.

They sought clarification from the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat, who reportedly favoured the decision to do away with tax exemption for disabled soldiers.

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Stalker rapes, sets ablaze girl

21-yr-old accused has been taken into custody

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 29
A 17-year-old girl who was living alone was raped by a man who was stalking her and set ablaze late on Friday night. The accused, G. Venkatesh, 21, was taken into custody by the Suryapet district police.

against this and approached the village elders who warned Venkatesh to stay away from her. Angered by this, Venkatesh hatched a plan to sexually assault her and kill her. Late on Friday night, he went to the victim's house, took her to a wooded area near her house. He doused her with kerosene and set her ablaze. The victim's parents had migrated to the city in search of livelihood. The victim was pursuing a

paramedical course in Mahabubabad district. The girl, who received 50 per cent burns, is now undergoing treatment at a government hospital in Warangal and her condition is said to be stable. Based in the complaint from minor victim's father, a case on charges of attempt to murder, rape, and under relevant sections of POCOSA Act has been registered. The accused was taken into custody by Suryapet district police.

Student commits suicide at hostel

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 29
A 19-year-old student committed suicide in her hostel at Alkapuri crossroads in Chaitanyapuri, police said on Saturday.

BOY JUMPS OFF BUILDING AFTER FIGHT WITH KIN

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 29
A 12-year-old boy killed himself by jumping from an apartment building after a quarrel with his brother over a tablet computer. According to the complaint, around 2 pm on Saturday, the sons quarrelled over playing with a tablet. During the quarrel, he intervened and handed over the tablet to his elder son Nanda Kishore. Later while he was going to work, the younger son Bala Venkata Satya Prasad requested him not to go for duty. Upset when the father went away, the younger son climbed onto the penthouse and jumped down from the building. The boy was rushed to a private hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

The victim, B.M. Tejaswi, was in first-year diploma in medical lab technology (DMLT) at Sujatha Pharmacy College. Her body was found hanging from the ceiling at Mayuri Hostel, where she was staying. According to police, Tejaswi was a native of Yadagirigutta, Kandikuru village. She was suffering from epilepsy and her parents had her checked only a day earlier. Around 1.30 pm on Saturday, her hostel-mates knocked the door of her room for 30 minutes and did not get any reply. They peeped from the window of the room and found her body hanging. A suicide note purportedly written by Tejaswi said that no one was responsible for her death and she wanted to leave this world forever, said a police officer. According to her father Ramulu, sarpanch of Kandikuru village, "Tejaswi was often in a negative mood. Since she

was suffering from epilepsy, she thought she was unfit for the world".

Medak man goes missing in Saudi

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

A 31-year-old migrant from Medak district who went to Saudi Arabia to work on February 18 has been missing for a week. The family members of the missing person, B. Bhaskar, fear that he has become a victim of human trafficking. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Mr M. Devaiah, the uncle of Bhaskar, said, "On February 17, he left from Hyderabad and landed the next day in Abha in Saudi Arabia. For the next two days he was in contact with the family. He used to call us every day. From February 24, there has been no response from him." Bhaskar, who hails from Narapur village in Nizampet mandal of Medak district, has a wife Kavitha (25) and two chil-

OBITUARY
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm: 23:6
D.O.B : 04-08-1973
Mr. AMANTHALA VIJAY AMRUTH KUMAR (TONY)
Slept in the Lord on 29-02-2020
Funeral will be held on 1-03-2020 at 3:00pm, at Bhoguda Cemetery
Inserted by: Amantihala's family, near and dear
Cell : 9618029353, 9852329393

12th Day Ceremony
Celebrating a Life
R. MANOHARAMMA
Sunday, 1st March, 2020, 1.00 noon
JRC Convention Centre
RAVI RAM REDDY (HUSBAND)
RAVI NARSIMHA REDDY AND NEELIMA PAVANI GROUP

"The memory of the just is blessed" Pro 10:7
Late Mr. Andrew Samuel
17.02.1929 - 01.03.2020
Inserted by: Rupa Josephine Samuel, Daughter-in-law, Aashirvadam Jacob Samuel, Grand Son

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
K.M. RAZIYUDDIN, IRS
1-3-1971 - 25-1-2011
S/o K.M. Arifuddin
Madina Education Centre
Ch. Balakrishna Rao, Komireddy Ramulu, Dr. Chiranjeevi, P.J. Suri.
Cell: 9849431998

TRACTOR DRIVER SUFFERS EPILEPSY ATTACK, VEHICLE HITS MOTORCYCLIST, DAMAGES 7 VEHICLES

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

The driver of a tractor allegedly suffered an epilepsy attack and fell off

the vehicle, which ran over his legs. The tractor later hit a motorcyclist and several other vehicles at Ganeshnagar Colony in Chaitanyapuri, Vanasth-

alipuram, before it came to a halt.

