

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 12 JULY 2021

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Vol. 84 No. 192 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

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## WEATHER

Max: 26°C  
Min: 24.4°C  
RH: 94%  
Rain: 7.1mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky. A few spells of rain likely.  
Max/Min temp. 28/24°C

## ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttaryaya  
Tithi: Ashada Shuddha Dwitiya till 8.17 am  
Star: Ashlesha till 3.12 am (Tuesday)

Varjyam: 3.36 pm to 5.15 pm  
Durmuhurta: 12.47 pm to 1.39 pm; 3.23 pm to 4.14 pm

Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am

HIJRI CALENDAR

Zilhaj 1,144 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.39 am

Zohar: 12.31 pm

Asar: 4.56 pm

Magrib: 7.00 pm

Isha: 8.16 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.54 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.49 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 7.38 AM

MOONSET TODAY 8.56 PM

## COUNTER POINT



Now only yogis and sadhus will be eligible to contest polls!

## SHORT TAKES

## Missile defence for Kabul airport

Kabul: Afghan authorities said on Sunday they have installed an anti-missile system at Kabul airport to counter incoming rockets, as the Taliban pressed on with a blistering offensive across the country. "The newly installed air defence system has been operational in Kabul since 2:00 am Sunday," the interior ministry said in a statement.

Full report on Page 9

## RSS changes its BJP pointsman

New Delhi: The RSS, it was learnt, has decided to replace its pointsman for the BJP, with Arun Kumar to succeed Dr Krishna Gopal for the post. The decision, sources said, was taken by the RSS top brass at the ongoing meeting at Chitrakoot.

Full report on Page 7

## SPACE | FLIGHT Showman bizman is first to fly in his own spaceship

## Branson beats Bezos to space



Billionaire Richard Branson and his crew float in their space plane as they experience loss of gravity 85.9 km above Earth. — The Web

Truth or Consequences (US), July 11: Swashbuckling entrepreneur Richard Branson hurtled into space aboard his own winged rocket ship Sunday in his boldest adventure yet, beating out fellow billionaire Jeff Bezos.

The nearly 71-year-old Branson and five crewmates from his Virgin Galactic space tourism company reached an altitude of about 88 km (53 miles) over the New Mexico desert enough to experience three to four minutes of weightlessness and see the curvature of the Earth and then safely glided back home to a runway landing.

"Seventeen years of hard work to get us this far," a jubilant Branson said as he congratulated his team on the trip back.

Branson became the first person to blast off in his own spaceship, beating Bezos by nine days.

With about 500 people watching, including Branson's wife, children and grandchildren, a twin-fuselage aircraft with his space plane attached underneath took off in the first stage of the flight.

The space plane then detached from the mother ship at an altitude of about 13 km (8.5 miles) and fired its engine, reaching the edge of space. The entire flight up and back aboard the sleek white ship, named Unity, took just under 15 minutes.

■ Page 9: Sirisha becomes 3rd Indian woman fly to space

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## FOR SALE AUTOMOTIVE

## FOUR WHEELERS

**✓ MERCEDES CLA** 200 D Sport, Auto transmission, 2017, 13700 KM, Sun roof, Single owner. Contact: 9884026793 (HYMM/2122/C02496)

**JAGUAR XF** (5.0L8) HR Registered Color Pearl Grey 2009 Model Petrol with sports exhaust done 51000kms second owner excellent Brand new tyres 12,15,000/- contact: +91-7330653111 (HYMM/2122/C02546)

## FOR SALE PROPERTY

## COMMERCIAL

**✓ JUBILEEHILLS & Banjara hills Commercial Plots @ Road Number-45, 1400 Sq.yards, North Facing, Road Number-10, 1500yards, Gachibowli Main Road 3000yards Ph: 9704222245/ 8522015555. (HYCL/2122/C00789)**

**KOMPALLY 3000 Sq.yds commercial plot for sale.** East Facing, Main Road, near Kompally Junction. Ph: 9704222245/ 8522015555. (HYCL/2122/C00789)

**URGENT SALE** of 150sq.yds commercial property at pillar no 166 attapur and 200sq.yds residential building at pillar no. 241 rajendranagar. Contact: 9346720091 ad posted by owner (HYMM/2122/C02526)

## FLATS

## THREE & MORE

**NEW 3BHK Super Deluxe Flats, Ready to occupy. Good Vaastu at Pragati Colony, Secunderabad Roads (Model Flat Ready), Bank Loan Available, Contact: 9849010077, 9100015559. (HYMM/2122/C02309)**

**AT FORTUNE Prime Madhapur, 3190 Sq.ft. at 6th Floor, Fully Furnished with Modular Kitchen, AC's in all 4 Bedrooms & Hall. Contact: 9704123658, 9246504542 (HYCL/2122/C00755)**

**3 BHK flat for sale 1250 sq.ft. well furnished, at VedVihar, Subhashnagar, AWHO Colony, Trimulugudem. Contact: 7661082877. (S/2122/C00667)**

## INDEPENDENT HOUSE

## THREE & MORE

**DELUXE DUPLEX Villas At Pedda Amberpet (Hayathnagar) HMDA Approved Deluxe Duplex Villas, 167Sqys, 243 Sqys 3BHK Total 240 Villas, Clubhouse, Swimming Pool, Park, 80% Loan, No Brokers, Ph: 9900683222 (HYMM/2122/C02548)**

**AFFORDABLE VILLAS for Sale near Kondakal Mokula! Sharkeynagar. Starting from Rs.80 lakhs onwards. Contact: 7353585358. (HYMM/2122/C02676)**

## LAND

**FULLY DEVELOPED Fermland Forsale @Moinabed, 2Acres Of Farmland, 10Varieties Of Fruit Plants, Security Room, Entrance Guards, Full Compound wall, Drip Irrigation, Clear Title, Total Price 4.5Cr. Just 20Km From Appa Junction, Ph.: 9908295516/ 8317676805. (HYMM/2122/C02544)**

**FARMLANDS FORSALE 1Acre, 2Acre, 5Acres And 10Acres Clear Title Well Developed Lands @Moinabed and Chevela, East, North, West Facing Lands Available. 1.5CR To 2CR Per Acre. Just 20Kms From Appa Junction. Ph: 9908295516/ 8317676805 (HYMM/2122/C02545)**

**PLOTS**

**✓ JUBILEEHILLS SOCIETY layout: 1300Sqys plot for sale on road No-5. Only Genuine interested purchasers (No BROkers pls). ph: 9248133369. (HYMM/2122/C02541)**

**FARM LAND gunta only 40k for sale at 100Acre mega venture @Narayankandu with sri gandham(10) & naghani(10) trees, grab this never before offer, for details Chithra: 8466042045 (HYMM/2122/C02684)**

**✓ PREMIUM PLOTS in Trimulugy, cantonment approved layout venture in Sal diamond valley, opp: Sai Baba temple, interested parties Ph: 8328512524 (HYMM/2122/C02536)**

## RENTALS

## COMMERCIAL

**SHIVARAMPALLY 7000, 4500, 1500 Sft Kerby Type Godowns, 25 feet height with VDF Flooring, Loading Bay as per vastu. Ph: 9885677715. (S/2122/C00284)**

**MEDHIPATNAM To Attapur Road near Pillar No.79 Main Road, First & Second Floor (each 1100 Sft) for Rent Offices & Clinics. Ph: 9885677715. (B/2122/C00285)**

## FLATS

## DOUBLE BEDROOM

**FOR RENT on 5th floor with open terrace with 24hr water supply and security in Shanti Soudha Apartments, for family only Ph: 9963475174, 7702777907. (W/2122/AT000352)**

## LEASE

## COMMERCIAL

**AT KAVADIGUDA Mainroad Thala Basti, 2floors each 1800sqft, for Banks, Finance Offices, Godowns, Hostels, any Office Purpose. Ph: 9399933829/ 9347056459. (HYMM/2122/C02509)**

**WAREHOUSE SPACE Available at Medchal & Kalakal Main Road 25,000 to 2,00,000 sft Contact: Ph: 9399843421 (HYMM/2122/C02450)**

## SITUATION VACANT

## ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

**REQUIRED ACCOUNTANT & Data Operator with knowledge of Tally, Income TAX, TDS, GST. Send resume to: hr.vspmt@gmail.com. Contact: 9666669538. (HYMM/2122/C02514)**

**✓ REQUIRE EXPERIENCED Data Entry Operator, Should Handle Work Independently. Must Have Knowledge of Tally, Chintamani Paravatham Enterprises, Liberty X Roads, Hyderabad. Ph: 23223647, 23227145 (HYMM/2122/C02499)**

**ADVT. SALES & MKTG.**

**AN ISO 9001, 14001 Security & Facility Management Company With pan India & Global operations Needs Marketing Manager And Executives. Salary & Incentives Commensurate With Experience. Apply With Full Details to: jskalsi@dragoonsecurity.com (HYCL/2122/C00822)**

**WALK-IN INTERVIEWS- All Verticals Verticals-40 Marketing/Sales-20 Field Executives-10 Coordinators-5, 12 to 15, 21 to 25, 26 to 30, 31 to 35, 36 to 40 Money Sensa Consultants Pvt Ltd, 10-3-1, 2nd Floor, East Marredpally, Secunderabad, Contact: 919817070707 & 953341177 (HYMM/2122/C02587)**

## COMPUTERS

**WANTED WELL Experienced Lady having good knowledge in maintaining Matrimony Website. Interviews on 16.07.2021 from 5pm. Padmashali Kalyana Mandapam, Marredpally, Secunderabad. Ph: 9246384793. (S/2122/C00693)**

## ENGINEERS

**REQUIRED SERVICE Engineer for Screw air compressors experience minimum 2- 3 years. Qualification ITI/ Diploma. Contact: 9100957901/ 9100957902. (S/2122/C00659)**

## GENERAL

**✓ WANTED A Lady or Gent Servant for night duty. Apply with your latest Photo and BioData to Sri Rams, House No. B-9, Vikrampuri Colony, Near Karkhana, Road No.4, Gate No.4, Karkhana, Secunderabad- 500009. Ph: 9849899000. (S/2122/C00639)**

## DISTRIBUTORS

**SB BUSINESS Opportunity. Work From Home, Earn Regular Income, Govt, Private, banker, teachers, any Retire Employees Housewives, Businessman, Realestate, Manager Ph: 9347519452. (HYMM/2122/C02596)**

## MANAGERS

**WANTED SMART Marketing Managers**

**M&R for Real Estate Company. Package will be discussed after personal interview. Call: 9908264667. (HYCL/2122/C00728)**

## MULTIPLE VACANCIES

**WANTED OFFICE assistance- 2-3 years experience. B.Com, And experienced Sales & Marketing Males. Contact: 9391122475. (S/2122/C00665)**

**URGENTWANTED office/ Accounts/ Marketing/ Customer care/ Production& Delivery/ Despatch/ Logistics/PR Managers, Supervisor, Consultants, Receptionists, Office & Delivery- Boys, Drivers. Ph: 7896275652, 7386425653. (HYMM/2122/C02471)**

**✓ REPUTED CONSTRUCTION Company Looking For Project Manager, Electric Engineer, Sales Person, (F) @ Pragathinagar. Contact: 9346780766, projectimspac2@gmail.com (HYCL/2122/C00733)**

**WORK FROM Home in MNC, Training And Support System Provided, Any Background People Can be Work With Us. Whatsapp: Name, Age, Qualifications, Ph: 9032309911 (HYMM/2122/C02666)**

**IMMEDIATELY APPOINTMENT**

**Control Engineers, Gunman, Ex-Serviceman Guards Residing @Secunderabad. Experienced in HR/Admin Operation, Manager All Statutory, Labour Laws, E-Tendering/ E-Procurement/ (Online/Offline) age:25-45 Gem-portal, Marketing/ Business Manager (BDM), Drivers, Digital Marketing Executives, Stenographer, Computer Operator (Speed-50) Tele-callers, Office Boy (2-wheeler), Field Officers, Work Safety Agency, Secunderabad. Email: vencobbs@vencobbs.com (S/2122/C02687)**

**POULTRY**

**VENCOBBS CHICKEN rich in protein, great in taste eat & enjoy. Vencobbs' Brother Hyderabad Zone price per kg. Farm Gate Rs.132, Retail Live Bird Rs.154, Dressed with Skin Rs.223 Skinless Rs.254. Ph: 27992239. (HOPE) (S/2122/C00650)**

**PEST CONTROL**

**SPECIALIST PEST Control Cockroach Bait Treatment & Termite, New Construction Treatment, 10years Guarantee and Sanitizer Spray. Ph: 9989808181, 9989836949. (HYMM/2122/C02489)**

**PACKERS & MOVERS**

**EVEREST PACKERS & MOVERS** the professionals packers and movers to anywhere in India Dial: 7013484633, 7095022444 (W/2122/AT000355)

**TAX CONSULTANTS**

**PAN, TAN, Income Tax, GST, Labour Licence, ESI, EPF, Company Law, Prof Tax, Legal & Taxation works, Commercial Business Management Services. Call: 929120718 & (Whatsapp). Email: akula.narsingrao@gmail.com (S/2122/C00501)**

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**✓ PREMIUM PLOTS in Trimulugy, cantonment approved layout venture in Sal diamond valley, opp: Sai Baba temple, interested parties Ph: 8328512524 (HYMM/2122/C02536)**

**AN ISO-9001 company manufacturing of Railway Components. Looking for Lady Office Executive with 3 to 4 years experience in Ms-Office and good knowledge of English. Walk-in interview at 208, Kabra Complex, M.G.Road, Ranigunj, Secunderabad. (S/2122/C00692)**

## OTHER VACANCIES

**WANTED FEMALE Backend Executive and Telecaller with basic computer knowledge, fluent in Telugu, English, Hindi @ Himayathnagar, Call Sanjay 9866188816, 9246525411. (HYMM/2122/C02959)**

**✓ WANTED MANAGER with M.Sc (Organic Chemistry) having 13-15yrs of experience for Production, R&D and QC for our plant near Delhi. It is a pharmaceutical plant. We are looking for following are the products, 1. Phenolic Resins 2. Phenolic Resin & Moulding compounds. If you are interested, send me your resume to: tv\_rao13@yahoo.com, Ph: 8019942632. (HYMM/2122/C02268)**

**RENTALS**

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## TEACHERS

**JOHNSON GRAMMAR School, ICSE, Habsiguda requires : 1) Trained Graduate to teach Social Science for Middle school 2) Trained Graduate to teach English for Primary School. 3) Student Counsellor with relevant qualification and experience. Interested candidates may mail their resumes to: jgschoolicse@yahoo.com (HYCL/2122/C00741)**

**JOHNSON GRAMMAR School, ICSE Mallapur requires:TGT/PGT with 5years experience to teach Middle school 1)Social 2)Computer Science 3)Hindi 4)Physical Education Teacher for high School 5)Psychology Graduate with experience in school administration, good communications computer skills. Candidates to mail their resume to: jgseniorscholice@gmail.com. Ph: 6302405140. (HYCL/2122/C00742)**

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## SHORT TAKES

**STUDENT LOSES ₹70K TO ONLINE FRAUDSTERS**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

A degree student who searched for a bank's customer care number on Google has been duped by fraudsters. The victim approached Jeedimetla police with a complaint.

