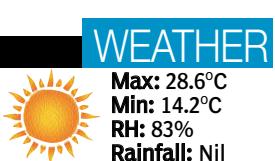


# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 27 DECEMBER 2020



## WEATHER

Max: 28.6°C  
Min: 14.2°C  
RH: 83%  
Rainfall: Nil

**Forecast:** Fog or mist early in the morning.  
Max/Min temp. 28/14 °C

## COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+18,549)	(+280)
1,01,88,353	1,47,659
<a href="https://covid19india.org">covid19india.org</a>	
<b>STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS</b>	
(+317)	(+2)
TS: 2,84,391	1,529
(+282)	(+1)
AP: 8,80,712	7,092

## CASES AROUND THE WORLD

CASES	DEATHS
8,04,36,796	
17,61,278	

COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES **218** [worldometers.info/coronavirus/](https://worldometers.info/coronavirus/)

## ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Margasira Shuddha Trayodasi till 6.19 am (Monday)  
Star: Krittika till 1.16 pm  
Variyam: Nil  
Durmuhurat: 4.18 pm to 5.02 pm  
RahuKalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm  
**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
Jamadi-ul-Awwal 11, 1442 AH  
**PRAYERS**  
Fajr: 5.39 am  
Zohar: 12.27 pm  
Asar: 4.14 pm  
Maghrrib: 5.56 pm  
Isha: 7.09 pm  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.44 AM**  
**SUNSET TODAY 5.49 PM**  
**MOONSET 3.16 AM**  
**MOONRISE 2.59 PM**

## COUNTER POINT



No need to panic,  
It's safe!

## SHORT TAKES

**BJP to push for 1 nation, 1 election**

New Delhi: The BJP will hold nearly 25 webinars over the next few days on "one nation, one election", as it seeks to build support for what has been a strong plank of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Sources said senior leaders will attend 'webinars' that are to be held online.

**Report on Page 10**



## NATION | 9

**Ajit sees return of NCP leaders to BJP**

[deccanchronicle.com](http://deccanchronicle.com), [facebook.com/deccannews](https://facebook.com/deccannews), [twitter.com/deccanchronicle](https://twitter.com/deccanchronicle)



## SPORTS | 13

**Bumrah, Ashwin bowl Australia out for 195**

## TABLOID

**'Secret sauce' of success**



Vol. 83 No. 358 Established 1938 | 24 PAGES | ₹7.00

## PM: Cong. need not lecture BJP

New Delhi, Dec. 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Saturday that free and transparent DDC polls in Jammu and Kashmir coupled with voters' keen participation are a "moment of pride" for India, while hitting back at his rivals for giving him "lessons in democracy".

In a swipe at Rahul Gandhi, who alleged recently that there is no democracy in India, Modi said while his government has completed three-tier panchayat polls in Jammu and Kashmir in over a year of the region becoming a Union Territory, the Congress dispensation in Puducherry has not carried out local body elections despite a Supreme Court order.

Launching the Ayushman Bharat scheme via a video-conference to extend health insurance



benefits to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir, he said the three-tier panchayat system has fully taken shape here, describing it as a realisation of Mahatma Gandhi's dream of 'gram swaraj' (village self-rule).

"Some people in Delhi curse Modi day in and day out and hurl abuses. They regularly offer me lessons in democracy. I want to show them the mirror today," he said, blasting the Congress for not undertaking local polls in Puducherry. "The party of those teaching me democracy is in power in Puducherry," the prime minister said. — PTI

## FARMERS SEND DRAFT FOR TALKS ON DECEMBER 29

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 26

As the protests demanding the repeal of the three farm laws entered the 31st day, the protesting farmer unions on Saturday decided to resume talks with the government.

They have proposed December 29 as the date for the next round of negotiations and sent the draft of the issues to be discussed. These include repeal of farm laws, making the MSP a legal guarantee and changes in the draft Electricity Amendment Bill to safeguard the interests of farmers. There is also a demand to exclude farmer from the amendments in Commission for the Air Quality Management in Delhi Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2020.

■ Report on Page 9

## Will stop infiltrators: Shah

Home minister sounds Assam poll bugle, blasts Cong. inertia

MANOJ ANAND | DC  
GUWAHATI, DEC. 26

Union home minister Amit Shah sounded the poll bugle in Assam on Saturday by saying that the state's two biggest problems — infiltration and floods — could be resolved only by the BJP government.

Asserting that only the BJP government can stop infiltration, which affects our culture and snatches away opportunities from youth, Shah, who is on a three-day visit to Assam and Manipur to oversee poll strategies of BJP in the 2021 elections, accused the Congress of doing nothing to protect the rich culture of the state.

"Congress didn't do anything for the birthplace of Acharya Sankaradev whose contributions gave recognition to Assam's history, drama writing, arts and



Union home minister Amit Shah being felicitated by Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday. — PTI

poetry. But BJP believes in strengthening of language, culture, arts of the states," he said.

Shah further said, "BJP believes that India cannot achieve greatness until the culture and language of states are strengthened. India's culture and arts are incomplete without Assamese culture and arts."

In an obvious reference to the Congress government, Shah said that there was a period of movements in Assam when many agitations were launched over different issues in which hundreds of youths were killed.

The peace of Assam was disturbed and the develop-

ment was halted, he added.

Asserting that the state's two biggest problems are infiltration and floods, Mr Shah said that neither Congress nor any other party cannot stop infiltration. "Infiltration affects our culture, arts and snatches away opportunities from our youth," he said while addressing a public rally at Amingaon.

He said, "All separatist groups have slowly left violence and joined the mainstream. Bodo youth who used to carry guns are now joining the mainstream. Recently conducted polls saw 80 per cent voting without violence. This pair of BJP leaders — Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and minister Himanta Biswa Sharma has crossed several hurdles in the story of Assam's progress. People of Assam will give the mandate to BJP in 2021."

## Congress seniors muddle PCC race

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

With the leadership being indecisive, Congress leaders who can't win their own seats are trying to pull down those who may possibly lead the floundering party in the state against a resurgent BJP and strong TRS.

There is talk in party circles that some TPCC chief hopefuls are using senior leaders as their mouthpiece to bash their rivals in the murky race. Instead of uniting, the cracks in the party are becoming wider by the day.

Congress MPs Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, A. Revanth Reddy, CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Manthani MLA D. Sridhar Babu are in the race to replace N. Uttam Kumar Reddy. Manickam Tagore, the Telangana state

incharge, recently spoke to senior leaders and submitted his report to the high command. Venkat Reddy and Sangareddy MLA T. Jayaprakash Reddy alias Jagga Reddy staked claim during the talks. The other leaders, including Revanth Reddy and Mallu Bhatti, did not spell out their stand.

After Tagore submitted his report to the high command, there was speculation that Revanth Reddy, the Malkajgiri MP and TPCC working president, was the frontrunner. Some senior leaders including Venkat Reddy rushed to Delhi and lobbied for the chair. Revanth Reddy duly followed them. With the high command dithering, Jagga Reddy and former MP V. Hanumanth Rao rolled out their games in media.

■ Page 5: VHR bats for BC leader to head Cong

## 10-yr jail, ₹1 L fine in MP's love jihad Bill

RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY | DC  
Bhopal, DEC. 26

The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet on Saturday cleared the Dharma Swatantra (Religious Freedom) Bill, 2020, known in political parlance as 'Love Jihad' bill.

The draft bill, which may sail through in the

Assembly during its three-day winter session starting on December 28, provides a maximum of 10 years imprisonment and ₹1 lakh fine to the perpetrators of forced religious conversion of a girl for marriage. The bill has the provision to declare such a marriage null and void.

■ Report on Page 9

## Oxford's Covidshield to get clearance first

New Delhi, Dec. 26: With preparations underway for a possible vaccine-rollout by January, the Indian drug regulator is looking at the UK, which sources believe may give its nod to the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine next week, before deciding on giving emergency use authorisation to the Serum Institute that is manufacturing the shots here.

Once the UK drug regulator gives its approval to the Oxford vaccine, the expert committee on Covid-19 at the CDSCO will hold its meeting and thoroughly review the safety and immunogenicity data from the clinical eval-

uations conducted abroad and in India before granting any emergency authorisation for the vaccine here, official sources said.

The process of granting emergency use approval for Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine 'Covaxin' may take time as its phase 3 trials are still underway, while Pfizer is yet to make a presentation. "Going by this, Oxford vaccine 'Covishield' is likely to be the first to be rolled out in India," a source said.

Serum Institute of India (SII) last week also had submitted some additional data required by the Drug Controller General of India

(DCGI), the sources said. Amid fears about the mutated variant of SARS-CoV-2 detected in the UK, government officials recently said that it will have no impact on the potential of emerging vaccines that are being developed in India and other countries.

Bharat Biotech, Serum Institute of India (SII) and Pfizer had applied to the DCGI seeking emergency use authorisation for their Covid vaccines early in December. The Pfizer vaccine has already been approved by several countries including the UK, the US, and Bahrain. — PTI

*A change of Air*

Disappear into a water world of quaint villages, mangroves and paddy fields. Wander through narrow palm-fringed canals. Float on a houseboat and watch life in slow motion. It's time to step out and get away from the new normal. It's time to step out into Kerala.

**kerala**  
God's Own Country  
[keralatourism.org](http://keralatourism.org)

# CLASSIFIEDS

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 27 DECEMBER 2020

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### MATRIMONIAL

Page 8

### GENERAL

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### FOR SALE AUTOMOTIVE

### FOUR WHEELERS

NRI FREQUENTLY used Beat LS Diesel, White, 2014 Model, Single owner, showroom track record, genuine 66000 done, Brand new tyres, leather seats, sony music system with 4 channel amplifier with JBL woofer. Contact 9160160253. (B/2021/C00079)

DATSUN REDI-GO 2018, 11000 kms driven, Price 2.9 Lacs. Ph:9989633011. Dealers excuse. (B/2021/C00733)

HONDA CITY 2016 VX, Diesel, sunroof red pearl color, fancy number, full insurances, 75000 klm drive, neatly maintained. Ph:9849474003. (HYCL/2021/C01941)

TOYOTA COROLLA Altis 2015 D-40 J (F) Super White Colour Diesel 75180 KMS Run Single Owner Excellent Condition Price 79500 Only Genuine Customer Brokers Excuse Contact 9885910270 (HYMM/2021/C05165)

SWIFT DZIRE 2017 model Ldi, White Colour, 60,000kms, showroom maintained, single owner, new battery & tyres. Contact: 9014604310. (HYMM/2021/C05216)

HYUNDAI GRAND I10, 1.2 Sports, Kappa, 2011 Model, Sleek Silver Colour, Hyderabad showroom, Lady driven 53400 kms run only, Brand New Tires, Fully Functional, Central Locking, Company Music System. Call 9701539785. (B/2021/C00080)

FOR SALE... Innova 2008 model...done 2.65 lakhs kms...single owner. Excellent condition, full insurance. Contact 9100381790 (R/2021/C00012)

AUTOMATIC VENTO 2015 Highline Plus Diesel Single Owner 64,000 kms Driven white Colour Excellent Condition Showroom Maintained Price 6,95,000 Final. Contact: 9681133373. (S/2021/C01712)

CROSS 2018 Zeta Diesel Grey Colour, Insurance, 2nd Key Available, All Generic Vehicle Showroom Maintained and Serviced, 86000 kms driven, Price 8,95,000 Negotiable Slightly. Contact: 8975050600. (S/2021/C01713)

### FOR SALE PROPERTY

### AGRICULTURE

KARIMNAGAR, CHERLABUTKUR Agricultural land for sale 1.2,3, Guntas, per Gunta 2 Lakhs only. Cleared title. New Pass Book. Ph:8331962689/ 8919649635. (S/2021/C01699)

MOKILA HIGHWAY Facing 6 Acres-16 Guntas and 5 Acres- 27 Guntas at Pilliguntla Agricultural Land for Sale. Contact: Owner 9908528860. (A/2021/C00424)

FARM HOUSE with 140 mango, 40 guava, 110 coconut and other fruit trees on 1 acre - 30 guntas land(agriculture), 225 feet road facing on NH44 on Tupram bypass, 50km from Paradise frl. Full Compound wall, own transformer, 2 bore well. Clear title. Brokers excuse. 7799 120977 / 77659 51347 (W/2021/A00773)

✓ 20 ACRES clear title Agriculture land, Red & Black soil, 12km before Zaherabad, National Highway. Contact: 9848820923, 9866256991 (S/2021/C01719)

### COMMERCIAL

AGAPURA MAINROAD G+5 commercial building with showroom duplex flat parking modern interiors, lift for sale. Contact: 9849000536. (HYMM/2021/C05254)

AT AMEEPET Sri Nilam Apartment Near K.S.R's Shop with Miscellaneous Floor On 540ft Suitable for Doctor/Consultancy/ Pharmacy Etc. Ph:8348240886/ 9395316005. (HYCL/2021/C02087)

6 FLOORS Plus 2 Cellars parking, each floor 10,000 Sqft Commercial Complex, under construction on Main Road, Arangam Cross opp P.V.N.R Express Way for Sale. Ph:9000087652. (B/2021/C00078)

FOR SALE Rent Two Shops 2500 sqft each in ground floor inside newly built complex Trident Arafat Arcade, Road No.10, Banjarahills, opposite Star Hospital. Suitable for Designer Boutiques, jeweler Show Room, Banks, Fashion Store, Saloon, Restaurant etc. Contact Aditya Kumar 916022230. (S/2021/C01724)

BANJARAHILLS ROAD No. 1, 615 yards, MasabTank 3,000 JubileeHills Road No.92 300 yards, road No.45 1,000, Road No.36 120ft & 8200 stft, Road No.10 1400, Madhupur 720 yards Building 1400ft. Total real Income property 55Cr to 50Cr 9866914494, 9394024495. (W/2021/A007073)

✓ SALE HYDERABAD near Cherlapally Railway station 2km from Infosys. 5-storeyed 36,000sqft building 1200 sqfts Modern construction 2 lifts, interiors plug play for Software, BPO, Educational, Pharma, R&D, Electronics. Contact: 951942180 or 8978074107. (HYMM/2021/C04984)

DILSHUKHNAGAR ANJHAI ChaitanyaNagar, Beside Manepally Jewellers lane, G+3 Commercial Building 1st & 2nd Floors for sale. North, West corner, 153sf per Floor, Total 3072sf builtup area, 7200ft-Rental Income 1.8Cr. Contact: 8309538813. (HYCL/2021/C02138)

GACHIBOWLI ANJHAI Nagar Hostel, Beside Manepally Jewellers lane, G+3 Commercial Building 1st & 2nd Floors for sale. North, West corner, 153sf per Floor, Total 3072sf builtup area, 7200ft-Rental Income 1.8Cr. Contact: 9246374857 (S/2021/C01663)

FOR SALE 27000sqft Newly built Commercial Complex @ Habsiguda Main Road, Opp Indian oil petrol pump. Near Habsiguda Metro Railway station Ph:940964355, 9848484875. (HYMM/2021/C05253)

✓ INDEPENDENT COMMERCIAL Main Road, Gachibowli, Opp. CentralMall, Beautiful glass & Marble Elevation, total 12000sf bsp area, G+3 & 2bhk penthouse office, 2ndside Roads & 2Roads Entrance, 2ndside Lifts. Each floor 2500sf, 2bhk, 10ft height for Software Companies, Furniture, furnishing, Jewellery showroom/ mall concept, hospitals, clinics, Hotel, Clear title, for sale/ Lease. Lease Ph:9502032226 (HYMM/2021/C05180)

✓ JUBILEEHILLS 1250SYDS 50000sf, rent 28 Lakhs, 50cr, 500sf E/F 1400sf rent 8 lakhs 16cr, Madhapur 1120sfds 44000sf rent 25 lakhs 15cr, KPHB 265syds 12000sf rent 3.5 lakhs 7.5cr, 133syds G+4 rent 1.6 lakhs 3.5cr, Kondapur G.F. 4000sf 7000sf for sale. Ph:9573392966, 9966138387. (HYCL/2021/C01973)

JUBILEEHILLS ROAD No.36, G+2 multiutility 10000sf commercial building on a land of 530 sq.yds, located in between two metro stations, 2003 construction, lease/ sale, agents excuse. Ph:885553986. (HYCL/2021/C02061)

AT KHAIRTABAD, Opposite Road of Shadab College, behind Andhra Bank, 1st Floor & 2nd Floor, Each Floor Area- 2450 sf Net Building for Urgent Sale. Ph:9848126034, (S/2021/C00115)

COMMERCIAL BUILDING for sale in Madhupur near Image Hospital, North & East Road, 842 Sq.Yds, 24000 Stt approx, S+5 floors, ULC/OIC clear, 100% Vaastu, single tenant will vacate if we want. Direct owner Call 9949911002 (W/2021/A00859)

✓ PRIME COMMERCIAL property for Sale at Musheerabad Main Road, 1700Sqds with 40000Sft Building (Showroom). Contact: 9418454950; 8978910159 (HYMM/2021/C05208)

NALLAGUTTU COMMERCIAL plot of 63 yards with two shutters walkable distance from Ranigunj Main Road, immediate sale. Genuine buyers Ph:9550055862. (HYCL/2021/C02072)

✓ NEW COMMERCIAL Space 2000-5000Sft 3rd & 4th Floor, N/E Entrances, Good Vastu @ Ramkot (Mani Ratan Towers) For Sale. Ph:9844901077 (HYMM/2021/C04732)

FOR SALE/ Lease Ground floor Main Road, 3 shops with Mezzanine floor, at Swapnol Complex, S.D.Road, Secunderabad, Total Area 1215 Sft, suitable for Retail Showroom of Computers, Mobiles, Garments etc. Contact: Aditya: 916022230. (S/2021/C01723)

COMMERCIAL FLATS 7000 sf on 2nd and 3rd floor suitable for bank, college, office's near Madhani Bus-depo, Owasi Hospital, Apollo Hospital, At Phisabalan, Santoshnagar, opp DRDL Ph:9331018916. (HYCL/2021/C02096)

AFFORDABLE RETAIL shops & Office Space with parking @Secunderabad, 150sf to 700sf, Main Road Property. Starting from 19.99 lakhs +91- 7032710550. (HYMM/2021/C05012)

✓ COMMERCIAL FLATS 7000 sf on 2nd and 3rd floor suitable for bank, college, office's near Madhani Bus-depo, Owasi Hospital, Apollo Hospital, At Phisabalan, Santoshnagar, opp DRDL Ph:9331018916. (HYCL/2021/C02096)

KEYES HIGH School opposite, near Secunderabad Railway Station, main road facing, beautiful Metro view, two minutes walk from Metro Station. Newly Renovated, 1100 Sft. Contact: 9124121689, 8106408689 (S/2021/C01736)

✓ JUSCHITRA @JAINS Friends Square, G+5 Floors Commercial Property in Prime Location at Sushira Circle. Best Suitable for Office Spaces, handover in 6 Months. Unit size: 2,000 to 50,000 Sqft. Vaastu Perfect. Also. Ph:9705211000. 9705311000. (HYMM/2021/C05172)

VIJAYNAGAR COLONY Commercial Building 43sq.yards, 2side road 1200sf, built up area, rental property excellent location. Contact: 9959925567. (HYMM/2021/C05256)

FARM HOUSES-SITES

✓ SUCHITRA @JAINS Friends Square, G+5 Floors Commercial Property in Prime Location at Sushira Circle. Best Suitable for Office Spaces, handover in 6 Months. Unit size: 2,000 to 50,000 Sqft. Vaastu Perfect. Also. Ph:9705211000. 9705311000. (HYMM/2021/C05172)

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**SHORT TAKES****NEXT WEEK MAY NOT SEE MAJOR CHANGE IN TEMP.**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

No major change in the temperature will be noticed in the state for the next week, as per the weather forecast by the MET department.

Throughout the next week, minimum temperature will hover between 14° and 15° Celsius, whereas maximum temperature will be between 28° and 29° C. Fog or mist would occur early in the morning, it said.

The minimum temperature on December 27 and December 28 are likely to be below normal by 3° to 4°C isolated places over the state.