A police officer said the driver Lingaiah, 35, had a sudden epilepsy attack and fell off the tractor. As he fell

down, the vehicle ran over his legs. The incident took place at 3.40 pm.

A motorcycle rider was knocked down and injured. Locals rushed the tractor

driver and the motorcyclist to a hospital for treatment.

The tractor hit seven vehicles, three cars and four motorcycles, before coming to a halt.

DALIT ASSISTANT PROF AT MANUU SUES FORMER VC

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD FEB. 29

A Dalit assistant professor who lodged a complaint against four officials of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu) alleged that he was suspended on false allegations and socially boycotted.

Dr Bonthu Kotaiah has filed a case under the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against former VC Dr Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz, incharge

registrar Prof. S.M. Rahmatullah, former registrar Dr M.A. Sikandar and deputy registrar Hasim Ali Sajid. Raidurgam police has booked a case.

Dr Kotaiah said, "Cases of targeting educated and vocal Dalits has become normal in universities. He demanded justice and sought solidarity from people organizations.

He said he was ready to proceed legally unless his grievances were resolved by the university.

In Memoriam
To whom you give your flag you give the power to carry
Endow us with your inspiration, idealism and blessings to carry the mission you rendered.
Prakriti Nath Bhattacharya
Born - 1/8/1918 Death - 1/3/1988
Management and Staff
SHALIMAR CHEMICAL WORKS Pvt. Ltd., 92 E, Alipore Road, Kolkata-700 027

1st ANNIVERSARY IN LOVING MEMORY OF
S. BACHAN SINGH BAJWA
DOB: 1-11-1970 DOD: 1-03-2019
You will always live in our hearts
Inserted by: S. Amrit Kaur (Mother), Jasbir Singh Bajwa (Brother)

5th ANNIVERSARY
S. SHYAM
D.O.E.: 24-02-2015
"A great soul never dies" not a single day passes by without remembering you. Your blessings will always be with us.
Inserted by: S. Anuradha (Wife), S. Sanjay (Son), S. Nishitha (Daughter)
(M): 9985850954 / 8179663968

OM SHANTI
SH. MEGHRAJ AGARWAL
S/o Late SH. Anant Ram Agarwal
Left for heavenly abode on 29.02.2020.
Funeral at 11.00 a.m. at Swarg Vatika, Tirumelghery.
In Grief: Premvati Agarwal (Wife), Satish & Seema (Son & Daughter-in-law), Sakshi & Anoop Gupta (Grand Daughter & Son-in-law), Keshav Agarwal (Grand Son)
Firm: Golden Steel Corporation 9550041100
(S/1920/D01944)

5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY THE MEMORY OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS BLESSED
K.P.SOWBHAGYAM
DOB: 03.10.1947 DOD: 01.03.2015
DEEPLY MISSED, FONDLY REMEMBERED AND FOREVER CHERISHED BY LOVING HUSBAND DR.K.R.PADMA RAO, SONS, DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW & GRANDCHILDREN
Ph: 9030747770, 9849942800
(S/1920/D01936)

OBITUARY
Smt UMA DEVI MATHUR
W/o Uday Raj Mathur
Expired on 29th Feb.
Funeral on 1st March 2020 from Residence at Plot no 100, Sila Homes, New Gayatri Nagar, Jillelaguda, Hyderabad to Purampul Starts at 11.30 A.M.
Ph: 9963333414, 8185868602
(CA-3272)

13th DAY CEREMONY
KARUNAVATHI
(05-10-1948 - 21-02-2020)
Retd. Hindi Teacher
St. Ann's High School - Bolaram
13th Day Ceremony @ residence at 1.31 pm.
A beloved mother, an inspiring teacher and a beautiful human being.
Inserted by: Pranay & Neetu Vinay & Chanchal Priyanka & Harikiran & Grand Children
(S/1920/D01924)