The victim tried to clear e-challans through a digital wallet platform. Although the amount was deducted, the challans were not cleared. Subsequently, he searched over Google for the bank customer care number and made a call to a number provided on a website.

It proved to be a fake one. The fraudsters tricked the victim to gain access to his digital wallet and transferred around ₹70,000 from it. The victim later approached Jeedimetla police and lodged a complaint.

**KIMS AIRLIFTS PATIENT FROM LUCKNOW**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

A resident doctor of Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences was airlifted to KIMS Hospital, Secunderabad, for a lung transplant. A post-graduate of the gynaecology department, she had contracted Covid-19 and was 32 weeks pregnant. The child was delivered through emergency C-section but her condition deteriorated and was put on ECMO support.

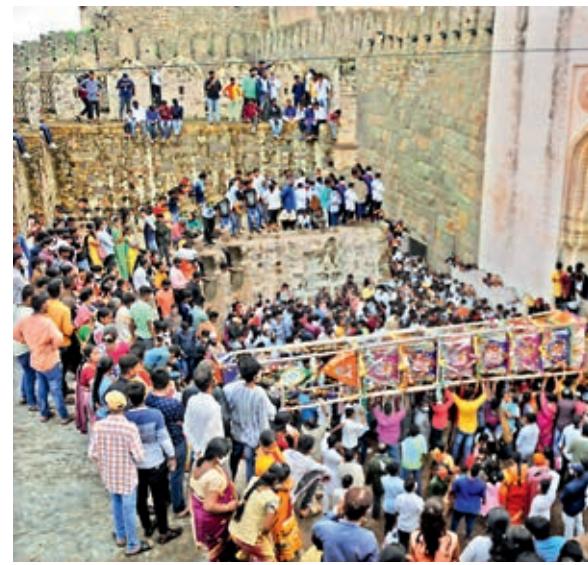
The medical fraternity in Lucknow intervened and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath, sanctioned ₹1.5 crore for the procedure of lung transplant. The doctor was airlifted from Lucknow to KIMS Hospital through an air ambulance. A green corridor was formed by Hyderabad traffic police for the patient to reach the hospital early.

**PD ACT AGAINST TWO CYBER CRIMINALS**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD JULY 11

The Cyberabad police invoked the Preventive Detention (PD) Act provisions against two cyber criminals on Sunday. Two of them, Kamalkant Vidyarthi and Uttkarsh Singh, were lodged at Central Prison, Cherlapally, Medchal district. The accused were natives of Bihar and Jharkhand respectively. According to the police, Kamalkant Vidyarthi created fake websites of reputed companies and generated Google and Facebook ads with the help of another accused Uttkarsh Singh.

In the name of providing loans, as also for cellphone tower installation and for providing franchises, around 26 fake websites in the name of reputed companies were created by the two to cheat the public. The accused were involved in three such cases, said Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar.

**ACCORDING TO** the police, Kamalkant Vidyarthi created fake websites of reputed companies and generated Google and Facebook ads with the help of another accused Uttkarsh Singh.



Bonalu festivities take place in a grand way amidst fanfare at Golconda in Hyderabad. Even though the state government had cancelled all festivities last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, celebrations were ramped up this year. Large crowds were seen in and around Golconda.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

**Bonalu celebrations start with prayer to quash virus**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

Devotees prayed to the Goddess to destroy the Coronavirus and rid the world of Covid-19, as they ushered in the Ashada Bonalu at the Jagadambika Yellamma talli temple at Golconda fort on Sunday.

The festival of Goddess Mahankali will last till the end of the Ashada month. In the twin cities, the festival is celebrated in different areas each week. Devotees ignored the incessant rain to climb the steps of the Golconda fort to reach the temple and offer bonam which contains rice cooked in milk with jaggery.

The procession started from Langer Houz cross-roads and was headed by ministers A. Indrakaran Reddy and Talasani Srinivas Yadav. Poturaju dances and teen maar were features of the procession, that saw the participation of families and many small groups. Minister Srinivas Yadav offered silk cloths and 'bonam' to the deity at the temple.

Police deployed their teams in large numbers. As more women turn out to celebrate the festival, SHE Teams were posted



A woman balances a bonam (earthen pot) on her head while performing the traditional Bonalu dance near Golconda on Sunday.

**TRAFFIC CURBS FOR BALKAMPET YELLAMMA FEST**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

The Hyderabad police has ordered diversion of traffic in view of the Balkampet Yellamma Kalyanam at Yellammane Devasthanam, Balkampet, from July 12 to 14.

Traffic from Satyam theatre towards Fatehnagar will be diverted at SS Bakery to go via BK Guda cross-road and Bhoga Residency. Traffic from Fatehnagar to Satyam theatre will be diverted at New Bridge via Begumpet in-gate.

Traffic from DK Road towards R&B Balkampet will be diverted at Padmasree Apartments. The lane opposite Padmasree apartments towards Nature Cure Hospital will remain closed.

Traffic from Begumpet to Balanagar new bridge will be diverted via Lal Bungalow, Matha temple and Satyam theatre. Blyanes and link roads from SR Nagar 'T' junction to Fatehnagar will remain closed.

at several places to give them cover. CCTV cameras were installed at several places.

due to the pandemic restrictions. The government has granted ₹15 crore to celebrate the festival.

Vice-President M. Venkaiyah Naidu and Union culture minister G. Kishan Reddy extended their greetings to the people.

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**SHORT TAKES**  
**21 ARRESTED FOR CHEATING TIRUPATI DEVOTEES**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
TIRUPATI, JULY 11

Continuing the drive against the black-marketing of Srivari darshan tickets, the Tirumala police arrested 21 offenders who were involved in illegal sales of VIP break darshan and special entry darshan tickets by using fake recommendation letters and also for deceiving devotees with fake darshan tickets.

Disclosing the details to media persons at Tirumala on Sunday, ASP D. Muniramaiah said most of those arrested during the last couple of months were auto drivers and jeep drivers from Tirupati.

"For some time now, these culprits have been targeting devotees who do not have tickets for the darshan of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala temple. They cheated them with out-dated tickets, post-dated tickets and fake tickets. In addition, they were also deceiving devotees by selling VIP break darshan tickets at higher prices. They obtain these tickets on fake reference letters of some of the people's representatives from both the Telugu states", the ASP said.

In the last two months, the Tirumala II Town police booked eight such cases and two similar cases were registered at the I Town police station. Following complaints, the Tirumala police formed special teams to nab the culprits and kept a watch on auto drivers and jeep drivers in Tirupati.

The ASP said in a case registered at the I Town PS, a man named Ananda Vardhan from Hyderabad, who was wearing an Army T-shirt, introduced himself as an Army officer to a Tirumala-bound devotee group. The tout took money from devotees, promising that he would arrange darshan tickets for them.

**SRSAILAM COPPER PLATES THROW LIGHT ON HISTORY**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KURNOO, JULY 11

Prof. P. Chenna Reddy, dean at the Telugu University campus in Srisailam, said the copper plates recently unearthed at Srisailam during the renovation of Ganta Matham, revealed the historic patronage it received from Reddi Kings, Chalukya, and even Kurnool Nawab.

Reddy, who was one of the key persons in deciphering the copper plates, said there were 11 Mathas that flourished in Srisailam between 8th century and 19th century. He said one of the 53 copper plates discovered belonged to Reddi kings as it was issued by King Virabhadra Reddi, son of Alla Reddi of Rajamahendravaram Reddi Kings. It is written in Sanskrit language and Telugu characters, dated Saka 1358 (Vasu-Bana-Visva) - Anala, Vaisakha, su.15 which is equivalent to 1436 AD, April 30, Monday.

He said the copper plate records were the gift of the village Vemavaram after renaming it as Alada Reddi Vemavaram to Lord Mallikarjuna of Sriparvata by the king, for the merit of his father Allada Reddi, on the occasion of lunar eclipse. The record was composed by Kommanamatya and engraved by Pinanumka, son of Gorapumudi Numa. The record ends with the signature of Sri Markandeshwara Vemareddy.

He said Srisailam, then known as Sripavata, was a centre of great learning for different sects of Shiva which includes Saivites, Lingayats and Siddhas. The mathams played an important role in the social and religious life of Andhras during medieval times. Matham is an educational institution dedicated to higher learning and caters to the intellectual and spiritual needs of society.



Bhuvanagiri MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy submits a memorandum to Union tourism minister Kishan Reddy to develop the Bhuvanagiri Kota in Hyderabad on Sunday. — DC

**KOMATIREDDY URGES KISHAN TO PROMOTE TS TOURISM**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

Congress MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy met Union tourism and culture minister G. Kishan Reddy in Delhi on Sunday and felicitated him on his elevation to Cabinet rank.

On the occasion, the MP requested the minister for development of the Bhuvanagiri fort and asked him to support promotion of tourism in Telangana state. He also discussed Musi river cleaning and Pharma City issues.

Later speaking to the media, he said he was not interested in talking about Telangana state Congress affairs, but contended that the PCC chief's post was a small one. He stated that he was focussing on development while being within the Congress, which he would never quit.

Venkat Reddy clarified that he will fight with the Union and state governments on public issues.

**VP: AFFORDABLE CREDIT TO FARMERS CRUCIAL FOR AGRI**

**Hyderabad, July 11:** Vice-President M. Venkai Naidu on Sunday said that providing better prices for agricultural produce and timely, affordable credit to farmers are crucial to sustain agriculture.

Citing a UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) report about an impending global food crisis, he said, "If we provide timely assistance to our farmers, India would not only remain self-sufficient, but also feed the world in the years to come". Praising farmers for the increased food-grain production last year despite the severe hardship caused by the pandemic, Naidu was quoted in an official release as saying that there was a need to focus on increasing storage, removing restrictions on crop transportation and encouraging food processing to make agriculture more remunerative.

Releasing a book, 'Palleku Pattabishekam', by former MP Yalamanchili Sivaji here, he said that villages and agriculture are connected and "we must address their issues holistically to bring 'Gram Swarajya' to our villages."

"Farmers need to focus on cost-cutting, along with increasing production. We also need to utilise our resources such as water and electricity more judiciously," Naidu said.

The Vice President suggested the creation of strong lab-farm links to ensure fruitful outcomes to the farmers. He urged scientists to develop climate and drought-resistant seed varieties.

Referring to the growing urban-rural divide, Naidu said that villages should not be seen as mere "factories supplying food to the cities".

In order to achieve Mahatma Gandhi's dream of 'Gram Swarajya', he called for a renewed national effort through collaboration of civic society, agriculturists, students and researchers to make agriculture profitable and villages thriving economic hubs.

He wanted people to return to their roots and work with fellow villagers on solving long-standing problems.

With rising costs of inputs in agriculture, Naidu suggested that natural and organic farming offers great potential in cutting down costs and generating a steady income for farmers.

Increasing demand for organic products provide an opportunity to farmers to take up natural farming in a big way, he said. Naidu also wanted farmers to diversify into allied sectors like poultry, dairy farming, fisheries, horticulture, aquaculture and pisciculture to ensure regular income. — PTI

# 28 child labourers rescued from 3 industrial units

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

The Rachakonda anti-human trafficking unit (AHTU), along with Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) rescued 28 children employed as labourers in separate rescue operations as part of 'Operation Muskaan VII' on Saturday.

The AHTU police raided three companies — Danista Packaging company, Regal Paper and Packaging India Private Limited and Expro Hydrotech Private Limited — situated in the Uppal industrial area and found 14 children, including 10 girls, employed there.

Police arrested Sevella Ranganath, Raula Ranga and Rajender Goud Durgapathi and handed them over to Uppal police for further investigation.

The children were produced before Archana, member, Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Medchal district, and provided shelter in the government-run Child Care Institutions (CCIs) for boys and girls.

In another operation, nine children, including four girls, were rescued by the police. The children were working in Zion Beverages that manufactures flavored drinks at IDA Phase VII, Cherlapally industrial area.

The four girls were shifted to Grace Social and Educational Society Girls Home (CC) at JJ Nagar in Neredmet while the boys were sent to Future Foundation Boys Home in Malkajgiri.

In a third raid, five minors were rescued from Rohini Archaries in Chandupatla under Bhongi police station limits and shifted to shelter homes.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Ande Venkateshwarlu, state coordinator of Bachpan Bachao Andolan, said, "In the last 14 months, we have rescued more than 9,000 trafficked children across several states from trains, buses and factories with the help of law enforcement agencies."

He said that the Andolan founder and Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi had demanded a stringent Anti Trafficking bill to end the menace of child abuse and trafficking.

Mahesh M Bhagwat, commissioner of police, Rachakonda appealed to the public to watch out for missing children, child labourers and adolescents working in hazardous occupations and inform via the Child helpline 1098, Dial 100 or WhatsApp No: 94906-17111.

## TAKE ACTION ON ENCROACHMENT BY RFC: RTC EX-CHIEF TO KCR

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

He also demanded an inquiry into the RFC encroachments vis-à-vis Etala, Rajendar. He said he has written an open letter to the Chief Minister about the RFC violations, including being built on assigned lands.

