

Intense battle on in Bengaluru for a ‘new’ Congress CM

THE penultimate month of 2025 has begun in an unexpectedly turbulent manner in Karnataka. After all, the struggle for the pinnacle of power in the south-western state of India – the CM post – had been set in motion right from the day Congress assumed power in May 2023. While it is still unclear whether it had the backing of the high command or not, it seemed like there was an undeclared agreement between the top two leaders – Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar – that the two would trade places at the midpoint of the five-year government, which happens to be this month. As the deadline drew near, the pulls and pressures from both lobbies started impacting the political atmosphere in the state for some weeks now. While the CM, who has survived similar power struggles throughout his long career, emphatically denied existence of any such power-sharing arrangement and asserted that he would last the full term, the Deputy CM, also the state unit chief, was not openly contradicting it yet had enough backers within the state Congress unit and government to raise a call in his favour. After having joined the Congress nearly 20 years back, Siddaramaiah has proved to be more useful and effective to the New Delhi power lobby.

His smart usage of the potent minority and backward caste cards

have kept his detractors a little wary of what his next moves could be and presumably, a better candidate for remaining at the top of the helm. In contrast, a life-long Congressman, Shivakumar, has been feted for his crisis management dexterity and ability to raise funds for various political wheeling-dealing in States where Congress is in power. Yet, he has been deprived of the CM chair as he doesn't have the aggregating influence of his arch-rival, who has survived vicious criticism from Opposition parties who have targeted him for his appeasement and conciliatory politics with caste groups and a defiant anti-Hindutva streak in most of his actions. Shivakumar has also not earned much apprecia-

tion for his ‘friendly’ attitude with the Opposition (read BJP) which has added to the former’s problems by extending a welcoming approach if ever he decides to switch sides. That may not happen as DKS, as he is popularly known, has exhibited unflinching loyalty to the GOP high command and is unlikely to do something catastrophic as joining hands with his political foes.

Yet, vested interests on both sides keep loading the media with their sensational observations, the latest being that of Yathindra, son of the incumbent CM, who had predicted that his father may not be seen in active politics for long and speculated that a minister from Belagavi may be his replacement. Divided

that the Congress party is in the state, no one is now bothered to cover themselves with ambivalent statements or comments and freely express their opinions about whom they want as the next CM, provided the ‘November revolution’ takes effect. Bengaluru is awash with speculation and intense rumours on the power struggle drama once again as it has been in the past month or so. Bihar election results are awaited by Congress, which senses that they may be in with a chance to dislodge NDA and silence dissent in party units by announcing cabinet reshuffles or appeasing rebels with a post or two. The battle has just taken a pause, but it has not come to a grinding halt, for sure.

LETTERS

Guru Nanak Jayanthi today

GURU Nanak Gurburab holds profound significance as a day to honour the holy Guru and embody his teachings, encouraging followers to fight the five vices-lust, greed, attachment, anger and pride. His teachings are embedded in the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of Sikhs. Guru Nanak Jayanthi, also known as Gurburab, which is being celebrated on Wednesday (Nov 5) is a momentous occasion for the Sikh community worldwide. It marks the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the revered founder of Sikhism. According to Sikh tradition, this celebration takes place on the full moon day of the Indian lunar month of Karthik.

C K Subramaniam, Navi Mumbai

Chevella horror: HC must take suo motu cognizance

IT’S heartbreaking that three college-going sisters from the same family died in a road accident at Chevella that killed 19 people on Monday. The impact was devastating - the truck, overloaded with small stones, left passengers half-buried under the debris. Who has the courage to console the victims’ families, and who will take responsibility for the potholes that led to the collision? The High Court of Telangana should take suo motu cognizance of the accident and hold the Telangana government accountable for the poor maintenance of Hyderabad’s roads.

Ganti Venkata Sudhir, Secunderabad

Highway roads turn deathtraps

THE bus-truck collision on the National Highway near Mirjaguda, which claimed 19 lives, is a grim reminder of the quality of roads on the National Highway and the apathy of the state transport department. The accident was caused due to a pothole on the road that the truck driver tried to avoid and ended up colliding with the bus. Huge loans are taken from the World Bank to build National Highways, and the citizens also pay toll tax and yet the condition of roads remain pathetic and risky. Will the Minister of Highways and State Minister of Transport own responsibility for the mishap?