**4 WOMEN, BOY KILLED AFTER TRUCK HITS AUTO**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

Four women and a 15-year-old boy were killed and three others injured when a speeding truck hit a parked autorickshaw at Momimpet in Vikarabad district on Saturday morning. According to the locals, an RTC bus coming from the opposite direction narrowly escaped being hit by the truck.

Shen Bai, 55, Sandhya, 18, Sona Bai and Nithin, both aged 15, died on the spot while Renuka, 45, succumbed to her injuries while being shifted to a hospital in the BHEL area. A few other persons who were in the truck sustained injuries and were administered first aid.

The incident took place at Izra Chittampalli village of Momimpet block between 6.30 and 7 am, when the autorickshaw carrying five agriculture labourers to the cotton fields at Shankarpalli had stopped to pick up some more workers.

Momimpet sub-inspector A. Ravi Kumar said the truck going from Sangareddy towards Tandur was speeding and the driver may have not noticed the autorickshaw due to poor visibility. After hitting the autorickshaw, the lorry toppled and hit a house.

Education minister Sabitha Indra Reddy, Chevella MP Dr Ranjith Reddy, Vikarabad additional superintendent of police M.A. Rasheed and senior officials visited the spot while collector Pausumi Basu visited the injured at the hospital.

The police later removed the vehicles from the road using cranes. Traffic was interrupted for a while on Vikarabad road after the accident as hundreds of people from the nearby villages gathered at the spot.

**EDUCATION MINISTER**  
Sabitha Indra Reddy, Chevella MP Dr Ranjith Reddy, Vikarabad additional superintendent of police M.A. Rasheed and senior officials visited the spot.

**Chill in the air**

People seen jogging on a foggy winter morning on Saturday. The IMD said that the week will see the minimum temperature hovering between 14° and 15° Celsius. — R. PAVAN

**GHMC loses ₹300 cr in its Estates wing****Civic body needs new law to plug loopholes**MADDY DEEKSHITH I DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

The GHMC has lost over ₹300 crore in management of its estate properties. In addition scores of its Estate wing officials have been collecting rent amounts pertaining to leased properties but are not depositing them in the corporation's accounts. The amount thus lost is yet to be tabulated but would run into crores.

According to highly placed sources, an official working in the Secunderabad zone has been collecting rent of leased properties in Secunderabad zone since 2008 without depositing the same with the GHMC. This lone official has swindled GHMC of ₹6 crore. Surprisingly, civic body authorities discovered this irregularity only recently. When they questioned the official, he maintained that he could only pay ₹30 lakh as one-time settlement. He went on to beg for mercy, since he might be sacked from duty.

Irregularities in collecting rents or renewing leases are just a tip of the iceberg. Incidentally, the Estate wing's properties are located in prime areas, including Secunderabad, Panjagutta and Chikkadpally. There are lease holders who are paying mere ₹25 annual rent for properties for decades in

such locations.

Officials contacted by *Deccan Chronicle* claimed that GHMC is neither collecting lease rents nor calling for renewal of leases due to political pressure. A recent study revealed that GHMC had lost more than ₹300 crore over the last decade on account of non-renewal of leased properties.

A top official said the GHMC is now planning to geo-tag and map all leased properties. It has issued eviction orders to all individuals and organisations who have completed the 25-year lease period but have not renewed them. GHMC now proposes to call bids for leasing out properties for a period of one year. At the end of it, the tenant will have to renew the lease every year.

Information pertaining to leased properties will be put in the public domain to enhance transparency and accountability.

Further, shop owners are now being issued forms to list out details of their last renewal for being eligible to continue their lease of the civic body's property. All payments for renewal would have to be deposited only online, so that human element and resultant swindling of money is avoided, the official revealed.

However, such a thing can be done only after amending

the GHMC Act in January. Once the Act is amended, the corporation will list all its leased properties and renew rents as per the current market value, which would fetch ₹300 crore. With regard to properties leased for 25 years, GHMC will impose fines for arrears up to three years and only then renew the lease on properties.

Incidentally, the civic body has enhanced the rent of about 1,300 properties, whose lease period had been less than 25 years. This has increased the expected revenue from ₹30 crore to ₹100 crore. However, the corporation has another 1,000 properties for which the lease is for more than 25 years. If the GHMC Act is amended, there is potential to collect another ₹300 crore from these properties as rent.

A recent survey conducted by GHMC revealed that the corporation has 599 markets and 751 commercial complexes, which it has leased for a period of 25 years. In addition, the civic body has leased out another 1,519 markets and 121 commercial complexes for a period of more than 25 years.

Interestingly, though GHMC has identified 2,990 properties belonging to it after verifying its records, it is still clueless about data regarding renewal of all its leased properties.

**RAJINIKANTH'S CONDITION IS STABLE, SAYS HOSPITAL**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

Actor Rajinikanth is stable and his blood pressure status will be monitored before doctors take a decision on Sunday morning on whether or not to discharge him. Apollo Hospitals, where the actor has been admitted, said on Friday.

Rajinikanth was shooting for the film Annaathe in Ramoji Film City when he took ill and was admitted on Friday. He has tested negative for Coronavirus.

More tests being carried out on the Tamil superstar and reports are awaited. Doctors stated that Rajinikanth had slept well in the night and there were no changes noted in his blood pressure. Doctors were trying to evaluate the reasons for the fluctuating blood pressure.

For now, Rajinikanth's general health is a sign that the fluctuations could be due to anxiety, lack of sleep or other underlying condition in the body.

Doctors stated that based on the medical reports and his condition in the hospital during night a call will be taken whether to discharge Rajinikanth on Sunday.

**RAJINIKANTH WAS** shooting for the film Annaathe in Ramoji Film City when he took ill and was admitted on Friday.

**FASTag not mandatory for travelling on ORR**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

- ACCORDING TO HMDA officials, the ORR stretch is completely owned and maintained by Hyderabad Growth Corridor Limited (HGCL).

Limited (HGCL), a wing of HMDA, which does not come under the ambit of NHAI and hence it is not binding on them to follow NHAI directions on FASTag.

They said a majority of motorists using the ORR stretch are locals and short distance travellers and do not possess FASTag. They pay toll manually.

HMDA wants to continue manual collection without any hassles. However, those equipped with FASTag can use them at all toll plazas in dedicated lanes.

**State reports 317 new Covid-19 infections**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

and institutional isolation. The number of cases did not touch the three-figure mark.

On Friday, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area recorded 71 cases. With few cases recorded, the state health officials state that the guard can't be let down and it is very important to constantly follow the practice of masks, hand hygiene and social distancing.

The number of active Covid-19 cases stood at 6,618 of whom 4,535 were in home

**CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARREST WOMAN WITH 1.4 KG GOLD BARS WORTH OVER ₹67 LAKH AT AIRPORT**

Hyderabad, Dec. 26:

- THE PASSENGER** was intercepted during a routine check and was found to have concealed five gold bars and jewellery of 22 carats in her baggage.

The passenger was intercepted during a routine check and was found to have concealed five gold bars and jewellery of 22 carats in her baggage, an official release said.

The gold bars weighed 1,427.63 grams and were estimated to be worth ₹67.44 lakh, while the jewellery weighed 593.55 grams and was worth ₹28.2 lakh, it said. The smuggled goods were seized under the Customs Act and an investigation is underway, the release added. — PTI

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**Re-open OGH old building, Kishan urged**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

Old City residents under the aegis of the Muslim Association Joint Action Committee (MAJAC) have appealed to Union minister of state G. Kishan Reddy to re-open the in-patient block at the heritage building of Osmania General Hospital and bring the Metro Rail to the Old City.

Residents said that sanctioned projects were not being implemented in the Old City.

A six-kilometre track of Metro Rail from Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) to Falaknuma had been sanctioned but is not being constructed.

The MAJAC said that this section of Metro Rail will be most lucrative and most utilised of all routes but has not been taken up allegedly due to political pressure.

Nayemullah Shareef, president of MAJAC, said, "There is no answer on why the Metro Rail in the Old City is not being taken up. When the PM Narendra Modi came to inaugurate the Metro

the question was raised but there is no action till date. We appeal to Mr Kishan Reddy to look into these long-pending projects and complete them."

The residents are also angry as Osmania General Hospital is not able to function properly due to lack of beds.

With the heritage structure closed by the state government, many patients are being sent away.

Dr Javed Iqbal, member of MAJAC and alumni of Osmania Medical College, said, "Finance for the conservation of OGH was sanctioned many times but each time the works have not been taken up. In the last eight years, the heritage building has been allowed to deteriorate. This has not only affected the poor patients but also 500 medical graduates whose training is severely hit. These doctors have lost their learning time and that will affect their skills later."

Kishan Reddy took their representations and assured them that it will be taken up positively.

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## IN BRIEF

**Fire mishap at Begum Bazaar**

**Hyderabad:** A toy shop in Begum Bazaar was gutted after a fire broke out on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. Two fire tenders managed to bring the flames under control after battling for two hours.

**Gowliguda station fire officer** Mohammed Mustafa supervised the operations. He said that the fire broke out at about 2.30 am in Jai Mata Traders on the first floor of the building.

**MIM TO CONTEST BHOPAL CIVIC POLLS**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC 26

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has decided to contest the upcoming elections to the Bhopal Municipal Corporation which are likely to be held in February next year. The party has registered with the MP State Election Commission as the first step.

Sources disclosed that AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi had deputed party leaders including GHMC corporators to devise a strategy to conduct a survey in the Muslim-dominated areas in the Madhya Pradesh capital.

Sources pointed out that contesting the Bhopal corporation elections is the precursor to fielding the AIMIM's candidates in the Assembly election.

The party is also exploring the possibility of contesting the next civic elections in Indore, Bhopal, Ujjain, Khan-dwa, Sagar, Burhanpur, Khar-gone, Ratlam, Jaora, Jabalpur, Balaghat, Mandsaur and some other places. The elections to these civic bodies are also likely in February. Bhopal is divided into 85 wards and elections were held in February 2015 in which the BJP won 55 seats

**All India crafts mela**

Evenings have again started to come alive at Shilparamam with the Annual National Crafts Mela at Madhapur in Hyderabad on Saturday.

— By arrangement

**Abide by decision of high command: Ravi**

**Favours Revanth to be next state PCC chief; slams VHR**

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

**● DR RAVI** said that along with 165 leaders who expressed their opinion during the consultations for the selection of the new TPCC president, he too expressed his opinion in favour of Revanth Reddy.

ers who supported party MP A. Revanth Reddy's candidature for the TPCC chief post as "chamrasi."

Dr Ravi said that along with 165 leaders who expressed their opinion during the consulta-

tions for the selection of the new TPCC president, he too expressed his opinion in favour of Revanth Reddy. He asked Hanumantha Rao on what chamragiri was there in expressing his opinion. Dr Ravi felt that disciplined leaders must act in accordance with the decision of the high command. In Telangana, there was every need for the Congress to regain its glory and senior leaders should encourage youngsters to take the forward the party.

Meanwhile, the Congress high com-

mand has taken serious note of the remarks made by Hanumantha Rao against TPCC working president A. Revanth Reddy and others who are lobbying for the TPCC chief post.

Sources said the high command was likely to issue a showcase notice to Hanumantha Rao seeking an explanation for his remarks against Revanth Reddy and other leaders who are camping in New Delhi to convince the party national leadership for the coveted post.

**BJP increasing its strength in Nizamabad**

NARENDER PULLOOR | DC  
NIZAMABAD, DEC. 26

BJP has been gaining strength in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts since last few months, as many Congress, other political party leaders and those of even TRS are either joining or showing keen interest in getting on to bandwagon of the saffron party, hoping for a bright political future.

BJP's growth has simultaneously seen a steep fall in cadre base of Congress and Telugu Desam parties not only in these two districts but also in the entire Telangana

state.

Incidentally, BJP candidates have been contesting from the Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency since 1991.

But for the first time, its nominee D. Arvind got elected as MP only in 2019. In addition, the party's recent victory in Dubbak by-election, followed by a great performance in GHMC council polls, has boosted the morale of party cadre.

Following this, many leaders of other opposition parties are queuing up to switch their loyalties to BJP.

The saffron party has already built up consider-

**● INCIDENTALLY, BJP** candidates have been contesting from the Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency since 1991. But for the first time, its nominee D. Arvind got elected as MP only in 2019. In addition, the party's recent victory in Dubbak by-election, followed by a great performance in GHMC council polls, has boosted the morale of party cadre.

able leadership in Nizamabad Urban, Armoor, Balkonda, Bodhan, Kamareddy, Yellanderry and Jukkal assembly constituencies. It

is lagging behind only in Nizamabad Rural and Banswada assembly constituencies.

For example, BJP has two strong leaders by way of Endala Laxminarayana and Dhnapal Suryanarayana Gupta in Nizamabad urban assembly constituency. In Armor segment, BJP leader P. Vinay Kumar Reddy is actively strengthening his base after he received sizeable votes in the last assembly elections. In Balkonda assembly constituency, former MLA A. Annapurna's son Mallikarjun Reddy is a strong contender for next assembly elections. Likewise are former zilla

parishad chairman K. P. Venkataramana Reddy in Kamareddy, Banala Laxma Reddy in Yellanderry and BJP Kamareddy district president T. Aruna Tara in Jukkal (SC) constituency.

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee spokesman Medapati Prakash Reddy is all set to join BJP. Aiming to contest from the Bodhan assembly constituency, he has recently resigned from the Congress. He is expected to join BJP along with his followers, who are currently in both opposition Congress and ruling TRS parties, sources said.

**TRS warns Arvind for remarks on Kavitha**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
JAGTIAL, DEC. 26

Jagtial zilla parishad chairperson Dava Vasantha, who belongs to the TRS, on Saturday condemned the comments made by Nizamabad BJP MP D. Arvind against K. Kavitha, Telangana Jagruthi president and MLC, and warned him against making derogatory comments against women.

Reacting to Kavitha's visit to a bridge at Bornapally constructed on the Godavari, Arvind had said: "What work does Kavitha have in Jagtial? Why did she visit and inspect the Bornapally bridge? Does she do modelling, wearing colourful saris to give photographs to the media?"

false promise that he would get the Turmeric Board for Nizamabad. Arvind did not take any steps till date regarding the board and deceived the people, Vasantha alleged.

Vasantha said that as

MP, Kavitha had worked hard for the development of the constituency. "People are fully aware of this. If Arvind will not take his words back, then all the women present in the state will teach him a befitting lesson," Vasantha warned.

Municipal Chairperson Bhoga Shravani, vice chairperson Rama Devi, Raikal MPP Sandhya Rani, councilors Oddi Sri Latha, Padmavathi, Dasari Lavanya, Aduvalli Jyothi, Vanarasari Malava and Baddam Latha were among those who were present in the press meet along with others.

Reacting to this, G. Sravanti Reddy, BJP floor leader in Nizamabad Municipal Corporation, said that Arvind had suggested to Kavitha to concentrate on developmental works but had not insulted women.

"The MP compared the MLC with models and did not make any objectionable remark against her," Sravanti Reddy said.

The BJP leader along with party corporators and other leaders addressed the media here on Saturday. She said that Kavitha was elected MLC from undivided Nizamabad district and inspected works in neighbouring Jagtial district. The people of Nizamabad had rejected Kavitha from active politics and she should learn lessons from the defeat, the BJP leaders said.

She stated that even after the completion of two years of his tenure, Arvind had done nothing

**REPLY NOTICE**

Dt. 26.12.2020

My client Habeeb Aged Bin-Jamal-Ul-Alill, S/o Hafeez Mohamed Bin Jamal Ul Lal, Aged about 44 years Govt Business, Rio Baipur Village & P.O. Savoonagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, TS. Represented by his G.P.O. Holders 11 Mr. Mohammad Kamal Khan, S/o Late Mohit Aman Khan, Aged about 44 years. Govt Business, Rio H.No. 9-4-85-213, Saligiri Colony, Tol Chowki, Hyderabad District, T.S. 21 Mr. Mohammed Fayazullah Chisti, S/o Mohammad Asadullah Chisti, Aged about 24 years. Govt Business, Rio H.No. 20-6-352, Rocopl Bazar, Shalbandi, Hyderabad District, T.S. has placed before me a public notice dated 20th day of December, 2020, which was published Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad, issued from the office of Tagore Bala, Address: No. 1, 2nd Floor, Sri Sri Tagore Bala Durga Prasad, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, India, Pin No. 512949/03 of Shaikop village correlated to Town Survey No. 28/135B part and 28/135C situated at Road No. 12, Banara Hills, Hyderabad, T.S., and has given me the instructions to give the following reply.

My client says that my client is absolute owner and possessor of the land in survey No. 12949/03 and Survey No. 28/135B part and 28/135C situated at Shaikop village correlated to Town Survey No. 28/135B part and 28/135C situated at Road No. 12, Banara Hills, Hyderabad, T.S. having acquired the same under oral gift from the legal heirs of Khasiar Mohtidulla dated 20-09-2005.

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My client says that my client is absolute owner and possessor of the land in survey No. 1294

## SHORT TAKES

## VHR BATS FOR BC LEADER TO HEAD CONG

From Page 1

Jagga Reddy, a proxy for a senior leader, opposed Revanth Reddy as TPCC chief.

Hanumantha Rao threatened to quit the party if the high command chose a leader who is facing several cases, without taking the name of Revanth Reddy. Speaking to select mediapersons, he said he would not accept a leader with RSS links.

"We know the credentials of the person," he said. The leader is also facing a money-laundering case apart from indulging in blackmail.

Hanumantha Rao then lent it a cast angle, claiming one community was lobbying for the post and asked if the Congress looked to the backward class communities, who constitute 54 per cent of the population, only for their votes. "Why is the Congress ignoring the BCs when other parties are giving them preference," he asked. Hanumantha Rao also levelled allegations that Manickam Tagore was biased in giving his report to the high command.

## TECHIE FROM HYD DROWNS IN LAKNAVARAM

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, DEC. 26

A weekend excursion to Mulugu district turned tragic for a group of friends when one of them died at the Laknavaram lake on Saturday.

A group of 18 members from Hyderabad visited Mulugu district to spend the extended Christmas weekend. While they were exploring the Laknavaram lake on Friday, one of them, Aluri Sudhakar, accidentally slipped and fell into the water near the stair area, and drowned before his friends could seek help to rescue him.

The police were informed but the search operation was unsuccessful on Friday as the incident took place in the evening and there was not sufficient light to find Sudhakar.

The swimmers continued the search on Saturday and found the body of Sudhakar. Sudhakar hails from Bhimavaram in West Godavari district and works for a software company in Hyderabad.



Havildar Parusaram

## ARMY JAWAN DIES IN LEH LANDSLIDE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MAHBUBNAGAR, DEC. 26

An army Havildar working in Leh, Ladakh, died in a landslide on Thursday. The body was brought to his native place at Guvvani Kunta Thanda in Gandeo mandal of Mahbubnagar district on Saturday with full honours.

His family members said Havildar Parusaram had been working in the Army since 2005. Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya had expedited the despatch of the body, it is said.

According to family members, Parusaram had visited them in October and stayed for a month. He left on November 25. He is survived by his wife and two kids, aged eight and six years, and his differently-abled mother.

State minister V. Srinivas Goud said the government will provide all support to the family of the Havildar. He received the body at the Shamshabad airport and arranged for it to be transported to Parasuram's native village in Mahbubnagar district. The minister announced that the government would give a house site, and ₹25 lakh assistance to the family of the Havildar, said Parusaram's cousin Srinivas.

The government would also provide a double bedroom house in Mahbubnagar to the Armyman's family. The minister also assured Havildar Parusaram's family that the government will provide all help in getting the benefits from the Army Welfare Fund. He urged the Centre to award a suitable compensation to the family.



Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu delivers the third Atal Behari Vajpayee Memorial lecture to mark the former PM's birth anniversary, in Hyderabad on Saturday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

## Venkaiah rues erosion of values in politics

## Urges leaders to take inspiration from Vajpayee's ideals

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu expressed concern over the erosion of values in politics now, and urged leaders to follow the Atal school of politics' to keep the faith of public in the political class intact.

He said that it was former prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's consensual way of approach in his political career that enabled him to successfully lead a large coalition for its full term in an era of

unstable coalition governments. The V.P. called Vajpayee the 'father of coalition practices' in India.

