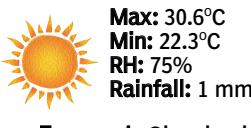


DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 29 AUGUST 2020

WEATHER



Max: 30.6°C
Min: 22.3°C
RH: 75%
Rainfall: 1 mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Rain likely. Max/Min
temp. 31/22°C



WORLD | 7
Abe resigns as PM
due to poor health



SPORTS | 9
Serena handed tough
draw at US Open



CORONA COUNT
CASES (+75,778)
34,59,295
DEATHS (+1006)
62,691
covid19india.org

STATE GOVT BULLETINS
TELANGANA (+2,932)
1,17,415
ANDHRA PRADESH (+10,526)
4,03,616
covid19india.org

799 (+81)
3,714
covid19india.org

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES
2,47,78,958
DEATHS
8,38,432
COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
213

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One-month-old baby girl sold for ₹1.10 L by granny

PULI SHARATH
KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, AUG. 28

A woman of Veenavanka village in Karimnagar district sold her one-month-old granddaughter for ₹1.1 lakh to clear her debts. The incident, which took place four days ago, came to light on Friday when the infant's grandfather Mothe Yadagiri informed the police.

The baby's mother Jamalpur Padma, who signed papers approving the child's sale, said she did so after her mother M. Kanakamma got her drunk.

- THE BABY'S mother who signed papers approving the child's sale, said she did so after her mother M. Kanakamma got her drunk.
- SHE TRIED to sell the baby for ₹2 lakh but the middleman did not agree

Yadagiri, the baby's grandfather, who had opposed Padma's marriage to Ramesh over caste issues.

Police said Kanakamma persuaded Padma to sell the baby and took her signature on some papers. She tried to sell the baby for ₹2 lakh but a middleman offered her only ₹1.1 lakh.

Kanakamma sold the baby to a family belonging to Gumpala village of Odelu mandal in Peddapalli district.

The states that approached the court through their respective ministers are Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

**PARMOD KUMAR | DC
WITH AGENCY INPUTS**
NEW DELHI, AUG. 28

Six Opposition-ruled states on Friday approached the Supreme Court seeking a review of its August 17 order refusing to interfere with the conduct of the NEET/JEE exams by the National Testing Agency for admission to medical and engineering courses.

The states that approached the court through their respective ministers are Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

The petitioner ministers have sought an urgent open court hearing of the petition to reconsider its

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 28

In another setback to those resisting examinations in the midst of Covid pandemic, the Supreme Court on Friday ruled that states and universities cannot promote students in the final year/terminal semes-

ter without holding examinations. It brushed aside the suggestion that students be awarded marks based on their previous performance and internal assessment.

Upholding the July 6 circular of the University Grant Commission (UGC) directing universities and

severely jeopardise public health.

The other grounds raised are the safety, security and right to life of all the candidates appearing for the NEET/JEE exams.

It adds that the August 17 order ignores the logistical difficulties in holding the JEE from September 1 and NEET on September 13.

Meanwhile, the IIT-Delhi has appealed to its students and alumni to help those appearing for the JEE-Advanced next month with transport to reach their exam centres.

The institute has also suggested to its students and alumni to come up with a registration portal for needy candidates and help take care of their logistics.

New Delhi, Aug. 28: Stating that Covid-19 cannot be a ground for postponing elections, the Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a PIL seeking to defer the Bihar Assembly polls till the state is free of Coronavirus.

The Election Commission of India will consider everything, a bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said. The bench, also comprising Justices R.S. Reddy and M.R. Shah, said it is a premature petition as no notification for

the Assembly polls has been issued till now. The petitioner, Avinash Thakur, had sought a direction to the Chief Election Commissioner to postpone the polls due to the Covid-19 pandemic on the ground that the Representation of the People Act provides for the deferral of polls in extraordinary situations.

IPL is scheduled to start on September 19 with Mumbai Indians taking on CSK in the opener. Neither CSK nor BCCI has issued an official statement, but it's learnt that Indian fast bowler Deepak Chahar, a top franchise official's wife, a few net bowlers and a couple of members of the social media team are among those infected.

As per IPL's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), those who test positive will be isolated and allowed to return to the bio-bubble only after at least two weeks of quarantine and two negative test reports.

Page 9: IPL teams begin practice amid Covid scare

6 Opposition-ruled states move SC on NEET, JEE dates

Bihar elections not to be postponed: SC

**PARMOD KUMAR | DC
WITH AGENCY INPUTS**
NEW DELHI, AUG. 28

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Page 9: IPL teams begin practice amid Covid scare

Hold degree final year exams by Sept. 30: SC

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 28

colleges across the country to conduct final year examinations by September 30, a bench comprising Justice Ashok Bhushan, Justice R. Subhash Reddy and Justice M.R. Shah, however, said that the decision of the State Disaster Management Authority

not to hold final examination by September 30 would prevail over the UGC deadline.

In this case Maharashtra State Disaster Management Authority had decided against holding final year examinations by September 30, 2020. The court further

ordered that if any State/Union Territory taking recourse to Disaster Management Act 2005 decides that it is not possible to hold exams by September 30, then it should approach the UGC for the extension of deadline and the same would be considered by the UGC.

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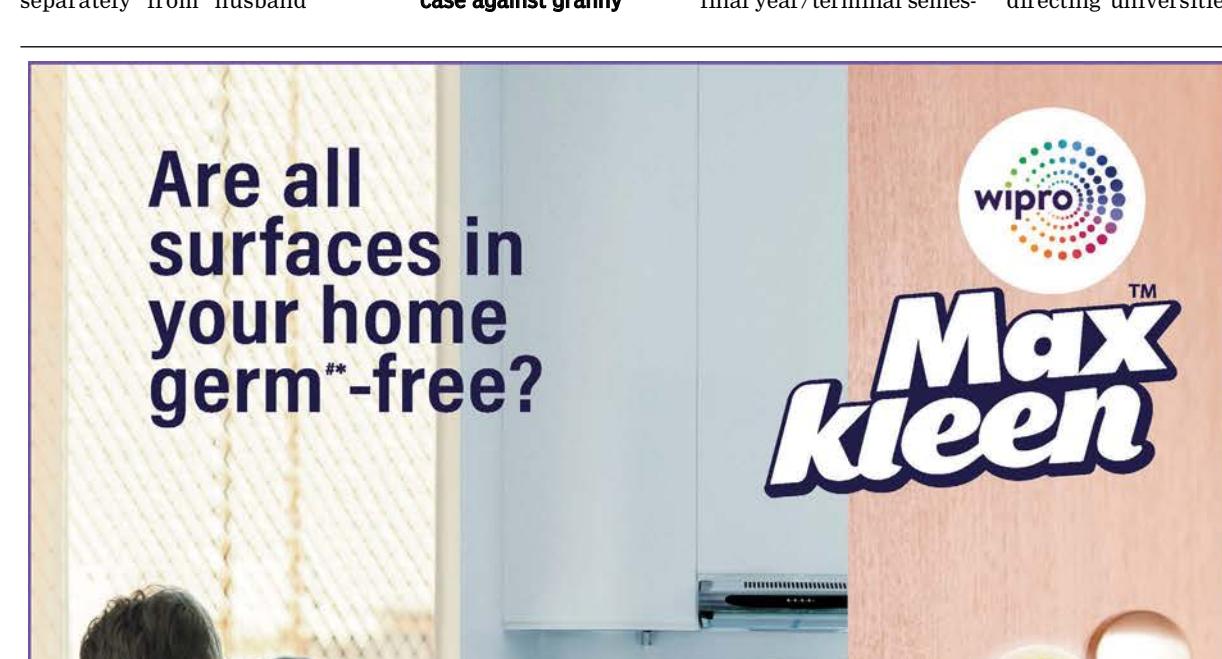
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IN BRIEF
Scholarships for disabled students

Hyderabad: The Union department of empowerment of persons with disabilities (DePWD) has invited scholarship applications from students with disabilities through the National Scholarships Portal. Pre-matric scholarships will be awarded to students of Classes 9 and 10. Post-matric scholarships will be awarded to students from Class 11 to postgraduation, and scholarships for graduate/postgraduate or diploma education in 241 notified institutions is available, said an official notification.

Registration of fresh students started from August 16 and for renewals on August 21. The last date for registration and submission of applications is October 31 on the website www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in.

POLICE FILES CASE AGAINST GRANNY

From Page 1

While Padma told the police that Kanakamma had sold the baby after getting her drunk, Kanakamma says she did so after Padma agreed. She told the police she has also shared the money with Padma.

Police have registered a case against Kanakamma and those who helped sell the baby. Officials have sent Padma and her daughter to the Integrated Child Development Centre. Padma's husband Ramesh said he was unaware of the entire incident.

IIT-H SEEKS APPLICATION FROM START-UPS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

The IIT-Hyderabad based AISEA Accelerator, on Friday opened applications from start-ups for the next cohort which will run for four months from September. The accelerator will now focus on the health-tech sector.

AISEA Accelerator is an AFI i-TIC Foundation social entrepreneurship programme and is sponsored by the Union department of science and technology and set up jointly by the i-TIC Foundation of IIT-Hyderabad and Action For India.

AISEA will provide support to start-ups from core health-tech and allied domains like healthcare, telemedicine, wellness, fitness, biotechnology, bio 3D printing, online pharmacy, diagnostics, personal health management, healthcare softwares, etc. The deadline is August 31 and details are available on www.aisea.co.

TWO COPS SUSPENDED FOR SEEKING BRIBE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

Two police personnel who were facing allegations of demanding money from a woman doctor practicing homoeopathy, were placed under suspension by the Hyderabad police commissioner on Friday.

Constable T. Biksham and Home Guard Y. Mohan Reddy of the SR Nagar police had demanded money from the doctor for running the clinic at her home in Motinagar.

The doctor lodged a complaint with the police. Announcing their suspension, Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar said, "Hyderabad police remains committed to clean image and public service. Any complaint against police officer can be made on WhatsApp at 9490616555."

CONSTABLE T. Biksham and Home Guard Y. Mohan Reddy of the SR Nagar police had demanded money from the doctor for running the clinic at her home.

Final year exams by Sept. 30

Students oppose, parents ready to skip exams than expose kids to Covid

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

The Supreme Court on Friday upheld the University Grants Commission's (UGC) position in its order that final year exams will be conducted by September 30 and that degrees cannot be conferred on the basis of internal assessments.

The Supreme Court also added that the states have the power under the Disaster Management Act to order postponement of exams in view of the Covid-19 pandemic and they can file an application before the UGC expressing their inability to hold examinations before the deadline of September 30.

The Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) chairman, Prof. T. Papi Reddy, told Deccan Chronicle that the state will conduct final year degree exams as per the SC order by September 30.

However, an extension for PG and backlog exams will be sought until October, he said. "The PG and backlog exams for final year students depend a lot on the opening of college hostels, so we will seek postponement," Dr Reddy added.

Students have expressed opposition to this decision. Parents are also of the view that they are ready to skip the exams than send their wards out during the pandemic and expose them to the risk of infection.

Venkat Balmoor, TS NSUI state president, said, "We are already on an indefinite hunger strike since Thursday (seeking postponement of exams).

2 INVOLVED IN 14 ROBBERIES ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

Two murder accused from Madhya Pradesh were arrested by the Rachakonda Central Crime Station (CCS) police on Friday for involvement in 14 burglaries.

The police seized property worth ₹17 lakh from the accused, Rituraj Singh, 33, and Gaya Prasad Sen, 28, residents of Boduppal and natives of Satna district of Madhya Pradesh.

A Malkajgiri CCS police officer said Rituraj was earlier jailed for burglary in MP, where he met Sen.

In 2019, they moved to Shamshabad in the city, and were again arrested for burgling houses.



— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

TPCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy along with Congress leaders participate in a protest against the scheduling of JEE and NEET, at Gandhi Bhavan on Friday.

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

Telangana state Congress president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has accused the BJP government at the Centre and the TRS government in the state of playing with the lives of lakhs of students by conducting examinations during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Along with senior party leaders, including former PCC president Ponnala Lakshmaiah, TPCC vice-president Dr Mallu Ravi and others, he held a protest at Gandhi Bhavan on Friday demanding postponement of Joint Entrance Examinations

(JEE) and National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).

As per the directions of the All India Congress Committee, they wanted to hold a dharna before the offices of the Central government. They were prevented from doing so by the police, which deployed a large number of personnel at the gates of Gandhi Bhavan, the TPCC headquarters here.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that it was insane on the part of the Centre to conduct JEE and NEET during the pandemic. He said Covid-19 cases were at their peak in almost all states. He pointed out that India has recorded the

world's highest spike of positive cases in a single day on Friday. Similarly, Telangana state has been reporting nearly 3,000 cases every day for the last one week. In a situation where it has spread to the community level, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government at the Centre wants to put the lives of nearly 25 lakh students and their families at stake by conducting the JEE and NEET exams.