P R Ravinder, Hyderabad

Punish errant drivers

THE gruesome accident near Chevella, involving a tipper truck and TGSRTC bus which collided head-on resulting in the death of 19 people was heart-wrenching. Some deaths were due to gravel being thrown on the passengers much like a shrapnel in a bomb blast; and burying the unwary travellers. Over speeding seems to be the cause for the accident. Rash and negligent driving must be strictly curbed on highways, which can be done by way of severe punishment and heavy penalties.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

Don’t malign women players

MANY self-styled cricket lovers celebrate players one day and trash them the next. Even as praise poured in for the Indian women’s team after their historic World Cup win, an ugly post targeted one of the key players, who helped India cross the final hurdle. The troll mocked her saying her “God was on holiday” — a cheap and disgraceful remark. Such venom shows how shallow and reactionary our fandom has become. Sport is about respect, not ridicule. True supporters stand by their players through both triumph and trial. It’s time we learn to cheer with dignity, not spew hate when things don’t go our way.

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad

Mazumdar displayed Chak De! spirit

A MOL Muzumdar, the unsung hero of Indian cricket, displays the spirit of coach Kabir Khan in Chak De! India. He never played for India but coached our women to the 2025 World Cup glory. With calm resolve and fierce faith, he united warriors and shattered barriers. His mantra is ‘believe, build, conquer’.

TS Karthik, Chennai-10

Women empowerment in Indian sport

A PROPOS ‘Harman’s angels cast a spell for ages’ (THI, Nov 4), close on the heels of the men in blue winning the Asia Cup, the women in blue won the coveted ICC Women’s World Cup for the first time. Surely this achievement will not only bolster women empowerment in Indian sport but also instil gender parity in the same. Indian women players displayed their abilities to match their male counterparts in every department of the game, an apt representation of sport in India, where cricket is almost a religion and cricketers’ demigods.

Dr George Jacob, Kochi

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BENGALURU ONLINE

Engineers given weekly targets to demolish illegal buildings

BENGALURU: The drive to remove unauthorized constructions in Bengaluru is picking up pace once again. The Bengaluru East Municipal Zone has set a weekly target for engineers to demolish eight illegal buildings as part of a renewed crackdown on unauthorized structures. Following the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the city’s civic officials have intensified their focus on illegal construction activities.

Bengaluru East Zonal Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar recently convened a coordination meeting with municipal engineers, directing them to implement the demolition plan with strict timelines. Under the East Zone’s jurisdiction, there are 8 divisions, 24 sub-divisions, and 50 wards. Officials have been instructed to compile and maintain complete data related to construction activities in their respective areas within a week. As per the directive, each division must remove at least one illegal building per week, resulting in a total of eight demolitions weekly across the East Zone.

Read more at
<https://epaper.thehansindia.com>

The decline of moral ethics and values in marital life



TADAKAMALLA MURALIDHAR

In Hindu tradition, marriage is considered a sacrament that unites two souls and two families. However, the present marriage system in India, whether arranged or love, is undergoing significant pressure and witnessing a transformation because of declining values within the families.

Spouses shift their responsibility and accountability for their own actions, which is known as the “blame game” resulting in misunderstandings, quarrels and fights and lack of happiness in marital life. The harmony between the spouses is damaged and a bitter experience is left between the two families of the married couple.

Thus, there is a possibility of breaking of the marital bond. The mind turns towards wrong thoughts about the spouse. One of the reasons is the absence of elders in the family to guide the younger ones and there are not as many joint families as there used to be earlier.

The ego of “me, mine” distances the couple from the idea of “we, ours”. Like adding fuel to the fire, the instigation of parents also causes damage to the system.

In today’s system, extra-marital affairs in the name of civilization are destroy-

ing marital life. Thus, situations arise in which the spouses do not want to live together.

The Union Government brought the Family Courts Act in 1984 as a viable measure to resolve rifts, misunderstandings and conflicts between the husband and wife through mediation, keeping them together without going in for a divorce, and providing speedy justice.

In Telangana State, three Family Courts were established for the first time in 1994 at the level of District Judge. Today, there is one Family Court in each district headquarters apart from two in the Hyderabad City limits, one in Secunderabad limits, three in NTR Nagar in Rangareddy district limits and one each in Malkajigiri and Kukatpally.

Approximately 2,000 to 2,500 cases are pending in each Family Court and each presiding judge calls about a hundred cases for hearing every day. Keeping in mind the increasing number of cases, unlike other courts, Family Courts are hearing cases even on Saturdays.

The presiding judges are working under a lot of pressure and carrying an unbearable burden because of the huge number of cases piled up before them.

Dispensation of justice by the presiding judges as desired by the divorcing couple is not an easy task. The two sides throw mud at each other with accusations, stubbornness, jealousy and hatred and sometimes quarrels in the courtroom itself. Filing of cases with false accusations with a malicious intention and trying to hurt the op-



The two sides throw mud at each other with accusations, stubbornness, jealousy and hatred and sometimes quarrels in the courtroom itself. Filing of cases with false accusations with a malicious intention and trying to hurt the opponent in some way, intentional violation of court orders, and even accusations against the judge for any delay in issuing orders or for not delivering the expected order are not uncommon.