Venkaiah Naidu was delivering the third Atal Behari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture here on Saturday, to pay tribute to the former prime minister on his 96th birth anniversary. The theme was, 'Building Democratic Consensus — The Vajpayee Way.'

"Atal ji understood that consensus does not mean complete acceptance or compromise. Consensus is a broader acceptance for a

**HE RECALLED** how Vajpayee had risen from humble beginnings to become Prime Minister. He recalled his own days as BJP president, calling it an honour to have been able to sit between Advani and Vajpayee.

The Vice President urged the leaders to take inspiration from Vajpayee's political ideas and improve the level of discourse. "We must raise the level of debates and always adhere to 3Ds — discuss, debate and decide — while avoiding the 4th D, 'disrupt'."

He added that political parties should put an end to competitive populism and give priority to long-term development.

## VHR GOES TO POLICE OVER THREATS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

Senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao approached the Raidurgam police on Saturday, seeking help after allegedly receiving threatening phone calls.

Rao said he began receiving threat calls after he opposed the candidature of some leaders for the post of state Congress president.

He asked the Raidurgam police for protection and action against those who had made threatening calls to him.

Audio clips of purported conversations in which Hanumantha Rao and an unidentified caller trade insults have gone viral.

A police official said, "We are seeking permission from the court to investigate the case for criminal intimidation," said a Cyberabad police official.

## Man hurt in MIM leader Farooq's firing succumbs

DC CORRESPONDENTS  
HYDERABAD / ADILABAD, DEC. 26

One of the three persons who sustained bullet injuries when Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (MIM) leader Farooq Ahmed opened fire with his revolver in Adilabad on December 18 died while undergoing treatment at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) in Hyderabad on Saturday.

The victim, Syed Zameer, was laid to rest at a graveyard attached to the Adilabad Idgah on Saturday night. Police said there were no untoward incidents in the tense town during the funeral.

Zameer was a former councillor of the Adilabad Municipality. Following his death, tension escalated in Thatiguda colony where he stayed, and the Adilabad police has

deployed extra personnel to maintain peace.

Ramagundam police commissioner V. Satyanarayana is overseeing the situation to prevent untoward incidents. Adilabad Two Town circle inspector Potharam Srinivas is camping at the Thatiguda colony since the morning. AIMIM leader Farooq Ahmed, the former vice chairman of Adilabad municipality, had opened fire with his licensed weapon at a group of people after a scuffle over a cricket match between the children. Farooq Ahmed has been under arrest and the licence of his revolver has been cancelled by the police.

The AIMIM dissolved the town unit after the incident.

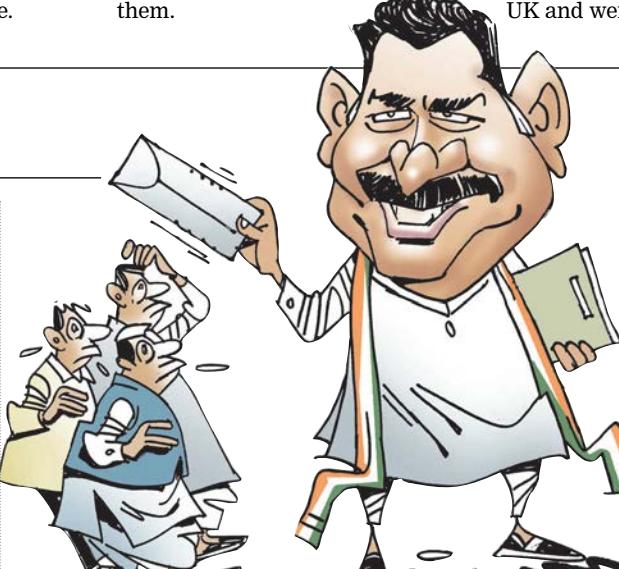
Apart from Zameer, two other persons — Syed Mannan and Mothesham — had suffered bullet injuries. Their condition is said to be stable.

The wives of Farooq Ahmed and Zameer had contested from the same ward in the last Adilabad municipal elections.

Farooq's wife won the election. This resulted in rivalry growing between the two politicians which culminated in the death of Zameer, the trigger being a children's quarrel over a cricket match. Farooq fired three shots at his opponents' group and also attacked them with a knife.

Adilabad DCC incharge Sajid Khan demanded that the state government pay compensation of ₹2 crore to the family of Zameer and give one family member a government job.

He demanded that AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi extend ₹2 crore help to Zameer's family. Relatives and local political leaders met the family members of the deceased and consoled them.



## In Congress, secret within a secret

**N**othing in the Congress is what it seems. This is being seen again in the long-drawn process of selecting the new chief for the Telangana state Congress. AICC incharge Manickam Tagore met a number of leaders and prepared a report regarding the new chief. In most cases this would have been enough. But then, Tagore, in true Congress style, left it to the high command. He also told state leaders that there was no need for them to visit Delhi as the time for consultations was now over and that he, being the envoy of Congress president

## Appeal to de-reserve Urdu medium posts

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

as posts are reserved for SC, ST, BC (A, C & D) categories under the rooster system.

This is an irreparable loss to Urdu medium schools and its students. No candidate is available from the reserved categories, resulting in these positions remaining vacant.

He said, "We observed that most students going to Urdu medium schools belong to Muslim weaker sections. We have raised the issue at every level, but the problem has not been solved in three years, although Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had promised to resolve the issue. We urged the

government to allow the vacant posts to be filled by candidates available in the open category."

Nazeer asserted that in the past the government had de-reserved posts reserved for these categories because of non-availability of suitable candidates and filled up the same under open categories for Urdu medium students.

Syed Miskeen Ahmed, president, All India Dag Foundation, Mohammed Moizuddin, president of Telangana State Urdu Trained Teachers Association (TS UTTA) and Shaik Farooq Ali, general secretary, also spoke.

## 184 from UK give fake address, can't be traced for tests

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

**OFFICIALS ATTEMPTING** to do contact tracing are running into a blank wall with people unable to remember if they came in contact with either the UK returnees or with the infected persons among them.

**OTHER STATES** have also been alerted about the movement of people and their place of stay and whereabouts during that time are being detailed for tracking and tracing in those states.

ferent states for social gatherings, marriages, celebrations and a good number of them visited Goa. Surveillance officials in the state are on the ground tracing those who came between December 9 and December 15.

Officials attempting to do contact tracing are running into a blank wall with people unable to remember if they came in contact with either the UK returnees or with the infected persons among them. Other states have also been alerted about the movement of people and their place of stay and whereabouts during that time are being detailed for tracking and tracing in those states.

A senior surveillance official said, "It has become a huge task as we are once again reaching out to a large number of people.

As they did not have any symptoms of disease, there was no point in them being at home. The people went about their work and social celebrations as was planned. Now they are worried and so are their contacts."

## MASJID HIT BY FLOODS TURNS HEALTH CENTRE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

A masjid in Osman-nagar, which is still partially inundated after the October floods has opened its door for free medical treatment for residents of over 12 slums in its vicinity.

The primary health centre, established at Masjid Omer Al Shifa, will provide quality primary care services by a team of qualified doctors. It will also serve as a daycare centre for IV fluids replacement, moderate trauma injuries, wound dressing and other basic nursing care.

The clinic will have three full-time doctors, nurses, counsellors, ambulance services for referrals to higher centres and will work between 10 and 4 pm all days of the week except Sundays. It was inaugurated on Saturday.

Mujtaba Hasan Askari of Helping Hand Foundation (HHF) said the management of Masjid Omer Al-Shifa, Saif Colony, Osmaniagar, has apportioned a full section measuring nearly 3000 sq. ft. of the masjid for the primary health care centre. The need for access to better and affordable health care in the area was felt like never before on account of recent floods. He said this will be the third primary health care centre that the HHF has set up in a masjid after those at Nawabahaab Kunta and Wadi-e-Mahmood, Rajendranagar.

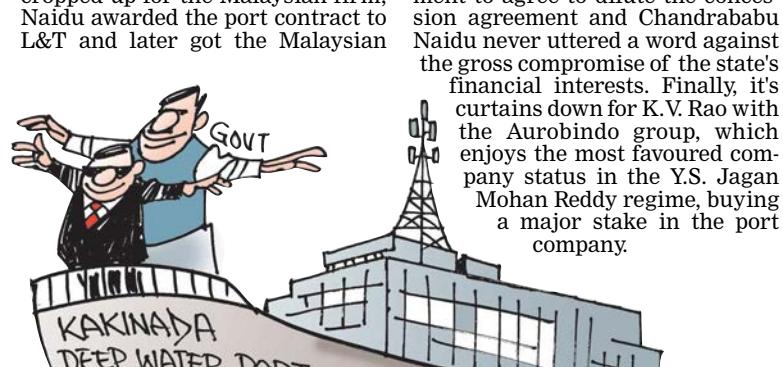
With the absence of Basti Dawakhana and no doctor available at the community health centre in Barkas, people mainly from the weaker sections were in need of affordable and accessible health care. The latest initiative will address this, he said.

## NETA'S NATTER

## Deepwater port is ported out again

**T**he Kakinada deepwater port has a unique tradition — it's always operated by people who are close to the party in power of the day. It all started with then chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's initiative to privatise the port and favour the son of then Malaysian ruler Mahatir Mohamad. As domestic problems cropped up for the Malaysian firm, Naidu awarded the port contract to L&T and later got the Malaysian

firm to buy a stake along with a consortium of TD leaders and their relatives. After the change of guard, K. V. Rao, a small-time businessman from Vijayawada, made it big and bought the port from L&T thanks to his proximity to K. V. Ramachandra Rao, in a literal sense also for they are neighbours. K. V. Rao managed to get the government to agree to dilute the concession agreement and Chandrababu Naidu never uttered a word against the gross compromise of the state's financial interests. Finally, it's curtains down for K. V. Rao with the Aurobindo group, which enjoys the most favoured company status in the Y.S. Jagannath Reddy regime, buying a major stake in the port company.



## Easy jump from TS to AP

**K**endram oka midhya (Centre is a myth) was a famous slogan of Telugu Desam founder and former chief minister N.T. Rama Rao, who fought relentlessly against the big brother attitude of the Centre. The executive heads of two of the Telugu states seem to have taken a leaf out of NTR's book when it came to accommodating the long-pending wish of senior bureaucrat Y. Srilakshmi who is facing many cases. Ever since Y.S. Jagannath Reddy took over the reins of Andhra Pradesh, the Telangana state cadre officer made Herculean efforts to go on deputation to Andhra Pradesh.

With all efforts failing, she got an order from the Central Administrative Tribunal changing her cadre to AP, six years after bifurcation. What is more shocking is that TS Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar gave her relieving orders and his AP counterpart Nilam Sawhney not only admitted Srilakshmi in the AP cadre but also made her secretary to municipal administration. Neither took the Union department of personnel and training, the deciding authority over all-India services officers, into cognisance.

## Jagga joins the gorakshaks

**C**ongress MLA T. Jayaprakash Reddy, better known as Jagga Reddy, is feeling the pain and agony for losing six cows which he said he had bred with utmost love and affection. Jagga Reddy made a request to the DGP through the media that the cows were stolen by some unidentified persons two months ago, in October. He said that thieves had taken away the cows, leaving the behind their calves.

He told the DGP that he had lodged a complaint with the Sangareddy police, but they had failed to either recover his cows or trace the thieves. But then, this is no Uttar Pradesh and he is Azam Khan for the police to go rushing off to find missing cattle. And, in the style of BJP MLA T. Raja Singh, darkly hinted that cow slaughter gangs may have something to do with it. Is there a message here?

## SHORT TAKES

**3 WOMEN KILLED,  
4 OTHERS INJURED  
IN ROAD MISHAP**DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, DEC. 26

Two women and a 14-year-old girl were killed on the spot and four others injured critically when a minivan in which they were travelling was hit by a speeding truck on the Puttalamputtu-Naidupeta National highway early on Saturday.

According to the police, one P. Vijay Kumar and his brother P. Sekharam belonging to Nangili in Karnataka had planned a trip to Tirumala and other temples in Chittoor district on the occasion of Vaikuntha Ekadasi. Their houseowner Subrahmanyam and his family members joined them. The three families hired two vehicles for the pilgrimage.

The mishap took place near Gadanki in Pakala mandal when a speeding lorry going towards Tirupati hit the minivan when the families were returning to Nangili after offering prayers in Tirumala on Friday.

Among the victims were Vijaya Kumar's wife Annarpurna, 60, mother Rajamma, 80, and a relative, Jyothi, 14. The injured were shifted to the SVR Rua Government General Hospital in Tirupati.

Some passersby alerted the police and 108 staff. Pakala police rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to hospital. Police registered a case and are investigating.

**TD DEMANDS  
JUSTICE FOR  
DALIT GIRL**DC CORRESPONDENT  
KADAPA, DEC. 26

TD politburo member Reddeppagari Srinivasa Reddy has demanded that the district SP intervene and render justice to a Dalit girl, daughter of a teacher at Rayachoti, who consumed sleeping pills and went into a coma after she was ditched by her boyfriend-husband, who is from another community.

Srinivasa Reddy visited the teacher's house on Saturday and enquired about the girl's condition. Later speaking to the media, he said that the two left their homes to get married. Two days after the marriage, the boy's relatives and his family went to their place, tricked the girl and left her near her parents' house. The boy's parents assured her that they would take her back after their daughter's marriage six days later. To her shock, the boy sent a message that he was no more interested in her.

Upset over the development, she swallowed sleeping pills and went into a coma.

Srinivasa Reddy said that her father had spent up to ₹20 lakh on her treatment. He also complained to the inspector at the local police station about 20 times but no one came to their rescue.

Police registered a case after the wedding photo went viral on social media. He said that this would not have happened to the victim had the inspector registered the case on October 2.

The TD leader demanded suspension of the Inspector who failed to register the case, and stringent action against the culprits.

**ON VAIKUNTA  
EKADASI TTD HUNDI  
RECEIVES ₹4.39CR**DC CORRESPONDENT  
NELLORE, DEC. 26

On the day of Vaikunta Ekadasi, the Srivari Hundi at the Lord Venkateswara temple at Tirumala received ₹4.39 crore in offerings. This is the highest-ever since Srivari Darshan was resumed by the Tirupati Tirumala Devasthanams on June 8, after the lockdown called for the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the TTD, a total of 42,825 pilgrims had Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan in the Tirumala temple on Friday. Supreme Court Justice Indira Banerjee had Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan on Vaikunta Dwadasi on Saturday.

TTD Executive Officer Dr K.S. Jawahar Reddy received the judge at the main entrance of the temple before she had darshan of Lord Venkateswara.

Later the Supreme Court judge was rendered Vedasirvachanam by a team of Vedic scholars inside Ranganayakula Mandapam. The TTD EO offered prasadams, a laminated picture of the lord to the Judge.

**Housing for all**

Beneficiaries receive house pattas as part of the housing scheme at the Gandhiji Mahila Kalasala in One Town in Vijayawada on Saturday.

— C. NARAYANA RAO

**Jagan efforts on Polavaram pay off,  
Centre okays new cost of ₹55,548 cr**DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 26

The efforts of the YSR Congress government led by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to get adequate funds for the construction of the Polavaram irrigation project expeditiously seemed to have yielded the desired result as the Centre accepted the revised cost estimate of the project at ₹55,548 crore at the 2017-18 price level.

The Union ministry of Jal Sakshi in its annual release through the Press Information Bureau here on Saturday announ-

ounced the new project cost.

It may be mentioned that CM had met the Union home minister Amit Shah and Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Shekhawat and requested them to accept the revised cost estimate to enable completion of the project so as to extend its benefits to all the targeted people and the farmers. He appealed for acceptance of revised cost estimate-II at ₹55,656 crore at 2017-18 price level.

The fixing of the project cost has been a bone of contention for long. Recently, the Centre had

raised queries on the project cost and announced that it would extend financial help as per earlier agreement with the previous Telugu Desam regime at the price level of 2014-15. However, the YSR Congress government submitted relevant details and managed to persuade the Centre to consider the revised cost estimate of the project at the 2017-18 price level. As per Central Water Commission's revised cost estimate-II, the total cost of the project was ₹55,656.87 crore at 2017-18 price level while the revised

cost committee recommended the price level at ₹47,725.74 crore at the 2017-18 price level. With regard to reimbursement details, the total expenditure incurred up to December 11, 2020, was ₹17,733.75 crore and expenditure incurred after declaration as national project up to December 11, 2020, was ₹12,597.70 crore.

The amount reimbursed to the AP government by the Polavaram Project Authority was ₹10,741.46 crore while the amount yet to be reimbursed was estimated at ₹1,856.24 crore.

**Agency area to ban plastic use**DC CORRESPONDENT  
KAKINADA, DEC. 26

Menace of plastic pollution in agency areas of East Godavari district has reached such enormous proportions that authorities have decided to ban use of plastics from the New Year day onwards.

An awareness programme is scheduled to be conducted in 120 villages of seven mandals under Rampachodavaram ITDA limits in this regard. Problem of plastic pollution is not con-

fined to only urban and plain areas. Of late, due to growth of tourism, the menace has spread into interior areas as well. Many visitors are bringing water packets as well as food in plastic bags, indiscriminately discarding them after use on roads, forests as well as near waterfalls and caves. This is threatening the flora and fauna of the region on a large scale, worrying environmentalists.

ITDA project officer Praveen Adithya has already announced that usage of plastic will be banned in 120 villages of seven mandals in Rampachodavaram division as part of protecting the environment. He said check posts will be set up at Fokspeta, Seethapalli, Gudise and other gateways to the agency area. Thorough checking will be done and plastic materials seized from tourists.

To avoid inconvenience, the ITDA head has appealed to tourists that they carry all their items in cloth bags. He has instructed agency officials to

create awareness among people and traders on complications arising out of plastic use. Subsequently, officials will take stringent action if any trader sells plastic covers or plastic bags or even packs anything in them.

Praveen Adithya said all village secretaries, Velugu personnel, ward, and village volunteers, apart from others, will carry out large-scale campaigns about the impending ban on plastics up to the end of December 2020. All plastic packaging will be seized from January 1, 2021 onwards.

**SC serves show cause notice to convict for misleading it**DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 26

Supreme Court has served show-cause notice to a convict for misleading it by submitting a wrong copy of the trial court's verdict to escape jail term.

S. Sankar was convicted on December 31, 2000, along with others, on charges of graft and other offences, including criminal breach of trust and conspiracy. Special judge for CBI cases, Hyderabad, awarded him a sentence of one-year jail term and imposed a fine of ₹1,000 for crimi-

that AP High Court had wrongly construed the operative portion of sentence passed by the trial court. He went on to claim that he was only sentenced to pay a fine of ₹500 each on each count, apart from undergoing one month simple imprisonment in case of failure to pay the fine.

Accordingly, the SC, in its verdict delivered on July 23, 2019, allowed Sankar to walk free in the graft case on payment of ₹1,000 as fine. Subsequently, the Supreme Court secretary general held an inquiry and submitted a report

that the convict had misled the court to avoid the jail term.

Following this, an SC division bench comprising justices Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose issued an order to serve a show-cause notice to appellant Sankar as to why the earlier order of the court not be recalled and modified to initiate a further suitable action against him.

Sankar's advocate on record A. Venkateswara Rao accepted the show-cause notice on behalf of Sankar, who has been granted four weeks' time to respond.

**Health authorities to use 'Co-WIN' application to take up trials****AP to conduct mock vaccine drive**DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 26

Andhra Pradesh will conduct a trial run of Covid-19 vaccination programme to find out the preparedness of the health personnel roped in for the programme in Krishna district on Monday.

State health and family welfare commissioner K. Bhaskar said here on Saturday that as the Centre had selected Andhra Pradesh along with four other states for conducting a dry run of

the vaccination programme, they were making all arrangements for taking it up.

Accordingly, the state health authorities will be using a software application called 'Co-WIN' to take up the trial run for all identified beneficiaries to check on the preparedness. No person will be administered the vaccine during the run as it was meant to be a mock drill.