Similarly, he said by silently accepting that decision, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao was risking the lives of nearly 1.2 lakh students who have registered for JEE and NEET, he alleged.

Remembering the victims



CPI (ML) leaders pay tribute to those who died in police firing near Basheerbagh during a protest against the hike in power charges on August 28, 2000.

— P. SURENDRA

HC fines petitioner ₹50K for PIL abuse

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

Cautioning that it would take a serious view of petitioners who try to abuse the purpose of public interest litigation for their personal or political interest, the Telangana High Court on Friday imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on a petitioner belonging to Nagarjunasagar.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice Annireddy Abhishek Reddy was dealing with a PIL filed by B. Venkateswarlu, seeking a direction to not allow a new petrol station at Nagarjunasagar. He said the spot came under the

purview of the dam and complained that it would affect to the structure if land was dug to instal oil storage bunks.

Concerned over the contentious, the court had earlier asked for details from the government. On Friday, the court was told that the proposed station would not come under the dam limits. It stated that the petitioner was an employee in another petrol pump which is close to the proposed fuel station.

The court directed Venkateswarlu to pay ₹50,000 as costs for filing the PIL for personal interest.

Rao, a native of Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, is a resident of Hydershakote in the city and works as a general manager with an automobile store in

Ex-soldier opens fire to threaten residents, held

JAYENDRA CHAITANYA | T. I. DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

A retired Army jawan was arrested for opening two rounds of fire to threaten a group of people following an argument at the apartment over the Ganesh idol immersion.

The licensed pistol of Naga Naga Maheshwara Rao, 38, a former havaldar, has been seized, and he was produced before a court for judicial remand, said the Narsingi police.

Rao, a native of Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, is a resident of Hydershakote in the city and works as a general manager with an automobile store in

Mehdipatnam.

According to the police, the apartment in which Rao stays has an office of Hireach Broadband Pvt Ltd on the ground floor. A Ganesh idol had been installed for the Ganesh Chaturthi festival and some people were making arrangements to immerse it on Thursday night.

At around 9.30 pm, a group of about 40 persons including the representatives of the company, while taking part in the immersion celebrations, went to the terrace and allegedly consumed alcohol while playing loud music.

The residents of the apartment including Rao, who lives in the third floor, objected to the loud music and a heated argument followed. Rao returned to his flat, took his .32 mm pistol to the terrace and opened one round of fire in the air to threaten the partying group, said the police.

"When the partying group went to the cellar to continue their celebrations, he again went there and opened another round of fire," said Narsingi inspector M. Gangadhar.

"Fortunately, no one suffered injuries in the incident. A case has been registered against Rao under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Arms Act.

He has a licence for the pistol but misused it," the

inspector said.

Learn to live with Covid-19, Etala tells RWAs

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

People have to learn to live with Covid-19 and residents welfare associations (RWAs) need to be vigilant as the government cannot be everywhere, said health minister Etala Rajendar.

Speaking at a meeting with a large group of RWA federations under the UFERWAS

United Federation of RWAs), Rajendar said this meeting was held to seek the assistance of RWAs in preventing the spread of Covid-19.

Expressing regret that social stigma around the virus was rampant, Rajendar added that the mortality rate in state was 0.8 per cent as against the national average of 2 per cent. The minister then appealed to the people to take precautions.

Major Shiva Kiran of UFERWAS said that UFERWAS vol-

unteers could handle the call centre, take up ward-wise home isolation monitoring and suggested that Coronavirus combat initiatives could first be taken up in 10-15 locations where RWAs are strong — Malkajgiri, Begumpet, Mehdipatnam, Kalyanamagar, Tarnaka, Masab Tank, AS Rao Nagar, Kukatpally, Erragadda, Motinagar, Nanakaramguda,

Hitec City, Kushaiguda, Medchal, Yaprak, Samikpuri and other locations. UFERWAS representatives thanked TRS Malkajgiri in-charge M. Rajasekhar Reddy for his support for their cause.

Dr Srinivas Rao, Director of Medical and Health Services, said DMOHS will be directed to work with RWAs and assured mobile testing services as required.

Second Niloufer Hospital staff dies of Covid

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

Coronavirus continues to take a toll on the lives of healthcare workers in the state, with one more person, a 50-year-old sanitation worker at Niloufer Hospital for Women and Children, succumbing to Covid-19.

The worker was being treated at Gandhi Hospital and passed away on Thursday. Just this past Tuesday, a 35-year-old woman, who worked as a EEG technician, had passed away, also at Gandhi Hospital after being diagnosed with Covid-19.

The government, Telangana Government Doctors Association president Dr Lalit Prasad Rathod said, should provide ₹1 crore compensation to families of such healthcare workers and also provide a suitable government job to a member of the affected family.

2,932 new cases, city crosses 500

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

Coronavirus cases shot past the 500 mark in the city again, with the GHMC area recording 520 cases in a day even as Telangana state continued to record high number of new Coronavirus infections. The number of cases had fallen in the past couple of weeks before rising again.

Health department authorities said 2,932 new cases of the disease have been found in the state between Thursday and Friday. As per Friday morning's Covid-19 bulletin, the total number of cases has reached 11,741 while the number of those succumbing to the disease rose to 799 with the health department reporting 11 more fatalities.

The number of active Covid-19 cases as on 8 pm on Thursday was 28,941 of whom 22,097 were either under home or institutional isolation, the department said.

Ranga Reddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts reported 212 cases each.

Karimnagar 168, Nalgonda 159, Nizamabad 129, Jagtial 113, Mancheril 110, Suryapet 102 and Siddipet 100 were the other districts where fresh Covid-19 cases were a hundred or more. The department said that as of Thursday evening, 42 government hospitals had 2,579 Covid-19 patients while 4,265 patients were being treated in 172 private hospitals.

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TN MP, kin of TS Gov, dies of Covid

Chennai, Aug. 28: Congress MP from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, H. Vasanthakumar, died of Covid-19 at a hospital here on Friday. He was 70.

Vasanthakumar is survived by his wife, two sons, including the Tamil actor Vijay Vasanth, and a daughter. Vasanthakumar is the brother of Tamil Nadu Congress veteran and noted Tamil litterateur Kumari Ananthan. TS Governor K. Palaniswami and his wife, Kumari Ananthan, are the surviving members of his family.

The first time MP, and working president of Tamil Nadu Congress

THE 70-YEAR old first time MP, and working president of Tamil Nadu Congress Committee, who was admitted to the Apollo Hospitals on August 10 after he tested positive for Coronavirus.

Committee, who was admitted to the Apollo Hospitals on August 10 after he tested positive for the Coronavirus, succumbed to the illness, a party spokesperson said.

Vasanthakumar, a two-time MLA was elected to the Lok Sabha last year.

— PTI

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Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am

HIJRI CALENDAR

Muhamarram 9, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.00 am

Zohar: 12.27 pm

Asar: 4.39 pm

Maghrib: 6.38 pm

Isha: 7.46 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.31 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.01 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 3.54 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 2.18 AM

COUNTER POINT



I need a big loan to buy a computer and the net package for my daughter, she is in LKG!

IN BRIEF

NIA files charges in Maoists case

Hyderabad: The NIA has filed a chargesheet against four persons including absconding Maoist secretary Yapa Narayana alias Jagan before the Nampally court on Friday, in a case of alleged recruitment and raising funds for the Maoists.

Last year, the NIA-Hyderabad had arrested Bandari Maddileti, 31, Telangana Vidyarthi Vedika (TVV) president. The NIA then arrested Menchu Sandeep, 26, TVV leader, and Nalamasa Krishna, 38, of the Telangana Praja Front.

The NIA said in the chargesheet that members of frontal organisations like TVV and TPF, in association with underground Maoists were furthering the activities of the organization in the grab of welfare activities.

1M MUSLIMS SIGN PETITION AGAINST SECCT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

The joint action committee for reinstatement of two mosques demolished during the dismantling of the Secretariat buildings will submit one million signatures obtained in the last fortnight to the Governor and Chief Minister's Office before the Assembly session commences on September 7.

Volunteers of the JAC obtained the signatures on the second Friday in front of mosques after the Juma prayers.

JAC convener Mohammed Mushtaq Malik said, "we succeeded in obtaining nine lakh signatures from the Muslim community to demand the government to reconstruct the mosques. We hope that we will reach the target in a few days from the entire state."

ON THE RUN

Police release pictures of fugitives, offer reward for their capture

No sign of escaped Covid +ve prisoners

JAYENDRA CHAITANYA T. | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

The Hyderabad police on Friday released pictures of the four Covid-19 prisoners who had escaped from Gandhi Hospital on Thursday, and announced a reward for actionable tips that could lead to the arrest of the escapees.

The four prisoners, convicts M. Somasunder, 20, and P. Narsaiah, 41, and undertrials Md. Abdul Arbaz, 21, and Md. Javed, 35, escaped from the special prisoners' ward on the second floor at the hospital.

They are believed to have pried open the iron rods and squeezed their way out of the washroom window and rappelled down using bedsheets.

The police who formed special teams to trace the fugitives, as well as their close acquaintances, have been approached for help," said the official. At the time of their escape, all the prisoners were in civilian clothes.

The four runaways were part of a group of 16 prisoners receiving Covid-19 treatment in the special ward at Gandhi Hospital.

Arbaz and Javed were caught less than a week ago, by Rajendranagar and Tandur police for involvement in theft cases. Somasunder and Narsimha, were convicts in theft cases, and were undergoing treatment at Institute of Mental Health for psychiatric issues.

In 2011, Narsimha escaped from the IMH at Erragadda, but was later caught.

The police has provided the descriptions of the prisoners and said that all the escaped prisoners speak Hindi and Telugu languages.

INFORMATION ABOUT
the prisoners can be shared on the following phone numbers:

Main Police Control Room:

040-27852333, and

9490616690; North Zone

Police Control Room: 040-

27853599 and 9490598982;

Gopalpuram ACP:

9490616439; Chikalguda

inspector 9490616440;

additional inspector,

Chikalguda: 9490616441.

prisoners did not get any clues on Friday. Officials involved in the investigation said they were trying the track down the prisoners as they could spread the disease.

"The prisoners did not leave any clues that could help us trace them. The families and friends of the fugitives, as well as their close acquaintances, have been approached for help," said the official. At the time of their escape, all the prisoners were in civilian clothes.

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Remains of the day



Fire broke out in a textiles shop due to a short circuit. Fire fighters extinguished the fire at the shop at Gowliguda in Hyderabad on Friday.

Parents file plaints against school on full fee demand

ATHER MOIN I DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

The Azaan School Parents Group (ASPG) and Telangana Parents Association for Child Rights and Safety (TPACRS) lodged a complaint in the Golconda police station against the institution as the management has blocked access of several students to online classes and was pressurising them to pay only for the services they are receiving.

Group president Ghazanfar Ali said the school management did not communicate to the ASPG the break-up of the fee, marking the tuition fee as the same as the regular fee that they have been charging before the pandemic. He said the school is a service provider and parents/students are the consumers and have every right to pay

only for the services being rendered by the former.

He contended that as the school is not offering regular education and is limited to offering online education alone, so the management is not entitled to charge the regular fee. If the parents desire to pay the fee for the online classes alone, it is by and large a legitimate right of the parents as consumers to pay only for the services they are receiving.

Asif Hussain Sohail, president, TPACRS, asserted that there should be a fee modification between physical and online education. As the parents are not availing full services, they should be charged only for the provided services, not the entire fee. Management should not block students just because they do not pay the full fee since it is a violation of the right to education in non-payment of fees.

She said the online classes were no less than actual classes and students can interact with the teachers. Only few parents have objection over the fee structure, claimed Dr Farozan.

Lockdown saw women abused

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL I DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

Several reports have stated that women faced increased domestic violence during the lockdown as families were cooped together due to restrictions on their movement, and asking for help was difficult.

One such victim is Dipali Mehta, an award-winning fashion designer and handloom supplier, who decided she had had enough. After 21 years of marriage, she has lodged a complaint with the women's police station at Begumpet accusing her husband and in-laws of domestic violence.

Civic authorities say the government will organise ground breaking ceremonies for all the skyways for which tenders would be finalised prior to the Assembly session. They said Rama Rao will inaugurate Durgam Cheruvu cable stayed bridge and Jubilee Hills Road No 45 elevated corridor only after September 15.

"Work on the ongoing projects is going on briskly in the West Zone while being at a snail's pace on the LB Nagar side. Work is in progress for works worth ₹7,000 crore. Because of shortage of labour it might take the next four years for completing them", an official said.

The only flyover, which was under active consideration, was the elevated corridor at Rasopura junction. The three-lane flyover, which would pass from behind the

back of Biodiversity Park to Raidurgam police station, has been placed to the back burner as the GHMC has not even floated tenders. Besides, the project near Shilparamam at Cyber Towers has been put on hold. The delay in Khajaguda and Cyber Towers flyover has irked minister K.T. Rama Rao so much that he instructed the corporation to cancel permission given to the agency concerned.