He recalled that after he had lodged a complaint during the tenure of K Rosaiah, a report by Ranga Reddy district collector had mentioned several irregularities in RFC.

**OBITUARY**

T.N. Surya Kumari  
DOB: 14-12-1949 D.O.D: 11-07-2021  
1-6-4, Sri Ram Nagar Colony, Annupuram, Hyderabad-500062 Ph: 9059974673  
Funeral start at 10.30 AM today morning at Subbarao Nagar Colony, Annupuram.  
From Family Members

**PAGDI CEREMONY**

We would like to inform you of the demise of Shri JAGDISH SACHANANDANI  
DOB: 09-07-2021  
Padgi on 12-07-21 at 4.30 pm to 5.00 pm  
Zoom ID: 81941661081  
PW: 12345  
Inserted by: Vandana, Harish & Prisha Sachanandani, Rohit & Hema Kanjani, Nitin, Missha & Richa (CA-3659)

**12th DAY CEREMONY**

KYLASA SARALA  
DOB: 08-05-1952 D.O.D: 12-07-2021  
May your soul Rest in Peace.  
Inserted by:  
Kylasa Inder Prakash & Late, Siva Lakshmi Late, Kylasa Harinath Babu Late, Kylasa Narasimha Kylasa Shiva Kumar & Rajalakshmi and All Kylasa Family Members.

**In Loving Memory on your 1<sup>st</sup> Death Anniversary**

Late Mahesh K Parikh  
S/o. Kantilal Parikh  
DOB: 28<sup>th</sup> July 1942 D.O.B: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
We all miss you. The warmth of your love & blessings will always be in our hearts forever.  
Fondly Remembered by: Dr. Kiran Parekh (Brother), Dr. Jayshree Surash & Rekha Shah (Sisters), Prat & Ketan Maniar (Daughter & Son-in-law), Ashish & Aditi Parikh (Son & Daughter-in-law), Shikhar, Dars, Saaran (Grand sons) & entire Parikh Family.

**8th DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

Late: TERESA GRACE ANDREWS  
W/o. LATE A.M. ANDREWS  
DOB: 15-10-1924 D.O.D: 12-07-2013  
Your life was love and labour,  
Your love for your family true,  
You did your best for all of us,  
We will always remember you.  
Inserted by:  
SYLVIA ANDREWS & FAMILY  
Ph: 9849140120

**OBITUARY**

Smt. T.N. SURYA KUMARI  
DOB: 14-12-1949 D.O.D: 11-07-2021  
W/o Late TM. Neryanam  
Funeral on 12-07-2021 @ 10:30 AM  
Address: 1-6-4, Sri Ram Nagar Colony, Annupuram, Hyderabad-500062  
Phone: 9059974673, 7673985600  
(CA-3658)

**9<sup>th</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance Psalms 112:6  
**IN MEMORY OF**

B. RAJKUMAR JOHNSON  
DOB: 31-10-1983 D.O.D: 12-07-2012  
A tribute of love from Mom - Premavathy Sister - Shiny Bro-in-law - Praveen  
Inserted by:  
Kylasa Uma Ranji  
Kylasa Madhusudhan Rao & Rajayam and All Kylasa Family Members.

**12th DAY CEREMONY**

KYLASA SARALA  
DOB: 08-05-1952 D.O.D: 01-07-2021  
May your soul Rest in Peace.  
Inserted by:  
Kylasa Uma Ranji  
Kylasa Madhusudhan Rao & Rajayam and All Kylasa Family Members.

## Govt submits proposal to revive Mamnoor airport plan

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

● CHIEF MINISTER and Rama Rao met union civil aviation ministers on multiple occasions earlier and sought revival of Mamnoor airports, considered India's largest airport during the Nizam era. It was closed in 1981.

Rao on Saturday. Rama Rao's tweet was in response to a tweet made by a netizen, Srikanth Gidde, who tweeted, "KTR garu, Warangal needs your help to get an airport so that it can get its upliftment that was pending due from a long time. Earlier governments in united Andhra didn't care for Warangal's betterment. We would be very grateful to you for the same."

Official sources said Rama Rao has decided

to send a delegation of senior officials soon to Delhi to pursue the case with the Centre.

He asked officials to keep the required 400 acres ready for airport expansion to meet current needs. The DPR (detailed project report) of Mamnoor airport is expected to be ready in a month after which the state government will speed up land acquisition. In the Budget 2021-22, the government has sanctioned ₹100 crore towards development of civil aviation facilities in the state. The amount was allocated towards payment of fees to the Airports Authority of India and other preliminary examinations for setting up airports.

In August 2020, Rama Rao met the then civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri and urged him to include

## Bandi calls for strengthening of BJP base right from booth level

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

With his focus firmly on strengthening the party, BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar has been undertaking various programmes that are aimed at bolstering the enthusiasm of the cadre.

The padayatra that takes off from the Bhagyalaxmi temple on August 9 and winds up on Gandhi Jayanti in Huzurabad is a part of this confidence-building exercise. District tours prior to the padayatra are meant to personally interact with the cadre and take stock of district-level organisational issues.

Sanjay has already visited three districts, including Hyderabad, Nagarkurnool, and Kamareddy, where he participated in district executive committee meetings. He has called for booth-level strengthening of the party base while also participating in programmes where he is exposing the corrupt state government, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and his 'shady' ministers. Sanjay has especially

concentrated on constituencies where the party nominees lost security deposit in the last Assembly elections. He has been encouraging youth leaders who are giving strong counters to ruling party leaders. He has brought about a good coordination between the old party leaders and those who joined BJP from other parties.

To cite an example, former MPs A.P. Jithender Reddy and Chada Surendra Reddy, former MLA Kuna Srisailam Goud and Prakash Reddy came from other parties but he appointed them as in-charges in Huzurabad along with old leaders.

On the contentious Krishna River projects, Sanjay blasted the state government's failure to halt the projects and not taking it up with Andhra Pradesh.

He appointed them as in-charges in Huzurabad along with old leaders.

## New PCC chief to send a strong message to people, govt

FIRST | PROGRAMME

## Revanth to begin his new role from Nirmal

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, JULY 11

TPCC president Anumula Revanth Reddy will be launching the first programme under his leadership by riding a bicycle to protest against the soaring prices of petrol and diesel in Nirmal Monday morning.

The cycle rally is being

organised from Gandhi park to Ambedkar chowk, under the auspices of former MLA Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, who has been appointed as chairman of AICC programme implementation committee.

Revanth Reddy has selected Nirmal town for his first programme. It is where Rahul Gandhi on May 15, 2015 had participated

in a 15 km 'Kisan Sandesh Pada Yatra' taken out to highlight farmer's suicides.

Now, Revanth Reddy also chose Nirmal for the first programme under his leadership to send a strong message to people and government and other political parties.

Some of his supporters said that it would have

been appropriate if he had chosen a bullock cart ride as a mark of protest instead of a cycle in this 'changeover' time. The cycle is seen as a symbol of Telugu Desam, from where he came.

Nirmal Assembly constituency is represented by minister for forest Allola Indrakaran Reddy who was with TDP earlier.

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## SHORT TAKES

## PRIORITY FOR HOSPS, NOT HERITAGE: OWAISI

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

Hyderabad Lok Sabha member Asaduddin Owaisi on Sunday inaugurated a fully equipped 23-bed Covid ward at Indo-US Hospital premises in Malakpet.

Owaisi assured cooperation to the hospital to further improve healthcare infrastructure and Covid preparedness with MP funds.

Addressing the gathering, he said, "Saving lives is more important than saving heritage. The condition of Osmania Hospital has been deteriorating with every passing day. Osmania Hospital needs a built up area of 20 lakh square feet."

He said "Osmania Hospital Medical College is the oldest medical college in the country and it has given us countless doctors in different disciplines. The annual number of surgeries has come down from 90,000 to 45,000. We will not let the government escape the Osmania Hospital issue, by citing heritage concerns".

Sahayat Trust's CEO Syed Aneesuddin said high-quality oxygen concentrators with dual output, dialysis machines and an in-house oxygen plant that is due to arrive on July 15 will provide support to Covid patients.

## 32 SCR ROUTES GET ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, JULY 11

The South Central Railway has commissioned a major yard modification along with an electronic interlocking system in the Vijayawada yard to ease train movements, particularly for those operating between Secunderabad and Visakhapatnam.

A new bulb cabin with electronic interlocking (EI) has been commissioned with 32 routes for hassle-free train operations.

Vijayawada Junction is one of the major junction stations of Indian Railways, handling train movements on all four directions. Previously, there used to be a train detention whenever there was simultaneous movement of trains in both directions on the Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam route.

The detention of these trains used to have a cascading effect on the movement of other trains as well.

Railway officials have stated that in order to overcome these problems and remove lay-out-related detentions, South Central Railways undertook the important yard modification of the Vijayawada Yard, particularly involving the Northern section.

As part of it, a new cabin has been set-up, another cabin has been shifted and two existing cabins modified. A new bulb cabin with electronic interlocking (EI) has been commissioned with 32 routes.

The new west block hub (NWBH) cabin has been shifted and commissioned with 20 routes to provide connectivity with the newly added line of 1.5km. Two existing cabins, the bulb cabin and the D cabin have been altered to take into account the new yard modifications. The railway officials said as a result of these major yard modifications at this important junction station, it will avoid surface crossings and allow simultaneous train movements, particularly for trains on the Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam and vice versa without detentions.



A small group of visitors seen at the historic Golconda fort even after lockdown restrictions were lifted. The fort that used to draw more than 5,000 visitors daily is barely seeing 2,500 visitors daily now.

## Steep fall in tourists arrival to Hyderabad

The monuments were shut for five months last year too

ATHER MOIN | DC  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

Though 20 days have passed since lockdown has been fully lifted, footfalls at tourist destinations in Hyderabad remain low.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which is the custodian of Hyderabad's two key monuments - Charminar and Golconda, started allowing visitors from June 20 after a gap of 66 days.

last year too when the pandemic started.

Authorities are allowing tourists and visitors at Golconda only after thermal scanning and ensuring that they are wearing masks. At Charminar, however, visitors could be seen without masks and gathering in groups for taking selfies.

According to ASI, Golconda Fort draws more

**HYDERABAD'S TWO**  
key monuments - Charminar and Golconda, started allowing visitors from June 20 after a gap of 66 days.

than 5,000 visitors daily. But currently, visitors are barely 2,500 every day. The number of visitors on Friday, Saturday and Sunday is slightly more.

Charminar, which is must-see for most tourists visiting Hyderabad, is recording barely 1,200 to 1,500 visitors every day and 1,500 to 2,000 on weekends.

Before the lockdown visitors had been between 4,000-5,000 on weekdays and over 5,000 on weekends.

Salarjung Museum, another tourist attraction of the city, has seen no surge in visitors. Their number is still below 1,000

per day. Most tourists are domestic. Foreign tourists are almost negligible.

Syed Siraj, a guide at Golconda Fort, said visitors from northern and eastern states are very few. Most visitors are from Telangana or neighbouring states.

Biswas Shankar, who hails from Assam, said his family has taken advantage of decrease in number of Coronavirus cases in the country to visit Hyderabad. "We will see Golconda Fort today and later visit Charminar, Salarjung Museum and other places," he told Deccan Chronicle.

## TWO ARRESTED IN BIZMAN MURDER CASE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

The Kalapather police arrested two persons on Sunday for the murder of a businessman that was reported on Thursday evening.

Police said they arrested Mohd Arbaz, 20, a student, and his father Mohd Hamid Khan, 60, residents of Misrigunj. They are accused of killing Syed Mukaram Ali, 44, due to previous enmity.

"In 2017, Arbaz had harassed Mukaram's daughter, following which he reportedly kidnapped Arbaz, stripped and thrashed him. Both parties filed cases and counter cases against each other," police said.

Over the last few days, Mukaram was allegedly harassing Arbaz and his father for a compromise. This is said to be the motive for them to kill Mukaram.

**POLICE SAID** that they arrested Mohd Arbaz, 20, a student, and his father Mohd Hamid Khan, 60, residents of Misrigunj. They are accused of killing Syed Mukaram Ali, 44, due to previous enmity.

## Violation of traffic rules



A motorist transports chicken by hanging them upside down on the rear side of his vehicle in Secunderabad on Sunday. — GANDHI

## 13 injured in group clash

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

Thirteen persons were injured in a clash between two families at Barkas in Chandrayangutta over sitting on a platform outside one of the houses. Police said the families of Jilani and Salman Bamasood stay in opposite houses.

One Nawaz from Jilani's family, along with a group of persons, was sitting in front of the house of relatives and friends of Nawaz and the others rushed to the spot and attacked Bamasood and his group, said Chandrayangutta inspector K.N. Prasad Varma.

Police patrols reached

**POLICE PATROLS** reached the spot and dispersed the groups and the injured individuals were shifted to OGH.

Bamasood late in the night. Bamasood reportedly objected to their presence and abused them, police said.

Bamasood and his relatives attacked Nawaz and others with sticks. The

relatives and friends of Nawaz and the others rushed to the spot and attacked Bamasood and his group, said Chandrayangutta inspector K.N. Prasad Varma.

Police patrols reached the spot and dispersed the groups and the injured individuals were shifted to OGH. A police team was deputed in the area to prevent further clashes.

Four chapters like General Principles of Metallurgy, Polymers, Chemistry in Everyday Life and organic compounds containing Nitrogen were also deleted. Also, 30 sub-topics in various chapters in Chemistry texts were deleted. The lecturers suggested to students that if they prepared for the syllabus prescribed by AP EAPCET, they can easily secure good ranks.

From next year onwards, Afghan students have to enrol for studies within their own country.

He pointed out that during last 20 years, many

have registered for AP EAPCET-2021 so far. This year, the figure is likely to cross 3 lakhs. Some of the syllabus has been reduced. Many seats in private engineering colleges lay vacant due to non-joining of the students for the past three years. However, last year, 70 per cent of the seats were filled in the first phase.

It is expected that, this year, most of the engineering colleges can fill up their seats with the appearance of a large number of students.