Health authorities maintain that they are coming up with an action

TRIAL RUN will be video-recorded and will be handed over to the state and district-level task force units.

plan to take up the vaccination programme in compliance with the guidelines issued for it. The authorities will arrange the requisite amenities for the programme. The action plan also includes arranging amenities for storage of the vaccine and mobilisation of personnel for taking up the programme

and to come up with plans at the state, district and block level.

In Krishna district, the mock drill will be held at five centres, including government general hospital, primary health centre at Upplur, Purna Heart Institute, the primary health centre at Penagulur and at the urban primary health centre at Prakash Nagar. As part of preparatory work, the state health authorities will identify health personnel for taking up the programme

**AP filmmakers for theatres to run full****But many wary with new variant of virus out**DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 26

A section of Tollywood has appealed to the Centre to permit theatres run to capacity while complying with standard operating procedures (SOPs) against Covid-19. Theatres can currently run at 50 per cent of the capacity in Andhra Pradesh.

The huge turnout of viewers to watch Solo Brathuke So Better starring actor Sri Dharam Tej — the first film to be released after the theatres reopened — on Friday left Tollywood jubilant that it could revive the forgotten practice of going to the movies with family and friends. Between 50 and 60 per cent of the 1,250 theatres in the state reached permitted capacity.

Filmmakers and exhibitors want the same practice to be continued to encourage more people to visit the theatres so that it will help them overcome the loss of revenue during the nine months of closure of the theatres. They assured that they would comply with Covid-19 protocols and the SOPs drafted by the Centre and the AP government.

Their main contention is that when aircraft and

buses are permitted to carry passengers to capacity, and permission is accorded to political parties to organise public meetings and take out huge rallies, film theatres should be permitted to run to their full capacity.

They are also appealing to the AP government to issue the GO to waive power bills of film theatres for three months from April to June and permit deferred payment of power bills for six months from July to December. The Cabinet has already taken the decision.

K.L. Damodar Prasad, film-maker and Telugu Film Chamber secretary, said, "As people have started visiting the theatres in large numbers to watch films, we appeal to the Centre to allow viewers to full capacity in theatres to help the industry to recover

quickly from huge financial loss. We also appeal to the AP government to issue GO on waiver of power bills and deferred payment to give us some relief."

Meanwhile, APFDC authorities say that as the government has permitted free shooting of films and allowed only refundable payments by issuing GO MS No. 45 in May, they are hopeful of film-makers availing the facility to enhance film production in AP.

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KURNOOL, DEC. 26

Srisailam MLA Silpa Chakrapani Reddy offered to resign if allegations of harbouring Muslims in the temple town of Srisailam are proved by Goshamaiah legislator Raja Singh.

The BJP MLA from Hyderabad alleged that Srisailam temple was under the control of Muslims and all contracts and shops were monopolized by them. He alleged cows in Goshala are being killed to extract their meat.

Denying the charges, Silpa said he was ready for a debate after Sankranti.

Srisailam, one of the Shaktipeeths, and an important Jyothirlinga in India has been in the eye of controversy as the major revenue sources of commerce and business are concerned by Muslims. Raja Singh had alleged that a Razzaq, who is a contractor

with Srisailam temple and his wife, a Hindu, is employed as a supervisor in the temple. He said Razzaq is a close aide of Silpa Chakrapani Reddy while Razzaq's brother is a TDP leader. Irrespective of which party is in power, the Razzaq brothers are controlling the temple with the help of political parties.

When contacted, Raja Singh told Deccan Chronicle that several cases are pending against Razzaq, which include transporting of mutton in flower baskets. These flowers are used for puja in the temple. He said the goshala is supervised by Razzaq's wife, who is helping her husband. Cows are killed with the connivance of the supervisor and its meat was being consumed, which is prohibited in the temple town.

Rubbishing the allegations, Silpa Reddy said a temple official.

**APFDC WISHES  
RAJINIKANTH  
EARLY RECOVERY**DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, DEC. 26

AP Film Development Corporation chairman T. Vijay Chandar wished early recovery of actor-politician Rajinikanth who is undergoing treatment at Apollo hospital for severe fluctuations in blood pressure.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, the APFDC chairman said that he was praying to the God to help the actor get speedy recovery from his health problem and added that the actor's services were indispensable to the society by entering into the politics.

**Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute Of Medical Sciences**  
Raebareli Road, Lucknow-226014,  
Phones: 2668004-8, 266700, 266800, 2668900,  
FAX: +91-522-2668973, 2668218 (JDMM)  
Email: jdmm@sgpm.ac.in

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For detailed information like Name of items, Date of Submission and opening of tender etc., you may please visit the e-tender portal [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in). The offer will be accepted Online only on e tender portal with terms and conditions as mentioned in tender documents.

Director reserves the right to accept or reject any tenders in part or full without assigning any reason thereof.

**ADVT No. I/47/JDMM/2020-21** **DIRECTOR**

**भारत सरकार Government of India**  
**परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग Department of Atomic Energy**  
**द्रव्य एवं भौतिक निदेशालय Directorate of Purchase & Stores**

संदर्भ/Ref : DPS/CPU/09/D1/1279/19-20/197 Date: 24/12/2020

**e-Tender Notice**

भारत के राजसभी के लिए और आप से निदेशक, द्रव्य एवं भौतिक द्रव्यों पर एनेरोल करने के लिए प्रोत्तश्चित विद्या जाता है।

निदेशक द्रव्यों को द्रव्यों पर एनेरोल करने के लिए प्रोत्तश्चित विद्या जाता है। Complete tender documents can be viewed and downloaded from website <https://tenders.dpsdae.gov.in>. Enrolment is mandatory for participating in Tender. Tenders are to be submitted online only. For Technical assistance, **CONTACT 020 25315555 EXTN No.6 mail to support.dpsdae@nexttenders.com**. Vendors are encouraged to enrol on our above sited portal.

# CLASSIFIEDS

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## PLOTS

**GATED COMMUNITY** with all amenities plot of 140 sq.yds, GHMC Layout. Immediate sale Dream Monarch, Gaganpahad, Airport Road. Ph:9397893224, 7331123224. (B/2021/C00664)

**GAGILAPUR - 200 Sq.Yds Plots.** St.Mary's Enclave, 2nd flt. from Main Road. 300' Per Sq.yd. Ph:9966808989. (HYCL/2021/C02178)

**PLOT NO.70.** 300 Sq.yds. Plot in gated community with excellent amenities & club house by Modi Builders. Between Warangal & Vijayawada Highway. Cont: 7985132486 (HYMM/2021/C05178)

**208SQ.YDS PLOT** with 15000/- Rental Income P.M. E/F, New Gold Colony, Adjacent L.B.Nagar to Uppal Road for sale. Ph:6303745015, 8367558999. (HYCL/2021/C02133)

**NAGOLE 135 sq.yds open plot for sale** West facing, Manmatha Nagar. St.no.7. Clear title, full LRS plot. Contact: 9840331695. (S/2021/C01755)

**300 Sq.Yds** West Face 45x60 (Uppal) Narapally, 5th Plot from Highway. Main Road. Cont: 9032701999. (HYCL/2021/C02024)

**COMMERCIAL PLOT** for sale at Golconda, Neknampur 425sq.yards, North west corner, 60ft road, LRS applied near to Alakpur Township. Ph:9866646547. (HYMM/2021/C05215)

**PATANCHEUR & SULTANPUR Open Plots** HMDA Gated Community, 6kms from BHEL & Chandanagar, 8kms from Miyapur, 11kms from JNTU, 80ft Loan available. Ph:8688023402, 868802020. (HYCL/2021/C02137)

**PEERZADIGUDA PLOTS** for Sale. Near Reliance Digital, 250 & 1500 Sq.Yds. No Brokers. Contact: 9440371199. (L/2021/C00202)

**OFFER 4DAYS.** Invest on land get monthly returns. 121sqyds plot 40000sq.yds. Plot. Rs.21,000 returns. Till 100months. Farms lands sadashivpet. 7416613247 (HYMM/2021/C05240)

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL** Plots @ Jubilee hills 700sq.yds; 1200sq.yds; Gachibowli 400sq.yds; Narsingi 500sq.yds; Kokapet 1500sq.yds; Journalist Colony 270sq.yds; Nallagandala 270sq.yds; 500sq.yds; 1400sq.yds; Tellapur 500sq.yds; Kollar 200sq.yds; 500sq.yds; We have plots in all locations of Hyderabad. Call: 7331088699, 6281463541. (Top Realty). (HYMM/2021/C04791)

**JB SERENE** City HMDA Phase-3, 293 Sq.yds, E/F 600 Sq.yds SW Corner. Ready to construction beside Gurunanak Engineering College, Ibrahimpatnam, Sagar Road. Ph:9849584676. (HYCL/2021/C02153)

**GOOD NEWS** For Investors. Farm Land Plots @Indrasen, Nkr Patancheru, 30 mins from Gachibowli, 60 Acres Mega Project. Ph:9098156458. (HYCL/2021/C02152)

**JUBILEEHILLS ROAD** No.24, Plot for Development, 1,309 Sq.yds, west face & Road No.55, Jubileehills, 1.173 Sq.Yds for Sale. Owner: 7093206706, 8008018500. (A/2021/C00431)

**JUBILEEHILLS 330YDS East, 400yds, East, 717yds North, 1000, 1200yds East, 1200yds North, Kondapur 600s, 300yds North, 900yds N/E. Nandi Hills 830 yards south Katiyatra Hills 500e mandigiri Hills 600 yards north Manikonda 300yds, Alkapur 400yds-E. Nallagandala 300yds. West. Indp houses 10Cr-50Cr. All commercial plots with Tenant.Sthaa Realtors. Ph:9293222555, 8888589999. (HYMM/2021/C05083)**

**KADTHAL- SEMI Commercial** North & South 50' Road facing, 350 & 455 Sq.yds Plots, DTCP Approved with 24/7 Security & all Developments, Near Phoenix City, RRR & Roads Junction. Spot Registration, Genuine Buyers only Contact: 81794-58669. (L/2021/C00005)

**PHARMACY 4500/- Sq.yd, Kadthal, Kanikuru, Muthera, Amangal Municipality & Shadnagar.** DTCP/HMDA Approved Premium Villa Plots @ Srisailam Highway. Near proposed Regional Ring Road, Gated Community with all developments. Immediate Registration. Free Site Visit Instby Infra Projects. 8074518273, 7993058273. (S/2021/C01759)

**DTCP APPROVED** Villa Open Plots @ Kadthal Town. Near By Global Pharma-City, Electronic-city With All Developments, Bank Loans. Spot Discount on Spot Booking. Ph:9074593447, 7386244160. (HYCL/2021/C02124)

**KOMPALLY, NEAR** Balaji Hospital. 375 sq.yd. residential plot for sale. South facing. LRS/JULC cleared. Contact: +9198381824611, +91 9 1 4 4 0 4 2 5 1 4 1. (HYCL/2021/C02144)

**EIF OPEN** plot 620 sq.yds from Kompally to Gundla Pochampally. 60 feet road facing, plot with full LRS proceedings. Ph:9439689890. (S/2021/C01758)

**OPEN PLOTS For Sale @Kothur** HMDA Approved Layout (Municipality Division), Very Near To Bangalore Highway @Nato Villas, Low Price Bank Loan Available Ph: 8639660925 (HYMM/2021/C04943)

**KOTHUR, BANGLORE** Highway Facing 23 Acres Gated Villa Plots, RERA & HMDA LP:04/2020, All Cement Roads, UnderGround Electricity. Loans available. Ph:7870222299. (HYCL/2021/C02149)

**REAL ESTATE**

**INDUSTRIAL SHEDS**

**WANT INDUSTRIAL** shed ( 5000 to 10,000 sq.ft) for sale/lease or Outright purchase IDA Bollaram /pashmikaram. 9440023074. (HYMM/2021/C04952)

**LAND REQUIRED**

**LAND REQUIRED**, Immediate Payment, 5Acres To 10 Acres, R1, Agriculture, Industrial, or 11, and Around Hyderabad. For Development or Outrate, Clear Title Ph: 8374395978, 6303107421. (HYMM/2021/C05242)

**MUMBAI BASED** company wants land between Kompally to Kalakal / Patancheru to Sadasivpet / IDA Bollaram / Shamshabad to Timmapur HIHWAY facing 2- 4 acres for outright purchase / Development for warehousing. 9440023074. (HYMM/2021/C04951)

**REPUTED BUILDER** looking for lands in Western and Central Hyderabad for Development or Part Outright Part Development. Contact: +91-630310165. (B/2021/C00735)

**HMDA APPROVED** Layout In Mansapani X Roads. With All Developments. Beside My Home Smartcity. Spot Registration, Bank Loan Available. Site Visit Plz:Call:9885236075. (HYMM/2021/C02149)

**HMDA/ RERA** Approved Commercial & Residential Plots @Medchal & Taramahipet ORR Exit-10, 40, 60, 100feet CC Roads, Parks, Street Lights, Water Supply, Near IT Parks, Club House, Gated Community. Ph:8125812456, 9676455510. (HYCL/2021/C02126)

**MIYAPUR: MAYUNNAGAR HUDA Colony** MIG-601, 258 Sq.yds W/F @75yard 1km Miyapur Metro Station, Opposite Oldage Home, Contact: 8978899100 (HYMM/2021/C04960)

## PLOT FOR

Sale at Moinabadi, 1110 Sq.yds. 2nd Bld from Village BT Road, Kanakamandi Village, 7.7 kms from Moinabadi X Roads. Price @ Rs.450/- per Sq.yd. (Slightly Negotiable) No Agents please. Ph:9849213415. (B/2021/C00729)

**NACHARAM BHAVANI** Nagar st.no: 3, 332sq.yds. South face / 72x14.5' open plot with house number for sale. Ph:9000401116, 9440365326 (HYMM/2021/C05189)

**NEAR ECIL,** Dammakura, Nagaram X' Roads, and RL Nagar. Open Plots for Sale in Gated & Non Gated Venture @21,99/- to @29,99/- Per Sq.yd. Ph:9100995551, 9100885551, 9100966662 (HYMM/2021/C05176)

**WANTED 300 sq.yds** Independent House / Villa at Marepally, Padmarao Nagar or Begumpet Owners Only Contact: 9848198248, 27703615 (HYMM/2021/C05152)

**IMMEDIATELY REQUIRED** for Purchase 2000 to 2500 sqft Ground floor with parking facility to establish Diagnostic Laboratory at Secunderabad. Ph:935939079, (S/2021/C01764)

## RENTALS

### BACHELOR ACCOMMODATION

**LONG LEASE** of PG Accommodation for Women near Madhupur Main Road. Contact: 8008886647. Brokers excuse. Call: 9846016513 or WhatsApp 952421000. (S/2021/C01755)

**COMMERCIAL PLOT** for sale at Golconda, Neknampur 425sq.yards, North west corner, 60ft road, LRS applied near to Alakpur Township. Ph:9866646547. (HYMM/2021/C05215)

### COMMERCIAL

**CHAPEL ROAD**, Abids space available for Rent suitable to Office/ Boutique/ Parlour/ Storage in Contact: 994215686. (HYCL/2021/C01960)

**COMMERCIAL SPACE** for Lease or Rent for any Commercial activity 700sqft, land opp: Big Bazaar, Ameerpet, contact: 949694789, 984894165. (HYMM/2021/C05202)

**COMMERCIAL OFFICE** Shops space available 320, 370, 110 Sq.Ft on first floor, ground floor for Rent/ Lease for Rent suitable to Office/ Boutique/ Parlour/ Storage in Contact: 994215686. (HYCL/2021/C01960)

**COMMERCIAL SPACE** for Lease or Rent for any Commercial activity 700sqft, land opp: Big Bazaar, Ameerpet, contact: 949694789, 984894165. (HYMM/2021/C05202)

**LEASE COMMERCIAL** building IT Park Madhrawada - visakapatnam 20000 sqft -3 floors each floor 7000sqft, one floor 7000sqft fully furnished plug and play Contact 8096009917 Satish (+ 9 1 9 7 0 0 2 1 3 8 0 . (HYMM/2021/C01530)

**SOMAJIGUDA, 4000SQFT** office premises with reception, Three Executive cubicles, conference Hall A/C, Furniture, Partition, Glass Partition, Computer, Suitable for Corporates, Software, C/S, Guest H o u s e s . 9 1 8 0 4 8 0 1 2 3 6 9 . (HYMM/2021/C05013)

**G+1 BUILDING** 4500 Sq ft each floor with 33KV power bore well at Hydraville Enclave. Suncity, available for rent. Ph:8312046623/ 9703985806. (HYMM/2021/C05229)

**JUBILEEHILLS ROAD** no 36 commercial sapce1000 sq ft for long Lease suitable for office/boutique/ accountant etc Interested parties pls contact 9396534776 (W/2021/A00778)

**JUBILEEHILLS, ROAD NO.78**, Bata Showroom Building, above 3rd floor, 1150sf Commercial space available for Rent. Ph:9100917122. (HYMM/2021/C05077)

**JUBILEEHILLS, ROAD NO.36, 1701 sf** Ground Floor shop available for Lease/Rent for details. Contact: 9515000844 (HYMM/2021/C04964)

**BANJARAHILLS, ROAD #02, Beside TV-9, 2400sf, 50-seating capacity, fully furnished office, 6-cabin, server room, 2 & 4 Wheeler carparkings & Commercial space at Journalist Colony, behind Tata Capital Office. Ph:970327602. (HYCL/2021/C02116)**

**3000 SFT** commercial space for Rent for Super Market, Hospital, Godown, bakery, Offices at Road no.12, BanjaraHills, Contact: 9591301929, 929132960. (A/2021/C00452)

**BANJARAHILLS ROAD#11**, Silver Tower, Banjara Hills, Space 1780sf for Rent Rs 35/St on 4th floor behind Care Hospital OPD. Contact: 8324817787. (B/2021/C00674)

**ROAD NO.12, Banjara Hills, 500sf.** Suitable for Clinics, Spas, Coffee shop, Salons, Fitness Centre with Paring space adjacent to new Police HQ, building opp Niloufer Cafe. Call: 9581268029, 9581268039 after 1.00pm (A/2021/C00089)

**BANJARAHILLS, ROAD #02, Beside TV-9, 2400sf, 50-seating capacity, fully furnished office, 6-cabin, server room, 2 & 4 Wheeler carparkings & Commercial space at Journalist Colony, behind Tata Capital Office. Ph:970327602. (HYCL/2021/C02116)**

**INVEST IN** The Largest Layout Of Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri Suprabhat Heights On Hyd-Wrangler Highway Facing Ts Rera & Hmda Approved Villa Plots For Sale Call: 8448440609 (HYMM/2021/C05041)

**SAGR HIGHWAY** Facing HMDA & Vijaywada Highway Facing DTCP approved layout Villa, Plots with all Developments. Loans. Ph:9630444402. (HYCL/2021/C02118)

**COMMERCIAL OPEN** Plot, 605 Sq.Yards (With LRS Permission) on Main Road (60'-0" Foot) Proposed 100'-0" Feet Suitable For Banks/ Hospitals Etc., Beside Ratnadeep Near Municipal Mandal / Sub Registrar Office, Venkateshwara Colony, Saroor Nagar, Ranga Reddy District. Ph:7893611234, 7893150069. (HYMM/2021/C05125)

**PRIME COMMERCIAL** Space, Indoor 725 Sq.Ft, Outdoor 1867 Sq.Ft for Rent on Road No.1, BanjaraHills, Land opp Taj Krishna Hotel, Next to Jalsa Saloon, For details contact: 8324817787. (B/2021/C01605)

**KOTHUR HIGHWAY**, Beside Bawarchi Hotel 2192x217 Sq.yards East Face Regd. Plots for Sale. (LRS Applied), 14kms from Shamshabad. Brokers Excuse. Ph:9100380012, 9498499012. (HYCL/2021/C05218)

**SHANKARPALLY HMDA** approved Open Plots for sale in Premium Community, 25 minutes from Wipro Circle & 30 minutes from Gachibowli. Contact: 9849300919. (A/2021/C00448)

**500 SQY** Plot at Raghavender nagar colony (opp. NPA shivparivihar) Prime location plot. Mob: 8468834110. (HYCL/2021/C02168)