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SHORT TAKES

MINOR HELD FOR FAKE FB PAGE OF TRS MP

JAYENDRA
CHAITHANYA T. | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

A 17-year-old from Uttar Pradesh, who created a fake Facebook profile on the name of MP J. Santhosh Kumar and collected money from a city resident for medical treatment of an acquaintance, was arrested by the Cyberabad cybercrimes police. The accused, a juvenile from Gaon Mandura Goverdhan of UP, created chatted with several persons and said he needed money for his friend's daughter's medical treatment at Bhopal. Believing the accused, the city-based victim sent ₹50,000 through electronic transfer.

The cybercrimes police during the investigation found that the boy collected information about VIPs across India through the internet and created several fake profiles and conversed with innocent persons to extract money by providing false information.

CONGRESS CLAIMS LEADER IS BEING TARGETED

ANUDEEP
CEREMILLA | DC
WARANGAL, AUG. 28

Panchayat raj minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao falsely implicated former district cooperative central bank (DCCB) chairman Janga Raghava Reddy, alleged Warangal District Congress Committee president N. Rajender Reddy.

Speaking to mediapersons here on Friday, Rajender Reddy blamed the minister for targeting Raghava Reddy for contesting against him during the Assembly elections.

The political rivalry between Dayakar Rao and Raghava Reddy is well-known in political circles. Congress leaders alleged that the minister influenced the government to take action against Raghava Reddy, who was serving as DCCB chairperson at that time. Dayakar Rao accused him of involvement in large-scale irregularities causing loss to the bank and the government ordered a CB CID inquiry to investigate the irregularities.

Power meet



Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay meets Union power minister Raj Kumar Singh at Shramshakti Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday.

— D. KAMARAJ

Assembly to propose Bharat Ratna for PV

Necklace road to be renamed as PV Gnana Marg

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Friday said the Assembly, which will meet from September 7, will pass a resolution demanding that the Centre confer the Bharat Ratna on former prime minister PV Narasimha Rao.

Narasimha Rao Central University."

The Chief Minister was speaking during a review of the PV centenary celebrations, at Pragathi Bhavan. It was decided to rename Necklace Road as PV Gnana Marg and develop gardens all along the road and instal Narasimha Rao's statue there.

It was decided to establish a memorial at a suitable place in Hyderabad which will showcase the contributions to various fields made by Narasimha Rao.

Stating that as the centenary celebrations will continue for a year, Chandrashekhar Rao suggested that the members of PV Centenary Celebrations Committee plan the programme keeping the Covid-19 situation in view and also hold grand celebrations after the relaxation of pandemic guidelines.

The meeting resolved to develop Laknepally,

Malaysia, Mauritius, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and other countries. Stating that Narasimha Rao had excellent personal relations with several world leaders when he was external affairs minister and later as Prime Minister, Chandrashekhar Rao asked the committee members to invite former US president Bill Clinton, former UK premiers John Major and David Cameron for the celebrations.

The CM said he would personally write invitation letters to President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chief Ministers of various states to participate in the celebrations.

The former PM's daughter Vanitha Devi presented books written by her on Narasimha Rao to the Chief Minister during the meeting.

Africa, Mauritius, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and other countries.

The meeting resolved to develop Laknepally, the village where Narasimha Rao was born, and Vangara, where he grew up, as tourist spots.

It was proposed to request the Unesco to constitute awards in the name of the former PM to be presented to persons who have made rich contributions in the fields of literature, science and technology. The Telangana state government would arrange for the cash prize, he said.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the arrangements being made to conduct centenary celebrations in the US, Singapore, South

Chinese embassy keeps a close watch on investigation into betting firms

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

Even as a multi-agency probe is underway into the murky affairs involving two Chinese nationals — one arrested in Hyderabad and the other in Delhi recently — which comes right between the ongoing military and diplomatic meetings between India and China, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in New Delhi is keeping a close watch on the investigations and is said to be updating Beijing on a daily basis.

Though there is nothing to indicate that the arrests may have figured during the back channel talks between India and China, which are locked over a tense stand-off since the deadly Galwan clashes, top officials in India's security establishment still hold the view that the arrests could still be an irritant at this crucial juncture when several rounds of meetings at

THE HYDERABAD police had written to the MEA and the FRRO days after the arrest.

different levels has only led to a limited disengagement in parts of Ladakh.

While Luo Sang is being probed by agencies in Delhi for allegedly running a hawala racket worth over ₹1,000 crore using shell or dubious companies, Yeh Hao so far.

Usually, embassies offer legal help to its nationals among other logistics.

The Hyderabad police had written to the MEA and the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) days after the arrest. Around the same time, the income-tax sleuths raided and nabbed Luo Sang from Gurgaon.

The Enforcement Directorate and I-T officials are conducting separate investigations against the duo for alleged money laundering and taxation issues.

It is learnt that some officials in Delhi reportedly advised the Telangana state police to keep the arrest and

on media reports and update their government accordingly.

While embassies usually extend all help and support to its nationals arrested on foreign soil, it is unclear if the Chinese embassy has offered help to Sang and Hao through the MEA or MHA so far. Usually, embassies offer legal help to its nationals among other logistics.

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It is learnt that some officials in Delhi reportedly advised the Telangana state police to keep the arrest and

details of the ongoing probe low key, lest it becomes an irritant during the diplomatic talks between the two countries.

This is the reason why the Hyderabad police, which is known for deriving maximum mileage even when they arrest petty offenders, chose to be very measured in its briefing following Hao's arrest.

"The issue of arrest of Chinese nationals is sensitive at this point in time and can create uneasiness during talks, especially due to the complicated relationship between the two nations which makes it dicey for agencies," sources said.

It is precisely for this reason that top officials in Delhi are keen that the case be transferred to a central agency, perhaps the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to ensure that the Centre has full control over the probe and its details. There has been no move officially over this aspect.

It is learnt that some officials in Delhi reportedly advised the Telangana state police to keep the arrest and

CABLE OPERATORS TO TELECAST ONLINE CLASSES

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

Forty three cable network operators, in addition to direct-to-home television broadcasters, are now on telecast lessons for students from Class 3 to Intermediate from September 1, on the T-SAT network, according to the Society for Telangana State Network (Softnet). This is an effort of the government's information technology to provide quality education harnessing the potential of satellite communications and IT.

In addition to cable operators, Airtel DTH will telecast T-SAT Vidya and T-SAP Nipuna on its channels 948, and 949. The classes are available on T-SAT's YouTube channel, its app, on Facebook and Twitter.

Softnet chief executive officer R. Shailesh Reddy said in case of any difficulty of accessing T-SAT's channels on television, people can inform the local government officials or the district collector. If cable operators are found wanting on this front, the local Vidya Committee chairpersons and elected representatives should take the initiative to ensure T-SAT telecasts are transmitted, he said.

He also urged parents to ensure that their children watch the classes and not miss them.

Bhatti slams TRS for Covid deaths

PILLALAMARI
SRINIVAS 1 DC
ADILABAD, AUG. 28

CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday said all deaths due to Covid-19 are murders committed by the state government; the deaths occurred because of the government's inability to control the spread of the Coronavirus and the abysmal facilities in government hospitals.

He expressed his displeasure at the facilities in isolation wards and charged that the state government was asking patients to go for home quarantine in order to cover up its failure in providing quality treatment.

Speaking to mediapersons after visiting the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) here and interacting with relatives of Covid-19 patients, Mallu Bhatti said that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and K.T. Rama Rao had failed to control the virus and had left patients to their fate.

He said that the minister from the old Adilabad district was more concerned about encroachments of tanks and lands than about public health. He demanded that the government utilises the funds meant for SC and ST sub-plan to improve medical facilities at RIMS and other hospitals to give better services

to patients from these communities since old Adilabad has a predominant tribal population.

The CLP leader said the situation could have been controlled if the government had considered the advice given by Congress Legislative Party and added that they will raise the failure of the government in the Assembly session.

The government has not spent a single rupee in the last six years on developing RIMS, which was sanctioned during the Congress government.

He said that at least 100 doctor posts are vacant at RIMS. The existing doctors, nurses and support staff of RIMS are working under tremendous stress

but were doing a wonderful job, he said.

Mallu Bhatti interacted with Balram Naik, director of RIMS, to take stock of the situation. Earlier, Vikramarka visited the government hospital in Nirmal and enquired about the medical services being provided there.

Legislator C. Ramachandra Reddy, former DCC president Bhagav Deshpande, Asifabadi DCC president Vishwam Prasad Rao, ZPTCs Ganesh Reddy, and Mallepula Narsaiah, Charulatha Rathod and senior Congress leaders Sajid Khan, Naresh Jadhav, Bharrath Chauhan and Yasam Narsing Rao and Sanjeev Reddy were present on the occasion.

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SC decision on classification of SC/STs gives hope to Madigas

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

The Supreme Court's ruling on Thursday on sub-classification of SC and ST groups has given a ray of hope to the Madiga Reservation Porata Samiti (MRPS), which has been agitating for the categorisation of the Scheduled Castes quota to ensure judicious distribution of benefits among all SC communities for 26 years.

The MRPS led by founder president Manda Krishna Madiga had succeeded in 1997 when the erstwhile AP government of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu passed the Rationalisation of Reservation Act to categorise the

SC community quotas on the basis of population. The Act

sify the reservations. Reacting to the Supreme Court judgment, Manda Krishna on Friday told *Deccan Chronicle* that it had given confidence that they will finally get justice. He said the court might have noticed the flaws in the earlier verdict which was why it had observed that the state governments have power for the sub-classification of quotas.

He said that the SC categorisation was on the agenda of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government at the Centre and Vice-President M. Venkaiyah Naidu had been supporting the sub-classification of SC reservations since the beginning.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

We have it
for youDECCAN
CHRONICLETWENTY FOURTH ANNIVERSARY
IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Sri G.L. RAJAN

Dist. Registrar (Retd.)

Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS

(S/2021/D/00499)

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Your memories will always be remembered in our hearts forever.

Deeply Mourned by VSM Brother's Glowsun Industries, Khidkee Shoppe Furnishings, Family & Friends.

Deeply Missed by Grand Children 9849028423 / 9849169918

40th DAY CEREMONY

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

M. RAMESH BABU
DOB: 31.05.1957 - DOD: 21.07.2020
Inserted by:
Shanta Kumari (Wife)
Srihari (Kanni) - (Daughter)
Shravani (Sweetie) - (Daughter)
Ph: 9866716451

11th day remembrance

I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER...PSALM 23:6

BACHALA EBENEZER
D.O.B: 15.08.1943 - D.O.D: 19.08.2020
Inserted by family members 970415832

In Loving Memory of

Mr. GOVINDRAM LALWANI
Expedited on 28-08-2020
Deeply mourned by Lalwani, Kirpalani, Ramchandani & Tolani Families Ph: 7755998815

I hear a voice out of heaven, blessed are those who die in the Lord. Rev. 14:13

KOLLURI SURENDER GIDEON (U.S.A.)
DOB: 15.08.1951 - DOD: 27.08.2020
Your life is always an inspiration, strength and pride for us. You will always remain in our hearts.
Funeral in Maryland, U.S.A.
Inserted by:
K. Nathaniel Gideon (Brother)
Son, Daughters & Friends
C. Nalini Abrahams (Sister)
Contact No: 924612136

2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Psalms 116:15

Late Devathala Sukumar Gabriel
(S/o late Rev. & Mrs. Devathala Gabriel)
Born on 21/6/1944
Called to glory on 29/8/2018
"You are always in our minds, you will be dearly missed and you shall forever live in our heart."
Inserted by:
Dhanya Shekar Reddy & Family
Cell: 9391233123

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

P.F. BERNARD
(Retired NIN Employee) DOD 29-8-2019
Your life was a blessing, Your memory a treasure.
You are loved beyond words, Missed beyond measure.
Inserted by:
Loving Wife, children and grandchildren

3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Late Shri SAPPIDI MUTHYAM REDDY
Expired on: 29-08-1974
"You will live in our hearts forever"
May your soul rest in peace.
Wife: Smt. Kishatamma
Son: S. Balreddy - Arundhati
Daughters & Grand Children
Saroornagar, Hyd. Ph: 9849907742

(S/2021/D/00507)

SHORT TAKES

APPSC TO CONDUCT GROUP-1 (MAINS) EXAM FROM NOV. 2

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 28

The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) will conduct Group-1 services (Mains) written examination in all 13 districts in AP and Hyderabad in Telangana state from November 2 to 13.

The commission asked all provisionally qualified candidates for Group-1 (Mains) written examination to give three preferences of examination centre afresh on or before September 10 by visiting their website <https://psc.ap.gov.in>, with their OTPR ID. It said that the commission reserved the right to allot the applicant to any centre of examination depending on availability.