AP EAPCET has already loaded the syllabus for the exams on its website. Nearly 25 sub-topics in mathematics have been deleted and the entire Binomial Theorem chapter too was deleted. Some 25 sub-topics includ-

ing Doppler effect and its two situations and Reflection of Light by Spherical Mirrors, the Mirror Equation, Scattering of Light, the reddish appearance of the Sun at sunrise and sunset, and the blue colour of the sky were deleted from Physics texts.

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## Large number of students may appear for AP EAPCET this yr

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KAKINADA, JULY 11

It is anticipated that a large number of inter students will write the AP EAPCET examination this year due to several factors. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation, the state government has promoted more than 5.2 lakh students. Hence, the number of students appearing for the exam is likely to be more than usual.

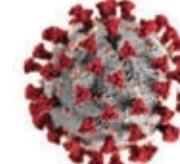
Most students who opted for engineering courses and belong to rural background can avail fees-reimbursement scheme. AP EAPCET-2021 convenor Ravindra said 2.77 lakh students had appeared for the examination last year and more than one lakh students

## Covid cases below 500 in TS, first time in 4 months

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

## DAILY COVID BULLETIN DATA

Update: Cases | Deaths  
Fresh Cases 465  
Deaths 4  
Tests Done 65,607  
Active Cases 10,316  
Total Cases 6,31,683  
Total Deaths 3,729



Highest New Cases	70
GHMC	70
Karimnagar	42
Suryapet	33
Khammam	32
Mancherial	25

Fewest New Cases	0
Kamareddy, Narayanpet	0
Nirmal, Adilabad, Yadadri	1
Vikarabad	2
Medak, Jogulamba Gadwal, Jangaon	3
Komarambheem Asifabad	4

Telangana has, for the first time since the outbreak of the second wave of Covid-19 in March, reported less than 500 cases on Sunday. There are two districts which reported zero cases - Kamareddy and Narayanpet.

There are 14 districts which have single digit cases in the state. Nirmal, Adilabad, Vikarabad, Medak, Jogulamba Gadwal, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Sangareddy, Wanaparthy, Nagarkurnool, Mulugu and Jangaon districts have seen slow and steady decline in the cases.

The districts of Khammam, Nalgonda, Karimnagar and Warangal are witnessing sporadic rise from time to time. These districts are showing a drop and rise phenomenon during the last 15 days. Experts say that this kind of drop and rise will be noted till the end of July and mid-August.

Dr Yadgiri Rao, senior general physician and member of Indian Medical Association (IMA) says, "After August 15, we will need to be more alert in terms of the numbers of cases and the presence of patients in hospitals. That will be the crucial time as it is anticipated from different models that the third wave will begin from September 15."

**40-YEAR-OLD WOMAN FALLS TO DEATH**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

A woman died after she reportedly fell down at her house in Javednagar area of Bhavanagar late Saturday night.

According to the police, the deceased, Nasreen Begum, 40, was living with her husband and son at Javednagar. On Saturday night, while cooking, she reportedly slipped and fell down in the kitchen, the police said. "She sustained a cut on the forehead after hitting against the sink and was injured on the back of the head before falling unconscious. The body was found by her son who came home around midnight and rushed her to the hospital where duty doctors pronounced her dead," said the Bhavani Nagar police officials.

A case was booked under Section 174 (suspected death) of the CrPC which will be altered based on the investigation. The body was shifted to the morgue where a post mortem examination was conducted on Sunday afternoon. The body of the woman was handed over to the family members.

**ACCORDING TO** the police, the deceased, Nasreen Begum, 40, was living with her husband and son at Javednagar. On Saturday night, while cooking, she reportedly slipped and fell down in the kitchen, police said.

The department would assist the physicians in explaining to patients on the proper method of taking medicines. Often doctors ask patients to come back with the medicines to the hospital and explain the complete dosage regime which is a time consuming activity for them. Dr Saikumar Katam, president of the Doctor of Pharmacy Association, says, "India accounts for a whopping 5.2 million injuries annually with medication errors and adverse drug reactions. The need is to detect and manage adverse drug reactions."

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They had pleaded that central and state government hospitals must have a clinical pharmacists department so that the medication dosage, antibiotic use, adverse effects of medicines and dispensation could be monitored.

assisting physicians in individualizing the drug dosage regimen. There is an immense variety of medications in the market and clinical pharmacists become an essential resource." Clinical pharmacists are appointed in the private sector in the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers certified hospitals.

Dr B.K. Reddy, senior pharmacist, explained,

"We are now going to work with the state governments and stress that these posts are created and recruitment carried out according to these amendments. Clearance by the Union health ministry is a huge step as state governments will now have to comply."

They are mandated in these hospitals as certification demands of them to address issues of adverse reactions and report this to the Union health ministry. There are 224 pharmacy colleges of which 58 are in Telangana and 59 are in AP. Some 36,000 students passed out till date from these colleges.

study abroad. They will be forced to wear traditional attire as prescribed by Taliban.

"We are ready to wear burqas and follow their diktat, provided they allow us to continue education abroad and let women run their independent businesses in Afghanistan," Spogmay maintained.

There are about 200 Afghanistan students each in Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad. Some of them are studying in Guntur and Vijayawada. Around 1,000 Afghans have submitted their applications to Andhra University for doing various courses during the current academic year.

Girls cannot hope to

## Withdrawal of US forces will create anarchy, students apprehend

## Af students in Vizag fear Taliban

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC  
VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 11

Many students from Afghanistan are afraid that with total withdrawal of US forces after September this year, Taliban will enforce its diktats, making Afghan students in various countries, including India, the worst sufferers.

&lt;p

# DECCAN Chronicle

12 JULY 2021

## India must make clear its Afghan role after US exit

The pressure on India to delineate its future path in Afghanistan becomes apparent after the announcement by US President Joe Biden last week that US forces will be out of Afghanistan by August 31, sooner than the September 11 deadline indicated earlier.

The US leader also made it amply clear that sorting out the politics of that benighted country and its way forward in the world was for its people to decide. Putting a lid on an old debate, Mr Biden was clear that "nation-building" in Afghanistan was not America's mandate.

The sense of drama has grown in light of practically daily news reports in recent weeks of rapid military gains made by the Taliban. Western media reporting has also amplified the Taliban claim that the insurgent group controls as much as 85 per cent of the country.

Is this true? Do the Taliban really have the capacity to hold territory? Is the Afghan military weak, helpless, and inadequately equipped? International reporting is practically silent on these crucial aspects of the situation. Nor has it shed any light on the internal political scenario in Afghanistan?

In the event, a general scare seems to have been created about the Taliban storming Kabul in the not too distant future.

If the past military performance of the Taliban is any guide, it will be surprising if it can storm to power in Kabul in the next year or so, although this is exactly what senior US Army officials have put out, feeding scare-mongering. While Afghanistan's Army is trained and equipped essentially as a counter-terrorism force (it does not have artillery and armour, for example), it is a first-rate fighting body. Numerous times in the past it has shown the capacity to recover lost ground from the Taliban, who have repeatedly displayed the inability to hold ground.

At suitable levels, India has opened channels of communication with the Taliban. New Delhi should not be left without options in an evolving scenario. But it needs to be appreciated that the Taliban are but a small part of the political spectrum, especially in light of the noteworthy fact that a new generation of Afghans has taken shape in the past 20 years (the period since the US intervened) which is far from extremist in outlook and looks toward a modernist, democracy-oriented transformation.

India is reasonably well-grounded in the non-Taliban political spaces, unlike arguably any other country. This is an enviable position to be in. Much depends on how New Delhi seeks to leverage itself politically. External affairs minister S. Jaishankar has lately been in Tehran and Moscow. New Delhi's traditional allies in the Afghan context. It has to be ascertained to what extent Iran and Russia are changing.

Regardless of this, however, India will have to decide its stance without equivocation if it wishes to be seen as a serious player. Standing by Pakistan's side, resource-rich China has emerged as a new — and open — factor in Afghanistan. New Delhi has to bear this in mind while being conscious that Beijing and Islamabad will act in tandem, though Pakistan remains deeply unpopular in Afghanistan. Since the dice is rolling, India cannot indefinitely delay taking a posture. If this is to be stand by the people of Afghanistan, in whom this country has invested much in the past two decades, the first charge on New Delhi is to ensure that non-Taliban factions mutually build a functional understanding even if they have differences with the leader of their government, President Ashraf Ghani.

## Stem poll violence in UP

The Uttar Pradesh unit of the BJP, and its national leadership, exult over the results of the block panchayat elections in the state. The party claims that it has won elections in 665 of the 825 block panchayats. This comes close on the heels of the party claiming victory in 66 of the 75 posts of district panchayat chiefs for which elections were held last month. Given that the state Assembly polls are hardly a year away, the party has gone out of the way to present it as a precursor to the big fight. While chief minister Yogi Adityanath and the party's state unit chief were attributing the win to the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the latter has commented on the chief minister's leadership for the win.

The Opposition parties will, however, have none of it. They allege widespread violence by the ruling party in the polls, which include instances of stopping their people from filing the nomination papers to threatening their candidates. They say the BJP wants to paint a rosy picture after it lost the gram panchayat elections. Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav has reminded the BJP that his party had made similar claims after the polls five years ago but lost the Assembly comprehensively.

Claims and counterclaims apart, violence has emerged as a key player in the elections in the state this time around. It is not just the Opposition that complains about hooliganism on the part of the ruling party; the message of the police officer to his boss that BJP workers slapped him could be the reflection of the reality.

The picture the nation gets from Uttar Pradesh is that the Election Commission of India will have to go the extra mile and ensure that none gets to blame violence as a key factor in the election to the state Assembly. It must open its eyes and take early steps to meet its constitutional responsibilities.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

K. SUDHAKAR  
Printer & Publisher

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**Gram:** CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/S/348/2006-08

A.G. Noorani

## Kashmir and the delicate activism of ensuring that delimitation fair

It is very unfortunate that at their very first test members of the People's Alliance of the Gupkar Declaration in Kashmir split on the issue of delimitation of assembly constituencies. Mehbooba Mufti of the People's Democratic Party refused to appear before the Delimitation Commission. All were agreed that the wrongs of Aug 4, 2019, should be undone first.

Delimitation is one of the most delicate and highly controversial problems in democratic governance. But it is also ignored until controversy catches up with it. The issue is simple. How do you draw up the boundaries of electoral constituencies in order to ensure fairness to all? Britain woke up pretty late to the problem. There is an electoral commission, a late entrant. It establishes boundary committees and evaluates its reports. Rules prescribe guidance.

Within the constraints of the existing majority electoral system it is clearly desirable that votes should be, as nearly as possible, of

equal value: a vote in A should be worth as much as a vote in B. If this is to be substantially achieved, the boundaries of constituencies should be drawn in such a way that their electorates do not differ too greatly in size. Other factors may also have to be taken into account in drawing the boundaries, but it is of the greatest importance that the process should not be influenced by considerations of party advantage. Another and a hugely neglected factor in India — the Muslim seats. They depend entirely on how Muslim majority areas are grouped.

India has a delimitation commission set up by an act of parliament. The commission is charged with the task of readjusting "on the basis of the latest census figures" the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha to the states, the total number of seats in state assemblies, and the division of each state into territorial constituencies for the purpose of elections to the Lok Sabha and to the assemblies. The electoral roll is common to both. A given number of assembly constituencies

are grouped to form a parliamentary constituency. Upon publication "every such order shall have the force of law". This is valid. Not so what follows: "And shall not be called in question in any court." No law can oust the powers of judicial review conferred by the Indian constitution on the Supreme Court and the high courts. Even an amendment to the constitution cannot do that, for judicial review is incontestably an integral part of the "basic structure" of the Constitution.

Ouster clauses are strictly construed by the courts. It does not prevent the courts from reviewing a delimitation order. Drawing the boundaries of any constituency on the ground *inter alia* that it is grossly unfair or that the commission did not follow the rules of natural justice by giving a reasonable opportunity for a hearing to the political parties or interested citizens' bodies.

We owe to the research of Alistair McMillan details of the grossly unfair delimitation as it obtains now. He points out, for instance,

that "a vote in Calcutta North-West, with 698,009 electors, is worth roughly four times as much as one in Thane in Maharashtra, where there are 2,771,746 electors."

In 1962, the US supreme court carried through a political revolution by ordering that long under-represented urban and suburban areas be given their proper weight in state legislatures. It is not a "political question" exempt from judicial review. Two years later chief justice Earl Warren carried the process further and delivered the famous quotes on the weightage to rural areas.

Chief Justice Earl Warren said: "A predominant consideration in determining whether a state's legislative apportionment scheme constitutes an invidious discrimination violative of rights asserted under the Equal Protection Clause is that the rights allegedly impaired are individual and personal in nature. ... Undoubtedly, the right of suffrage is a fundamental matter in a free and democratic society. Especially since the right to exercise the franchise in a free

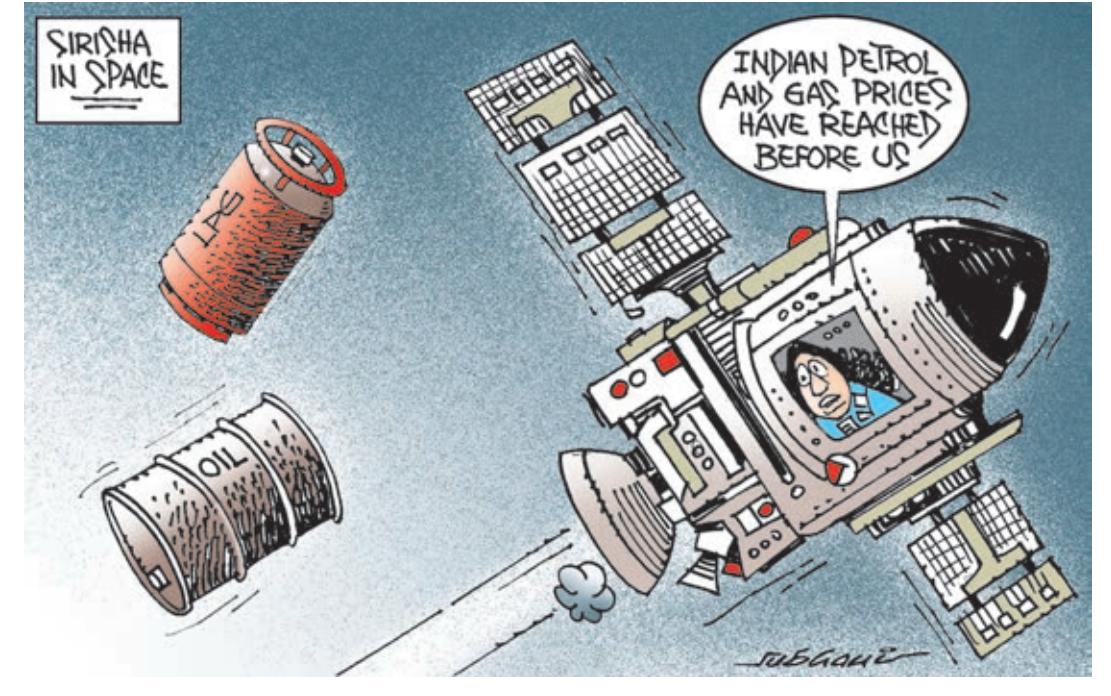
and unimpeded manner is preservative of other basic civil and political rights, any alleged infringement of the right of citizens to vote must be carefully and meticulously scrutinised."