**INVEST IN** The Largest Layout Of Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri Suprabhat Heights On Hyd-Wrangler Highway Facing Ts Rera & Hmda Approved Villa Plots For Sale Call: 8448440609 (HYMM/2021/C05041)

**SAGR HIGHWAY** Facing HMDA & Vijaywada Highway Facing DTCP approved layout Villa, Plots with all Developments. Loans. Ph:9630444402. (HYCL/2021/C02118)

**COMMERCIAL OPEN** Plot, 605 Sq.Yards (With LRS Permission) on Main Road (60'-0" Foot) Proposed 100'-0" Feet Suitable For Banks/ Hospitals Etc., Beside Ratnadeep Near Municipal Mandal / Sub Registrar Office, Venkateshwara Colony, Saroor Nagar, Ranga Reddy District. Ph:7893611234, 7893150069. (HYMM/2021/C05125)

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## REQUIRED

A GOVERNMENT of India Public Sector Company Requires on Lease 1500 to 3000 Square Yards Land on Main Road With Orr For Setting Up Petrol Pump. Registered Petrol Pump. Very Good Rent. Call: 9616945785. (HYCL/2021/C02007)

**15000 TO 20000 Sqft Building required Long Lease for College in S.R.Nagar, Ameerpet, Begumpet, Panjagutta areas. Contact: 7013916820. (A/2021/C00445)**

**REQUIRE 5-BHK Posh Independent House/Villa for company MD, rent 2-3 lac per month, Banjrali Hills, Jubilee Hills, Hitech City, Kondapur, Gachibowli, Financial district only more details contact only owners Omkar Services: 984977643, 8859998822. (W/2021/A00085)**

## RESI/COMM

AVANTI NAGAR Colony, Basheerbagh, Near Park, 3bhk On Rent For Residential/ Commercial Use. Contact 882666666 (HYMM/2021/C05008)

**INDEPENDENT HOUSE Ground+1, G/F 2 rooms and F/F 2 rooms family/office. Opposite Paahadi Hanuman Temple, Balairaj Society, Mahendra Hills. Contact: 903055442, 9700086510. (W/2021/A00082)**

**1500FT 3BED rooms+Hall/Ground floor for rent, suitable for IT and other offices or godowns. 100m from Ameerpet metro station main road. Contact: 9246388846. (W/2021/A00083)**

**SPACIOUS INDP House near Yusufguda Checkpost. Suitable for godown, office/ residence For Rent. Ph: 8885553568, 994597070. (HYCL/2021/C02017)**

## LEASE

## COMMERCIAL

**10000 SQYARDS prime commercial land facing Attapur ringroad rent lease suitable for hospitals, drivings, Cashewrooms convention halls 9010393888. (HYMM/2021/C05199)**

## TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED WAREHOUSE FOR RENT/LEASE

2,900 Sq ft temperature controlled (+5 deg C degree C and above) and 2,000 Sq ft dry warehousing space available in the Heart of Sanath Nagar, with access from all the commercial hub of Hyderabad, and with necessary infrastructure including 100% Power back-up, ample parking. Security etc. is available for Rent / Lease. Good for All Importers, who are importing chilled products, Pharma, Food, Confectionery, Beverages, Forwarders, Transporters etc. Interested Parties, who are looking for PART OR FULL rental, are welcome. Lease of full area for a minimum period of one year can also be considered.

Interested parties may Contact Mr. Hari Kumar on +91-98499 11700 or harigiri@gmail.com

## GODOWN FOR Lease/ Rent. 11,250 (50x Power), 9000, 6000 Sq.Ft at Balramguda, Sagar Road, L.B.Nagar, Hyderabad. Ph:9391600528, 9390311345. Ready To Use. (U/2021/C00007)

**FULLY FURNISHED Office Space of 543 sq ft and 2850 sq ft with plug and play facility available in Prime Location at Begumpet, Hyderabad. The premises is centrally air conditioned, with lift facility, 100% DC Backup Power, proximity to bus, train and metro facilities. Interested parties may contact following: 7032808057. (S/2021/C01670)**

**COMMERCIAL MAIN road, near Ashok Garden Lease 5500 sq ft, fully/ partly, Bowenpally main road, above Bata showroom & Canara, Offices, Institutes, Ready: 9246374857. (S/2021/C01588)**

**COMMERCIAL TO-LET Dilukhnagar Main Road Running Boys Hostel for Lease/ Sale, 100 Capacity 25 Rooms Ph:9949178040, 9030721108. (HYCL/2021/C01612)**

**LAND FOR lease Gachibowli 2Acres, kondapur 3Acres, Telapur 4Acers, RTC cross road 1Acres, Ranga khana 2Acers, Lingampally 15.8acres, kuktalpally 2Acers, uppal 5Acres suitable for Warehouses, Stockyards, services station, etc. Ph: 9843785585, 984956767 (HYMM/2021/C04784)**

**OFFICE SPACE Lease/ Rent 4th Floor, 11,784 Sq.ft at Apurpa Silpi, Gachibowli, Main Road. (KFC Building). Ph:9849154824, 9948395359. (HYCL/2021/C02031)**

**GAJULARAMARAM BUS-STOP, Above Reliance Smart Point, Near Kukatpally 1200/2500 st Commercial space 1st floor. For Offices, Hospitals, Gym, Hotels, Banks. Contact: 9 3 0 9 5 2 8 4 9 4 0 2 2 7 7 0. (HYMM/2021/C04695)**

**HOTEL: RUNNING Bar& Restaurant with good Business lease on two floors each 500sqft one floor also available. at RTC x-roads Contact 773200300 (HYCL/2021/C05234)**

**APPROXIMATELY 40,000 Sq ft space is available. Suitable for Godowns, Offices, Servicing centres etc. Opp. Santiniketan, ad to Autofin Maruti Service Centre, Dilsukhnagar road, Komplky. Contact: 9550895507, 9391021558 (HYCL/2021/C04262)**

**CLOUD KITCHENS for lease in prominent location, Kondapur Main Road, Accessible to Kondapur, Gachibowli and Madhapur, 400sf, fully equipped. Contact: 965 202800. (HYMM/2021/C05134)**

**MALLAMPET, PRANEETHNAGAR, Ring Road Facing, 2 side Roads, 5000sf Gym Space &4500sf Commercial space ground floor for Lease. Ph:8142827777. (HYCL/2021/C02085)**

**WAREHOUSE space available at Medchal & Kakatiya main road 20000 to 30000sf @ 9 rupees/ per sqftPh: 9390383421 (HYMM/2021/C05126)**

**ECIL, NAGARAM Main Road Near Remotely 'X' Road, Commercial Place for Lease! Rent Two Side Road at 4th floor, 9000sf. For Hospital/ Collage/School/Chit fund/ Finance office or any commercial purpose. Contact:9010077277/www.allienheights.co.in (C05263)**

**VAYUPURI - A. Raigarh Main Road Standalone Commercial Complex Next East Road, Ground, Lower Ground, 1ST, 2nd, 3rd Floor About 1500 Sqft each Floor. Suitable for whole Building Contact Chandrakant 966350451 (HYMM/2021/C04957)**

**PRIME LOCATION, commercial space, Ground floor, 480 Sq ft for lease. Main road, Opp. Parade Grounds, 100% Vastu, East facing. Twin shutters 30 feet frontage, ample parking with toilet. Ideal for showroom, courier companies. Call: 9849020601. (S/2021/C01731)**

**SRINAGAR COLONY commercial space shown available for lease, first & first floor, 12000-12000 sqft ample car parking, light power supply, vastu compliant & all facilities, main road facing property. Ph:9100595075. (S/2021/C01743)**

## FLATS

## THREE & MORE

**BANJARA HILLS Road No.10, Prime Location 3000 Sq ft 4BHK luxury Flat for long term lease. Fully furnished well maintained Flats with AC's. Good View at 4th floor. Location very near to City Center @ Rs.110,000PM. Call: 961837753/ 9866100021. (HYMM/2021/C04922)**

## INDUSTRIAL SHEDS

**32200 SFT Shed size 92x35x14 available for immediate Lease at IDA Mallapur, Phase-I with 30 HP Power. Contact: 6300649776. (HYMM/2021/C05217)**

## SITUATION VACANT

## ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

**WANTED JUNIOR Level Accounts Assistant For a Reputed Export Company Situated in Jubilee Hills, Interested Person Contact: 9878699912/ 900027343. Send Resume to: info@indpmierals.com, rakesh@indpmierals.com (HYMM/2021/C05076)**

**WANTED BRANCH Manager for Private Security Agency. 3 years experience. Full knowledge of statutory obligations, booking new Security Contracts. Age around 45 years, owning two Wheeler. Residing near Secunderabad. Send Bio-Data to info@force@gmail.com Office Raniganj, Cell: 9989555011. (S/2021/C0118)**

**WANTED MANAGER for a residential society in Secunderabad, with good communication skills, fluent in English, Hindi, Telugu and Computer Knowledge. Salary negotiable. Call: 9246563222. (S/2021/C01727)**

## MEDICAL

**URGENT REQUIRED MBBS Doctor with MCI certificate Location: Uttar Pradesh District: Lucknow Salary 60,000+Bonus 20,000.00 Age below 65-years. Doctor Should be fluency in Hindi and English. Contact: 9005144477, 8500007470. (HYCL/2021/C01924)**

**WANTED SENIOR Finance Controller with 15+ years of experience to head Finance dept of mid-sized company at Hyderabad. Contact: 910252680. Email: h.r.e.p.t.26.2@gmail.com (W/2021/A00085)**

**US BASED Company is looking for a career Accountant experienced in Tally and Quick books with excellent communications skills, Night shift, Work from home available after initial orientation at back office located in Guntur city. AP. Send resume to ramashripr40@gmail.com (A/2021/C00435)**

**REQUIRE RADIOLOGIST for Our Hospital in Sirsila Yellareddypet, Telangana Accommodation will be provided. Contact: 9000700624, 9550865069. (HYMM/2021/C05132)**

**NICHTINGALE MULTI Speciality Hospital in Santoshnagar Needs DO's What's App. No. 9866163452, 998033686. Send Email: sambaru.santoshnagar@gmail.com (HYCL/2021/C02155)**

**URGENTLY REQUIRED experienced 1.Registered Pharmacists (0-2years experience)-B.Pharm/ D.Pharm, 2.Lab Technicians 0-2years experience (DMLT/B.M.Sc (MLT), 3.Dialysis Technicians 0-2years experience (Diploma) (Dialysis), 4.Duty Medical Officers with MCI (MBBS), Asian Institute of Nephrology & Urology Pvt. Ltd. Branches (Dilshuknagar, Erramanzil & Hitech-city), Hyderabad (NABH Accredited). Walk-in-interviews from 10am-5pm. (anyday) Ph: 040-7313131, Mail id: hr@ainiindia.com, sreenivasaraju@ainiindia.com (HYCL/2021/C02114)**

**LOOKING FOR experience accounts/ coordinator, 5 years Experience in practical accounting is preferred. Send CV on Email: f.m.d@bluesea.com (W/2021/A000852)**

**FEMALE ACCOUNTANT, M/F Project Coordinator, branding executives for Marketing Agency. Experience 1 year. Language English, Hindi, Kannada any two must. Salary 10-15K. Ph:9059414782. (S/2021/C01762)**

## ADVT. SALES & MKTG.

**REQUIRED WE are looking for Ex-servicemen for office and marketing in Hyderabad. ph:9949349546, 934654841 (HYMM/2021/C04803)**

**LEADING PACKAGING Product manufacturing company based in Hyderabad is looking for Business Executives. Interested candidate can send their resume to hydhrmala@yahoo.com (W/2021/C04981)**

**WANTED SOCIAL Media Marketing Expert, responsible for planning, implementing Social Media strategy in order to increase brand awareness, improve Marketing efforts. Graphics design is an advantage. Knowledge of Social Media campaigns, Google Ad etc. Minimum two years of experience. Mehdipatnam. Contact: 08008111247. (HYCL/2021/C02117)**

**WANTED WELL Experienced Qualified Nurse & Receptionist For Osmania Health Care Centre/New Malakpet Ph:9030914248, 7013212626. (HYMM/2021/C05261)**

**WANTED EXPERIENCED Marketing Executives for Hospital (Males/Females- 10 Nos), with good communication skills and two-wheeler must for Sameer Hospital near Gowtham Model School, Opp: Andhra Bank, Asif Nagar Road, Mehdipatnam. Contact: Roshan: 7095474090. (HYMM/2021/C05288)**

**DENTAL SURGEON wanted BDS/MDS full/ part time smart, good communication (Telugu/ Hindi) well versed with RC/ general dentistry 3-5 yrs (experience) (Secunderabad area). Contact: 7981293836, 9246559091 (HYMM/2021/C05262)**

**WANTED WE are hiring Field Executive For Clinic. Salary+ Incentives. If interested you can contact us on 9900874248. (HYCL/2021/C01975)**

**WANTED PART time sales person to sell design lights, remote control ceiling fans on good commission basis. Contact: R.V.Sharma 9866402790. (S/2021/C01757)**

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## RECRUITERS

**WANTED LECTURERS in Commerce & Hindi Subjects for a Reputed Degree College in Hyderabad. Send Resume to: kr955@gmail.com (HYCL/2021/C**

## SHORT TAKES

## CONGMEN HELD FOR PROTECT COW, FARMERS STIR

Lalitpur/Jhansi (UP), Dec. 26: Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu and over 50 party workers were arrested in Lalitpur on Saturday after they tried to take out the 'Gai Bachao, Kisan Bachao' march without permission, but were released hours later, police said.

However, district Congress president Balwant Singh Rajput, who was among those arrested, claimed around 200 party workers were held. He also alleged that about two dozen party workers were injured as the police used force against them.

"About 50 to 60 workers, including state Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu and district unit chief Balwant Singh Rajput, were arrested from Dailwara township while trying to take out the march without permission. They have all been taken to police lines," Additional Superintendent of Police Brijesh Kumar Singh said. Later in the evening, the Congress leaders, including Lallu, were released from police lines on furnishing personal bonds and the UPCC president was allowed to leave for Lucknow, the ASP said.

The Congress had announced that it will take out the 'Gai Bachao, Kisan Bachao' march in different districts of Bundelkhand to highlight the alleged mismanagement in cow shelters under the state government.

## PM TO INAUGURATE INDIA'S FIRST-EVER DRIVERLESS TRAIN

New Delhi, Dec. 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's first-ever driverless train operations on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line along with the fully operational National Common Mobility Card service on the Airport Express Line on December 26 via video conferencing.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said on Saturday that these innovations will herald a new era of travelling comfort and enhanced mobility. The driverless trains will be fully automated, which will eliminate the possibility of human error, it said, adding that after the start of driverless services on the Magenta Line (Janakpuri West-Botanical Garden), the Pink Line (Majlis Park-Shiv Vihar) of Delhi Metro is expected to have driverless operations by mid-2021.

The National Common Mobility Card, which will be fully operationalised on the Airport Express Line, will enable anyone carrying a RuPay-Debit Card issued from any part of the country to travel on the route using it. This facility will become available on the entire Delhi Metro network by 2022, the PMO said.

## I-T DEPT DETECTS BLACK INCOME OF ₹100 CR IN ASSAM

New Delhi, Dec. 26: Unaccounted income of ₹100 crore has been detected after the income tax department raided three "leading" contractors of Northeast India based in Assam early this week, the CBDT said on Saturday.

The search and survey action was initiated on December 22 at fourteen locations in Guwahati, Silapathar and Pathsas in Assam and in Delhi. "Cash of ₹2.95 crore has been seized."

Overall, undisclosed income to the tune of approximately ₹100 crore has been unearthed so far during the search and survey operation," the Board said in a statement without sharing the identities of those raided.

It added that "jewellery of ₹9.79 lakh has been seized and the sources of acquisition of some other jewellery worth ₹2 crore is under verification." The Central Board of Direct Taxes frames policy for the I-T department.

The entities covered are "leading contractors of Northeast and one group is also involved in the hospitality business," it said.

"The main allegation against the three groups is that they have taken accommodation (dubious) entries in the form of non-genuine unsecured loans and also securities premium from dubious Kolkata-based shell (dummy) companies." "The three groups have suppressed their net profits across the years and routed back into business the unaccounted income through entry operators based out of Guwahati and Kolkata," the CBDT said.

## J&amp;K residents get free treatment



Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha hands over the golden cards to beneficiaries of the Ayushman Bharat PM-Jay Sehat scheme, after it was rolled out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually, in Jammu, on Saturday. — PTI

## India, Vietnam begin SCS drills

## Sea exercises to be closely watched by an already furious China

**PAWAN BALI** | DC  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 26

The Indian and Vietnamese navies on Saturday started an exercise in the South China Sea, something which will be closely watched by China. The exercise comes when China is becoming increasingly assertive in the South China Sea and has been conducting aggressive military manoeuvres in the region to warn other nations.

"Indian Navy conducted Passage Exercise today with the Vietnam People's Navy in the South China Sea," said a senior official. The relations between India and China has deteriorated this year after the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) violated the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh and the military stand-off between two armies in the sector has continued for the last eight months. India is now putting

pressure on China at many fronts. China was already furious over India-Vietnam virtual summit this week, where India had stressed that negotiations for a Code of Conduct (CoC) in the disputed South China Sea (SCS) waters should not undermine the interests of other countries or third parties in the region. Reacting to the summit, China's state mouthpiece *Global Times* had said, "This is not the first time

(nor will it be the last) that India has poked its nose in the South China Sea." Earlier this week defence minister Rajnath Singh and his Japanese counterpart Nobuo Kishi had also discussed regional situation in the South China Sea. Both had asserted to oppose any activities that escalate tension. The US Navy has started patrolling in the South China Sea to challenge China. In past few months US aircraft carriers USS

Ronald Reagan and USS Nimitz along with their escorting cruisers and destroyers have conducted exercises in South China Sea. After clash between Indian Army and the PLA in Galwan Valley in June, India had sent its frontline warship to the South China Sea much to the displeasure of the Chinese who raised objections over the move during diplomatic talks between the two countries.

## MP Cabinet clears 'Love Jihad' Bill

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY** | DC  
Bhopal, DEC. 26

The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet on Saturday cleared the Dharma Swatantra (Religious Freedom) Bill, 2020, known in political parlance as 'Love Jihad' bill.

The draft bill, which may sail through in the Assembly during its three-day winter session commencing on December 28, provides a maximum of 10 years imprisonment and ₹one lakh fine to the perpetrators of forced religious conversion of a girl for marriage.

imprisonment of 1-5 years and a fine of ₹25,000 for forced conversion. If the victim of forced religious conversion belongs to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe or is under-aged, the offence would attract a jail term of 2-10 years with a maximum penalty of Rs one lakh.

Under the new bill, it is mandatory for both the bride and groom sides, to notify local district magistrate on change of religion two months in advance, failing which the marriage would be declared illegal.

Religious leaders and priests associated with such marriages would attract five-year jail terms and organisations and institutions involved in such marriages would be deregistered.

The new bill has also made provision of maintenance for the victim and her children. The Uttar Pradesh government passed a similar law on November 28.

However, cases of abuse of law in Uttar Pradesh have come to the fore.

"We have rescued many minor girls from various places recently. We will not allow this to happen to innocent girls from Madhya Pradesh," he added.

Later, briefing reporters, Home minister Narottam Mishra said that the new bill provides

in the existing surveillance strategies, it is critical to conduct enhanced genomic surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 specially in incoming passengers from the UK. Besides, it will also be critical to conduct genome sequencing in samples where there is dropout of the S gene in lab diagnosis, proven cases of re-infections etc. Routine genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 from representative samples all across the samples needs to be a continuous and well planned activity.

"The NTF concluded that there is no need to change the existing treatment protocol in view of mutations emerging in the strain. Further, since ICMR has always advocated use of two or more gene assays for testing

## NTF: No need to change protocol for new strain

**SHASHI BHUSHAN** | DC  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 26

The National Task Force (NTF) on Covid-19 has concluded that there is no need to change the existing treatment protocol in view of SARS-CoV-2 mutations emerging in the United Kingdom and spreading to some countries.

The NTF deliberated on aspects related to the treatment protocol, testing strategy and surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 vis-a-vis the UK variant.