The examination centres are: Srikrakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, Eluru, Vijayawada, Guntur, Ongole, Nellore, Tirupati, Kadapa, Anantapur, Kurnool and Hyderabad.

ATCHANNAIDU GETS BAIL IN ESI SCANDAL

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 28

Telugu Desam MLA K. Atchannaidu got bail from the Andhra Pradesh High Court in the multicore ESI scam case. Granting him bail, the court ordered him not to leave the country without permission.

TD MP K. Rammohan Naidu said that the prayers of TD cadres had yielded good results as Atchannaidu had secured bail. He said Atchannaidu was undergoing treatment for Covid-19 and appealed to TD cadres not to visit him. He thanked TD chief N. Chandrababu Naidu and other TD leaders for extending support to their family during these difficult times.

Former minister and senior TD leader Ch. Ayyanna Patrudu flayed the ruling YSRCP leaders for "targeting and putting" Atchannaidu in jail out of sheer political vendetta and harassment." He stated that, ultimately, it was in court that Atchannaidu could get some justice now.

FOUR MORE HELD AFTER RAIDS ON ON GAMBLING DEN

DC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL, AUG. 28

Four more persons associated with a gambling den at the native village of labour minister Guumanur Jayaram including key organiser Narayana were arrested on Friday by the Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB).

The SEB teams led by additional SP Gowthami Sali conducted raids at Guumanur village of Alur Assembly segment on Thursday and arrested 32 persons besides seizing ₹5,34,150, 35 cars, 38 mobile phones and six bikes from the gamblers.

Adoni DSP Vinod Kumar told the media that a total of 36 persons who were arrested were produced before the Alur court magistrate and were remanded. They were later sent to the Adoni sub jail.

Minister Jayaram told the media on Friday that he and his immediate family were living in Alur. None from his family had any links with those arrested for running the gambling ring, he said. He had never supported or encouraged illegal and anti-social activities, Jayaram said.

SWEET EFFECTS

Wild honey output improves; lack of activity during lockdown helps

Covid-19 helps bees make a comeback

V.K.L. GAYATRI | DC
VISAKHAPATNAM, AUG. 28

Although Covid-19 is spreading terror among human beings it is providing some advantages to the environment and wildlife. Since the lockdown, there has been a substantial increase in the population of honey bees in Andhra Pradesh.

This is a significant change as for the past several years, the bee population had come down, and as a result of which there was a drastic fall in wild honey (natural) production. Several private honey suppliers are selling artificial honey by feeding sugar solutions to the colonies and col-

lecting honey. There is a huge demand for wild honey in Andhra Pradesh and also abroad.

Mobile towers and large scale disturbances in forest areas have impacted bee populations. However, since the lockdown, its population has increased substantially and the social insects have been erecting colonies at several places.

There are two seasons for wild honey (April-July, and November-January). Due to the severe radiation impact, bees have lost their memory and are not returning to the colonies. They are hitting trees and dying, as a result.

However, with complete

A LARGE number of honey bee colonies have come up in Chintapalle, Paderu, Srisailam, Tirupati and other forest areas.

Girijan Cooperative Corporation expecting good wild honey production in the coming season.

AS AGAINST the demand for 3,500 quintals, production in Andhra Pradesh has been less than 2,000 quintals. GCC is procuring wild honey from Gujarat and Jharkhand.

silence from the human disturbances, the bees from other forest areas, including Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and other areas are migrating to Andhra Pradesh forests.

Collecting wild honey is one of the prime revenue sources of tribals, whose produce is procured by the Girijan Cooperative

Corporation (GCC). However, the tribals are lamenting that they are failing to witness honey colonies even in dense forest areas. As the income is low compared to normal seasons, tribals are reluctant to collect honey. "There is a huge market potential, which translates to 3,500 quintals every year. However, we are hardly

procuring 1,500 quintals from Andhra Pradesh forest areas, including Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, and Chittoor and Kurnool districts. In order to bring a balance between demand and supply, we are procuring wild honey from Gujarat and Jharkhand to the tune of 1,000 to 1,200 quintals," General Manager (in-charge), AP Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC) Justus Yustus told Deccan Chronicle.

Due to heavy rains, wild honey production from AP forest areas has been less than encouraging. However, there is hope of good production in the next season, Yustus said.

Centre backs AP, no need of green nod for Seema dam

Affirms it is not a new project involving additional cultivable area

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC
KURNOOL, AUG. 28

Affirming the stand taken by the AP government, the Centre on Friday made it clear that the proposed Rayalaseema lift irrigation scheme (RLIS) does not require environmental clearance because it is not a new project and does not involve any addition to the cultivable command area (CCA).

In an affidavit filed before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) bench at Chennai, Dr Sunamani Keretta, director, Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change, said that the RLIS does not fall under any category listed in the schedule of EIA Notification 2006. She said the RLIS is neither an irrigation project nor is a power generation component involved.

TELANGANA STATE had advanced arguments on Friday, contesting the claims of the AP government, filed a 110-page affidavit of objections before the NGT bench.

Therefore, it is not covered under item 1(c) of the EIA Notification.

This stand is expected to put to rest the contentions of the Telangana state government as it vindicates the stand of the AP government that the RLIS is not a new project.

Telangana state had advanced arguments on Friday, contesting the claims of the AP government, filed a 110-page affidavit of objections before the NGT bench.

Dr Sunamani stated that the RLIS does not come under the category of

expansion and modernisation of existing projects as there is no such activity in respect of either power generation or irrigation.

The Centre's affidavit stated the environmental clearance had been taken by the AP government for the three schemes — Telugu Ganga, Srisailam Right Bank Canal and Galeru Nagari — to which the project will be supplying water.

Dr Sunamani stated that the environmental clearance for the Telugu Ganga project and the Srisailam Right Bank Canal was granted prior to the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994. The Galeru Nagari Sujala Sravanti was granted under the notification in 1994 and its capacity is stated as 38 tmc ft. These

three schemes were constructed at different times and have got environmental clearances separately from the Union environment ministry, she said.

A review of the EC conditions revealed that changing the RLIS from gravity discharge to pumping should not be considered as change in scope as the environmental clearance does not restrict the schemes to gravity discharge, the Centre said.

The TS government asked the NGT to ignore the report of the joint committee dated August 8, 2020, and consider the objection filed by the state or alternatively call for a fresh report and give an opportunity to the state to participate before the joint committee.

Dr Rajat Kumar, TS principal secretary, irri-

gation and water department, in his objection affidavit urged the NGT to declare the action of the AP government initiating work on the RLIS without obtaining environmental clearance as illegal under the provisions of the Environment Protection Act and Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974.

He sought a direction to the Centre to conduct a detailed study on the adverse effects on the Krishna river flora and fauna, livelihood of people in Telangana state and downstream of Srisailam project due to the RLIS.

AP stated that its submissions to the objections filed by TS were recorded by the NGT on the report of joint committee dated August 8 and pass suitable orders.

AP'S COVID TALLY CROSSES 4 LAKH WITH 10K CASES

SAMPAT G.
SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 28

Andhra Pradesh is continuing to witness a surge in confirmed cases of Coronavirus since the last few days. The state has registered 10,526 new Covid-19 cases, raising the overall tally to 4,03,616, apart from 81 deaths, taking the death toll to 3,714 during the last 24 hours. With this, the number of Coronavirus cases reported in the state has crossed the four-lakh mark.

In their Covid-19 bulletin issued here on Friday, state health authorities have reported that out of 61,331 samples tested, 10,526 individuals have tested Coronavirus positive. Out of the total 35,41,321 samples tested so far in the state, 3,03,711 patients have been discharged after recovery, while 96,191 patients are undergoing treatment in various hospitals of the state.

East Godavari continues to top the list of new infections by registering 1,178 cases, followed by 1,151 in Nellore, 986 in West Godavari, 896 in Visakhapatnam, 874 in Prakasam, 833 in Anantapur, 819 in Chittoor, 801 in Guntur, 764 in Srikakulam, 757 in Kurnool, 552 in Vizianagaram, 501 in Kadapa and 414 in Krishna.

With regard to cumulative infections, East Godavari has again been worst affected with 55,834 cases, followed by 42,457 in Kurnool, 38,596 in Anantapur, 34,206 in Visakhapatnam, 34,122 in West Godavari, 34,035 in Guntur, 33,952 in Chittoor, 27,528 in Nellore, 23,756 in Kadapa, 21,714 in Srikakulam, 20,555 in Prakasam, 18,586 in Vizianagaram, 15,380 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

DO NOT CONSIDER PILS WITHOUT SUBSTANCE: HC

Vijayawada, Aug. 28: Advocate General S. Satrapi appealed to the High Court not to entertain petitions lacking substance for hearing.

The AG was referring to a PIL filed by an advocate challenging the action of the state government in diverting endowments funds from AP Brahmin Welfare Corporation to Amma Vadai scheme to help school students pursue education.

PARADIP PORT TRUST
Correspond-1 to e-Tender Call Notice No. EMIOHP-28/2020 for the work, "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of 3200 TPH Capacity Shiploader at IOB". The last date of submission and opening of the bid for the above e-Tender Call Notice are hereby extended as follows : (1) Last date and time of bid submission : 30.09.2020 up to 18.00 hrs. (2) Opening of Technical Bid : 01.10.2020 at 11.30 hrs. All other terms and conditions of the original tender will remain unchanged.
Executive Engineer (M) Iron Ore handling Plant PPT/PR/180/20-21 Date : 27.08.2020

Protest for safety



— C. NARAYANA RAO

Annual Brahmotsavams to be low key this year

AVINASH P.
SUBRAMANYAM | DC
TIRUPATI, AUG. 28

The Coronavirus pandemic continues to eclipse all religious festivities at the sacred hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara here. The grandiose annual Brahmotsavams, scheduled to be observed from September 19-27, will this time be held on low key note and that too within the temple premises, the very first time in the history of Tirumala Tirupati

Devasthanams (TTD).

The TTD Trust Board, which met under the chairmanship of Y.V. Subba Reddy, announced on Friday that the Salakatala brahmotsavams will be performed inside the main temple complex in order to avoid mass pilgrim gatherings along the four mada streets encircling the temple, where the procession of all vahana sevas will be carried out during the nine days.

The Srivari annual brahmotsavams are a nine-day spectacular fest and

celebrated with pomp and gaiety.

Normally, the temple management makes massive arrangements including decking up the hill town with giant decorations and illuminations, colourful processions of Lord Malayappa on different celestial carriers and cultural programmes by renowned artistes from across the country.

However, Covid-19 continues to impact festivities and officials have kept it a low key affair due to the Covid spread.

Amaravati farmers move HC

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 28

the petitions stating that the farmers had sold their assigned and patta lands to the government to build the capital.

Counsel Karumanchi Indraaneel Babu argued on behalf of the farmers. Responding to it, the court directed the state government to file a counter affidavit.

With regard to cumulative infections, East Godavari has again been worst affected with 55,834 cases, followed by 42,457 in Kurnool, 38,596 in Anantapur, 34,206 in Visakhapatnam, 34,122 in West Godavari, 34,035 in Guntur, 33,952 in Chittoor, 27,528 in Nellore, 23,756 in Kadapa, 21,714 in Srikakulam, 20,555 in Prakasam, 18,586 in Vizianagaram, 15,380 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries.

Department of Atomic Energy Hyderabad Regional Purchase Unit

e-TENDER NOTICE

Regional Director (P&S), HRPSU, Nuclear Fuel Complex, ECIL Post, Hyderabad 500062 invites online/offline tenders as given below:

1. (a) Tender Enquiry No. : DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/ENG/16912(C)

(b) Description : Manufacturing, Inspection, Testing and Supply of Graphite Lining Pipe for 15 MT Capacity WSR - Qty. 90 Nos., details as per tender specifications (c) Last date for Submission of Bid Online : 03/09/2020 upto 2:00 PM (d) Tender Fee : NIL (e) EMD : ₹ 2,50,632/-

2. (a) Tender Enquiry No. : DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/T&C/1483

(b) Description : Collection of Strategic Material packed in Metal/Wooden Boxes/M.S. Drums etc from NFC, Hyderabad and Safe Transportation & Delivery to different destinations, details as per tender specifications (c) Last Date for Submission of Bid Offline : 12/09/2020 upto 2:00 PM (d) Tender Fee : ₹ 700/- (e) EMD : ₹ 2,46,000/-

3. (a) Tender Enquiry No. : DPS/HRPU/NFC/PT/TPT/MTL/7755

(b) Description : Manufacture, Testing, Inspection, Packing, Transportation and Delivery of Machined Nickel Rods - Qty 3000 KG., details as per tender specifications (c) Last date for submission of online pre-bid queries : 15/09/2020 upto 2:00 PM (d) Last Date for Submission of Bid Online : 15/10/2020 upto 2:00 PM (e) Tender Fee : NIL (f) EMD : ₹ 2,37,038/-

Visit <https://etenders.dpsdae.gov.in> for details.