"... Legislators are elected by voters, not farms or cities or economic interests. If ours is a representative form of government, and our legislatures are those instruments of government elected directly by and directly representative of the people, the right to elect legislators in a free and unimpeded fashion is a bedrock of our political system. ..."

"And, if a state should provide that the votes of citizens in one part of the state should be given two times, or five times, or 10 times the weight of votes of citizens in another part of the state, it could hardly be contended that the right to vote of those residing in the disfavoured areas had not been effectively diluted."

Muslims have suffered because their leaders do not do the homework which a challenge requires.

Subhani



## India-China: Bhai-bhai to buy-buy to bye-bye

Sanjaya Baru

Sanjayovacha

This is a historic month for China. The Communist Party of China came into being 100 years ago, in July 1921. Communist China entered the international mainstream a half century ago, in July 1971, when the United States decided to come to terms with the reality of its existence. China's spectacular rise over the past quarter century, as a global trading superpower, the "factory of the world", and as Asia's most powerful nation, ready to challenge America's global dominance, is mate knowledge of Western culture, science, literature, music and so on, but also benefitted from such knowledge.

Living in the West, and so little from Indians with a first-hand knowledge and experience of life and people in China. For most Indians China is an adversary, a source of cheap products or the home of chow mein.

At one level this is not surprising. The fact is that the interaction between the neighbours has been limited through most history. More important, people-to-people interaction between the two republics over the past three quarters of a century has been even more limited. Little wonder then that even today we depend so much on retired diplomats to educate us about contemporary China. Only a couple of bright Indian journalists and a handful of scholars have been able to bridge the public awareness gap between the two.

Even as India rejects China's hegemonic ambitions, as it did the hegemony of the West, and disapproves of its authoritarian political system, Indians must acquire a better understanding and appreciation of Chinese society, culture and its knowledge-creating institutions. China is not merely an authoritarian, militarised Communist regime, which it is, but it is also a highly creative and productive knowledge-based society and economy. China has risen on the foundations of its human capabilities. Indians ought to have a better appreciation of that.

The Xi Jinping regime is itself to blame for the focus in Indian public discourse on China's negative attributes. It is in India's interest to balance that with a better understanding of life in China.

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The writer, an economist and adviser to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, has recently edited a collection of essays titled *A New Cold War: Henry Kissinger and the Rise of China*.

## LETTERS

### UNFAIR TO NURSES

It is unfair to treat nurses with apathy (*Nurses hold protest, DC, July 10*). After relying on them heavily when the Covid-19 cases were overwhelming, it is reprehensible that the state forgot their untiring, relentless and noble service during the pandemic and sacked them back.

**Dr Aadil Syed**  
Hyderabad

### GARBAGE DISPOSAL

Some volunteers are solving the garbage disposal issue for the past five years in Sainikpuri and Vayupuri and keeping the streets free from litter. Benefactors contributed to this drive to employ some women for the upkeep of not only our society's streets, but the colonies around Sainikpuri. Instead of waiting for the GHMC, we citizens must stop this lethargic practice of throwing garbage anywhere but in the bins provided. The GHMC is doing its best to keep the city clean.

**Vijaya Naidu**  
Sainikpuri

### OU DEGREE EXAMS

I am a degree student writing the third year, fifth semester, exam at Sardar Patel Degree College in Padmarao Nagar, Secunderabad (Fears run high over OU exams, DC, July 10). The classroom was not sanitised. Some students were coughing and sneezing in the exam hall and no invigilator or college staff was present to take care of those students.

**Rahul Kumar**  
Hyderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

**Vajpayee calls for NIC meet**

BHOOL, JULY 11. Jana Sangh Chief Atal Behari Vajpayee today called for convening of a meeting of the National Integration Council in view of the need of national integrity in the wake of Bangla Desh Crisis.

Addressing a news conference here, he accused Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of trying to divert the public attention from her Government's failure to implement Parliament's resolution in respect of Bangla Desh by raising the bogey of communalism.

The need of the present, he said, was immediate convening of the NIC meeting which had not been done for two years.



A.G. Noorani

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## SHORT TAKES

U.P. CM TERMS  
RISING POPULATION  
HURDLE TO GROWTH

Lucknow, July 11: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday unveiled a policy aimed at stabilising the population in Uttar Pradesh and reducing maternal and infant deaths in a time-bound manner as he termed rising population a "hurdle in development".

The Uttar Pradesh Population Policy 2021-2030, unveiled on the occasion of World Population Day, also aims at bringing down the gross fertility rate among women to 2.1 by 2026 and to 1.9 by 2030.

A few days ago, a draft bill on population control was put up on the website of the Uttar Pradesh law commission inviting suggestions from the public till July 19. It says people having more than two children in Uttar Pradesh will be debarred from contesting local bodies polls, applying for government jobs or receiving any kind of subsidy.

It also seeks to prohibit promotions in government jobs for such people, while offering incentives to those limiting their children to two.

Unveiling the population policy on Sunday, Adityanath said, "Across the world, concerns have been raised from time to time about increasing population being a hurdle in development. Discussions on it have been going on for the four decades."

AMIT MITRA LIKELY  
TO STEP DOWN AS  
WB FINANCE MIN.

Kolkata, July 11: Noted economist and senior TMC leader Amit Mitra is likely to step down as the West Bengal finance minister and even retire from active politics due to ill health, party sources said on Sunday.

Mitra, 73, who has been the state finance minister since 2011 when the TMC came to power after ending the 34-year-long rule of the Left Front, had refrained from contesting this year's Assembly elections.

"Amit Da will not continue as the state finance minister as he will be completing six months in the post without being elected on November 4. He has already informed the party leadership that he doesn't want to continue in politics and administration due to ill health.

"But, due to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's insistence, Mitra had taken charge as the finance minister of the state after the party returned to power for the third time in May this year," a senior TMC leader said on condition of anonymity.

After Mitra steps down, the Chief Minister will keep the ministry with her for some time before appointing the next finance minister, another TMC leader said, confirming the development.

Mitra was a two-time MLA from Khardah constituency in North 24 Parganas since 2011.

KERALA BATTLES  
RISING COVID,  
ZIKA OUTBREAKS

Thiruvananthapuram, July 11: Rising Covid-19 cases in Kerala, coupled with the recent outbreak of the Zika virus, is causing concern to the health authorities here as the southern state battles to bring down the fresh infections.

After winning accolades for its "Kerala model" of combating the contagion about a year ago, the state is now seeing daily fresh cases between 12,000 to 15,000 with no end in sight to the "prolonged surge", as some experts put it.

The state had reported 14,087 fresh Covid infections on Saturday and 109 deaths taking the total caseload to 30,39,029 and toll to 14,380. The active cases touched 1,13,115.

Health minister Veena George had recently said the virus numbers spiked due to certain unlock measures and that they were expected to go down.

While on June 1 this year, Kerala reported 19,760 positive cases, there was a slight decline for a week with 9,913 new cases being recorded on June 7.

However, two days later it again shot up to 16,204. For over a month, the state has been reporting cases between 11,000 to 13,000 on a daily basis.

Incidentally, India's first Covid-19 case emerged from the state in January 2020 when a third year medical student from Wuhan, the epicentre of the virus in China, tested positive. Two other Wuhan returnees from the state had also tested positive and all the three had subsequently recovered.



# NIA conducts multiple raids in Kashmir, 6 persons held

Arrests made in connection with 'jihadi terrorism' case; Islamic seminary head held

**YUSUF JAMEEL | DC**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 11

National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday conducted raids at multiple locations across Kashmir Valley and arrested six persons including head of an Islamic seminary in connection with a 'jihadi terrorism' case.

The agency said that the case was registered by it on June 29 this year under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 in connection with the "conspiracy of the ISIS (Islamic State) to radiate and recruit impressionable youth in the country to wage violent jihad against the Indian state."

This comes a day after the J&K government sacked its eleven employees including two sons of Hizbul Mujahideen chief Muhammad Yusuf Shah alias Syed Salahuddin on charges of being involved in anti-India activities. The Hizb chief's sons were fired based on the investigations done by the NIA in an alleged terror funding case, the government had said.

The NIA sources said that its teams assisted by

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC**  
KOLKATA, JULY 11

Three suspected Jamaatul Mujahideen (JMB) operatives were arrested by the Special Task Force (STF) of the Kolkata Police from the south western parts of the city in a secret operation early on Sunday.

The rare catch of the JMB operatives from the city has prompted the central and state security agencies to investigate the possibility of a sleeper cell formation by the banned terror outfit. The accused are Nazir Rahaman, Sheikh Sabir

J&K police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) raided 'Siraj-ul-Uloom' seminary in Srinagar's Dalal Mohalla, Nawab Bazaar area and seized some office records and a laptop and also took its chairman Adnaan Ahmad Nadviri into custody. The institution is

and Rabiu Islam.

All of them are from Bangladesh and belong to JMB functionary Master Zia's camp, the STF learnt.

Their job was to raise funds and recruit young members for a module of the JMB quietly, according to preliminary investigation.

Originally hailing from Gopalganj in the neighbouring country, they allegedly forged documents and entered West Bengal through the India-Bangladesh border, sources revealed.

Disguised as hawkers selling fruits and mosquito-

nets, they started living over the last two months at a rented house in Haridevpur using it as their shelter.

While taking the house on rent, Nazir who was the leader among the three, posed as Joyram Bapari to avoid suspicion.

He earlier served in jail in Bangladesh where he is believed to have met another JMB functionary, Al Ameen, whose contact number among others was found in a diary. Sabir, who was active in social networking, used the medium for radicalisation.

The NIA in a statement here said the searches were conducted at seven locations in Anantnag and Srinagar districts in "ISIS voice of Hind case" registered by it in New Delhi under sections 124A, 153A, and 153 B of IPC and sec-

Zeeshan Ameen Malik were detained.

The NIA claimed that the searches led to recovery and seizure of a large number of "incriminating documents and digital devices such as mobile phones, tablets, laptop, hard disks and T-Shirts having ISIS logo."

tions 17, 18, 18B, 38, 39 and 40 of UA(P) Act 1967.

"In order to execute its nefarious plan, an organised campaign has been launched over the cyber space which is supplemented by on ground (militant) financing activities," it said.

The statement read, "ISIS operating from various conflict zones along with ISIS cadres in India, by assuming pseudo-online identities, have created a network wherein ISIS related propaganda material is disseminated for radicalising and recruiting members to the fold of ISIS."

It added, "In this connection an India-centric online propaganda magazine 'the Voice of Hind' (VOH) is published on monthly basis with an aim to incite and radicalise impressionable youth by projecting a skewed narrative of imagined injustices in India to arouse a feeling of alienation and communal hatred."

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Uttar Pradesh ATS personnel outside the house from where two accused allegedly linked with Al Qaeda were arrested in Dubbagga area on Sunday. — PTI

## 2 ultras planning to use bombs held

Lucknow, July 11: Two terrorists of the Al-Qaeda-supported Ansar Ghazwatul Hind were arrested from the outskirts of Lucknow on Sunday and they were planning explosions, including using "human bombs", at several places in Uttar Pradesh, a senior official said.

Minhaz Ahmed and Maseeruddin were apprehended by the state police's Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and a huge amount of explosive was also seized from their houses here, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar told reporters.

They were planning to "unleash terror activities before August 15 (Independence Day) in different cities of the state", including

Lucknow, Kumar said.

"The ATS has arrested two active members belonging to Al-Qaeda-supported Ansar Ghazwatul Hind", Minhaz Ahmed, a resident of Lucknow's Dubbagga area, and Maseeruddin, a resident of Lucknow's Madioon area, have been arrested. Explosive material has been recovered from them," he said.

Ahmed and Maseeruddin, on the instructions of Umar Halmandi, the head of the Uttar Pradesh module of the Al-Qaeda, along with their associates were planning to "unleash terror activities before August 15 in different cities of the state, especially its capital Lucknow", the additional director general of police (ADGP) said.

— PTI

## ARUN KUMAR REPLACES GOPAL AS RSS' BJP POINTSMAN

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 11

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), it was learnt, has decided to replace its pointsman for the BJP, with Arun Kumar to succeed Dr Krishna Gopal for the post.

The decision, sources said, was taken by the RSS top brass at the ongoing meeting at Chitrakoot. Both Dr Gopal and Kumar are joint general secretaries in the Sangh. Dr Gopal, who had succeeded Suresh Soni in 2014 - the year BJP came to power at the Centre — to oversee the coordination between the BJP and the Sangh, it was learnt, had not been keeping well and had been infected with the Covid-19 twice since last year.

Kumar, who was the pracharak pramukh of the Sangh, was elevated to the post of joint general secretary in March this year when Dattatreya Hosabale replaced Suresh Bhaiyya Joshi as the RSS general secretary.