1st ANNIVERSARY IN LOVING MEMORY OF
S. BACHAN SINGH BAJWA
DOB: 1-11-1970 DOD: 1-03-2019
You will always live in our hearts
Inserted by: Manmeeth Kaur (Wife), Raveen Kaur (Daughter), Harish Singh Bajwa, Harjas Singh Bajwa (Sons)
(S/1920/D01929)

10th DAY CEREMONY ON 2nd MARCH 2020
Late Smt. Y. BHARATHI
W/o Y.V. Narsing Rao
DOB: 30.8.1947 DOD: 22.2.2020
You remain in our hearts forever.
10th Day Ceremony on 2nd March 2020 at Plot No. 27, Vivekananda Colony, Chintal Bazar, Bollaram, Sec'bad.
Inserted by: Husband: Y.V. Narsing Rao Son, Daughter, Daughter-in-law & Grand Children.
Ph: 040-27865480 / 9246364108

13TH DAY CEREMONY
ARCOT KRISHNA RAO SRINIVAS
D.O.B-10-11-1957 D.O.D-25-02-2020
Nadapu - March 7 Saturday@6 pm
Karmadaram - March 8th Sunday@12pm. At his residence
sreenivasa classic jawaharnagar moulai hyderabad-7396042614.
With all respect from Wife- AS Vijayalakshmi (Pavel Nameetha, Rajagopal Babitha & Grand children.)

"The memory of the just is blessed" Pro 10:7
Late Mr. Andrew Samuel
17.02.1929 - 01.03.2020
Inserted by: Nancy Priscilla & P.P.Aibert Daughter, Son-in-law

12th Day Ceremony
Celebrating a Life
R. MANOHARAMMA
Sunday, 1st March, 2020, 1.00 noon
JRC Convention Centre
RAVI RAM REDDY (HUSBAND)
RAVI NARSIMHA REDDY AND NEELIMA PAVANI GROUP

"The memory of the just is blessed" Pro 10:7
Late Mr. Andrew Samuel
17.02.1929 - 01.03.2020
Inserted by: Sujeet, Blessica & Aashir Grand Children

3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY
PRIYANKA DODLA REID
3 years have passed but still your memories and countless smiles remain fresh in our hearts miss you beyond words
Inserted by: Husband & Daughter

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR FATHER
Mr. GANGAM VIDYA SAGAR
Please join us for the 10th Day Ceremony on Monday 2nd March.
Between 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Prayer Meet at Hotel The Plaza, Pranitha Hall, Third Floor, Greenlands, Begumpet Near Pragathi Bhavan. Followed by Lunch.
Inserted by: Ashwin K. Gangam
(S/1920/D01941)

"The memory of the just is blessed" Pro 10:7
Late Mr. Andrew Samuel
17.02.1929 - 01.03.2020
Inserted by: Anne Nimula Samuel, Wife Eric D Samuel & Manjula, Son & Daughter-in-law

2nd ANNIVERSARY
The memory of the righteous is blessed. Prov. 10:7
Mrs. AMELIA ANDREWS KHADER
W/o Late Mr. M.A. Khader
DOD:01-03-2018
We Miss You Mom
Inserted by: Family Members

"The memory of the just is blessed" Pro 10:7
Late Mr. Andrew Samuel
17.02.1929 - 01.03.2020
Inserted by: Rupa Josephine Samuel, Daughter-in-law, Aashirvadam Jacob Samuel, Grand Son

5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.
Psalms 116:15
K.P. SOWBHAGYAM
DOB: 03.10.1947 DOD: 01.03.2015
You are MISSED EACH and every day for you were someone special who meant more than words can say.
Inserted by: Husband Dr.K.R.Padma Rao, Sons, Daughters-in-law & Grandchildren
Ph: 9030747770, 9849942800
(S/1920/D01935)

2nd ANNIVERSARY
"I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" Ps 23:6
Smt. S. JAYLAKSHMI PREM KUMAR
W/o Sri S.J. Prem Kumar (HCL)
DOB: 07-10-1955
Slept in the Lord: 01-03-2018
Sorrowing Husband: S.J. Prem Kumar & Family
(CA-3273)

"The memory of the just is blessed" Pro 10:7
Late Mr. Andrew Samuel
17.02.1929 - 01.03.2020
Inserted by: Gladys Nora & B. Sampat Kumar Daughter, Son-in-law