Health Minister K. K. Shailaja said on Saturday that samples of eight returnees were found positive for Covid-19 and their samples have been sent to NIV for further tests. Following this development, it has been

critical to identify individuals infected with this strain and adequately contain them to prevent its transmission in India.

The NTF recommended that in addition to the existing surveillance strategies, it is critical to conduct enhanced genomic surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 reported from the UK and the response of other countries to these reports. The situation is being monitored proactively. A strategy has been put under place to detect and contain the mutant variant.

"The NTF concluded that there is no need to change the existing treatment protocol in view of mutations emerging in the strain.

"Further, since ICMR has always advocated use of two or more gene assays for testing

decided to subject the returnees to more tests, she added.

Surveillance at the four international airports in the state have been further strengthened. After the recently held local body polls, it was feared that there would be a massive surge in cases. However, that did not occur.

The death rate did not go up in the state as the government had taken precautionary steps in this regard, she said.

— PTI

According to the Union health ministry, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) informed that the Centre has taken cognizance of the reports of mutant variants of SARS-CoV-2 reported from the UK and the response of other countries to these reports. The situation is being monitored proactively. A strategy has been put under place to detect and contain the mutant variant.

"The NTF concluded that there is no need to change the existing treatment protocol in view of mutations emerging in the strain. Further, since ICMR has always advocated use of two or more gene assays for testing

SARS-CoV-2, it is unlikely to miss infected cases using the current testing strategy," said the Union health ministry.

A total of 251 new deaths and 22,273 infections of Covid-19 were, meanwhile, reported in the country. The number of people who have recovered from the disease climbed to 97,40,108, pushing the national recovery rate to 95.78 per cent, while the fatality rate stands at 1.45 per cent. The active caseload remained below three lakh for the fifth consecutive day. There are 2,81,667 active cases of Covid-19 in the country, constituting 2.77 per cent of the total caseload.

**MEDICAL RECORD**

## Hemant had developed Lukoskin for leucoderma; several other herbal medicines

## DRDO man bags Scientist of the Year Award

**New Delhi, Dec. 26:** Senior scientist Hemant Kumar Pandey has been honoured with DRDO's 'Scientist of the Year Award' for his contribution in developing several herbal medicines, including the popular drug Lukoskin meant for treatment of leucoderma.

A recipient of several prestigious awards in the field of herbal medicine, Pandey has been undertaking

research at the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) lab Defence Institute of Bio-Energy Research (DIBER) at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand for the past 25 years.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had recently facilitated the scientist at an event here with the prestigious award that comprises a certificate and cash prize of ₹2 lakh.

"Dr Hemant Kumar Pandey, Scientist 'E', Defence Institute of Bio-Energy Research (DIBER), Haldwani has significantly contributed

in the development of five herbal products and filed seven patents.

ToT of three products

has been done with Aimil Pharmaceuticals,

New

Delhi, which has launched anti-leucoderma product into the market by trade name Lukoskin.

"In recognition of his invaluable contribution, the Scientist of the Year Award-2018 is conferred on Dr Hemant Kumar Pandey," the citation accompanying the award stated.

Though the scientist has developed six herbal drugs so far, Lukoskin used for treating leucoder-

## Farmers ready for talks with Centre on Dec. 29

**ASHHAR KHAN** | DC  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 26

should have faith in the government and that if at any stage the laws cause hindrance to the farmers the government will not hesitate to rethink these.

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that during Dr Manmohan Singh's government in 2013-14, the farmers were paid ₹1,310 for a quintal of paddy but now they are being paid ₹1,815.

Carrying ration and other essential items with them, several batches of farmers from Punjab headed towards Delhi borders to join the peasants protesting against the Centre's new agriculture-related laws.

According to farmer union leaders, farmers from various places including Sangrur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Gurdaspur and Bathinda districts were headed towards Singhu and Tikri borders. They began their journey despite fog and biting cold wave conditions in many parts of Punjab.

Tractor trolleys, cars and other vehicles carrying farmers, including the elderly and women, were seen on the Amritsar-Delhi national highway. The road from Delhi to Ghazipur border was also closed as the farmer protest spill over to the other carriageway.

Kisan Union leader Dr Darshanpal said on Saturday that the farmers will celebrate the martyrdom of Guru Govind Singh's son on December 27 and December 28. The protesters will then meet the Centre for the next round of talks on December 29.

On December 30, farmers will march from Singhu to Tikri and Shahjahanpur alongside their tractors on the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) highway. "We request people from Delhi and other parts of country to come and celebrate New Year with protesting farmers," he said.

The government has been repeating its stand that the farm laws will benefit the farmers. Several senior ministers have said that farmers

are not being heard by the BJP.

The NCP leader's statement would assume a political significance as elections of the several local bodies and gram panchayats are round the corner.

"The leaders who joined the BJP thought that they would be heard when the BJP would come to power. Now, they want to leave BJP because their works weren't done. Some leaders from Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad have wished to return. They will soon be welcomed," Mr Pawar said.

Reacting to Pawar's statement, the BJP state president Chandrakant Patil said, "When Ajit Pawar failed to keep his 28 MLAs, whom he thought were with him when tried to form the government with the BJP, how would he get any other MLA now?"

Mr. Pawar said that those joining the NCP were earlier in the same party before defecting to the BJP. These leaders

over 5 crore people are under its grip in India. It is neither contagious nor life-threatening.

The incidence of leucoderma is 1-2 per cent of the population worldwide. Apart from Lukoskin, Pandey has developed drugs for treatment of eczema and toothache as well as an anti-radiation cream, most of which are already being sold in the market following transfer of technology (ToT).



## SHORT TAKES

## 35K COPS TO MAN MUMBAI STREETS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

Mumbai, Dec. 26: Around 35,000 police personnel will be deployed on the streets of Mumbai to maintain law and order and prevent any untoward incidents on New Year's eve, an official said on Saturday.

The Maharashtra government has already placed restrictions in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and imposed a night curfew from 11 pm to 6 am till January 5. Around 35,000 personnel of Mumbai police will be on the streets to maintain strict vigil on New year's eve, joint commissioner of police (Law and Order) Vishwas Nangre Patil said.

In view of the night curfew, New Year celebrations can be held before 11 pm, but after that strict action will be taken against people who violate the prohibitory orders, the official said. Hotels, restaurants and other recreational establishments have been asked to down their shutters at 11 pm sharp and action will be taken against owners who violate the norm, he said.

## COURT REBUKES DELHI POLICE FOR 'MANHANDLING'

New Delhi, Dec. 26: A court here has sought a report from the city police regarding the whereabouts of a murder accused who was allegedly manhandled by some unknown people and policemen and forcibly taken away in a car from a jail compound where he had gone to surrender.

An application was moved by the counsel of the accused. Metropolitan Magistrate Raghu Sharma directed the concerned assistant commissioner of police (ACP) to file a report regarding the whereabouts of the accused, Kartik, and the current status of investigation in the case. An application was moved for Kartik's surrender in the murderer case on December 12 and the court had directed the Investigating Officer (IO) to file a report in the matter on December 23.

When the IO failed to appear before the court on December 25, it noted that it was a serious disregard of its orders. "Not only did the IO not appear before this court, he has also switched off his mobile phone in order to avoid phone calls from the court staff.

## FORMER BUREAU CHIEF OF DC PASSES AWAY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

S. Viswam, senior journalist and former bureau chief of *Deccan Chronicle* in Bengaluru, passed away on Friday. He was 96. He had suffered shivering bouts last week and was rushed to hospital with complaints of breathlessness. He was put on ventilator support but passed away on Friday evening.

Viswam's last rites were carried out on Saturday in Bengaluru.

His friends and colleagues remember Viswam as a very affable person who worked very easily with his juniors. He was a regular at the foreign office in Delhi and had received briefings from Prime Ministers since 1960. A sensitive, humane and well-liked person, he was respected not only by his colleagues but also by bureaucrats.

Viswam started his career with the Free Press Journal in Mumbai in 1940s. After 20 years, in 1960, he moved to New Delhi. From then on, he began covering news at the office of Prime Minister and the foreign office.

Anand Sahay, a senior editor who worked with him, recalled the affectionate relationship he had shared with Viswam from 1975. Said Sahay: "He was a tall and handsome person with a very soft side to him. He was not only liked by his colleagues but also by bureaucrats with whom he interacted. He was very close to H.Y. Sharada Prasad, information adviser to Indira Gandhi."

Viswam later left New Delhi and moved to Bengaluru and was working with *Deccan Chronicle* till 2008. Journalist Dipankar Chakraborty said, "In 1991, when I joined *Deccan Chronicle*'s Delhi bureau, his literally larger than life presence was both awe-inspiring and overwhelming."

Many others reminisce about the time when Viswam was a father figure for journalists at the Indian Newspaper Society building in New Delhi from where he worked.

## Sprees of political arrests continue in J&amp;K

**YUSUF JAMEEL I DC**  
SRINAGAR, DEC. 26

Jammu and Kashmir police have, once again, gone on an arrest spree.

In the past one week, about 100 political activists have been taken into 'preventive custody' across the Union Territory and, as per official sources, some of them may be formally detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) to 'prevent a breach of peace'.

The police began taking opposition leaders and activists into 'preventive custody' on December 21, a day before the counting of votes in the recently held District Development

Council (DDC) elections in the UT. Among the first to be apprehended were senior People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Naem Akhtar and two other former lawmakers, Muhammad Sartaj Madni, and Mansoor Hussain.

Though the authorities refused to give out the exact number of detainees, unofficial sources put the number at 75 to 100. They include second-rung leaders and activists mainly of PDP and National Conference (NC), the two main constituents of opposition parties' amalgam People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) and those of separatists organ-

izations, mainly Jamaat-e-Islami.

The official sources said that "undesirable" political activists, separatist leaders and Over Ground Workers (OGWs) of militants are being taken into preventive detention and some of them are likely to be booked under the PSA to prevent "breach of peace".

But the NC has alleged that the arrest of mainstream political activists is to make horse-trading of elected DDC members easy.

NC vice-president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah accused the J&K administration, led by Lieutenant

Governor, Manoj Sinha, of misusing police to force the winning candidates of PAGD to join Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP), which he called was the 'B-Team' of the BJP.

"On one hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and J&K LG Manoj Sinha boast on DDC polls and claim democracy has won, but on the other hand, democracy is being discredited," he said while addressing a press conference here on Saturday.

Flanked by party general secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar and provincial president (Kashmir) Nasir Aslam Wani, Abdullah played a purported call

recording in which the husband of a woman DDC candidate, Yasmeena Jan who was elected from Imam Sahab segment of southern Shopian on NC ticket could be heard admitting to another person how he made his wife join Apni Party in lieu of getting her brother released from detention.

"I swear in the name of God and his Messenger, Altaf Bukhari (chief of the JKAP) has promised that Farooq will be released within three days."

Abdullah alleged, "Winning candidates of PAGD are being threatened, humiliated and coerced to join Apni Party,

which is a B-team of BJP". He said, "I don't know the reasons on whose command this all is being done."

Earlier he had while tweeting a photograph showing Ms. Jan and two other new entrants from micro-blogging site that when NC vice-president "tweets a picture of a female DDC member joining our party and captions it as her joining 'BJP's B-Team', he is consciously painting a cross on her head." He added, "For years this targeted branding of political workers has led to murders...This is a conscious, deliberate attempt to intimidate those DDC members who want to exercise their free will."

## BJP to push for one poll, one nation

## Party to organise over 25 webinars to seek support

New Delhi, Dec. 26: The BJP will organise nearly 25 webinars over the next few days on the issue of "one nation, one election", as it seeks to build popular support for what has been a strong plank of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Party sources said its senior leaders, besides members of academia and legal fraternity, will be attending these 'webinars', seminars that are held online. "We plan to hold 25 webinars by the end of this month," a party leader said.

Since coming to power in 2014, Modi has often advocated holding all elections together, from Lok Sabha to state assemblies and local bodies, arguing that this will orient various elected bodies fully towards development as the current cycle of frequent polls across the country hampers work.

Recently, while addressing the concluding session of the 80th All India Presiding Officers Conference, the prime minister had pitched for "one nation, one election", saying it is the need of India as polls taking

## Sea of grief for Tsunami victims



Women pay tributes to the victims of Tsunami 2004 on its 16th anniversary, at Foreshore Estate beach (Pattinapakkam beach), in Chennai, on Saturday. In India, 10,749 people were killed, 5,640 people were missing and thousands of people made homeless. — PTI

## Jaishankar to visit Qatar today over ties

**SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC**  
NEW DELHI, DEC. 26

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar to undertake an important two-day official visit to the oil-rich Gulf nation of Qatar from Sunday during which he will meet Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani and also call on other important Qatari dignitaries.

It may be recalled that just earlier this month,

India and Qatar had decided to "create a special Task-Force to further facilitate investments by Qatar Investment Authority into India", and had also "resolved to explore Qatari investments in the entire energy value-chain in India".

The decisions had been announced on December 8 after a phone conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amir of the State of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. India's outreach

is significant, given the politics in the Gulf region

and Qatar's stormy relations in the past three years with Saudi Arabia which is widely considered the leader of the Arab world. India has excellent ties with Saudi Arabia too and efforts are reportedly underway between Saudi Arabia and Qatar to mend their own bilateral ties.

In a statement issued late on Saturday evening, the MEA said, "(EAM) S. Jaishankar's visit to Qatar will be his first visit to the country as EAM. During the visit he will hold talks with his counterpart on

bilateral issues as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The MEA added, "India and Qatar enjoy strong economic, cultural and people-to-people ties. Qatar hosts more than 7 lakh Indians. The bilateral trade was \$10.95 billion in 2019-20. Both sides remain committed to intensify bilateral cooperation in various fields including energy and investments. India and Qatar have also worked together to face the Covid-19 pandemic and co-ordinated smooth operation of flights under an Air Bubble arrangement."

## Naveen: Will fight for women quota

**AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC**  
BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 26

partymen on the 24th Foundation Day of the party.

He described "women empowerment" as his favourite programme of his administration.

"I am confident that the mothers and sisters who run their households so efficiently will run the Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad with equal competence," he said quoting late chief minister Biju Patnaik.

"Mothers are the axle of the wheel in society. Without their progress, the chariot will not move forward," he added.

"BJD is the only political party in the country that has given 33 per cent tickets to women in the 2019 general elections," he said.

"Women empowerment is the empowerment of the nation. No household, society, state and country has ever moved forward without empowering its women," Mr Patnaik said here while addressing

media statement late Friday, said the entire land occupied by him in "illegal" possession of land at Visva-Bharati, a living Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has accused its vice chancellor of acting at the behest of the Centre "with its growing control over Bengal".

Sen was born in 1933 at Santiniketan, which is home to Visva-Bharati, the university founded by Rabindranath Tagore, another Nobel prize recipient from Bengal. Sen, in a

centenary celebration of Visva-Bharati when media reported that the university has written to the West Bengal government alleging dozens of land parcels owned by it in the names of private parties including Sen.

These people had set up restaurants, schools and other businesses on its land, the varsity said, according to the report.

A freehold land is a land parcel over which the owner has complete control for perpetuity. "I

would prefer to use Indian laws as they exist. For mental strength, I may clutch the beautiful old picture of our home by Abanindranath Tagore, among others," he said.

Abanindranath was a nephew of Rabindranath Tagore and a famed painter of the Bengal School of Art. Amartya Sen's maternal grandfather Kshetramohan Sen was a pupil at Santiniketan that evolved into a university over time, and was honoured with 'Deshikottam', a coveted award, in 1952. — PTI

**BOOK | LAUNCH** On New Year's Day, *Making of a Hindu Patriot* will be launched at Gandhi Darshan

## RSS chief to release new book on Gandhi

**New Delhi, Dec. 26:** Mahatma Gandhi's 1909 work "Hind Swaraj" is grounded in "dharma" which is often but inadequately translated as religion, says a new book on the father of the nation scheduled to be launched on January 1 by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat.

Authors J.K. Bajaj and M.D. Srinivas say their book "Making of a Hindu Patriot: Background of Gandhiji's Hind Swaraj" has evolved out of their earlier effort to prepare an authentic edition of "Hind Swaraj" based on Gandhi's handwritten manuscript of 1909 in Gujarati and his English translation of the text published from Phoenix in 1910.

They say they have tried to tell the story of the evolution of "Hind Swaraj" as a text of religious patriotism and of Gandhi as a Hindu patriot, perhaps the greatest, Deshbhakta Mahatma, of our times.

Himself as a Hindu, perhaps a better Hindu than most others, and that is how his contemporaries saw him, they say. They argue that Gandhi's early contact with the people of a different civilisation made him to "think con-

siously about the faith and ways of the ordinary small-town Hindu that he had imbibed and taken for granted since his early childhood".

"In South Africa, under pressure to convert from some of his Christian and Muslim well-wishers, he began a serious exploration into his own religion, and also Islam and Christianity, to discover for himself the meaning and responsibility of being a Hindu," says the over 1,000-page book, published by Har-Anand Publications.

"At the same time, faced with the extreme prejudice against Indians, to which he was personally exposed within the first few weeks of his arrival there (South Africa), he began to study and meditate on the difference between the Indian and the modern Western civilization," it says.

According to the authors, "Hind Swaraj" is best read as a text of religious patriotism. "Leading and engaging in this (Satyagraha) struggle for establishing and preserving the dignity of India

GUNFIGHT IN SHOPIAN DIST.  
KILLS 2 JAWANS, TWO INJURED

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
SRINAGAR, DEC. 26

A gunfight that lasted for about twenty hours in a remote village of Jammu and Kashmir's southern Shopian district left two Al-Badr outfit militants dead and two Army jawans injured. The private house in which the militant duo had been trapped during a search operation of security forces was damaged extensively, the police sources said on Saturday.

The officials identified the slain militant as Owais Farooq and Asif Lone, both local cadres of Al-Badr, who were part of the group involved in several terrorist activities including attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities.

The fighting broke out on Friday after a joint team of J&K police's counterinsurgency Special Operations Group (SOG), the Army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles and 17th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) laid siege to Shopian's Kanigam village to carry out searches.

**SHORT TAKES**  
**JUDGE DELAYS EXECUTION OF U.S. WOMAN**

Washington, Dec. 26: A federal judge said the Justice Department unlawfully rescheduled the execution of the only woman on federal death row, potentially setting up the Trump administration to schedule the execution after president-elect Joe Biden takes office.

US District Court Judge Randolph Moss also vacated an order from the director of the Bureau of Prisons that had set Lisa Montgomery's execution date for January 12.

Montgomery had previously been scheduled to be put to death at the Federal Correctional Complex in Terre Haute, Indiana, this month, but Moss delayed the execution after her attorneys contracted Coronavirus visiting their client.

**TURKISH OPPN TV STATION SHUTS DOWN**

Istanbul, Dec. 26: A private Turkish TV station that aired pro-Kurdish opposition views has shut down less than a month after launch, raising press freedom concerns in a country often chastised by rights groups.

Olay TV, owned by businessman and former minister Cavit Caglar, began broadcasting on November 30 and was pulled off the air on Friday. Its staff announced its closure live on air:

Caglar said he pulled out of the venture because the station's editorial line veered too close to the pro-Kurdish opposition, while the editor claimed he had bowed to government pressure.

Executive editor Suleyman Sarilar said on air that the network had aimed to maintain equal distance from every segment in Turkey's polarised society. "But we have seen that we can no longer keep up with this kind of broadcasting ... Cavit (Caglar) said he was under intense pressure from the government and that he cannot move forward," he claimed.

**BUTCHERING LOVER: RUSSIAN GETS 12.5 YRS**

Saint Petersburg, Dec. 26: A Russian historian and Napoleon enthusiast was sentenced to 12-and-a-half-years in prison for murdering and dismembering his young lover last year.

The Saint Petersburg trial, which spurred activists to voice growing anger over domestic abuse in Russia, began in June after delays due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Oleg Sokolov, 64, had admitted murdering 24-year-old Anastasia Yeshchenko but said he committed the crime against his former student and lover in the heat of the moment during an argument.