The RSS has also overhauled its West Bengal team by replacing the Prant pracharak, kshetra pracharak and the sah-kshetra pracharak. This decision, sources said, was taken after the BJP failed to dislodge Mamata Banerjee-led TMC despite the entire BJP central leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union ministers campaigning in the state.

● **THE DECISION,** sources said, was taken by the RSS top brass at the ongoing meeting at Chitrakoot.



People flout social distancing norms as authorities allowed Sunday bazaar to reopen after some relaxations in the ongoing lockdown in Bengaluru on Sunday. — PTI

## India sees a slight decrease in Covid cases

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 11

India on Friday witnessed a slight decrease in the number of Covid-19 infections and deaths in the last 24 hours. With 41,506 people testing positive in a day, the total tally of the viral infections has gone up to 3,08,37,222. The death toll has now climbed to 4,08,040 with 895 fresh fatalities.

The notification issued stated that public transport, including Delhi Metro, will continue to operate with 50 per cent seating capacity.

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The notification issued

stated that public trans-

port, including Delhi

Metro, will continue to

operate with 50 per

cent seating cap-

acity.

tions being less than 50,000 for the past two weeks.

The active cases in India comprise 1.47 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has increased to 97.20 per cent. The daily positivity rate, which stands at 2.25 per cent, has been less than three per cent for 20 consecutive days. The weekly positivity rate has also declined to 2.32 per cent.

Sunday's case figures were 1,260 less than that of Saturday's, when 42,766 people were detected with Covid-19 infection. Even the toll count on Sunday was 311 less than that of

Saturday's, when 1,206 deaths were recorded.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 2,99,75,064 and the case fatality rate stands at 1.32 per cent. As many as 18,43,500 tests were conducted on Saturday taking the total cumulative tests conducted so far for detection of Covid-19 in the country to 43,08,5,470.

Cumulative number of vaccine doses administered so far has reached 37.60 crore vaccine doses have been provided to states and UTs so far through all sources and a further 11,25,140 doses are in the pipeline. Of this, the total consumption including wastage is 37,16,47,625 doses.

The new phase of universalisation of Covid-19 vaccination is to commence from June 21.

The country's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It

went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23.

Of the 895 new fatalities reported in the last 24 hours, 494 were from Maharashtra and 109 from Karnataka. A total of 4,08,040 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,25,528 Maharashtra, 35,779 Karnataka, 33,371 Tamil Nadu, 22,693 Uttar Pradesh, 17,903 West Bengal and 16,177 Punjab.

Health minister Veeva George had recently said the virus numbers spiked due to certain unlock measures and that they were expected to go down.

While on June 1 this year, Kerala reported 19,760 positive cases, there was a slight decline for a week with 9,913 new cases being recorded on June 7.

However, two days later it again shot up to 16,204. For over a month, the state has been reporting cases between 11,000 to 13,000 on a daily basis.

Incidentally, India's first Covid-19 case emerged from the state in January 2020 when a third year medical student from Wuhan, the epicentre of the virus in China, tested positive. Two other Wuhan returnees from the state had also tested positive and all the three had subsequently recovered.

Health minister Veeva George had recently said the virus numbers spiked due to certain unlock measures and that they were expected to go down.

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Health minister Vee

## IN BRIEF

**MP: 6 of family electrocuted**

**Bhopal:** In a tragic incident, six members of a family in a village in Madhya Pradesh were on Sunday electrocuted during construction of a septic tank in their house.

The incident took place in the village of Mahua Jhala in Chhatarpur district, while construction work of a septic tank was in progress,

Bijawar police station in-charge Mukesh Singh Tomar said. One of the victims entered the septic tank to remove the iron plates used to cast the roof slab and got electrocuted due to lighting arrangements made to carry out the work. Then, five other members got electrocuted one after another while trying to rescue each other. They were rushed to the local government hospital where the doctors declared them dead, police said.

The deceased were in the age group of 22 to 78 years.

**IAS OFFICER HELD FOR 'FORGING' COURT ORDERS**

**Indore, July 11:** Madhya Pradesh Police have arrested an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer for allegedly forging two orders of a local court in a case of assaulting a woman in Indore, officials said on Sunday.

The accused had allegedly got promoted from the State Administrative Service to the IAS cadre with the help of one of the forged orders pertaining to his acquittal in the assault case, they said.

IAS officer Santosh Verma, posted as additional commissioner in the Urban Administration and Development Department in Bhopal, was arrested late Saturday night after being questioned, City Superintendent of Police Harish Motwani said, without divulging any further details.

According to police officials, a special judge of the district court filed a complaint about this on June 26 this year at MG Road police station in Indore. Based on the complaint, the police registered a case against unidentified persons under Indian Penal Code Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 420 (forgery), 467 (forgery of valuable security), 471 (using forged documents as genuine) and other relevant provisions.

**PM CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS TO PADMA AWARDS**

**New Delhi, July 11:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to nominate their choice of persons, who are doing exceptional work at the grassroots, for Padma awards.

In a tweet, Modi said India has many talented people doing exceptional work at the grassroots but they are often not much known.

"India has many talented people, who are doing exceptional work at the grassroots. Often, we don't see or hear much of them. Do you know such inspiring people? You can nominate them for the #PeoplesPadma. Nominations are open till 15th September. <http://padmawaards.gov.in/>," he tweeted, sharing the link of the website.

The Padma awards, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri are amongst the highest civilian awards of the country.

In the last few years, the Modi government has been honouring scores of unsung heroes with the Padma awards for their life-long contributions to the society and achievements in different fields.

**'Vista' view**

A passenger records a video in South India's first train with Vistadome coach inaugurated in Mangaluru Junction Railway station on Sunday. Vistadome coach was attached to Mangaluru-Bangalore Express Trains and introduced by the Ministry of Railways to promote tourism. — PTI

**Pak military's hand seen in drone attack on IAF station****'Pressure fuse' used in bombs in Jammu indicates some elements of Pak army**

**Jammu/New Delhi, July 11:** The 'pressure fuse' used in the bombs that were dropped on the Indian Air Force station in Jammu through drones in a first-of-its-kind attack indicates that some elements of the Pakistan army or the ISI helped terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba in fabricating the IEDs, according to security sources.

The improvised explosive device (IED) that pierced the rooftop of one of the IAF buildings at the Jammu airbase carried less than one kg of RDX and a cocktail of other chemicals whereas the one that was dropped on the ground contained a little over one kg of the deadly explosives along with some ball bearings, they said.

The sources said the IED

used in the June 27 attack on the IAF station "definitely" used the technical expertise of the Pakistani military. The 'pressure fuse' used is similar to the ones used by the Pakistani army.

A 'pressure fuse' is generally used in minefields, anti-tank mines and those dropped by the air force in the fuselage between the explosive and main detonator of a shell or an IED.

The explosive devices are activated by the pressure of either falling on the ground with force or some individual or vehicle passing over it.

However, in these sophisticated IEDs, the 'pressure fuse' had been deployed at the nose of the bombs so that they trigger with a force after falling on the ground, the sources said.

The sources said the IED

most of the artillery shells and mortar bombs have this type of fuse and that's why they don't explode in the air but on impact, they explained.

Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh had said earlier that Pakistan-based terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba were suspected to be behind the bombing of the IAF station in Jammu through drones, which may have happened this year.

The National Investigation Agency took over the investigation into what was the first instance of Pakistan-based terrorists deploying drones to strike vital installations in India on June 29.

Two IAF personnel were injured in the explosions that took place within six minutes of each other. The first blast ripped off the roof of a single-storey building at the technical area of the airport manned by the IAF in Satwari on the outskirts of Jammu. The second one was on the ground.

It is mentioned that Pakistan has been procuring armed drones from China and Turkey of late.

The sources said drones can fly up to three hours and can be monitored and manoeuvred remotely through Global Positioning System technology.

The aerial distance from the Jammu airport to the international border is 14 km.

In September last year, five Lok Sabha members from the YSR Congress, in a written question, had asked

whether the government had issued any guidelines in the light of the possibility of drones being used as weapons of attack on high-security installations.

The then minister of state for home G.K. Reddy had stated, "In order to counter the threat of drones in the country, necessary guidelines have been issued, which include measures to be taken by the central and the state governments in consultation with the security agencies."

Earlier in March last year, four Lok Sabha members and a BJP leader had asked whether the government had formulated a comprehensive policy to prevent attacks by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) on vital security installations. — PTI

**SC issues contempt notice to NGO head**

**New Delhi, July 11:** The Supreme Court has issued contempt notice to the chairperson of an NGO as to why he should not be proceeded against and sentenced for his endeavour to scandalise the court.

The apex court had in February issued bailable warrants against chairperson of NGO Suraz India Trust, Rajiv Daiya, for not depositing the cost of ₹25 lakh for filing 64 PILs over the years without any success and "repeatedly misusing" the jurisdiction of the top court.

A bench headed by Justices S.K. Kaul on an order passed on July 9 said all kinds of pleadings are being made and letter written by Daiya only to scandalise the court. On perusal of the record, we find that while the issue is simply of recovery of costs from the Trust/Daiya in terms of judgment of this court, — PTI

all kinds of pleadings are being made, letter written only to scandalise the court and prevent the court from taking action to ensure recovery of costs. It is clearly an endeavour to browbeat the court and this court will not countenance the same.

"Let contempt notice be issued to Rajiv Daiya as to why he should not be proceeded against and sentenced for his endeavour to scandalise the court, returnable on August 4, 2021, the bench also comprising Justice Hemant Gupta said.

The top court on December 5, 2017, had refused to modify its earlier order against the NGO for filing 64 PILs.

It had dismissed the plea filed by the NGO to modify the SC's May 1 order which also barred the organisation from filing any plea before any court across the country. — PTI

**Dhami: BJP will review 'land to outsiders' issue**

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JULY 11**

Amid growing support and demand for strict land laws and restricting sale of land to "outsiders" in Uttarakhand, the newly appointed Chief Minister of the poll going state, Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday said the ruling BJP will "review" the issue and will "keep in mind the public interest" while taking any decision on it.

For the first time, a BJP leader has addressed the issue, which the opposition Congress has claimed to implement if it comes to power.

Started by youths of the state as a social media campaign — #Uttarakhand\_maangae\_bhu\_kanoo — the issue is now being amplified by involvement of seniors in villages, towns and cities and is turning into a major poll issue.

"We will talk to everyone...will review the issue and if required will work on it," said the new Chief Minister regarding the demand.

Rejecting reports of growing factionalism in the party's state unit, Dhami asserted that the BJP will go to polls as a team and he has "blessings" of the party seniors.

Some seniors in the BJP state unit had objected to the elevation of "third generation" leader to the CM's post and Union home minister Amit Shah had then intervened.

The new Chief Minister also rubbished the new political entrant in the state, AAP's poll promise of 300 units free electricity, saying Uttarakhand will once again vote for development, which only the BJP can provide.

"We are providing proper electricity in

Uttarakhand. We are giving 24-hour supply...some people's agenda might be of winning election but our agenda is of development in the state," Dhami said.

Ahead of the coming Assembly elections in the hill state, strict land laws have become one of the key issues in the state, which had been in news recently for getting three chief ministers in four months from the ruling BJP.

Dhami, who is in the national capital since Saturday and had called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Mansukh Mandaviya, Dharmendra Pradhan among others, also had an hour long meeting with BJP president J.P. Nadda. Both leaders, it was learnt, discussed election and organisational related issues.

**37 arrested for all-night party at Kolkata hotel amid Covid curbs**

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC  
KOLKATA, JULY 11**

In a major crackdown, the Kolkata Police raided a five-star hotel in the city after Saturday midnight and arrested 37 persons from there for celebrating a weekend party violating the Covid-19 lockdown with loud music. 37 cellphones, drugs and alcohol were seized from the second and third floors which were booked for the party at The Park on Park Street. The seized items included two Pioneer DJ discs, an amplifier, two sound boxes, a DJ light, three hookahs, four

liquor bottles and a packet of Ganja, according to the police. Besides, a Mercedes sedan and an SUV, belonging to two among the accused, which were parked at the hotel were also impounded. The raid at the posh hotel took place at around 1.15 am following a tip-off.

The police, however, faced resistance when they turned up at the two upper floors in plain clothes. Some of the revellers fought with them physically.

The 37 arrested and the hotel were booked in a case at the Park Street police station under various sections of the

Indian Penal Code and Disaster Management Act.

On Sunday they were produced at the Bankshall Court. The police prayed to the judge for the custody of only nine among the 37.

But, the court remanded seven of them to police custody and two others to jail custody till July 16 while granting bail to the rest 28 against a personal bond of ₹1,000 for each. A team of forensic experts inspected the hotel during the day and collected samples for examination. The police meanwhile summoned a hotel official for questioning in the case.

about his well-being. Neeraj Chaudhary tested positive for Covid-19 on the day he was to start from Kathmandu for the Mount Everest but that did not deter the IIT Delhi alumnus who returned to the base camp within weeks of his recovery and ultimately managed to hoist the institution's flag, besides the tricolour, atop the summit.

While the country was reeling under the aggressive second wave of Covid, Chaudhary's family members in Rajasthan were hooked to their phones waiting for an update

Coronavirus. Chaudhary, 37, did his MTech in Environmental Sciences and Management at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi during 2009-11 and he is currently working with the Rajasthan government's Water Resources Department. He took to mountaineering in 2014, and in 2020 got selected as a member of Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) Everest Expedition under the ministry of youth affairs and sports. However, the expedition was postponed due to the outbreak of

think that motivation of not having a second chance anytime soon helped me push my body harder and there I was," he added. He tested positive on March 27 and was back in Kathmandu in April itself. He managed to scale the peak on May 31.

Chaudhary recalls that once he was back in Kathmandu, after recovering from the infection, the news updates from India about the Covid situation worried him, while his family was up on tenterhooks due to updates of cyclones in subsequent weeks.

"It wasn't easy mentally,

**Delhi moves SC on water dispute with Haryana**

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JULY 11**

Delhi Jal Board (DJB) vice chairman Raghubir Chadha on Sunday said the water utility has moved the Supreme Court, seeking directions to Haryana to release the capital's legitimate share of water.