3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY
PRIYANKA DODLA
Her smiling ways and pleasant face are a pleasure to recall she had a kindly word for each and died beloved of all. Someday we hope to meet her hand in the better land, never to part again
Inserted by:- Dodla Family

"The Righteous will be in the ever lasting remembrance (Isaiah 112:6)
Late Smt. B.L. Adamma
w/o Late Rev. B.L. Lazarus
Died on: 1st March 1986
Your memories will always remain with us till our last breath
Inserted by: Ever Loving Daughters, Son, Sons-in-law, Grand & Great-grand children

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Mr. Deepak Lal D. Raichandani and Mr. Sunil Kumar D. Raichandani are intending to purchase All that Flat No.305 and 405 on THIRD AND FOURTH FLOOR, BLOCK 'B' OF THE 'SRI LAKSHMI' admeasuring 4306 sq. feet each (super built up area), along with 4 car parking's as per chit draw system after completion of total project along with 150 sq. yards UDS of land out of total land, admeasuring 10336.72 sq. yards in the building known as "LAKE TOWERS" in Sy. Nos.31 to 36 and 37 to 41, situated at Madhapur Village, Serilingampally Revenue Mandal, Rangareddy District, Telangana State, belonging to one (1) SMT. SHILPA AGARWAL, W/o. NITIN KUMAR AGARWAL, and (2) SRI. NITIN KUMAR AGARWAL, S/o. VISWANTH AGARWAL, Both R/o H.No.5-9-122/A/31, Flat No.31, Maheshwari Residency Adarsh Nagar, Hyderabad (Joint Owners of Flat No.305) and (3) SMT. DURGA AGARWAL, W/o. KUNAL GUPTA and (4) SRI. KUNAL GUPTA, S/o. RAJESH GUPTA, Both R/o H.No. 1-2-303/101, Flat No.303, SMR Grand Legend Apartment, Gagan Mahal Road, Domalguda, Hyderabad (Joint Owners of Flat.No.405), who intend purchased the same from M. Subodh Kumar and others, Rep. by their DAGPA Holders Mrs. MARUTI RICH VENTURES PVT LTD. If any persons have any kind of right, title claim or interest therein may inform the undersigned of their right, title claim or interest therein with all the documentary evidence in support thereof within SEVEN DAYS of the publication of this notice. If no objections are received by the said date, My clients will proceed with the execution and registration of Sale Deed and any objections received thereafter will not be entertained.
Sd/- (R.K. SUDHIR KUMAR) Advocate
42, West Marredpally Secunderabad-500026
Ph: 040-27800671
Mob: 9246370671

19-YEAR-OLD ARRESTED FOR RAPING MINOR
DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD FEB. 29
A 19-year-old student who raped a mentally challenged 14-year-old girl was arrested by the Chandrayangutta police on Saturday. According to the police, the victim is in Class 5. The accused, N. Vinay Kumar, an Industrial Training Institute student, stays near the victim's house. After raping her, Kumar threatened her with consequences if she revealed the assault. Despite the threat, she narrated her ordeal to her mother, who approached the Chandrayangutta police and lodged a complaint. The police booked a POCOSA case and arrested Vinay Kumar.

4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
Smt. P. GODAVARI BAI
(W/o Late P. Rama Swamy)
Your memories will always remain in our hearts.
Inserted by: Family Members
(E/1920/D00210)

13th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
Smt. PITTU MALLAMMA YADAV
Expired on - 03-2007
Though you left us in 2007, You are always in our thoughts and hearts we seek your blessings everyday. may your soul rest in peace.
Inserted By: Dr. P.Ramanjaneyulu, Bindu & Sons

9th Anniversary
Kukkala Durga Rao
Your Memories Live On Forever In Our Hearts
We Miss You Dad
Wife - Kukkala Vijaya Daughter - Anusha Sons - Ranjit and Rakesh
Son-in-law, Daughter in law & Grand Children

12th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
"I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" Psa. 23: 6
In Loving Memory of our beloved
Late Shri. POTHULA DEVA SAMUEL
M.A., M.Ed (Retd. Head Master)
You are always in our prayers
Inserted by: Family Members

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IN BRIEF

Women achievers get awarded

Hyderabad: A week ahead of International Women's Day, the Indian Direct Selling Association (IDSA) and Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP) celebrated 15 women from different walks of life at the Women for Golden Telangana Awards on Friday. Education minister Sabitha Indra Reddy presented the awards to the women achievers.