[DPS/HRPU/NFC/2021/50]

Z-28016/02/2020-PMSSY-IV Government of India Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Building, New Delhi- 110001

Advertisement for filling up the following Posts (One Post each) in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Raipur, Kalyani, Guwahati, Rajkot and Awantipora on transfer on deputation basis.

S.No. Name of the Post Basic Pay (as per 7th CPC) AIIMS for which the post is to be filled up

1 Deputy Director (Administration) Level-13 (Rs. 123100-215900) 1. AIIMS Raipur (Chhattisgarh)

2. AIIMS Kalyani (West Bengal)

IN BRIEFS
HC dismisses Choksi's plea

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Friday dismissed a plea by Mehul Choksi, an accused in the nearly \$2 billion PNB scam, to conduct pre-screening of Netflix documentary, *Bad Boy Billionaires*. Justice Navin Chawla, after hearing the matter for over two hours, declined to grant relief to Choksi saying a writ petition for enforcement of a private right cannot be maintainable. The court said his remedy lies in a civil suit and granted him the liberty to raise the issue in a civil suit.

HC stays telecast by Sudarshan TV

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Friday restrained Sudarshan TV from telecasting its programme titled *Bindas Bol*, whose latest promo claimed that the channel was all set to broadcast a 'big expose on conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service'. The show was scheduled to air on Friday at 8 pm. Justice Navin Chawla issued notice and sought responses of Central government, the Union Public Service Commission, Sudarshan TV, and its Editor-in-Chief, Suresh Chavhanek on a petition filed by former and present students of Jamia Millia Islamia University.

Pandemic care now part of MBBS course

New Delhi: Medical students will now learn about pandemic management along with its social, legal and other aspects in the MBBS course with India's apex medical education regulator introducing a new module to better prepare doctors for challenges posed by pandemics like Covid-19.

BJP WELCOMES SC'S VERDICT ON BIHAR ELECTIONS

NAYEER AZAD | DC
PATNA, AUG. 28

The BJP on Friday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to dismiss the petition seeking deferment of Assembly elections slated to be held this year.

"We welcome the Supreme Court's decision to reject the petition seeking a stay on the Bihar assembly elections. It's the prerogative of the election commission to decide when and how to hold elections. We also welcome the way the election commission is working hard to conduct fair and safe elections during the pandemic," BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand told this newspaper.

During the hearing, the Supreme Court observed that "Covid-19 cannot be a valid ground to postpone elections."

Opposition parties, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Congress, have been expressing strong reservations against holding Assembly polls in the middle of a pandemic. Jamui MP and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Chirag Paswan joined the opposition in demanding the postponement of elections in Bihar.

The Bihar Assembly completes its current tenure on November 19. In the event of the postponement of elections, the state will be placed under President's rule.

NATH'S FARM LOAN WAIVER CLAIM A SHAM: SHIVRAJ

RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, AUG. 28

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday called senior Congress leader Kamal Nath's claim that crop loans of 26 lakh farmers in the state had been waived during his regime, a sham.

Reacting to Nath's claim, Chouhan said the farm loan waiver scheme was implemented only in papers.

"The Kamal Nath government gave only loan waiver certificates to the farmers, but did not give money to the concerned banks. This has caused miseries to the farmers since they failed to secure fresh crop loans from banks since their loans were not written off," the Chief Minister told reporters here. The Nath government had failed to pay the premiums of crop insurances of the farmers, he said.

Shiite mourners detained


Policemen detain Shiite mourners trying to take out a Muharram procession during restrictions under section 144 at Abi Guzar at Batamaloo in Srinagar on Friday. Authorities imposed restrictions in Lal Chowk and adjoining areas to foil the Muharram procession. This year, to stop the spread of Covid-19, different parties of Shiite Muslims had given a call to pay heed to the administration and not participate in any large congregations. Meanwhile, the Bombay High Court granted permission for a Muharram procession in Mumbai with stringent restrictions in place. — PTI

Oppn stages nationwide stir against holding of NEET, JEE

Demand that exams be deferred due to Covid-19 pandemic, floods

Chandigarh, Aug. 28: The Congress and its youth wing on Friday staged nationwide protests against holding JEE and NEET amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Protests were held in Haryana, Punjab and their joint capital Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Goa, Uttarakhand, and Bengaluru.

Various Opposition parties, including the Congress, have demanded that the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) be deferred due to the Covid-19 pandemic and floods in parts of the country, even as the Union government has made it clear that they will be held as per schedule with due precautions.

In Haryana, Congress leaders and workers held protests at many places including Karnal, Kaithal, Bhiwani and Sirsa. Congress workers in

Bhiwani burnt an effigy of the Union education minister and demanded that the exams be deferred keeping in view the present Covid-19 situation. In Sirsa, Congress workers, during a protest, demanded that the exams be deferred for now. "What is the urgency of holding these exams when cases are increasing? Why are lives of thousands of students and their families being put at risk," a Congress leader said.

Members of the Chandigarh Territorial Congress, led by its president Pradeep Chhabra, staged a protest against holding of these exams, with him saying this is not the time to "endanger the lives of students." "Don't play with the lives of students," read a placard at the protest in Chandigarh.

At many places in Punjab, the Youth Congress submitted memorandums addressed to the Centre

through the district administrations on the issue. It demanded that these exams be put off for the time being.

In Rajasthan, Transport minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas, chief whip Mahesh Joshi, former Pradesh Congress Committee president Sachin Pilot and other leaders took part in the agitation at the main gate of Malviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) on JLN Marg.

"The Centre is adamant on holding the examinations while ignoring the plight of lakhs of students and putting their lives at stake. Congress will intensify the agitation if the exams are not postponed," Khachariyawas said while addressing the protesters.

Meanwhile, Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel strongly opposed the Centre's decision to hold NEET and JEE exams amid the Covid-19 pandemic. — PTI

Many students have taken to Twitter to express their concern over holding of JEE and NEET during the Covid-19 pandemic, amid a plea by Opposition leaders on Friday seeking review of the Supreme Court's order allowing the Centre to conduct the entrance exams.

The hashtag #SpeakUpForStudentsSafety has been trending since Friday morning with at least 2.25 million posts on the microblogging site.

While many students in their tweets pointed out the challenges of making it to examination centres under the present circumstances, others talked about their inability to cope with the stress of having to appear for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), especially when Coronavirus cases are on the rise.

500 cases: Complete lockdown. 75000 cases: Students forced for exams! #SpeakUpForStudentSafe

ty government really needs to look at psychological conditions of the candidates, should give proper instructions about how the students who affected by flood or Covid will be giving exams. SC really needs to reconsider its decision," posted another user. — PTI

As the joint team encircled the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon them. The fire was retaliated by the joint team, triggering off an encounter", a police spokesman said.

The police and Army officials said that J&K police's counterinsurgency Special Operations Group (SOG) along with the Army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched a cor-don-and-search operation

7 killed, 2 missing as Odisha battles floods

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, AUG. 28

At least seven people were killed and two others went missing in Odisha since Wednesday due to floods triggered due to continuous rainfall.

According to Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Pradeep Kumar Jena, majority of the victims were swept away while passing submerged roads.

"We have received reports regarding the death of seven people in the flood. Two others are missing. Two teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) said.

Major rivers such as Mahanadi, Baitarani, Brahmani, Subarnarekha and Budhabalanga were in spate with their water flowing above the danger marks, submerging low-lying areas and paddy fields in several districts, disaster management minister Sudam Marni said.

A division bench of Justices Nalavade and Sewlikar — part of the

and equal number of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) have been sent to north Odisha districts to carry out rescue and evacuation work," said the SRC.

He added that several thousand people were evacuated from low-lying areas and accommodated in cyclone-shelters and other buildings.

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A division bench of Justices Nalavade and

Sewlikar — part of the

Mumbai, Aug. 28: Justice M.G. Sewlikar of the Bombay High Court, who was part of a bench that quashed cases against foreign nationals who had attended the Tablighi Jamaat event in Delhi, said on Friday that he disagreed with certain observations in the ruling. He did not agree with remarks made by his colleague, Justice T.V. Nalavade, about actions taken against members of the Muslim community over protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC), he said.

A division bench of Justices Nalavade and Sewlikar — part of the

THE bench had said accused were made 'scapegoats' and baseless allegations were leveled against them.

"A political government tries to find the scapegoat when there is a pandemic or calamity and the circumstances show that there is probability that these foreigners were chosen to make them a scapegoat," the court had said.

However, Justice Sewlikar had stated on August 21 that while he agreed with the operative part of the order (quashing of FIRs), he did not agree with Justice Nalavade on few of the observations, and would pass a separate order. On Friday, Justice Sewlikar issued a four-page order

saying he did not agree with the remarks made by Justice Nalavade. "I find it difficult to concur with the observations (on CAA and NRC) as allegations in this respect are not made in the petitions nor there is any evidence in this regard. Therefore, in my opinion these observations are outside the scope of the petitions," Justice Sewlikar said.

Justice Nalavade in his order had said that there were large-scale protests across the country by members of the Muslim community against CAA and NRC as they believed that citizenship would not be given to Muslim refugees and migrants. — PTI

HC judge in Tablighi case disagrees with his colleague on anti-CAA stir

DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUG. 28

A section of top Congress leaders in Kerala have started targeting Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor ever since he, along with 22 prominent Congress leaders, wrote a letter to party president Sonia Gandhi, seeking ground-breaking changes in the organisation and style of the leadership of the party.

KPCC working president, Kodikunnil Suresh, MP and the party's chief

whip in Lok Sabha, said Tharoor was like a 'guest artiste' in the Congress. "He is definitely not a politician. Tharoor is yet to understand that he has to work within the boundaries of Congress organisation. At times he does things in haste," said Suresh.

Suresh, who represents Mavelikkara constituency in the Lok Sabha, said everyone in the party should function in line with the organisational policies and programmes. "Tharoor may be a global citizen but he should not

take any decision or say anything according to his will. He should comply with the party's policies and programmes," he said, while replying to questions from reporters on the sidelines of social reformer Ayyankali's 150th birth anniversary celebrations in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday.

Earlier, former Kerala chief minister, K. Karunakaran's son and Vadakara MP K. Muraleedharan, mocked Tharoor saying only the high command can talk against an MP if there is any act of indiscipline on his part.

"Will BJP leaders speak

once the Congress president says the issue is behind us, it is the duty of all of us to work together constructively in the interests of the party," Tharoor tweeted on Thursday. "I urge all my colleagues to uphold this principle and end the debate," he added in the tweet.

Earlier, former Kerala chief minister, K. Karunakaran's son and Vadakara MP K. Muraleedharan, mocked Tharoor saying only the high command can talk against an MP if there is any act of indiscipline on his part.

"Will BJP leaders speak

CBI questions Rhea for 10 hrs in Sushant case

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
MUMBAI, AUG. 28

A week after taking over the probe of Sushant Singh Rajput suicide, the Central Bureau of Investigation grilled his girlfriend and prime accused Rhea Chakraborty on Friday for over 10 hours.

The questioning comes a day after the agency questioned her brother Showik in the case. The officials also grilled Rajput's flatmate Siddharth Pithani and house manager Samuel Miranda apart from Chakraborty on Friday.

The investigating team began questioning shortly after 10.30 am at their DRDO guest house base. She was asked to provide her financial details which she produced after arriving. The officials are in the process of getting clarity on the allegation raised against her by Rajput's father.

"Chakraborty's family will be questioned at a later stage and if needed they will be grilled," said an officer.

Before questioning Chakraborty, the CBI grilled Rajput's flat mate Pithani, cook Neeraj Singh and domestic help Deepesh Sawant. The suicide probe is also being simultaneously followed up by the money laundering probe by the Enforcement Directorate and drugs

CONG DEMANDS PROBE INTO 'BJP'S ANGLE'

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
MUMBAI, AUG. 28

The Maharashtra unit of the Congress on Friday demanded that the "BJP angle" in the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case should be probed. Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant claimed that the CBI was going to question Sandeep Singh, who was producer of the biopic *PM Narendra Modi*, with regard to the drugs aspect of the case.

He also alleged that the BJP demanded a CBI probe to shield Sandeep from Mumbai police's leniency.

The Congress' demand came a day after saffron party leader Ram Kadampur demanded a thorough probe in the drug nexus prevailing in Bollywood.

Before questioning Chakraborty, the CBI grilled Rajput's flat mate Pithani, cook Neeraj Singh and domestic help Deepesh Sawant. The suicide probe is also being simultaneously followed up by the money laundering probe by the Enforcement Directorate and drugs

probe by the Narcotics Control Bureau, which registered a fresh case.

The FIR was filed based on alleged findings of drug consumption and peddling at his Bandra residence, where he was found hanging on June 14.

J&K: Four militants killed in encounter

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, AUG. 28

in Shopian's Kilora village following a tip off on the presence of militants.