He claimed that Haryana has been withholding 120 MGD of water; the river has completely dried up and the operational capacity at various treatment plants has reduced by 40 to 50 per cent, Chadha said.

He said the Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant (WTP) has been operating at 55 MGD capacity against the normal of 90 MGD. Similarly, the Wazirabad WTP and Okhla WTP have been operating at 80 MGD and 12 MGD capacity against their normal of 135 MGD and 20 MGD, respectively.

Water supply has been hit in central Delhi, south Delhi, west Delhi and the NDMC area where important institutions, including Rashtrapati Bhavan, Supreme Court, Prime Minister's Residence, embassies are located, Chadha said.

"Delhi does not have a source of water of its own. It gets water from neighbouring states under legally-binding treaties. Some unprecedented incidents have happened this year... Haryana has withheld Delhi's share of water," he said. The DJB has been supplying 945 MGD of water to city residents this summer against the demand of 1,150 MGD.

At present, Delhi has been receiving 479 MGD against 609 MGD from Haryana. Besides, Delhi

draws 90 MGD groundwater and receives 250 MGD from the Upper Ganga Canal.

With Haryana withholding 120 MGD of water, the river has completely dried up and the operational capacity at various treatment plants has reduced by 40 to 50 per cent, Chadha said.

He said the Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant (WTP) has been operating at 55 MGD capacity against the normal of 90 MGD. Similarly, the Wazirabad WTP and Okhla WTP have been operating at 80 MGD and 12 MGD capacity against their normal of 135 MGD and 20 MGD, respectively.

"We are witnessing all-time low water levels in Yamuna river as Delhi's water share withheld by Haryana. @DelhiJalBoard has decided to move Supreme Court against Haryana Govt seeking due supply of Delhi's legitimate share as already determined by the SC in 1995," Chadha had tweeted earlier in the day.

**UP block panchayat polls: Cop's call to senior goes viral**

**Lucknow, July 11:** A video of an Uttar Pradesh Police officer telling his senior over the phone that he had been slapped by BJP workers amid the violence during the elections for block panchayat heads has gone viral.

The BJP on Saturday claimed victory on 635 of the total 825 seats of block panchayat chiefs in the state. The panchayat election results are an important morale-booster for the BJP ahead of the assembly polls next year in the politically crucial state as it had drawn a lot of flak over its handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Several purported videos of clashes between supporters of rival parties, and police and workers of political parties were also posted on social media.

In one such video, which was also shown by news channels, Additional Superintendent of Police (city), Etawah, Prashant Kumar Prasad is heard telling a senior over the phone, "Sir, I have been slapped. BJP workers have also brought bombs."

The scene was captured by journalists in their cameras. It is alleged that chief development officer of Unnao Divyanshu Patel caught hold of a television journalist and beat him up. After the incident, reporters staged a protest and efforts were made to placate them.

Unnao District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar said the government will be informed about this matter. "Action will be taken on the basis of the letter submitted by the journalist," he said.

and mountaineering is not just a physical effort. When I reached there, then also it took me three attempts within 36 hours to ultimately reach the top but once there, it was the best feeling. I managed to scale the peak on May 31," he said.

Credit: IIT Delhi for shaping his career and the alumni association for helping him start a fundraiser of ₹24 lakh for the expedition. Chaudhary took the IIT flag with him. A flag in ceremony was held at IIT Delhi on Friday to mark the achievement. — PTI

**GREAT HEIGHTS**

**Techie was successful in his third summit attempt in 36 hours****Covid-hit IIT Delhi grad scales Everest**

**New Delhi, July 11:**

Neeraj Chaudhary tested positive for Covid-19 on the day he was to start from Kathmandu for the Mount Everest but that did not deter the IIT Delhi alumnus who returned to the base camp within weeks of his recovery and ultimately managed to hoist the institution's flag, besides the tricolour, atop the summit.

He took to mountaineering in 2014, and in 2020 got selected as a member of

## SHORT TAKES

## TURKEY BUS ACCIDENT LEAVES 12 DEAD

Ankara: Twelve people died and 26 others were injured when a bus carrying migrants crashed in eastern Turkey on Saturday night, local media reported, quoting authorities in the prefecture of Van.

Among the dead were 11 migrants and a person who helped organise their illegal transport, the authorities were quoted as saying on Sunday.

The injured were taken to hospital and the owner of the bus was detained, they added.

Situated near Turkey's eastern border with Iran, the city of Van is used as a crossing point for migrants on their long journey to reach Europe, with many coming from Afghanistan.

In July 2020, a boat carrying up to 60 migrants sank on Lake Van.

## TWO IS-LINKED MILITANTS KILLED IN C. INDONESIA

**Palu (Indonesia):** Indonesian security forces on Sunday killed two suspected militants with ties to the Islamic State group who were believed to be connected to the killing of Christian farmers on Sulawesi island, the country's military said.

The two men, identified as Rukli and Ahmad Gazali, were fatally shot during a pre-dawn raid by a five-man team of military and police in Central Sulawesi province's mountainous Parigi Moutong district, said Maj Gen Richard Tampubolon, who heads the joint operation. Parigi Moutong borders Poso district, considered an extremist hotbed in the province.

Security operations in Central Sulawesi have intensified in recent months to try to capture members of the East Indonesia Mujahideen network, particularly targeting Ali Kalora, the group's leader and Indonesia's most wanted militant.

## EXPLOSION IN SUDAN PORT CITY KILLS FOUR

**Khartoum:** An explosion has killed four people in a Sudanese Red Sea port city, officials said Sunday, the latest in a series of violent incidents in the area.

Tensions have been simmering in recent days in Port Sudan, where anti-government protesters have reportedly blocked roads over rising insecurity.

Local media have linked the unrest to rejection by the Hadendoa tribe of an October peace deal between rebel groups and the government.

The Hadendoa, the largest subdivision of the Beja people in the region, fear their tribe will be under-represented in regional legislative and executive bodies under the agreement.

Saturday's blast took place late in the evening at a busy sporting club in Port Sudan, the provincial capital of the Red Sea state and the country's main port, and also involved an armed attack.

"An explosive device went off at Al-Amir club... killing four people," the Central Committee of Sudan Doctors said in a statement. Three others were wounded after being shot or stabbed, it added.

## GEORGIAN TV CAMERAMAN KILLED IN ATTACK

**Tbilisi:** A Georgian TV cameraman has died after being badly beaten by far-right assailants during a protest against an LGBTQ Pride march, his station said Sunday, as pressure mounted on authorities over attacks on journalists.

Alexander Lashkarava, a 37-year-old cameraman working for independent TV station Pirveli, was found dead in his bed in the early hours on Sunday, the channel reported.

On Monday, he was assaulted by a violent mob of anti-LGBTQ protesters and sustained fractures to his facial bones. More than 50 journalists were attacked that day by anti-LGBTQ groups protesting the planned Pride march, which was cancelled over safety fears.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) condemned the attacks, saying journalists "sustained injuries that included concussion, chemical burns and broken arms." It accused authorities of "culpable passivity" and said police had failed to protect journalists.

## Sirisha, 3rd Indian woman to fly to space

From Page 1

anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

Bezos' Blue Origin company intends to send tourists past the so-called Karman line 100 km (62 miles) above Earth, which is recognised by international aviation and aerospace federations as the threshold of space.

But NASA, the Air Force, the Federal Aviation Administration and some astrophysicists consider the boundary between the atmosphere and space to begin 80 km (50 miles) up.

Ever the showman, Branson insisted on a global livestream of the Sunday morning flight and invited celebrities and former space station astronauts to the company's Spaceport America base in New Mexico.

Virgin Galactic already has more than 600 reserva-

## BOLDEST ADVENTURE

- The nearly 71-year-old Branson and five crewmates from his Virgin Galactic space-tourism company reached an altitude of about 53 miles (88 kilometers) over the New Mexico desert, enough to experience three to four minutes of weightlessness and see the curvature of the Earth — and then safely glided to a runway landing.

- The brief, up-and-down flight — the rocket ship's portion took only about 15 minutes, or about as long as Alan Shepard's first U.S. space-flight in 1961 — was a splashy and unabashedly commercial plug for Virgin Galactic, which plans to start taking paying customers on joyrides next year.

- Branson became the first person to blast off in his own spaceship, beating Bezos by nine days. He also became only the second septuagenarian to go into space. Astronaut John Glenn flew on the shuttle at age 77 in 1998.

tions from would-be space tourists, with tickets initially costing \$250,000 apiece. Blue Origin is

waiting for Bezos' flight before announcing its ticket prices.

— Agencies



Virgin Galactic founder Richard Branson carries crew member Sirisha Bandla on his shoulders while celebrating their flight to space at Spaceport America near Truth or Consequences, N.M., Sunday. — AP

## Pak braces to fight fourth wave



People stand with empty oxygen canisters as they wait to fill them up outside a factory in Yangon on Sunday, amid a surge in Covid-19 cases. — AFP

## Myanmar caught off guard as cases surge, O2 dwindles

**Bangkok, July 11:** Soe Win stood in line at a plant to buy oxygen for his grandmother, who is struggling with Covid-19 symptoms.

"I have been waiting since 5 in the morning until 12 noon but I'm still in line. Oxygen is scarcer than money," said the resident of Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon. Consumed by a bitter and violent political struggle since the military seized power in February, Myanmar has been slow to wake up to a devastating surge in cases since mid-May.

It has left many of the

sick like Soe Win's grandmother to suffer at home if they cannot find a bed at an army hospital, or prefer not to trust their care to the widely disliked government.

Under Aung San Suu Kyi, the civilian leader ousted by the military, Myanmar had weathered its second Coronavirus surge beginning in August last year by severely restricting travel, sealing off Yangon, and curbing election campaigning in virus hot spots where lockdowns were imposed.

Suu Kyi appeared frequently on television with stern but empathetic entreaties to the public on how to deal with the situation. Vaccine supplies were secured from India and China. Her ouster came less than a week after the first jabs were given to health workers.

Suu Kyi's removal by the military sparked widespread protests, and medical workers spearheaded a popular civil disobedience movement that called on professionals and civil servants not to cooperate with the military-installed government.

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## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	52386.19 -0.35
Nifty 50	15689.80 -0.24
S&P 500*	4,369.55 1.13
Dollar (₹)	74.63 0.12
Pound Sterling (₹)	102.98 0.01
Euro (₹)	88.47 -0.07
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,844▼451 0.96
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	75.56 1.94
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.186 1.01
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.343 0.055

\* As of Friday/Saturday

## Hero Electric Vehicles to invest ₹700 cr

Hero Electric Vehicles will invest Rs 700 crore by 2025 to rev up its business expansion, including setting up a new unit, for which it has raised Rs 220 crore to part-fund the activities. The firm plans to set up a facility with 10 lakh units capacity, besides increasing production at its current plant at Ludhiana to 3 lakh units per annum from 75,000 units at present, as it targets to sell around 10 lakh units a year by 2025-26.

## Amazon sees rise in sellers grossing over ₹1 crore biz



Amazon India said it has seen six-fold growth in the number of sellers grossing over ₹1 crore in sales during three-day Small Business Days event. "During the three-day event, more than 84,000 sellers received an order; 68 per cent of these sellers who received an order were from non-metro cities like Kodagu (Karnataka), Dholpur (Rajasthan), Eta (UP), Giridih (Jharkhand), Una (HP) and Tinsukia (Assam), Amazon said.

## FPIs pull out ₹2,249 cr from equities in July

After a month of net inflows, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out Rs 2,249 crore from the equities market in the first seven trading sessions of July. This could be largely attributed to profit-bookings by FPIs with markets trading near all-time highs and investors choosing to stay on the sidelines, said Morningstar India associate director (manager research) Himanshu Srivastava.

## Tea exports may decline by 15% this year

The tea industry is bracing for a decline in exports to the tune of 30-40 million kg this year as compared to 2020, due to the availability of low-cost varieties in the global market and trade restrictions in user countries, industry sources said. For January-March this year, exports fell by 13.23 per cent year-on-year and by 29.03 per cent compared to 2019, as per Tea Board India data. Altogether, 45.86 million kg was exported.

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## ■ Rules restrict gas supply to PSUs BPCL LPG rights new selloff snag

AMMAR ZAIKI  
NEW DELHI, JULY 11

A two-decade-old LPG supply order restricting supply of domestically produced LPG to only state-owned oil companies has stymied plans to allow Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) to continue selling subsidised cooking gas (LPG) after its privatisation.

A legal opinion has now been sought to ascertain if privatised BPCL will be eligible to receive liquefied petroleum gas produced by companies such as ONGC and Gail, two government officials with knowledge of the development said.

Currently, BPCL has more than 8.4 crore domestic LPG customers, including 2.1 crore Ujjwala customers. The company does not produce enough LPG at its refineries to be able to cater to the requirement of all these.

It, like other oil marketing companies, buys LPG from state-owned firms like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Gail (India) Ltd as well as private companies such as Reliance Industries Ltd.

The Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2020, known as LPG Control Order of 2000, restricts sale of indigenously produced cooking gas only to state-owned oil marketing companies, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and BPCL.



It restricts supply of LPG produced by firms such as ONGC and GAIL to private firms. Private LPG retailers, called parallel marketers, have to use imported gas for supplying to customers.

The 2000 Control Order was issued as the nation is short in LPG production.

Once BPCL is privatised, the 2000 order will bar ONGC and GAIL from selling LPG to BPCL, the officials said.

Post-divestment of the government's stake in BPCL, it shall cease to be a government oil company in terms of clause 2(g) of LPG Control Order of 2000," an official said.

With no access to indigenously produced LPG, BPCL won't be able to serve its customers and it would not be possible to shift the customers to IOC and HPCL, as LPG cylinder equipment at customer end will need to be changed. Also, IOC and HPCL may not have the required infrastructure to cater to such a large customer base, the officials said.

To interpret the term 'government company', the opinion of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs (MoCA) has been sought, they said. —PTI

As a way out, it is being considered to continue to treat BPCL as a government company for the purpose of the 2000 Control Order for three years, the officials said adding that a legal opinion has been sought to ascertain if such a move is tenable under the law.