He was arrested in November last year after he was found drunk and carrying a backpack containing a woman's arms. Judge Yulia Maximenko sentenced Sokolov on Friday to "12 years and six months in a strict regime penal colony" on charges of murder and the illegal possession of firearms. "He was aware of his actions at the time of the crime," Maximenko said as she read out the verdict.

**BRITISH DOUBLE AGENT GEORGE BLAKE DIES**

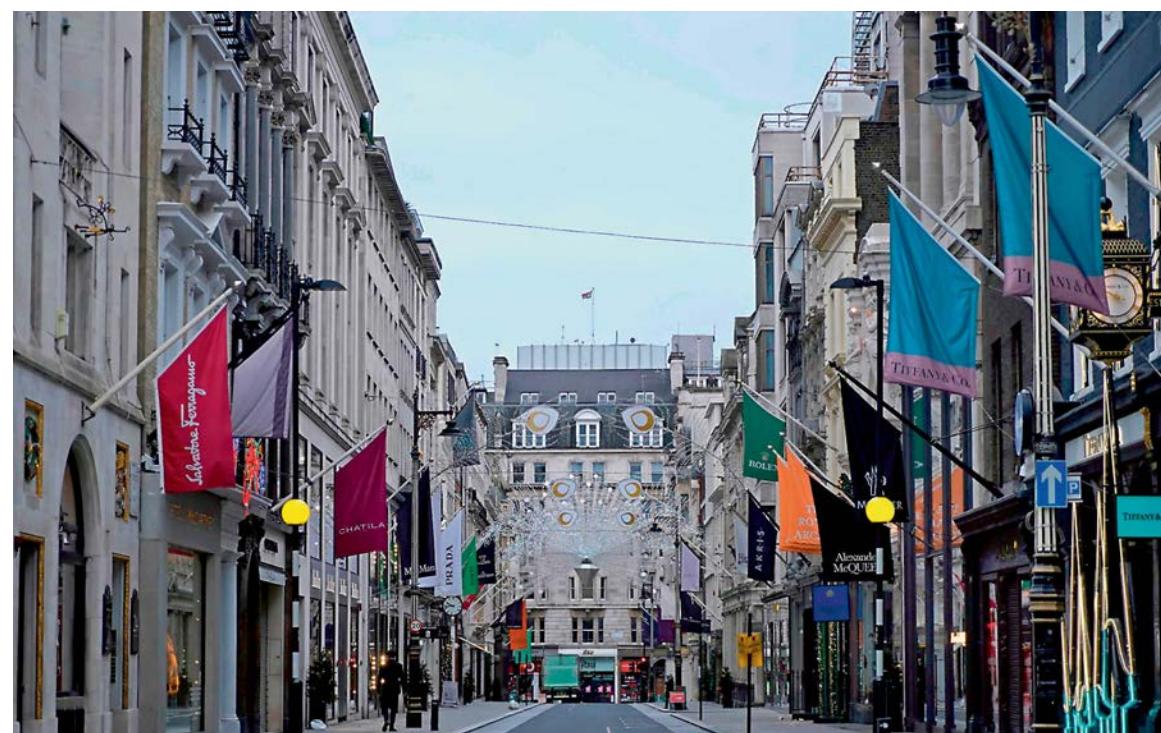
Moscow, Dec. 26: George Blake, a former British intelligence officer who worked as a double agent for the Soviet Union, has died in Russia. He was 98.

Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, known as SVR, announced his death Saturday in a statement, which didn't give any circumstances of his death. Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed condolences, hailing Blake as a "brilliant professional" and a man of "remarkable courage." Blake has lived in Russia since his daring escape from a British prison in 1966 and was given the rank of Russian intelligence colonel.

Born in the Netherlands, Blake joined British intelligence during World War II. He was posted to Korea when the war there erupted in 1950 and was detained by the Communist north. He said he volunteered to work for the Soviet Union after witnessing relentless US bombing of North Korea. In a statement issued in 2017 through SVR, Blake emphasised that he decided to switch sides after seeing civilians massacred by the "American military machine."

# UK variant strikes Spain, France

New virus strain has prompted more than 50 countries to impose travel restrictions on the UK



A near-deserted Old Bond Street in London is pictured on Saturday, as Londoners continue to live under Tier 4 lockdown restrictions. Fears over new strains and surging Covid-19 infections in general across Europe have severely — AFP

## UK millions face tough post-Christmas curbs

● LOCKDOWNS HAVE also started in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and measures have been reimposed in Wales after being eased for Christmas Day, when the UK crossed another grim milestone of 70,000 virus deaths.

Northern Ireland, and measures have been reimposed in Wales after being eased for Christmas Day, when the UK crossed another grim milestone of 70,000 Coronavirus deaths.

Under the toughest Tier 4 restrictions, all non-essential shops, bars and

## NO COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS IN LANKA AS OF NOW

Colombo, Dec. 26: Sri Lanka has postponed the reopening of its airspace for commercial flights, scheduled for Saturday, to prevent the spread of a new variant of the Coronavirus, officials said.

The next date for resumption of flights will be announced later. The Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL) had announced last week that it will resume international flights operations from December 26, eight months after they were closed in view of the Covid-19 outbreak. The decision was taken in the wake of the new Coronavirus strain. — PTI

## EGYPT HOSPITAL FIRE KILLS SEVEN COVID PATIENTS

CAIRO, Dec. 26, 2020 (AFP) -

A fire at a hospital north of Cairo on Saturday killed seven coronavirus patients, security and judicial sources said.

The blaze in the intensive care unit of the hospital in Obour district, on the outskirts of Cairo, also injured five other people, the sources said.

The new strain of the virus has prompted more than 50 countries including Spain to impose travel restrictions on the UK.

Madrid has banned all entries from the United Kingdom except for Spanish nationals and residents.

France and Italy have also already confirmed cases of the new variant, while the World Health Organisation reported that nine cases have been detected in Denmark and one each in the Netherlands and

Egypt has so far registered 130,126 Covid-19 cases, including 7,309 fatalities.

Health facilities in the North African country, like elsewhere, have been strained by the mounting number of infections.

In June, a fire at a hospital in Egypt's coastal city of Alexandria killed seven coronavirus patients and injured seven others. — AP

restaurants are closed and people are not allowed to meet other households, except in a support bubble or in an outdoor public space with one other person. Large parts of England were already in this tier pre-Christmas, including London, after the new mutation was found to be spreading fastest in those regions. With the devolved administrations setting their own strategies.

Northern Ireland goes into a six-week lockdown from Saturday with non-essential shops shut and hospitality open only for takeaway services. — PTI

● BEIJING IS conducting testing on a limited scale in the neighbourhoods and workplaces where the cases were found.

● AUTHORITIES HAVE shut schools and all public spaces in five divisions in Dalian, and only essential workers can leave their compounds.

ern port city of Dalian said Friday that they had tested over 4.75 million people for the Coronavirus after 24 confirmed infections this month.

Authorities have shut schools and all public spaces in five neighbourhood divisions in Dalian, and only essential workers can leave their compounds. — AP

## LOW-KEY | EVENT

## Families that reunite for Christmas celebrated apart this yr Services move online, people stay home

## Instant immunity antibody drug trials start in UK

Covid-19.

The study, led by UCLH virologist Dr Catherine Houlahan, recruited the first participant in the world to the study earlier this month and has recruited 10 participants since then.

"We know that this antibody combination can neutralise the virus, so we hope to find that giving this treatment via injection can lead to immediate protection against the development of Covid-19 in people who have been exposed – when it would be too late to offer a vaccine," said Houlahan.

— PTI

Scientists in the UK have begun trials of innovative antibody drug treatments that they hope could provide instant protection against Covid-19.

The University College London Hospitals NHS Trust (UCLH) said that the researchers in the Storm Chase study believe a Long Acting Antibody (LAAB) known as AZD7442, developed by AstraZeneca, may offer immediate and long-term protection to people who have been recently exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 Coronavirus and prevent them from developing

It seemed every time she opened her door this holiday season, someone had left smoked salmon, baskets of nuts or cookies.

"This year Christmas love is expressed at the door," she said.

"I'm glad that people will probably be with us next year with the vaccines. I can give up anything for that." With a child due in February, Song Ju-heyon of Paju, South Korea, near Seoul, said home is the only place she feels safe.

The government reported 1,241 new cases Friday, a new daily record for the country. "It doesn't feel like Christmas anyway, there's no carols being played on the streets," she said. "It's Christmask," the Daily Nation newspaper declared in Kenya, where a surge in cases led to doctors ending a brief strike Christmas Eve.

● POPE FRANCIS delivered his Christmas blessing from inside the Vatican, breaking with his traditional speech from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to tens of thousands in St. Peter's Square.

Celebrations were muted in the East African hub as a curfew prevented overnight church vigils.

Pope Francis delivered his Christmas blessing from inside the Vatican, breaking with his traditional speech from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to tens of thousands in St. Peter's Square. Tourism in Italy has virtually vanished and the government's

## EU starts vaccine rollout: Doses reach Italy, Spain, France

Paris, Dec. 26: The European Union set up a vaccine rollout Saturday, even as countries in the bloc were forced back into lockdown by a new strain of the virus, believed to be more infectious, that has spread from Britain to France and Spain and even as far as Japan.

The pandemic has claimed more than 1.7 million lives and is still running rampant in much of the world, but the recent launching of inoculation campaigns has boosted hopes that 2021 could bring a respite.

First doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine arrived in hard-hit Italy, Spain and France on Saturday morning ready for distribution to elderly care facilities and hospital staff.

"We'll get our freedom back, we'll be able to embrace again," Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio said as he urged Italians to get the shot.

Vaccinations in all 27 European Union countries will begin on Sunday, after regulators approved the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine on December 21.

Several countries including France, Spain, Japan, Denmark, Lebanon, Germany, Australia and the Netherlands have reported ca-

## POC DOCTOR DIES OF COVID AFTER RACIST PLAINTS

Indianapolis, Dec. 26: A Black doctor who died battling Covid-19 complained of racist medical care in widely shared social media posts days before her death, prompting an Indiana hospital system to promise a "full external review" into her treatment.

Dr Susan Moore, 52, tested positive for Covid-19 late last month and was admitted to IU Health North Hospital in Carmel, Indiana, according to a Facebook post. Acutely aware of her condition and medical procedures, the physician said had to repeatedly ask for medication, scans and routine checks while admitted at a hospital in Carmel. — AP

ses of the new strain, which has sent jitters through already overstretched health services. More than 25 million total infections have been recorded in Europe on Friday, and Russia on Saturday said it had topped three million. — AP

## Ahead of WHO probe, China hails handling of virus

Beijing, Dec. 26: China's ruling Communist Party leaders have congratulated themselves on their "extremely extraordinary" success in handling the Covid-19 outbreak domestically, ahead of a World Health Organisation probe into the disease's origins.

China faced a barrage of criticism at home and abroad over its initial handling of the virus, which emerged in the central city of Wuhan last December.

China's Politburo, the top decision-making body of the Communist Party, said late Friday that the party leadership "played a decisive role in leading ... China in prevailing over the rare risks and challenges this year." At the critical moment ... the Party Central Committee took a long-term view ... achieving an extremely extraordinary glory in this extremely unusual year," state news agency Xinhua reported.

Japan has not been able to slow the infections despite government requests for the people to avoid going out for dinner and parties before and during the holiday season. Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike has ordered bars to close early and urged residents to avoid nonessential outings.

But many people have continued commuting on crowded trains and going out for dinner and drinks. And now with a new virus variant from the United Kingdom reaching, there's danger. — AP

## TURKMENISTAN PREZ: LICORICE CAN CURE COVID

Ashgabat, Dec. 26: Well-known for his baffling botanical pronouncements, Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov claimed Saturday that licorice could cure Coronavirus, the latest supposed miracle cure in a country still claiming zero cases.

"Scientists from every country are looking for effective cures, running various studies, and one of them could be licorice root," the leader of the authoritarian ex-Soviet country told ministers.

Without citing any scientific evidence, former dentist Berdimuhamedov claimed that "licorice stops the Coronavirus from developing" and "even a weak concentration of a water-based extract has a neutralising effect." — AP

cism by punishing at least eight whistleblowers. A Chinese citizen journalist who reported on Wuhan's outbreak, Zhang Zhan, has been detained since May and is expected to go on trial on Monday. — AP

as they administer in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, kept visitors away.

In Beijing, official churches abruptly cancelled Mass after China's capital was put on high alert following two confirmed Covid-19 cases last week. Two new asymptomatic cases were reported Friday. With economies reeling around the world, it wasn't a year of lavish gifts.

Robin Synpiewski of Middlesex County, New Jersey, was furloughed twice from her job serving school lunches and is now on reduced hours as her husband retires next week as a trash collector and her daughter wrestles with student debt.

— AP

**SHORT TAKES**  
**MOROCCAN KING GETS BIBI INVITE TO VISIT ISRAEL**

Jerusalem, Dec. 26: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Morocco's King Mohammed VI held a telephone conversation during which the Israeli premier invited the king for a visit, Netanyahu's office said Friday.

The phone call comes three days after an Israeli delegation signed a US-sponsored normalization agreement with Morocco in Rabat.

"The leaders congratulated each other over the renewal of ties between the countries, the signing of the joint statement with the US, and the agreements between the two countries," a statement from Netanyahu's office said.

"In addition, the processes and mechanisms to implement the agreements were determined," it added.

**MALI: FRENCH SOLDIER SHOOTS TWO OTHERS**

Paris, Dec. 26: A French soldier deployed to Mali as part of the Barkhane force fighting jihadist insurgents has wounded two comrades with a pistol while drunk, the army headquarters said Saturday.

The confrontation under the influence happened overnight from December 24 to 25 at a base in Gao in eastern Mali.

"Two soldiers from the same unit were getting on each other's nerves. One soldier wounded two of his comrades with his service weapon," an automatic pistol, army spokesman Frederic Barby said.

One of the two men was wounded very lightly, while the other's injury was more serious although not life-threatening. Both were flown out following the shooting and brought to hospital in France. Military police are probing the incident and "once the probe is over, the shooter will be flown home," Barby said.

**ATTACK KILLED 207 IN ETHIOPIA: HR COMMISSION**

Addis Ababa, Dec. 26: A total of 207 people were killed in a Wednesday attack by gunmen in western Ethiopia, the country's Human Rights Commission (EHRC) said, more than doubling a previous count.

The independent government body had on Wednesday said 100 people were killed in their sleep and crops burned in a pre-dawn assault in the Metekel area of the Benishangul-Gumuz region.

"133 of the victims were adults and 35 were adult women. Seventeen children, one of whom a six-month-old baby, and 20 elderly persons were killed," the EHRC said in a statement posted to Twitter late Friday.

Mostly inhabited by ethnic Shinasha, Oromo and Amhara people — the last two making up Ethiopia's most numerous groups — the Metekel area has suffered a string of deadly attacks in recent months.

Local leaders blame ethnic Gumuz people for the violence.

Following Wednesday's attack, "effort is underway to identify the victims with the help of survivors and identity cards," the EHRC said.

**3 PEACEKEEPERS OF UN KILLED IN C. AFRICA**

Bangui, Dec. 26: Three United Nations peacekeepers have been killed by unidentified combatants in the Central African Republic, the United Nations said, as the country prepares for a general election and fighting continues between rebels and government forces.

The news came after a rebel coalition called off a ceasefire and said it would resume its march on the capital, as well as the arrival of troops from Russia and Rwanda to shore up the government of the resource-rich country.

"Three peacekeepers from Burundi were killed and two others were wounded" following attacks on UN troops and Central African national defence and security forces, the UN said in a statement Friday.

The assaults took place in Dekoa, central Kemo Prefecture, and in Bakouma, in the southern Mbomou Prefecture, it said, without providing further details.

Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, strongly condemned the latest incident, and called on the CAR authorities to investigate the "heinous" assaults.

# Beijing rushes senior CPC leader to Nepal

To assess the ground situation, avert a vertical split in NCP

## Oli Govt for Jan 1 winter session

Kathmandu, Dec. 26: Embattled Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli-led government has recommended the president to summon the winter session of Parliament's upper house on January 1, nearly a week after the lower house was dissolved.

Nepal plunged into a political crisis last Sunday after Oli, known for his pro-Beijing leanings, in a surprise move, recommended dissolving the 275-member House, amidst a tussle for power with former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. Acting on Prime Minister Oli's recommendation, President Bidya Devi Bhandari dissolved the House of Representatives and announced dates for midterm elections at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli on Sunday, sparking protests from a section of the ruling party and various opposition parties.

The ruling Nepal Communist Party has now been virtually divided more than two years after it was formed following the merger of CPN-UML led by Oli and CPN-Maoist Centre led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal

?rachanda' in May 2018.

A Cabinet meeting held on Friday evening decided to recommend that the president summon the winter session of the National Assembly on January 1, Hridayesh Tripathi, who was made minister for health earlier on Friday, told *Kathmandu Post*.

The meeting was held after Prime Minister Oli reshuffled the Cabinet to induct eight ministers, five of them former Maoist leaders, and change the portfolio of five of his ministers.

On Sunday, after the dissolution of the House of Representatives, seven ministers close to Prachanda-led faction had resigned from their posts.

The budget session of Parliament was prorogued on July 2 by the president on the recommendation of the government.

— PTI

ular China Southern Airlines flight," the paper reported, citing sources in both factions of the NCP. Bishnu Rijal, Deputy Head of Department of Foreign Affairs of the NCP's Pra-

chanda-led faction, said that the Chinese side has communicated about Gou's visit to Kathmandu. "I don't have much detail to share with you at this point of time," Rijal was

quoted as saying by the paper.

The Chinese embassy here did not respond to its multiple calls and messages, the paper said. Although no specific details about the agenda of the visit are available, senior NCP leaders confirmed that Guo is scheduled to land in Kathmandu on Sunday morning, leading a four-member delegation, *My Republica* newspaper reported.

Observers here believe that the visit could be to assess the ground situation in Nepal following the decision of Oli to dissolve the House of Representatives and the rival faction within the NCP taking to the streets, it said. Citing sources in the ruling party, the paper said during his four-day stay in Kathmandu, the Chinese vice minister is scheduled to meet top leaders.

The development comes after Chinese ambassador in Nepal Hou Yanqi held a series of meetings with the president and top leaders of the NCP, including Prachanda and Madhav Nepal, who has replaced Oli as chairman of the Prachanda-led faction.

During her meeting with Madhav Nepal on Friday, Ambassador Hou, who was concerned about the split in the NCP, inquired about the future political course of the ruling party,

the paper quoted Rijal as saying. — PTI

## 2 cops killed as explosions strike Kabul

Kabul, Dec. 26: A series of explosions hit the Afghan capital on Saturday morning, killing at least two police officers and wounding another two plus a civilian, officials said.

The officers died and a civilian was hurt when a magnetic bomb attached to a police vehicle detonated in western Kabul, said police spokesman Ferdous Farahmarz. Two other police were wounded when a bomb attached to their car exploded earlier Saturday in southern Kabul, Farahmarz said.

A third magnetic bomb detonated in eastern Kabul but caused no casualties, he said. There were reports of at least two other blasts elsewhere in the city but police had no immediate details.

The latest attacks came as Taliban and Afghan government negotiators held talks in Qatar, trying to hammer out a peace deal that could put an end to decades of war.

No one has immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks in Kabul. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for multiple attacks in the capital in recent months, including on educational institutions that killed 50 people, most of them students.

The talks in Doha have been suspended until early January and there is speculation they could be further delayed.

At the same time, Taliban militants have waged bitter battles against IS fighters, particularly in eastern Afghanistan,



Afghan security personnel inspect the site of a bomb attack in Kabul, on Saturday.

### RUSSIA DETAINS TOP ASSOCIATE OF NAVALNY

Moscow, Dec. 26: A top associate of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was detained after doorstepping an alleged security operative who has inadvertently revealed details of Navalny's supposed poisoning with a Soviet-era nerve agent.

Lyubov Sobol, a key figure in Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation, was detained on Friday for 48 hours after a day of interrogation on charges of violent trespassing. The move followed Sobol's attempt on Monday to enter the Moscow apartment of the alleged operative, whom Navalny had previously duped into describing details of the alleged poisoning.

Sobol has denied the accusations and insisted that she violated no law by ringing the doorbell to the apartment.