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Before the advent of the Family Courts Act, 1984 three judges, namely District Judge, Senior Civil Judge, and Magistrate, used to deal with matters pertaining to estranged spouses with different duties. However, after the enactment of this Act, all those duties are tacked to the Family Court Judge. The main duty of the Fam-

ily Court Judge is to first bridge the gap between the couple through mediation and overcome the problems and keep them together, and only as a last resort, grant order of divorce by dissolution of marriage.

Apart from these, restitution of conjugal rights, judicial separation for six months as provided by the law, declaration of marriage as nullity, custody of children, property disputes between husband and wife, temporary and permanent maintenance and domestic abuse cases are all dealt with by the Family Courts.

A significant portion

of divorce cases involve young couples with good income. There has been a large increase in two types of cases i.e., cases of divorce sought by mutual consent after one year of marriage under Section 13-B and cases where the spouses seek declaration of annulment of marriage within a month of marriage under Section 12.

In cases instituted under Section 13-B, the most common reason cited by the estranged couples for divorce is that their differences were irreconcilable and they are unable to get along in life. Once the mar-

Bihar-The seat of ancient Indian civilisation

DR HYMA MOORTHY

Bihar, the region known historically as Magadha, Anga and Mithila has over the years evolved and transformed itself into a developing state, which makes for a laudable development.

In keeping with its rising status, this month’s Assembly elections in the State has become a prestigious issue for several key players, especially to all political contenders in the fray as also the stakeholders and the people across the national firmament.

A unique feature of Bihar is that the more you try to understand the entire gamut of its politics, the more likely that it slips away like sand through your fingers. Not surprisingly, the upcoming elections are generating significant interest across the country, more so because the eventual outcome will have a significant bearing on national politics.

As things stand, the electoral dynamics of one of the largest states in India that are characterised by complex caste equations and high-stake battles make it a closely watched event.

What I gathered from television channels and pod-

casts is that people at the nukkads, tea stalls and village court yards, with their spirited conversations show that they keep track of the State’s politics, and display their preferred ideas or parties. This shows that they are politically mature. The characteristic of every Bihar is that the individual nurtures a revolutionary temperament and speaks with a fearless mind.

Lest one forgets, this is the land of Gautama Buddha, Vardhamana Mahavira- the last Jain Tirthankara, and Chanakya. It is this very land that was once ruled by the Great Mauryan Empire, which unified a large part of the Indian sub-continent.

The Gupta Empire, often referred to as India’s Golden Era, for its advancements in art, science and philosophy flourished in this region with Pataliputra (the present day Patna) as their capital.

Going deeper, Bihar was the seat of prestigious ancient Universities like Nalanda, Vikramshila, Odantapuri and Telhara, which figures prominently in the travel accounts of Chinese travellers HiuenTsang, and Mithila University, which were major centres of learning with a global reputation.



They once symbolized the grandeur of ancient Indian Civilization.

Overtime, Bihar gradually lost its lustre and its rich heritage, glorious past and pioneering intellectual traditions. It has been observed that people from Bihar often hesitate to identify themselves as Biharis due to the negative connotations associated with the term. Historically, the word “Bihari” has evolved from a neutral geographical identifier to a derogatory label, symbolizing backwardness, poverty and lack of sophistication. It is such extremes that films and even the media often portray Biharis in a negative light, reinforcing stereotypes

and stigmatising the community.

However, of late, there is a growing movement to reclaim the term “Bihari” and challenge these negative perceptions. Many people from Bihar proudly declare their roots, using phrases like “Bihari hoon, garv hai” (I am a Bihari, and I am proud of it) to promote a positive identity to counter stereotypes.

One should not forget that Biharis are well represented in civil services, engineering and medical fields due to several factors. The State has a rich tradition of prioritising education with many students excelling in competitive exams at all

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India level. One can come across countless quality technical and medical institutions, thanks to the initiatives launched by the State government.

Bihari culture places high value on merit and hard work, which together drive students to excel academically and secure prestigious jobs and be assured of a prosperous future.

Bihar elections are crucial for all the parties as their reputation and leadership is being tested. At the end of the day, the real winners should be the people of Bihar. It’s crucial for the elected representatives to

prioritise the State’s development, progress and welfare of the people. Bihar has immense potential. A pro-people government can tap it to the fullest and also open up opportunities for its citizens, to eventually propel growth and prosperity.

One hopes that the focus of the contenders will be on key issues like infrastructure, education, and healthcare and job creation to ultimately improve the quality of life for the people of Bihar. All said and done, Bihar, especially its people, deserves leaders who will work tirelessly and strive for all-round betterment.