"As the joint team encircled the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon them. The fire was retaliated by the joint team, triggering off an encounter", a police spokesman said.

However, defence spokesman, Colonel Rajesh Kalia, said that the fifth militant "surrendered" before the security forces. He also said that two AK assault rifles and three pistols were recovered from the scene of the clash and that the identities of the slain militants are being ascertained.

The police and Army officials said that J&K police's counterinsurgency Special Operations Group (SOG) along with the Army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched a cor-don-and-search operation

India once again recorded a single-day spike of 75,778 Coronavirus cases taking the country's overall infections till now to 34,59,295, out of which 26,40 lakh people have recovered. Such high numbers are emerging as the government plans to restart Metro train services, call the Monsoon Session of Parliament, hold medical and engineering entrance exams as well as university exams.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday held a meeting to discuss the ways to hold the session during which it was decided that all MPs will undergo a RT-PCR test to check their Covid-19 status before the session starts from September 10. It is learnt the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha may either function on alternate days or have staggered timings.

The government has, meanwhile, allowed airlines to serve pre-packed meals and beverages on domestic flights and hot meals on international flights depending on the duration of the flight.

The civil aviation ministry has said only single-use disposable trays, plates and cutlery should be used while serving food or beverages in domestic and overseas flights and the crew shall wear a fresh set of gloves for every meal/beverage service.

TVM MP must understand that he has to work within boundaries: Kodikunnil

Tharoor 'guest artiste' in Cong: KPCC chief

RAISING ISSUES DOES NOT AMOUNT TO REBELLION: CONG SPOKESMAN

Mumbai, Aug. 28:

Congress spokesman Anant Gadgil on Friday said raising issues does not amount to rebellion and dared BJP leaders to speak against their national leadership on issues of Chinese "intrusion" and "failures" on economic and foreign policy fronts. He said internal democracy certainly exists in the Congress party.

"Will BJP leaders speak

out against their national leadership? I challenge the BJP to debate on issues of Chinese intrusion, foreign policy and economy. Will BJP leaders raise voice against their central leadership," Gadgil

IN BRIEF
Aus PM 'open' to repatriate gunman

Sydney: Canberra is open to the idea of New Zealand sending the Australian-born gunman behind the Christchurch mosque massacre back home to serve his life sentence, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Friday.

White supremacist Brenton Tarrant was sentenced to life without parole on Thursday for the attacks on two mosques last year that killed 51 Muslim worshippers. Soon after the punishment was handed down, New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters said Tarrant, 29, should be transferred to the Australian prison system. "The Islamic community and all of New Zealand has already suffered enough without having to pay astronomical prison costs to keep him safe in our prison system," Peters said.

Turkish lawyer dies on hunger strike

Ankara: A human rights lawyer on hunger strike in a Turkish prison to demand a fair trial for herself and colleagues has died, an attorney's group said. Ebru Timlik, 42, died in an Istanbul hospital late Thursday, the Progressive Lawyers' Association said. She had been fasting for 238 days. The lawyer and 17 of her colleagues were accused of links to the outlawed Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front, or DHKP/C, a militant group designated a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union. She was convicted in March 2019 and sentenced to 13 years and six months in prison. Her case was under review by an appeals court.

1st woman of colour as New Jersey judge

Trenton: The nomination of the first woman of colour to sit on New Jersey's Supreme Court was confirmed on Thursday by the state Senate. Fabiana Pierre-Louis, a 39-year-old attorney in private practice and a former federal prosecutor, was nominated by Democratic Governor Phil Murphy in June to succeed Justice Walter Timpane. He was nominated to the court by former Republican Governor Chris Christie in 2016 and will reach the mandatory retirement age of 70 later this year.

"Ms Pierre-Louis is a New Jersey success story who will bring more diversity to the highest court of the most diverse state in the country," said Senate President Steve Sweeney, also a Democrat.

She is Murphy's first pick for the high court.

US braces for mass anti-racism protest

Washington: Anti-racism protesters were planning to flood the streets of the US capital on Friday, after a white officer's shooting of African American Jacob Blake rekindled outrage over police violence and sparked a boycott movement in the sports world. Tens of thousands of demonstrators are expected on the streets of Washington for a march to mark the date of civil rights leader Martin Luther King's historic "I have a dream" speech. The demonstration has been dubbed "Get Your Knee Off Our Necks," in reference to African American George Floyd, who was suffocated beneath the knee of a white officer in Minneapolis, igniting the most widespread civil unrest in the country in decades.

ALLOWING SHARIF TO LEAVE PAK WAS A MISTAKE: IMRAN

Islamabad, Aug. 28: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that allowing his predecessor Nawaz Sharif to leave the country was a "mistake" and that his government "regretted" the decision.

In a wide-ranging interview to ARY News on Thursday night, Khan hinted that he was pressurised into sending Sharif abroad, saying that the reports presented to his government suggested that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) supremo was severely ill, reports Dawn news. The federal cabinet, he said, had held a long debate over whether the government should let Sharif leave on humanitarian grounds.

The Prime minister further said the court had declared that the government would be responsible, should anything happen to Sharif.

Japanese PM Abe ill, to demit office

Leadership race kicks off in third largest economy, Tokyo stocks tumble over 2%



Tokyo, Aug. 28: Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Friday he will resign, ending his record-breaking tenure in a bombshell development that kicks off a leadership race in the world's third-largest economy.

Abe said he is suffering a recurrence of the ulcerative colitis that forced him to cut short a first term in office and said that he no longer felt able to continue as prime minister.

"There must not be time when I am not able to deliver results," he said, speaking in a calm but sombre voice.

"Now that I am not able to fulfil the mandate from the people with confidence, I have decided that I should no longer occupy the position of the prime minister." While speculation about Abe's political future has been growing in recent weeks, after he twice visited hospital for unspecified health checks, the resignation nonetheless came as a surprise.

Even as recently as Friday morning, the government's spokesman had appeared to dismiss concerns about Abe's health and suggested he would stay on in office.

But Abe made clear that would not be possible, and offered apologies for once again having to cut short his tenure.

"I would like to sincerely apologise to the people of Japan for leaving my post with one year left in my term of office, and amid the coronavirus woes, while various policies are still in the process of being implemented," he

Who could be next

- Taro Aso, gaffe-prone finance minister
- Shigeru Ishiba, popular ex-defence minister
- Yoshihide Suga, power player and adviser
- Fumio Kishida, favoured successor
- Taro Kono, colourful Twitter user

said, bowing deeply.

Abe said he would "firmly execute my duty to the end," and until the next prime minister is appointed, a process that is expected to require a leadership election involving ruling party lawmakers and members.

The resignation shocked the markets, with Tokyo stocks plunging more than two percent towards the end of afternoon trade when reports of Abe's decision first emerged.

"It was a big surprise," said Shinichi Nishikawa, a professor of political science at Meiji University in Tokyo.

"His resignation comes

at a time when Japan is facing tough issues, including measures against the Coronavirus," Nishikawa said.

The Kremlin on Friday hailed Shinzo Abe's contribution to bilateral ties between Moscow and Tokyo after the Japanese Prime Minister announced his resignation for health reasons.

Russia's relationship with Japan has been overshadowed by a decades-long territorial dispute over Tokyo's claim to a chain of islands seized by the Soviet Union in the final days of World War II.

"Shinzo Abe really made an invaluable contribution to the development of bilateral Russian-Japanese relations," President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Putin and Abe met many times to try to find a solution to the impasse over the Kuril Islands, known in Japan as the Northern Territories.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Friday she "regrets" the resignation of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on health grounds, hailing his "fight for multilateralism". Merkel said she and her fellow veteran leader in the Group of Seven industrialised nations had "shared foundation of values".

"I of course regret his resignation and wish him all the best for his health," she told reporters. "We always worked very well together... He was always someone who committed himself to the fight for multilateralism." — AFP

China to unveil bronze statue of Indian doc Kotnis

Beijing, Aug. 28: A bronze statue of Indian-origin dubbed "the spy princess" on Friday gets a new memorial in Britain honouring her espionage work and refusal to betray secrets in World War II.

● **ENGLISH HERITAGE** is putting up a Blue Plaque honouring Noor Inayat Khan outside 4 Taviton Street in the Bloomsbury area of central London where she lived from 1942-43.

Kotnis, who hailed from Sholapur in Maharashtra came to China in 1938 as part of a five-member team of doctors sent by the Indian National Congress to help the Chinese during World War II. He joined the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 1942 and died the same year at the age of 32.

The bronze statue of Kotnis, known in China as Ke Dihua, would be formally unveiled at the medical school at Shijiazhuang Ke Dihua in September, state-run Xinhua news agency reported on Thursday.

Kotnis' medical assistance during the difficult days of the Chinese revolution was praised by Chinese leader Mao Zedong. His status and memorials were also set in some of the Chinese cities in recognition of his services.

According to Liu Wenzhu, an official of the Shijiazhuang Ke Dihua Medical Science Secondary Specialised School, since the founding of the school in 1992 more than 45,000 medical professionals have graduated from it. — PTI



Angela Merkel

MERKEL WARNS OF PANDEMIC DIFFICULTIES

Berlin, Aug. 28: Coping with the Coronavirus will become more challenging in the coming autumn and winter months, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in her annual summer press conference on Friday.

"Some things are likely to be more difficult over the next few months than they are in the summer," Merkel said.

"We have all enjoyed the freedoms and relative protection from aerosols in the summer, which is possible through life outdoors," she said, referring to micro-particles that are thought to spread through the air, especially in enclosed spaces.

Merkel's comments came after she agreed a wave of new measures with the leaders of Germany's 16 federal states on Thursday designed to combat rising case numbers in Germany blamed mainly on summer travel and private parties. — AFP



Donald Trump Jr., Tiffany Trump, President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump and Barron Trump stand on stage on the South Lawn of the White House on the fourth day of the Republican National Convention. — AFP

Trump says Biden wants to destroy 'American greatness'

Harris slams Don over social unrest

Washington, Aug. 28: President Donald Trump warned on Thursday that his election opponent Joe Biden wants to destroy "American greatness" in a speech accepting the Republican nomination for a second term against a backdrop of explosive racial tensions and the deadly coronavirus pandemic.

The former celebrity real estate developer declared himself all that stands between Americans and the disaster he claimed his "weak" Democratic rival would bring if he wins on November 3.

"This election will decide whether we save the American Dream," Trump said. "Joe Biden is not a savior of America's soul. He's the destroyer of America's jobs and given the chance, he'll be the destroyer of American greatness." Despite Trump's warnings of chaos, his bid for reelection is already taking place amid levels of turmoil the country hasn't seen for decades, a fact

in Wisconsin.

The shooting sparked nationwide rage and three nights of violence in the city of Kenosha. Tensions soared when two protesters were shot dead Tuesday.

A white 17-year-old was detained on murder charges connected to the protesters' slayings, and Trump announced he was sending federal forces to Kenosha to "restore law and order."

On Wednesday Vice President Mike Pence warned people watching the Republican convention that they "won't be safe in Joe Biden's America." — AFP

rubbed in by a Black Lives Matter protest outside the White House — with shouting and vuvuzela trumpets audible inside

the fences.

Trump spoke from the White House' South Lawn, which he had transformed into a flashy event center

for the final night of the Republican convention.

Trampling over long-running presidential custom to separate the executive mansion from political campaigning, Trump had some 1,500 white chairs laid out in front of the stage bedecked with rows of US flags and giant video screens.

His message of anarchy under Democratic rule was amplified by a string of warm-up speakers including his powerful daughter Ivanka.

And when Trump finally came to deliver the main speech, he did not hold back.

"If the left gains power, they will demolish the suburbs, confiscate your guns," he said, while branding Biden as a man with a history of "betrayals" and "blunders." Biden responded on Twitter, asking: "When Donald Trump says tonight you won't be safe in Joe Biden's America, look around and ask yourself: How safe do you feel in Donald Trump's America?" — AFP

US def. chief says China destabilising Indo-Pacific

U.S. WARSHIP SAILS NEAR DISPUTED PARACEL ISLANDS IN S. CHINA SEA

Koror, Palau, Aug. 28: US Defense Secretary Mark Esper accused China of "destabilising" the Pacific region on Friday on a whistle-stop trip to the tiny island nation of Palau.

The visit, which lasted barely three hours, comes as Washington attempts to counter Beijing's efforts to gain influence in the sparsely populated but strategically important Pacific island nations.

Esper said the United States and Palau shared values of freedom "where all countries respect the rules and norms for peace and prosperity of all nations."

"This is especially important today, as we continue work alongside our allies and partners to protect that international system that is under threat from China and its ongoing destabilising activities in the region," he said.

Beijing has enjoyed recent success in the Pacific, persuading the Solomon Islands and Kiribati last year to switch diplomatic allegiance from Taiwan to China.

That left Palau as one of

area to challenge Chinese territorial claims.