STATE FMs TO DISCUSS FUND PROPOSALS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

Fifteenth Finance Commission Chairman N.K. Singh has convened a meeting of all state Finance Ministers in New Delhi on March 13. They will discuss priorities of specific grant proposals of state governments.

Mr Singh will also discuss on how the state FRBMs (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) and Budget Management) can be aligned with the Central FRBM legislation. The meeting assumes significance as it to be held a day the GST Council meeting, which he mentioned in his letter that the tentative date has been proposed by the GST Council Secretariat.

Accordingly, the Commission's consultation meeting will discuss issues related to the 15th Finance Commission report. He asked the and about hindrances with regard to fiscal federalism. He said that the commission is working on completing the task of recommending fiscal transfers for the extended award period.

TRS bags lead roles in coop banks, societies

Relatives of party leaders continue dynasty politics

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

The TRS has bagged all the posts of chairperson and vice chairperson in the nine District Cooperative Central Banks (DCCBs) and nine District Cooperative Marketing Societies (DCMSs) in the elections held on Saturday.

Some TRS leaders continued dynasty politics by securing posts for their family members. Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivasa Reddy's son Pocharam Bhaskar Reddy became chairman of the Nizamabad DCCB. TRS MLA Gongadi Sunitha's husband Gongadi Mahender Reddy was elected Nalgonda DCCB chairman.

The TRS victory was a foregone conclusion after it had trounced other parties in elections to the primary cooperative agriculture societies.

The other chairmen elected were K. Ravinder Rao (Karimnagar), Namdev Kamble (Adilabad), B. Manohar Reddy (Ran-

Budget session from March 6

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

The state government has decided to hold the Budget session from March 6. Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Saturday summoned the session of the Assembly and the Legislative Council from March 6.

The session will commence with the Governor addressing a joint session of the Assembly and Legislative Council at 11 am on the day. The next day, the motion will be moved in both Houses for thanking the Governor for the address.

Sources revealed that the Budget session will continue till March 20 and the Budget will be introduced on March 9. The House is likely to sit on Sunday too.

Finance department officials are estimating the total outlay of the Budget to be below ₹1.5 lakh crore. Though the state government thought of introducing a bigger Budget — it had presented a ₹1.4 lakh crore budget for 2019-20 — it dropped the plan due to the economic slowdown, sources said.

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The government indicated its mind on concentrating on Hyderabad by issuing an order on Friday to accord sanction for constructing 38 foot overbridges. Officials are expecting the release of more funds to the city.

The Opposition Congress and BJP are targeting the ruling party with regard to non-completion of double bedroom houses in the GHMC limits.

The TRS leadership had promised during the previous GHMC elections that it would not seek votes if it failed to complete and hand over the 2BHK houses.

Sources in the TRS disclosed that to counter the Opposition's criticism, the party had decided to allocate more funds to complete the construction of house before the end of October, thereby removing the main plank of the Opposition attack.

Sources said that in view of reports that the Aam Aadmi Party is planning to enter Telangana state through the GHMC elections and promising Delhi-model free sops, the TRS is also aiming at announcing several schemes for the city's denizens.

Poll effect: Budget to be city-centric

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

Keeping in view the elections for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporations scheduled in December 2020, the TRS is said to have decided to make the state's annual Budget city-centric.

In recent review meetings with officials and also during the Cabinet meeting Chief Minister K. Chandrasekar Rao indicated that more funds were required to the develop Hyderabad as a world class city

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CONG'S CAMPAIGN FOR GHMC WILL FOCUS ON 2BHKS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

The state Congress has decided to target the TRS in the upcoming elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation on the state government's alleged failure to complete construction of double bedroom houses, the condition of roads and on rising unemployment.

Congress MP A. Revanth Reddy has already taken out a padayatra in the basis of his Malkajgiri constituency. Other leaders to undertake similar programmes in various parts of the city to highlight the failures of the ruling party.

Meanwhile, Congress senior leaders on Saturday demanded that the TRS government introduce the New Revenue Act in the Budget session of the Assembly which commences on March 6.