While Sobol was being questioned, the state Investigative Committee issued a statement accusing her of trespassing — charges her colleagues have rejected. Earlier this week, Navalny released the recording of a phone call he said he made to a man he identified as Konstantin Kudryavtsev and described as an alleged member of a group of officers of the Federal Security Service, or FSB, who purportedly poisoned him with the Soviet-era Novichok agent in August and then tried to cover it up.

Navalny said he phoned the man hours before the group Bellingcat released a report. — AP

## Blast in Nashville: Communications outages affect all

Nashville, Dec. 26: A recreational vehicle parked in the deserted streets of downtown Nashville exploded early Christmas morning, causing widespread communications outages that took down police emergency systems and grounded holiday travel at the city's airport.

Police were responding to a report of shots fired Friday when they encountered the RV blaring a recorded warning that a bomb would detonate in 15 minutes.

● POLICE EVACUATED nearby buildings and called in the bomb squad. The RV exploded shortly afterward, Metro Nashville Police Chief John Drake said.

● POLICE BELIEVE the blast was intentional but don't yet know a motive or target, and Drake noted that officials had not received any threats before the explosion.

● THE BLAST sent black smoke and flames billowing from the heart of downtown Nashville's tourist scene, an area packed with honky-tonks, restaurants and shops.

● BUILDINGS SHOOK and windows shattered streets away from the explosion near a building owned by AT&T that lies one block from the company's office tower, a landmark in downtown.

"We do not know if that was a coincidence, or if that was the intention," police spokesman Don Aaron said. He said earlier that some people were taken to the department's central precinct for questioning but declined to give details. AT&T said the affected building is the central office of a telephone exchange, with network equipment in it.

The blast interrupted service, but the company declined to say how widespread outages were.

The AT&T outages site showed service issues in middle Tennessee and Kentucky. Several police agencies reported that their 911 systems were down because of the outage, including Knox County, home to Knoxville about 180 miles (290 kilometers) east of Nashville.

AT&T said that it was bringing in portable cell sites and was working with law enforcement to get access to make repairs to its equipment.

— AP

## Intercepted attack plot by IS: Russia

### TWO ARRESTED FOR CRASH THAT KILLED 2 GOVS

Moscow, Dec. 26: Russia's FSB security service said Saturday it had foiled an attack planned by a cell loyal to the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group in the country's unstable southern republic of Dagestan, arresting four people.

"Members of the group planned to detonate an explosive close to an administrative building belonging to security services, followed by an armed attack against interior ministry employees" in regional capital Makhachkala, the FSB said in a statement.

As well as arresting four members of the international terrorist group, investigators found firearms and bladed weapons, a large amount of ammunition and an explosive device", it added, along with mobile phones containing "exchanges with organizers located abroad".

On December 17, police killed two attackers targeting security forces in Russia's neighbouring republic of Chechnya.

Six people were also killed during an October "counter-terrorism" operation in Chechen capital Grozny, including two members of the security forces.

Russia's territories in the Caucasus were ravaged by two wars between federal troops and Chechen separatists in the 1990s and 2000s.

Increasingly Islamist in character, the insurgency spread to other republics in the region and declared allegiance to IS in 2015.

While the jihadist group's influence remains limited, occasional attacks against the authori-

ties persist in Chechnya, Dagestan and neighbouring Ingushetia. — AFP

while continuing their insurgency against government forces and keeping

their promise not to attack US and NATO troops.

IS has also claimed responsibility for last week's rocket attacks tar-

getting the major US base in Afghanistan. There were no casualties. — AP

ing their lifetime positions,

several are still in their 30s. The three Supreme Court picks could still be on the court at the 21st century's midpoint, 30 years from now. Beyond the Supreme Court, however, judges who have him to thank for their position rebuffed his claims.

But in many other important ways, his success with judicial appointments already is paying dividends for conservatives. When the Supreme Court

boasted about it. Indeed,

undeterred by Democratic criticism, the Senate was still confirming judges more than a month after Trump lost his reelection bid to Joe Biden.

"Trump has basically done more than any president has done in a single term since (President Jimmy) Carter to put his stamp on the judiciary," said Jonathan Adler, a law professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio, adding that Congress created around 150 new judgeships during Carter's presidency.

The impact will be enduring.

Among the Trump-appointed judges, who hold lifetime positions, the real measure of what Trump has been able to do will be revealed in countless court decisions in the years to come on abortion, guns, religious rights and a host of other culture wars issues. When it came to the president's own legal challenges of the election results, however, judges who have him to thank for their position rebuffed his claims.

Previously, the court had allowed restrictions on religious services over the dissent of four justices, including the other two Trump nominees, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. Five Trump appointees were in the majority of the 6-4 decision by the full 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in September that made it harder for felons in Florida to regain the right to vote. — AP

## Trump made lasting impact on courts

Washington, Dec. 26: On this, even President Donald Trump's most fevered critics agree: He has left a deep imprint on the federal courts that will outlast his one term in office for decades to come.

He used the promise of conservative judicial appointments to win over Republican skeptics as a candidate. Then as president, he relied on outside conservative legal organizations and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to employ an assembly line-like precision to install more than 230 judges on the federal bench, including the three newest justices of the Supreme Court.

● AS PRESIDENT, he relied on outside conservative legal organisations and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to employ an assembly line-like precision to install more than 230 judges on the federal bench, including the three newest justices of the Supreme Court.

— FLIP SIDE

Judges who have him to thank for their position rebuffed his claims

several are still in their 30s. The three Supreme Court picks could still be on the court at the 21st century's midpoint, 30 years from now. Beyond the Supreme Court, however, judges who have him to thank for their position rebuffed his claims.

But in many other important ways, his success with judicial appointments already is paying dividends for conservatives. When the Supreme Court

**SHORT TAKES**  
**Dean remembered**  
**during MCG Test**

**Melbourne:** More than three months after his death, Dean Jones was paid another tribute at his home ground here by Indian and Australian players, who were joined by his wife, daughters and the legendary Allan Border in remembering the effervescent former player on Saturday.

Jones' family and former Australia captain Border participated in the farewell during the tea break of the ongoing second Test here. Border, Jones' wife Jane, and daughters – Augusta and Phoebe – took a long walk from the boundary of the Melbourne Cricket Ground to the centre, carrying his baggy green, sunglasses and Koobaburra bat and laid the items to rest on the stumps at the Great Southern Stand end of the ground. Later, 12 men from both sides – K.L. Rahul (India) and James Pattinson (Australia) – collected the items and rested them on a seat by the boundary. — PTI

**Ex-Eng cricketer**  
**Jackman no more**

**London:** Former England cricketer Robin Jackman, who played four Test matches and 15 one-day internationals, has died, the International Cricket Council said. He was 75. Jackman took 1,402 wickets in a 399-game first-class career between 1966 and 1982. Following his retirement he became a commentator in South Africa, where he lived with his wife Yvonne. A statement on Friday from the ICC read: "We are saddened to learn about the death of legendary commentator and former England bowler Robin Jackman, who has passed away aged 75."

Former New Zealand bowler and fellow commentator Danny Morrison tweeted: "Awoken to the sad news of dear buddy & comms colleague Robin Jackman passing. Blessed to have had wonderful times shared 'Jackers'. RIP Rob." — AP

**De Silva hurt after**  
**leading SL revival**

**Centurion, South Africa:** Dhananjaya de Silva and Dinesh Chandimal put Sri Lanka in a strong position on the first day of the first Test against South Africa in Centurion on Saturday. De Silva made 79 before retiring hurt and former captain Chandimal hit 85 as Sri Lanka reached 340 for six at the close.

De Silva suffered what appeared to be a left hip injury while running between wickets and was taken off the field on a motorised stretcher. It was not clear whether he would be able to take any further part in the match. His injury ended a partnership of 131 with Chandimal. — AFP

**Brief scores: Sri Lanka 340/6**

(D. Chandimal 85 batting, D.

De Silva 79 retired hurt, W.

Mulder 3-68) vs South Africa

**Irving, Robinson**  
**spark NBA routs**

**Miami:** Brooklyn's Kyrie Irving and Miami's Duncan Robinson each matched an NBA Christmas Day record with seven 3-pointers to ignite lopsided victories Friday, as the Heat stretch their holiday win streak to eight games. Irving scored 37 points, hitting 7-of-10 3-point attempts in his return to Boston, as the Nets ripped his former Celtics teammates 123-95.

Robinson finished with 23 points, hitting 7-of-13 from beyond the arc, in leading 2020 NBA runner-up Miami over visiting New Orleans 111-98. — AFP

**Live on TV**

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# BOWLERS' DAY OUT

Bumrah, Ashwin skittle Aussies out for 195 as India dominate

**Melbourne,** Dec. 26: Jasprit Bumrah's menace was matched by Ravichandran Ashwin's guile as an inspired India led by Ajinkya Rahane shot out Australia for a sub-par 195 to dominate the opening day of the second Test here on Saturday.

India then lost an out-of-form Mayank Agarwal (0) to Mitchell Starc but debutant Shubman Gill (28 batting) survived a hostile spell to hit some delectable boundaries in the day end score of 36 for 1 in 11 overs.

Giving him company was the seasoned Cheteshwar Pujara (7 batting). The line-up would look to exorcise the ghosts of the opening Adelaide game last week when India were shot out for their lowest ever Test score of 36.

"Not being reckless but playing with confidence will be the motive going forward," said Bumrah at the end of day's play, spelling out the team's plan.

As much as the day belonged to the Indian bowling unit for another fire-damp show, new captain Rahane deserved equal credit for marshalling his resources to perfection during the 72.3 overs that Australia batted.

Bumrah (4/56 in 16 overs) and Ashwin (3/35 in 24 overs) were the stars but debutant Mohammed Siraj (2/40 in 15 overs) also did his bit repaying the faith shown in him with wickets of Marnus Labuschagne (48) and Cameron Green (12) with the old ball.

However, the Test series is increasingly looking like Ashwin's paradise as he once again made the opposition's best batsman Steve Smith (0) look ordinary, exploiting the turn and bounce that the first day of the MCG track offered. The Indian team looked way more galvanised despite being without regular skipper Virat Kohli, who is on paternity leave. — PTI

**SIRAJ FULFILLED**  
**HIS LATE FATHER'S**  
**DREAM: BROTHER**

**Mumbai,** Dec. 26: Pacer Mohammed Siraj could not perform the last rites of his late father last month as he was in Australia with the national team but he made him proud by making India Test debut in Melbourne, his family said on Saturday.

The 26-year-old Siraj lost his father Mohammed Ghans, an auto-rickshaw driver in Hyderbad, on November 20, around a week after the Indian team landed in Australia and he could not return home due to Covid-19 restrictions.

His brother Ismail said it was his late father's dream to see Siraj play for the country in Tests and finally the dream was fulfilled on Saturday at the MCG. "It was my (late) father's dream that Siraj should represent India in Tests... He always wanted to see him (Siraj) in blue and white jersey to represent the nation, so our dream got fulfilled today," Ismail said.

Asked for his comments on Rahane's leadership, Gavaskar said: "... let's not jump into conclusions too quickly. If I say that his captaincy is outstanding, then again, I will be accused of backing a Mumbai boy and all kinds of things will happen.



India's Ravichandran Ashwin (left) celebrates with captain Ajinkya Rahane after dismissing Australia's Tim Paine on Day One of the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday. — AP

**SCORECARD**

**Australia 1st Innings:** Joe Burns c Pant b Bumrah 0, Matthew Wade c Jadeja b Ashwin 30, Marnus Labuschagne c Shubman Gill b Mohammed Siraj 48, Steven Smith c Pujara b Ashwin 0, Travis Head c Rahane b Bumrah 38, Cameron Green lbw b Mohammed Siraj 12, Tim Paine c Vibhari b Ashwin 13, Pat Cummins c Mohammed Siraj b Jadeja 9, Mitchell Starc c Mohammed Siraj b Bumrah 7, Nathan Lyon lbw b Bumrah 20, Josh Hazlewood not out 4. Extras (b-10, nb-3, w-1) 14. Total (in 72.3 overs) 195. FoW: 1-10, 2-35, 3-38, 4-124, 5-134, 6-155, 7-

155, 8-164, 9-191, 10-195.

**Bowling:** Jasprit Bumrah 16-4-56-4, Umesh Yadav 12-2-39-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 24-7-35-3, Ravindra Jadeja 5.3-1-51-1, Mohammed Siraj 15-4-40-2.

**India 1st Innings:** Mayank Agarwal lbw b Starc 0, Shubman Gill (batting) 28, Cheteshwar Pujara (batting) 7, Extras (nb-1) 1. Total (For 1 wkt. in 11 overs) 36.

**FOW:** 1-0.

**Bowling:** Mitchell Starc 4-2-14-1, Pat Cummins 4-1-14-0, Josh Hazlewood 2-0-2-0, Nathan Lyon 1-0-6-0.

**FORMER STARS**  
**HAIL RAHANE'S**  
**LEADERSHIP**

**Melbourne,** Dec. 26: India's stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane drew praise for his tactical acumen with former stars hailing his effective bowling changes that put the visitors in a dominating position in the second Test against Australia here on Saturday.

"Outstanding bowling changes and really smart fielding placements from Rahane. And the bowlers delivered. Ashwin, (Jasprit) Bumrah, Siraj were absolutely brilliant. Great effort to get Australia all out for 195 on the first day. Now for the batters to get a good first innings lead," former India opener Virender Sehwag tweeted.

Rahane is leading the side in the absence of regular captain Virat Kohli, who is on paternity leave.

Former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting said the credit to India's success on the opening day goes to Rahane's captaincy.

"(Rahane's) captaincy has been brilliant so far. We were all a bit worried about how they were going to pick themselves up after Adelaide. I think they looked potentially better today," Ponting told [cricket.com.au](#).

Australian spin legend Shane Warne was extremely pleased with the way action unfolded on day one. "The Indian bowlers were outstanding too & very well lead (sic) by @ajinkyarahane88! Can India bat all day?" warne tweeted. — PTI

## Gavaskar refrains from praising leader Rahane

**Melbourne,** Dec. 26: Former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar is impressed by Ajinkya Rahane's field placements but said he will refrain from praising his captaincy as it is still "early days" and he does not want to be accused of backing a fellow Mumbaikar.

Taking charge of the team in the absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli, Rahane marshalled his resources well as India dismissed Australia for a sub-par 195 in 72.3 overs on the opening day of the second Test here.

Asked for his comments on Rahane's leadership, Gavaskar said: "... let's not jump into conclusions too quickly. If I say that his captaincy is outstanding, then again, I will be accused of backing a Mumbai boy and all kinds of things will happen.

"So I don't want to get into that because these are early days," the legendary batsman said on [Sony Sports Network](#).

Gavaskar was impressed with Rahane's field placements as three Australian batsmen – Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, and Travis

Head – were all caught by fielders deployed at different positions.

"From what I have seen in the last 2 Tests he captained and the one-day matches he captained, he has got a great sense of where the fielders should be kept," Gavaskar said. — PTI

Lambasted and lampooned after being bundled out for 36, India's lowest ever Test score, at Adelaide, and then losing the services of stalwarts Virat Kohli and Mohamed Shami – for different reasons – the team was under enormous pressure going into this match. In this backdrop, the first day's performance was uplifting.

To shrug off acute gloom after the fiasco of the previous match and make such a robust comeback

Gill impressed with panache and compact technique.

He got a life, true, but came back with some stunning drives in front of the wicket without being wantonly risky. A sweet timer of the ball and pleasing to the eye, Gill's set sail on his international career. Hopefully it will be long and fruitful.

My reason for dwelling at some length on India's smart display on Saturday is two-fold: one, it stokes optimism about the future course of this series. Even diehard Indian supporters started fearing a clean sweep for Australia after the first Test debacle. That despondency has been somewhat dissipated.

The second is perhaps even more compelling. It has to do with the World

## Tanmay to lead Hyd T20 team

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

Tanmay Agarwal will lead the Hyderabad cricket team in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy – the BCCI's domestic Twenty20 tournament – to be held from January 10 to 31 next year.

B. Sandeep has been named vice-captain of the 20-member squad picked by selectors J. Shivaji Yadav, Ahmed Quadri and Abhinav Kumar in the Senior Selection Committee held on Saturday.

**Standbys:** Ashish Srivastav, Akash Bhandari, Shreyas Vala, Samith Reddy. **Support staff:** Zakir Hussain (coach), Shaheen Pratap Singh (physio), Sailesh Kumar (video analyst), Sajid Hussain (massager), Chitti Sridhar (manager).

The players should report to manager Chitti Sridhar at Hotel Green Park on Sunday, December 27, at 10 am, according to a press release from the Hyderabad Cricket Association.

## Late Foxes strike frustrate United

**Leicester,** Dec. 26: Leicester and Manchester United missed the chance to put pressure on Liverpool at the top of the Premier League as the battle between second and third ended 2-2 at the King Power on Saturday.

Slow starts had been a feature for United on the road this season as they had won their previous six away league games despite conceding first.

However, this time it was the Red Devils who twice failed to hold onto the lead given to them by Marcus Rashford and Bruno Fernandes.

Harvey Barnes's thunderous strike levelled before half-time and Jamie Vardy's predatory instincts kept Leicester one point and one place above United in the table as his shot deflected in off Tuanzebe five minutes from time.

Liverpool's lead at the top now stands at three points and Jurgen Klopp's men can move further clear when they host West Brom at Anfield on Sunday.

**THE RESULT**

**Leicester** 2  
(Barnes 31, Vardy 85) 2  
**Manchester United** 2  
(Rashford 23, Fernandes 79) 2

Solskjaer has been keen to put an end to his side's sluggish starts and should have been celebrating inside 90 seconds when Rashford headed over Fernandes's inch-perfect cross with only Kasper Schmeichel to beat.

The England international was not so forgiving to the Foxes when given a second chance midway through the first-half as he swept Fernandes's prodded through ball into the bottom corner for his 13th goal of the season.

However, Barnes hauled his side back into the game with one moment of brilliance as his powerful blast from outside the box had too much power for De Gea on 31 minutes.

— AFP

## Suryapet surpass Venu's fine show

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, DEC. 26

K. Venu and Khaja Bakshi impressed with the ball and bat respectively in the TCA Kakinada Cup T20 cricket tournament on Saturday.

Venu put up an exceptional show with the ball (5/34) but couldn't save Bhongir Badshaws from defeat as they collapsed to 40 while chasing Suryapet Sunrisers' 142. Raghu (4/8) and Usman (48) shone for the winning side and earned them a spot in the semis.

In another match, Tandur Tigers rode on good shows by Rajesh (4/9) and Naveen (4/5) to restrict Kakinada Kings to 97 before getting past the target with just one wicket in hand.

A half-century by Khaja Bakshi of Medchal Giants also went in vain as Induru Icons defended their lowly 101 by six runs.

**Brief scores:**  
■ Suryapet Sunrisers 142 in 17.5 overs (Usman 48, K. Venu 5/34) bt Bhongir Badshaws 40/9 in 20 overs (Raghu 4/8).

■ Kakinada Kings 97 in 19.5 overs (Manoj 38, Rajesh 4/9, Naveen 4/15) lost to Tandur Tigers 98/9 in 17.2 overs (Aditya 3/12).

■ Induru Icons 101 in 20 overs (Khaja Bakshi 3/13) bt Medchal Giants 95 in 15.2 overs (Khaja Bakshi 50, Aqueed Yaser 4/25, T. Adarsh 3/19).

■ Nirmal Thunders 93 in 17 overs (Mahesh 43, Siddarth 4/19, Sajeed 3/14) lost to Mulugu Masters 94/7 in 20 overs (Yashwanth 3/14).

victory at Adelaide, the Aussies have moved into an advantageous position which can only get stronger if they win another Test. A win at Melbourne would give India a significant push towards making the final of the WTC.

The first day holds out promise of a turnaround. I say this with the caveat that this is possible only if India can sustain form over a period of time.

In the first Test too a 53-runs first innings lead, and expectations of a win were dashed by spinless batting in the second innings.

The onus is on India's batsmen to ensure that this splendid opportunity created by the bowlers on Friday is not squandered once again.

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