The U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet said in a statement that the USS Mustin, a guided-missile destroyer, sailed on Thursday "in the vicinity of the Paracel Islands to ensure critical shipping lanes in the area remain free and open".

The Chinese military on Friday accused the US ship of entering "China's territorial waters" near the islands "without authorisation". Chinese forces tracked the warship and Beijing.

The US regularly conduct "freedom of navigation operations" in the

Taiwan's four remaining allies in the Pacific and only 15 worldwide.

The nation of 22,000, which lies about 1,500 kilometres (930 miles) east of the Philippines, has retained strong ties to Taiwan and the United States under Palau President Tommy Remengesau, despite pres-

sure from China to switch.

Remengesau said China had employed "aggressive moves" in the region but he understood why it had won over some island nations.

"It's no secret that they are loaning money and putting money into the economies of many Pacific island nations," he said. — AFP

EU FINALISES LIST FROM BELARUS TO BE BLACKLISTED

Berlin, Aug. 28: The European Union has agreed to impose sanctions on up to 20 senior Belarus officials suspected of election fraud and the crackdown on protesters and is likely to put President Alexander Lukashenko on its list at some point, the bloc's foreign ministers said on Friday at a meeting in Berlin.

In Vienna, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe offered to mediate between the two sides in Belarus, with chairman Edi Rama pledging not to "interfere in internal affairs," but at the same time stressing human rights abuses must end.

Belarus authoritarian president of 26 years has faced weeks of protests since he was reelected to a sixth term on August 9 with 80 per cent of the vote. The opposition says the poll was rigged and the EU, among others, disputes the results.

In the first four days of demonstrations that followed, Belarus security forces detained almost 7,000 people and injured hundreds with rubber bullets, stun grenades and clubs. — PTI

Machine can fly for 10 minutes; potential to be seen when it can stay in air for 30 minutes

Japan's 'flying car' has successful flight

Tokyo, Aug. 28: The decades-old dream of zipping around in the sky as simply as driving on highways may be becoming less illusory.

Japan's SkyDrive Inc., among the myriads of "flying car" projects around the world, has carried out a successful though modest test flight with one person aboard. In a video shown to reporters on Friday, a contraption that looked like a slick motorcycle with propellers lifted several feet (1-2

meters) off the ground, and hovered in a netted area for four minutes.

Tomohiro Fukuzawa, who heads the SkyDrive effort, said he hopes "the flying car" can be made into a real-life product by 2023, but he acknowledged that making it safe was critical. "Of the world's more than 100 flying car projects, only a handful has succeeded with a person on board," he said.

They could do away with the hassle of airports and traffic jams and the cost of hiring pilots, they could fly automatically.

Battery sizes, air traffic control and other infrastructure issues are among the many potential challenges to commercializing them. "Many things have to happen," said Sanjiv Singh, professor at the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, who co-founded Near Earth Autonomy near Pittsburgh, which is also working on an eVTOL aircraft.

"If they cost \$10 million, no one is going to buy them. If they fly for 5 minutes, no

one is going to buy them. If they fall out of the sky every so often, no one is going to buy them," Singh said in a telephone interview.

The SkyDrive project began humbly as a volunteer project called Cartivator in 2012, with funding by top Japanese companies including automaker Toyota Motor Corp., electronics company Panasonic Corp. and video-game developer Bandai Namco. — AP



This picture shows a test flight of a manned 'flying car' at Toyota Test Field in Toyota, central Japan. — AP

quick BITES

INDICATORS %

Sensex	39,467.31	0.90
Nifty 50	11,647.60	0.76
S&P 500*	3,496.22	0.33
Dollar (1)	73.39	0.58
Pound Sterling (1)	97.38	0.16
Euro (1)	87.38	0.00
Gold (10gm)* (1)	52,155.252	0.40
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	45.03	-0.06
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.097	-0.050
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.721	-0.025

* As of 9:30 PM IST

Gold bond opens on Aug. 31; issue priced at ₹5,117

The issue price for the sixth tranche of the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme has been fixed at Rs 5,117 per gram, the Reserve Bank of India said. The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21 series VI will open for subscription on August 31 and close on September 4. The issue price for the bonds (series V), which were open for subscription from August 3 to August 7, was Rs 5,334 per gram of gold.

NZ probing cyber attacks on stock market



New Zealand's government and its foreign spy agency are getting involved after cyber attacks disrupted trading on the nation's stock market several times this week. The attacks have affected the private company NZX which hosts the market, halting trading for hours at a time. Finance minister Grant Robertson said ministers had asked the Government Communications Security Bureau intelligence agency to help.

Taxpayers under faceless scrutiny to get intimation

The Income Tax Department will soon start sending out intimation to assesses undergoing scrutiny that such cases would now be handled under faceless assessment. CBDT additional commissioner Jaishree Sharma said domestic transfer pricing cases too will be covered under the faceless assessment mechanism. Reassessment cases would also be part of the faceless scheme.

Kawasaki Vulcan S cruiser bike costs ₹5.79 lakh

Japanese automaker Kawasaki Motors introduced the new BS-6 compliant middleweight cruiser bike Vulcan S priced at Rs 5.79 lakh at pan-India showroom. With this, Kawasaki has updated its entire 650cc lineup to comply with BS6 regulations. The Vulcan S is powered by the 650cc, liquid-cooled, parallel-twin engine that offers 61PS of power and 63Nm of torque, and the bike is mated to a 6-speed gearbox.

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■ Investors regain ₹45 L cr after March dip

Market back at pre-Covid level

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, AUG. 28

It was a good week for the market, with banks and other financials helping market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty-50 to regain pre-Covid-19 levels.

BSE's market capitalisation stood above Rs 1.58 lakh crore compared to the March 2020 low of over Rs 1.13 lakh crore, indicating investors regaining around Rs 45 lakh crore in the sharp recovery so far.

During the week, the Nifty Bank index gained a hefty 9.97 per cent, of which 4.19 per cent gain came on Friday.

On Friday, the Sensex closed at 39,467, up 353 points while the Nifty-50 gained 88 points at 11,647.

The Nifty closed the week up 2.43 per cent.

The key indices held up admirably above the mark buoyed by expectations from the twin verdicts next week which would have an impact on banking stocks, analysts said.

The Supreme Court, during the week, heard a plea seeking interest waiver for six months during the loan moratorium period granted by the Reserve Bank. The apex court adjourned the hearing to September 1 while giving the government one week's time to clarify its position.

The SC may also pronounce order in the matter of adjusted gross revenue dues of the telecom companies next week.

Vikas Jain, senior

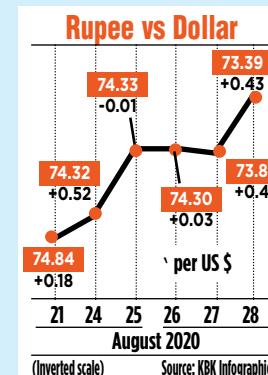
Rupee posts biggest weekly gain in 20 months at 73.38

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, AUG. 28

Weak dollar, sustained foreign fund inflows and absence of currency intervention from the Reserve Bank helped the rupee rise to its highest level in six months and become the best performer in Asia on Friday.

The rupee closed 42 paise up 73.38 against the dollar, up 0.6 per cent compared to its previous close of 73.81. During the session, the rupee rose to 73.28, its highest level since March 5. The rupee has risen nearly 2 per cent for the week, its biggest weekly gain since the week ended December 21, 2018 as the central bank halted dollar purchases, traders said. As a result, the rupee is finally taking cues from the Asian peers, especially the yuan, which is trading at

research analyst, Reliance Securities said, "The positive news flow from the domestic and global markets set the ball rolling for banking stocks. The US Federal Reserve's new policy stance to let inflation run higher and unemployment run lower, meaning prolonged low interest



a seven-month high.

The Dollar Index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, is at a two-year low at 92.50. So far this month foreign portfolio investors have invested Rs 50,000 crore in the domestic market.

Analysts said the RBI has probably stepped aside from the dollar buying intervention.

rate, is one of the reasons which created positive sentiments on banking stocks."

The major gainers included Indusind Bank (32 per cent), Tata Motors (18 per cent), Axis Bank (16 per cent), SBI (13.6 per cent) and Shriram Transport (12.6 per cent).

and the Gulf region during the lockdown.

"Many of the exporting nations had imposed restrictions on shipments to ensure food security during the lock-down. On the other hand, India had excess production and there were no restrictions on exports. This made countries in Africa and the Gulf region increasingly buy from India," he said.

Apart from volumes, price rise in cereals also helped export earnings.

Further, the Gulf region was seen stocking up commodities fearing scarcity.

In the case of maize, Vietnam, one of the largest producers, had a lower output and countries turned to India. Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka have been buyers of cereal seeds from India.

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Madhya Pradesh (-26%)

Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi (-2%)

J&K and Ladakh (-26%)

Punjab (-6%)

West Rajasthan (124%)

Gujarat Region (13%)

Madhya Maharashtra (30%)

Konkan & Goa (24%)

North Interior Karnataka (49%)

Coastal Karnataka (4%)

South Interior Karnataka (11%)

Lakshadweep (22%)

Arabian Sea

Kerala (-8%)

Chennai (-2%)

Other (-1%)

Total sown area in lakh hectare

Acreage of major kharif crops

	Aug 28, 2019: 1,009	Aug 28, 2020: 1,082.22
Rice	354.41	389.81
Pulses	128.65	134.57
Coarse cereals	172.49	176.89
Oilseeds	170.99	193.29
Sugarcane	51.68	52.29
Jute & mesta	6.86	6.97
Cotton	124.90	128.41

Source: Ministry of Agriculture/KBK Infographics

Cereal exports jump over 200%

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, AUG. 28

Cereals, other than wheat and rice, have seen a jump in demand in the overseas market due to the pandemic with their exports growing over 200 per cent in July.

In July, exports of cereals like bajra, oats, corn, ragi, quinoa, yellow maize, sorghum and their seeds collectively grew 226 per cent to Rs 330 crore against Rs 101 crore in the same month last year. Between April and July, exports grew 32 per cent to Rs 673 crore against Rs 509 crore in the year-ago period.

Among the cereals, certain varieties of popcorn fetched export revenues of Rs 190 crore in July against nil exports in July 2019. Yellow maize and another variety of maize too saw an emerging demand in the overseas market this July.

According to K. Unnikrishnan, deputy director general, Federation of Indian Export Organisations, cereals have witnessed increased demand from African countries

and the Gulf region during the lockdown.

"Many of the exporting nations had imposed restrictions on shipments to ensure food security during the lock-down. On the other hand, India had excess production and there were no restrictions on exports. This made countries in Africa and the Gulf region increasingly buy from India," he said.

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Lakshadweep (22%)

Arabian Sea

Kerala (-8%)

Chennai (-2%)

Other (-1%)

Total sown area in lakh hectare

Murugappa all set to bag CG Power

New Delhi, Aug 28: Exactly a year after founder Gautam Thapar was sacked as its chairman, CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd is set to get a new promoter in Murugappa Group after its offer to invest Rs 700 crore in the fraud-hit firm found no challenger.

Chennai-based Murugappa Group firm Tube Investments of India Ltd (TIIL) had earlier this month offered to invest Rs 700 crore in CG Power for a 56.6 per cent stake.

Lenders to CG Power, which had defaulted on loan repayments since the fraud was detected in the firm last year, launched a so-called Swiss challenge to explore if any other eligible investor was willing to better the Murugappa's offer.

No counteroffer was received at the close of the bidding on August 26, two sources with direct knowledge of the development said.

Lenders are not evaluating the Murugappa offer and are likely to approve it later in the Doing Business report.

While CG Power is an established player in industrial motors and power components, Tube Investments is the engineering arm of the Rs 36,900-crore Murugappa Group.

A year back, the board of CG Power, erstwhile known as Crompton Greaves, had removed founder Gautam Thapar as the company chairman, citing fraud.—PTI

World Bank suspends ease of business report

Probing irregularities in data; India rankings may be revised

ARCHANA CHAUDHARY
AUG. 28

The World Bank has suspended publication of its Doing Business report to probe alleged irregularities in the underlying data.

"A number of irregularities have been reported regarding changes to the data in the Doing Business 2018 and Doing Business 2020 reports, published in October 2017 and 2019. The changes in the data were inconsistent with the Doing Business methodology," the World Bank said in a statement on Thursday.

"We will act based on the findings and will retrospectively correct the data of countries that were most affected by the irregularities."

Published since 2003, the report ranks 190 economies based on how easy it is to do business there, taking into account trading regulations, property rights, contract enforcement, investment laws, the availability of credit and a number of other factors.

In recent years, there have been questions about the integrity of the rankings. Paul Romer quit in 2018 as the World Bank's chief economist after questioning changes to Chile's order in the Doing Business report.