Congress senior leaders including Mr M. Kodanda Reddy of the Kisan Cell, MLC T. Jeevan Reddy and legislator T. Jayaprakash 'Jagga' Reddy said that the Congress would cooperate with the state government for the new Revenue Act.

Mr Jeevan Reddy said there was no clarity from the state government on farm loan waiver.

State stuck with only nine DCCBs

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, FEB. 29

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) guidelines have become hurdles for the TRS government to set up district cooperative central banks (DCCBs) in the new districts.

After reorganising the number of districts from 10 to 33, the government

had established Zilla Parishads for every district. The state government also wanted to set up DCCBs in every district and asked the officials to work out a road map.

However, with the bifurcation of the erstwhile districts into 33, the new districts have become very small. Each of the old districts was divided into three to four districts.

On the direction of

Telangana State Cooperative Central Bank began the exercise of setting up DCCBs in every district but ran into a wall. The officials told the government that it was not possible because of the norms of the RBI and Nabard. They said the turnover of the DCCB in the small districts will be very less. This will not be viable as per RBI and Nabard guidelines.

They suggested that the present nine DCCBs be continued with.

For political advantage, the state government had thought of setting up separate DCCBs for the new districts. It would help to accommodate some more party leaders as DCCB chairpersons and vice chairpersons. After the report of the officials, the government has decided to continue with the existing nine district cooperative banks.

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IN BRIEF

TD urges Govt to save democracy

Vijayawada: A day after approaching the High Court against the arrest of former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at Visakhapatnam airport to prevent him from taking part in Praja Chaitanya Yatra, leaders of the Telugu Desam submitted a memorandum to Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan here on Saturday. They accused the YSR Congress of misusing power. They sought the intervention of Mr Harichandan to protect democracy in the state.

Fuel prices rise again

AP increases the tax levied on petrol, diesel for second time

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, FEB. 29

Within a span of one month, the AP government has again increased the tax levied by the state on petrol and diesel, making these fuels costlier. The new rates will come into effect from Sunday. Petrol in Visakhapatnam will go up by 52 paise and diesel 57 paise. They will be costlier in Vijayawada by 51 paise and 54 paise respectively. This is the second hike in the price of

● **STATE GOVERNMENT** has also reverted to the previous system of levying tax in vogue till January 29

fuel within a month. The state government has also reverted to the previous system of levying tax in vogue till January 29. Earlier, it used to charge 31 per cent tax on petrol and collect an additional ₹2 per litre for petrol. On diesel, it levied 22.25 per cent tax

and additional ₹2 per litre on the diesel sold. The state government, however, changed the structure last month, wherein the additional amount was adjusted into the tax percentage. Accordingly, 35.2 per cent tax was being charged on petrol and 27 per cent on diesel. The move, to some extent, helped consumers as prices used to come down when the crude oil price fell in the international market. However, taxmen from

the government have found variations in revenues due to fluctuations in price per barrel of fuel. "We have decided to revert to the old system where a fixed amount will be charged in addition to the tax percentage," a senior state GST official said. As per the revised structure, 31 per cent of tax and additional ₹2.76 per litre will be charged on petrol. ₹3.07 per litre will be charged over and above 22.25 per cent tax on diesel.

₹3,309.89 cr budget outlay approved by TTD Board

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, FEB. 29

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Trust Board, which manages affairs of the famed Lord Venkateswara temple, has approved its annual budget for the financial year of 2020-2021 with an estimated outlay of ₹3,309.89 crore. The Board, headed by Chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy, met at Tirumala on Saturday to approve its budget estimates.

According to the Chairman, the major revenue receipts in 2020-21 include ₹1,351 crore through hundi offerings and other capital receipts, followed by interest on investments — ₹706.01 crore, sale of special entry darshan (₹300) and break darshan tickets — ₹245 crore and prasadam sales to the tune of ₹400 crore. Interestingly, the Board is expecting to garner a revenue of ₹100 crore through monetisation funds

from unviable properties and vacant cottages under cottage donations scheme. Major earning include a revenue of ₹110 crore (accommodation and Kalayana mandapam), ₹106.75 crore (by human hair sale), ₹60 crore (trusts), ₹57 crore (arjitha seva), loans and advances to employees, EMD, Security and Deposits ₹67.03 crore, rent, electrical and water charges — ₹52.50 crore, sale of publications — ₹21 crore and other receipts — ₹33.60 crore.

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