Changes to the World Bank's methodology penalised Chile under

INDIA 72ND ON WAGE LIST

New Delhi, Aug. 28: India

SHORT TAKES



Vinesh Phogat

Khel Ratna Vinesh is Covid positive

New Delhi: India's top woman wrestler Vinesh Phogat on Friday said she has tested positive for Covid-19. Selected for this year's Khel Ratna award, she had been training at her village in Sonepat with coach Om Prakash.

"Yes, I have tested positive for Covid-19 when my sample was taken in Sonepat before the dress rehearsal for the awards ceremony. I will recover soon, God willing. I am in isolation at home," Vinesh said.

The 26-year-old will skip Saturday's virtual ceremony for the National Sports Awards distribution. She is one among five athletes chosen for the country's highest sporting honour this year. — PTI

Coach dies a day ahead of award

New Delhi: Veteran athletics coach Purshotam Rai died due to a cardiac arrest on Friday, tragically a day before he was to be conferred with the prestigious Dronacharya Award. He was 79.

"He took part in the rehearsal for the National Sports Awards but later suffered heart attack and passed away," an Athletics Federation of India official said.

The National Sports Awards ceremony will be held virtually on Saturday due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Rai was to receive the Dronacharya Award from President Ram Nath Kovind in the lifetime category.

Rai coached top athletes such as Olympian quartetmiler Vandana Rao, heptathlete Pramila Aiyappa, Ashwini Nachappa, Murali Kuttan, M. K. Asha, E. B. Shyla, Rosa Kutty and G. G. Pramila.

"It is a tragic incident and we at AFI are shocked. He spent his whole life for athletics and he made immense contribution. We condole his tragic demise and express our condolences to his family," said AFI president Adilie Sumariwalla. — PTI

Arsenal, Liverpool in clash for Shield

London: Jordan Henderson has urged Liverpool to show their hunger to retain the Premier League title when they face Arsenal in the Community Shield on Saturday.

Just five weeks after Liverpool captain Henderson lifted the Premier League trophy, Jurgen Klopp's side kick off the new season in the glamour friendly at Wembley.

While their Premier League title defence doesn't get underway until September 12, the Reds are keen to lay down an early marker to their title rivals. Henderson knows FA Cup winners Arsenal will pose a good test of Liverpool's desire for more silverware after beating the champions 2-1 at the Emirates Stadium late last season. — AFP

Live on TV**FORMULA ONE**

BELGIAN GRAND PRIX Practice-3 from 3.25 pm; Qualifying from 6.25 pm on Star Sports Select 2, HD

TOUR DE FRANCE

Cycling race from 5.30 pm on Eurosport, HD

CARIBBEAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Barbados Tridents vs Trinbago Knight Riders from 7.30 pm; **St Kitts & Nevis Patriots vs Jamaica Tallawahs** from 11.45 pm on Star Sports 1, 2, HD

FA COMMUNITY SHIELD

Arsenal vs Liverpool from 9 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD

T20 CRICKET

England vs Pakistan from 10.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

UFC FIGHT NIGHT

Anthony Smith vs Aleksandar Rakic from 6.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

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Left: Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma spends time with his family in their hotel room in Abu Dhabi. Right: Royal Challengers Bangalore's South African batsman AB de Villiers poses with his cricket kit and face shield in these photos posted by MI and RCB teams respectively.

Shaken sides train

IPL teams begin practice amid Covid scare

C. SANTOSH KUMAR | DC with agency inputs
CHENNAI, AUG. 28

With just 22 days left before the start of the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League, multiple members of the Chennai Super Kings contingent have tested positive for Covid-19, causing an upheaval ahead of the event starting September 19.

The Chennai Super Kings were the only to team to have a pre-departure conditioning camp in Chennai where they had created a 'mini bubble' at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium. According to sources, a net bowler and a member of the social media team had to be dropped from the contingent after they tested positive in Chennai.

CSK have travelled with a fat contingent of 55 members. All of them were tested upon arrival at the Dubai airport followed by three more tests on days 1, 3 and 6 at the hotel.

"The infection could have been picked up either from those left out from the squad or the airport. Those who have tested positive are mostly asymptomatic. The BCCI-appointed healthcare officials have begun procedures to trace the contacts," said the team source.

Jittery BCCI officials have called for an informal meeting with franchise representatives.

Meanwhile, after completing a mandatory seven-day quarantine period in Abu Dhabi,



RCB captain Virat Kohli shares a light moment during a training session.

Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore and Rajasthan Royals were the latest set of teams to come out of their isolation and shake the rust off in their first practice session at various ICC Academies on Thursday.

RCB and India captain Virat Kohli appeared cheerful as he kicked about a volleyball and shared some light

moments with teammates. Meanwhile, the Delhi Capitals have signed Australian all-rounder Daniel Sams to replace England's Jason Roy.

Roy was on Thursday ruled out of England's T20 series against Pakistan after sustaining a side strain.

However, the Delhi Capitals said he had opted out of the IPL "for personal reasons".

"The IPL is a huge platform for any cricketer, and back home, we all follow the tournament extremely closely every year," said Sams, 27.

"I feel fortunate to be a part of it this year... I can't wait to join the rest of the players in the UAE," Sams was quoted as saying in a statement released by the franchise late on Thursday.

KNIGHT RIDERS RECORD FIFTH STRAIGHT WIN

PORT OF SPAIN, AUG. 28: Trinbago Knight Riders maintained their clean slate with a fifth win in as many matches, while Mohammed Nabi produced a career-best five-wicket haul to guide St Lucia Zouks to a six-wicket triumph in the Caribbean Premier League here.

Sent into bat, the Warriors posted a lowly 112 for 7. The Knight Riders then overhauled the target, scoring 115 for 3 with 10 balls to spare.

Trinbago got an early break when Sikandar Raza clean bowled Brandon King (6) in the second over of the innings. Khary Pierre then struck twice in one over, dismissing Chandrapaul Hemraj (2) and Nicholas Pooran (1) to leave Amazon Warriors at 12 for 3.

Chasing the total, the Knight Riders were 51 for two but soon Tion Webster was sent back by Chris Green. Yet they stayed on the course and needed 35 off the last 36 balls. — PTI

After 10 overs, the Knight Riders were 51 for two but soon Tion Webster was sent back by Chris Green. Yet they stayed on the course and needed 35 off the last 36 balls. — PTI

Part of the India Under 19 side.

Pradeep was born in Vijayawada into a family of cricketers — his father AG Prasad, elder brother AG Praveen and uncle I. Sreenivas all represented Andhra in Ranji Trophy.

Presently, Pradeep is working as Assistant Manager in Indian Overseas Bank at Chennai.

ACA president P. Sarat Chandra Reddy thanked Pradeep for his services. "ACA is proud to have players of such caliber and stature. I wish him all the best and his services shall be best utilised by ACA when required," he said.

Serena handed tough US draw

DJOKOVIC GETS A RELATIVELY EASY RIDE

NEW YORK, AUG. 28: Serena Williams could see plenty of fellow Americans in her US Open quest for a 24th career Grand Slam title, including Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin in a semifinal match.

The women's draw unveiled on Thursday ahead of Monday's start of the Flushing Meadows fortnight in a spectatorless Covid-19 quarantine bubble offers some challenges for the 38-year-old third seed.

Serena, one Slam singles crown shy of matching Margaret Court's all-time record, could meet 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens in the third round and 2017 US Open runner-up and seventh-seed Madison Keys in a quarterfinal before a chance at Kenin in the semis and potentially Czech top seed Karolina Pliskova in the final.

And that's not even counting a possible fourth-round matchup against Greek 15th seed Maria Sakkari, who ousted Serena from this week's tune-up event in New York.

Serena lost in the US Open and Wimbledon finals each of the past two years, and with the England grass event wiped off the schedule by the pandemic, the US Open marks a chance to break through and claim a seventh title on the same courts where she captured her first Slam crown in 1999. — AFP

NAGAL UP AGAINST HOME PLAYER IN FIRST ROUND

NEW YORK, AUG. 28: India's number one singles player Sumit Nagal drew American Bradley Klahn in his US Open first round and a victory might put him against world number three Dominic Thiem in the next round.

It will be second straight US Open singles main draw for Nagal, who came through the qualifiers last year and played a memorable match against iconic Roger Federer. Nagal is ranked six places higher than Klahn at 122 but the experienced American will compete in home conditions. Nagal is coming into the tournament after reaching quarterfinals at the Prague Open, a Challenger Tour event. — PTI

Andhra captain Pradeep retires

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 28

Andamani Ganga Pradeep, former captain of the Andhra Ranji Trophy team, announced his retirement from all formats of first class cricket on Friday.

In a letter to Andhra Cricket Association (ACA) he thanked the Krishna District Cricket Association, from where he represented the ACA in all tournaments, and also the ACA for giving him all encouragement for his growth in the game. He specially thanked his family for their co-operation.

"It's time for me to say goodbye and make way for the youngsters," the 33-year-old wrote, adding he will continue to be associated with cricket and would like to help budding players in future.

Pradeep played 64 Ranji Trophy matches and scored 2,757 runs with six centuries and 13 half centuries. In List A matches he got three more centuries (1,053 runs). Pradeep was also a good fielder and took 81 catches.

He also led the India Under 17 team and was



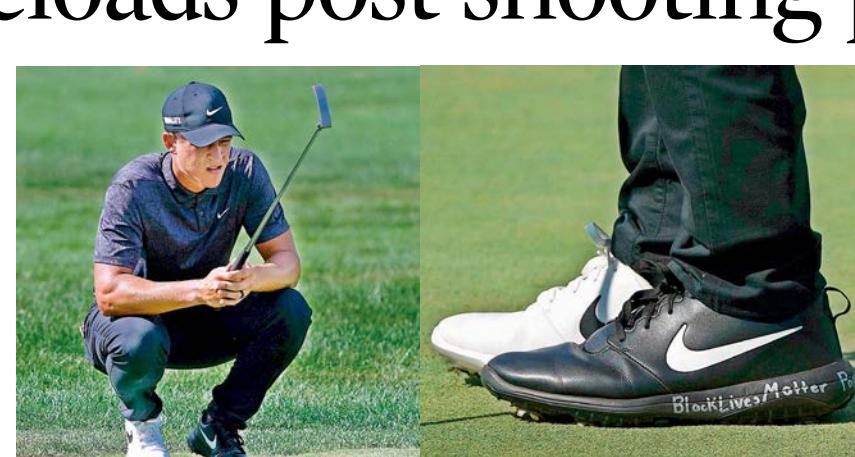
A. G. Pradeep

TOUR DE FRANCE ROLLS OUT IN CYCLE OF GLOOM

NICE (FRANCE), AUG. 28: There are always sunshine and smiles on the French Riviera but the 2020 Tour de France will roll out of Nice on Saturday under a cloud of Covid-19 gloom, with doubts the 21-day jaunt across the peaks and plains will be end with its usual dash up the Champs Elysees in Paris.

Leaving the well-heeled Riviera resort the 22 teams will race 3,484km through some of the prettiest vistas in France in a globally popular event broadcast in 190 countries. The organisers also hope to provide a new blueprint for sports in the time of Covid-19.

Defending champion Colombian Egan Bernal is again a good bet for the overall leader's fabled yellow jersey, along with Primoz Roglic and Thibaut Pinot chief among his rivals on a course that crosses all five of France's mountain ranges. — AFP



View of shoes worn by Cameron Champ that read "Black Lives Matter" as seen during the first round of the BMW Championship in Olympia Fields on Friday. — AFP

Champ makes statement with shoes, Tiger joins in

WASHINGTON, AUG. 28: Cameron Champ considered not playing in Thursday's opening round of the US PGA's BMW Championship over the police shooting of Jacob Blake, but made his own statement with his shoes.

The 25-year-old biracial American, who has a Black father and a white mother, wore one white shoe and one black shoe with messages of support during his seven-over 77 at Olympia Fields, where Tiger Woods and Tony Finau also backed the growing sport boycott movement.

Players agreed on Thursday to continue the playoffs, with LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers — who had been in favor Wednesday night of abandoning the season — reportedly "on board" with the decision. — AFP

"I definitely thought about it for sure. But obviously I feel like I can do a lot more playing, and again, showing my support and expressing myself," Champ said of sitting out.

Champ had Blake's name and "Black Lives Matter" among the messages on his shoes, objecting to police brutality and racial injustice. Woods, a 15-time major winner and reigning Masters champion, said he did not consider sitting out the round, which would have ended his bid to qualify for next week's Tour Championship. "No, I talked to the commissioner and they were on board. He released his statement, and all the guys were on board," Woods said. — AFP

shooting of Blake in Kenosha. "The PGA Tour supports them and any of our own members standing up for issues they believe in," the tour said in a statement.

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— AFP

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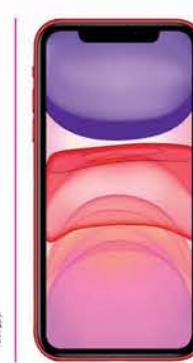


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