The other alternative is to amend the LPG Control Order itself to allow private firms to access indigenously produced LPG. This would open up LPG retailing to other private firms.

Officials said law ministry opinion has been sought to determine if the term government oil company in the LPG Control Order necessary requires the company to be a government company and if BPCL post-privatisation can be notified as a government oil company.

To interpret the term 'government company', the opinion of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs (MoCA) has been sought, they said. —PTI

## Six North-eastern states have no hallmarking centres

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, JULY 11

Though mandatory hallmarking has come into force in the country, most of the North-eastern region will remain outside the purview of the rules, as six of the eight north-eastern states have no hallmarking centres.

Hallmarking for gold jewellery and artefacts has been mandated in districts which have hallmarking centres.

However, a large part of the North-east will remain out of the mandate, as Mizoram, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Sikkim have no hallmarking centres.

The story is no different in the small states of the eastern region. Among the 28 districts in Chhattisgarh, only Raipur and Durg have hallmarking centres. The presence of such centres is limited to four districts



in Jharkhand.

Though the Northern region has a fairly large number of centres, smaller state Uttarakhnad has hallmarking centres only in two districts. Western and southern regions account for a major share of the hallmarking centres.

As per the recent government decision, the jewellers in all the districts with hallmarking centres have to sell only hallmarking jewellery and

get their entire inventory hallmarking by September 1. Till then, the government officials will not take any coercive action against the jewellers.

In the rest of the districts, steps will be taken to set up hallmarking centres at a fast pace. As and when the centres are set up, jewellers will have to get a Bureau of Indian Standards licence and get their inventory hallmarking. The government will also provide subsidies to set up new centres in these districts.

In the past few years, hallmarking centres have been coming up in regions which have a higher share of gold consumption. Several jewellers in these regions are already selling fully hallmarking jewellery.

## Big insurers launch net-zero climate alliance

Milan, July 11: Eight of the world's leading insurance and reinsurance companies on Sunday launched an alliance to help speed up a transition to a net zero emissions economy.

The companies, which include Europe's top three insurers by premiums—Allianz, AXA and Generali—said the Net-Zero Insurance Alliance (NZIA) would work to shift underwriting portfolios towards net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

"With this new Net-Zero Insurance Alliance, we are raising our climate ambition further," said Thomas Buberl, Chief Executive of

the AXA Group, which chairs the NZIA.

NZIA members, which also include Aviva, Munich Re, SCOR, Swiss Re and Zurich Insurance Group, will set underwriting criteria for the most carbon-intensive activities in their underwriting portfolios and offer solutions for low-emission and zero-emission technologies.

Each of the companies will individually set intermediate targets every five years and report on progress annually in cooperation with competition authorities, the NZIA members said in a statement.

"With this new Net-Zero Insurance Alliance, we are raising our climate ambition further," said Thomas Buberl, Chief Executive of

will ultimately make underwriting contingent on underlying companies having credible net-zero transition strategies," said UN climate envoy Mark Carney.

The Alliance, first outlined in April, was presented by Generali CEO Philippe Donnet at Sunday's G20 Climate Summit in Venice. Many of the leading Europe-based insurers have already adopted climate-friendly policies. Last month, Generali pledged to reach carbon neutrality in its direct investment portfolio by 2050.

—Reuters

## Woman infected with 2 Covid variants highlights next risk

SUZI RING  
JULY 11

A 90-year-old woman died after becoming infected with two different strains of Covid-19, revealing another risk in the fight against the disease, Belgian researchers found.

In the first peer-reviewed analysis of an infection with multiple strains, scientists found the woman had contracted both the alpha variant, which first surfaced in the UK, and the beta strain, first found in South Africa.

The infections probably came from separate people, according to a report published on Saturday and presented at the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases.

The woman was admitted to a Belgian hospital in March after a number of falls, and tested positive for Covid-19 the same day. She lived alone, receiving nursing care at home, and hadn't been vaccinated.

Her respiratory symptoms rapidly worsened and she died five days later. When her respiratory samples were tested for variants of concern, both

strains were found in two tests. The researchers couldn't say whether the co-infection played a role in her rapid deterioration.

The idea of multiple infections isn't completely new. In January, Brazilian scientists reported two cases of Covid-19 co-infection, but the study hasn't

yet been released in a scientific journal.

Researchers have also previously found evidence of people becoming infected with multiple strains of influenza. The cases suggest co-infection might be more common than currently known.

—Bloomberg

## AUSTRALIA-S'PORE TRAVEL BUBBLE TIMING PUSHED BACK TO END 2021

EMILY CADMAN  
JULY 11

Sydney's virus outbreak means plans for an Australian-Singapore travel bubble have been delayed until at least the end of the year, the Australian trade minister said on Sunday.

While Australia was an early success story in the fight against the coronavirus, the scale of the outbreak that has forced the country's largest city into a renewed lockdown means plans are on hold, Dan Tehan told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"It has been put back due to the third wave of variants of concern, both

the virus," he said. "The hope might be towards the end of the year that you could look at a travel bubble with Singapore."

Following the initial discussions, the two countries haven't committed to a specific date for the travel bubble.

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"It has been put back due to the third wave of variants of concern, both

the virus," he said. "The hope might be towards the end of the year that you could look at a travel bubble with Singapore."

In West Bengal, at least five such MSME units have closed down while 100-115 others curtailed production between 15 and 50 per cent. Steel Re-rolling Mills Association chairman Vivek Adukaia said.

The secondary steel MSMEs are also surrendering power requirements from the DVC and the WBSEDC (West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited), Adukaia told PTI.

In Bengal, about 500 units are engaged in sponge iron, rolling mills and steel making through the induction furnace route. All these units are suffering along with mills in other states in the wake of unprecedented iron ore, pellet prices from unhindered export.

The secondary steel associations of West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have jointly appealed to the Prime Minister and steel minister for their intervention and imposing export duty of 50 per cent on pellets.

The secondary steel makers had been pleading for imposing export duty on pellets for the last one year, Adukaia said.

West Bengal Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association president Shankar Lal Agarwal said pellet price soared from Rs 4,500 per tonne in May 2020 to Rs 15,000 per tonne in June this year resulting in a cost impact on a tonne of steel of Rs 20,800. —PTI

## CHINESE CHECKERS One of the last chip firms is being acquired by a Chinese firm

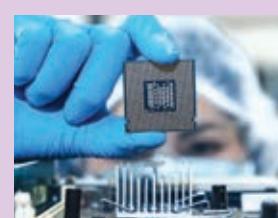
## UK sold off \$42 bn of chip firms before review

GILES TURNER & KITTY DONALDSON  
JULY 11

firms' founders was under investigation by the FBI for insider trading.

In total, semiconductor companies valued at about \$42 billion have been sold to foreign buyers since May 2010, when the current Conservative government came to power, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That figure excludes Arm's most recent sale to Nvidia.

Now, in the middle of a semiconductor shortage, one of the last of those assets, Newport Wafer Fab Ltd, is being snapped up by a Chinese manufacturer for around 63 million pounds (\$87 million), according to a person familiar with the deal. After initially wavering it through, Prime Minister Theresa May, even as one of the



Conservative MP Bob Seely said in an interview. "We need coherence on dealing with the Chinese state. I worry that we are still not there, and I worry that we are still failing to understand our dependency on China and the need to move away from that trade dependency."

It's rare for the UK to halt a sale over national security. When it does, the deals have often been small and involved the aerospace industry. In 2020, a Chinese investor ditched a bid for defence manufacturer Mettis Aerospace Ltd after the government said it would review the deal. The same year, the government also halted a deal for Impross Ltd from a China-backed buyer.

Instead, the UK has preferred to place conditions such as increasing local jobs and investment. Unlike Arm and Imagination Technologies, which are multibillion-dollar companies that play key roles in semiconductor supply chains, it's unclear whether Newport Wafer Fab is of strategic importance to the UK.

The firm makes and prepares the ultra-small sheets of silicon, which serve as the base for microchips and are used for power management in products like cars. It reported a loss of 6.05 million pounds on revenues of 49 million pounds in the fiscal year ending in Sept. 2019, its most recent financial report. —Bloomberg

## GOVT IDENTIFIES ITEMS FOR DUTY REVIEW

New Delhi, July 11: The government has identified a host of customs exemptions for review and has invited suggestions from trade and industry bodies on the same.

Importers, exporters, industry and trade associations are invited to give views on the subject to the government by August 10 on the 'MyGov.in' portal.

According to A Shaktivel, chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, automation and elimination of human interface will reduce the delay in the processing. Once automated, there would be a specific time

—PTI

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## SHORT TAKES

## India hit back to level T20 series

**Hove:** Indian spinners worked wonders during the final overs as visitors edged out England by eight runs in the second women's T20 to level the three-match series here on Sunday.

Batting first, India lost way after a good start provided by opener Shafali Verma (48 off 38 balls) to finish on 148 for 4. In reply, Tammy Beaumont's 59 off 50 balls put England in good position before they were restricted to 140/8 in 20 overs.

Poonam Yadav (2/17) and Deepthi Sharma (1/17) brought India back in the game during final five overs. — PTI

**Brief scores:** India 148/4 in 20 overs (Shafali Verma 48, Harmanpreet Kaur 31) vs England 140/8 in 20 overs (T. Beaumont 59; P. Yadav 2/17).

## Matsuyama +ve, will miss Open

**London:** Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama has withdrawn from the Open Championship at Royal St George's after returning a positive Covid-19 test. The Japanese world number 18 tested positive ahead of the second round of the Rocket Mortgage Classic on 2nd July and has been self-isolating since. He is currently symptom-free but subsequent PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) tests have continued to show positive results.

Twenty-nine-year-old Matsuyama has been replaced in the year's final Major—which begins on Thursday (15th July)—by American Harold Varner III. — AP

## McGregor injures leg, Poirier wins

**Las Vegas:** Conor McGregor sat and seethed with his back on the cage, a temporary cast around his left shin and foot. The biggest star in mixed martial arts was convinced he had just been robbed of revenge on Dustin Poirier by a broken leg. "I was boxing the bleedin' head off him, kicking the bleedin' leg off him," McGregor shouted. "This is not over! If we have to take this outside for him, we'll take it outside."

McGregor's animosity toward Poirier hasn't cooled, but this fight trilogy ended for now, at least with another victory for his more mild-mannered enemy.

Poirier beat McGregor for the second time in six months when McGregor was unable to continue after the first round at UFC 264 on Saturday night.

McGregor (22-6) fell to the canvas and never got up after a punch by Poirier (28-6), who will get the UFC's next lightweight title shot. — AP

## Top league games end in draws

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JULY 11

Draws were the order of the day at the Hyderabad Cricket Association's top division league matches due to little action possible on Sunday. EMCC and Deccan Chronicle shared points while MP Colts and Central Excise followed suit in their rain-marred games where the first innings of each team could not be completed.

**Brief scores:**

**THREE-DAY LEAGUE**

■ EMCC 168 in 51.5 overs drew with Deccan Chronicle 98/3 in 35 overs (Yash Kapadia 42 n.o.).

**Points:** EMCC, 1; Deccan Chronicle 1.

■ MP Colts 212 in 71.5 overs drew with Central Excise 182/5 in 45 overs (Ibrahim Siddiqui 72). **Points:** MP Colts 1, Central Excise 1.

## Boxers to leave for Tokyo on July 17

**New Delhi:** India's Olympic-bound boxing contingent, which is preparing for the Games in Italy right now, will leave for Tokyo from their training base in Assisi on July 17.

An unprecedented nine Indian pugilists have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, including five men and four women. The Games will open on July 23 with boxing competitions starting the next day.

The men who have qualified are world number one and Asian Games champion Amit Panghal (52kg), Manish Kaushik (63kg), Vikas Krishan (69kg), Ashish Kumar (75kg), and Satish Kumar (+91kg). The women's squad comprises six-time world champion M.C. Mary Kom (51kg), Simranjit Kaur (60kg), Lovlina Borgohain (65kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg). — PTI



# GRASS TOPPER

Djokovic emerges on top with sixth Wimbledon crown



Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates his win over Italy's Matteo Berrettini during the men's singles final match of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on Sunday. Djokovic won 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3. — AFP

## THIRD WIMBLEDON DOUBLES TITLE FOR 'MAGICIAN' HSIEH

**London, July 11:** Taiwan's Hsieh Su-wei won her third Wimbledon women's doubles title on Saturday when she and Belgian partner Elise Mertens defeated Russia's Elena Vesnina and Veronika Kudermetova in the final.

Hsieh and Mertens, the third seeds, saved two match points in the second set to win 3-6, 7-5, 9-7.

"Some of her volleys, I can't do. She's a magician," said Mertens, the world's number one doubles player, of Hsieh.

Hsieh won the 2013 title at Wimbledon with China's Peng Shuai and the 2019 trophy alongside Barbora Strycova of the Czech Republic.

With Peng, she also claimed the French Open title in 2014.

Mertens won the 2019 US Open and 2021 Australian Open titles with Aryna Sabalenka.

Vesnina and Kudermetova had reached the final by saving four match points to defeat top seeds Barbora Krejcikova and Katerina Siniakova and three more in the semi-final against Caroline Dolehide and Storm Sanders.

"It's not always easy to play in the final, and the opponent will fight super hard," said 35-year-old Hsieh. — AFP

## Indian-origin Samir lifts boys title



**London, July 11:** American tennis player of Indian-origin Samir Banerjee on Sunday lifted the Wimbledon boys singles title with a straight set win over compatriot Victor Lilov, here.

Playing only his second junior Grand Slam, 17-year-old won 7-5 6-3 in the final that lasted in one hour 22 minutes.

Banerjee's parents had moved to America in 1980s.

At the junior French Open, Banerjee, ranked 19 in the world, had crashed out in the first round.

India has been struggling to field a worthy contender at junior

Grand Slams for some time now.

Due to lack of a robust domestic circuit and not having enough competitions at home to earn

world ranking points, India has been struggling to create the next crop of youngsters.

Yuki Bhambhani was the last Indian to win a jun-

ior singles title when he triumphed at the Australian Open in 2009 while Sumit Nagal won the Wimbledon boys doubles in 2015 with Vietnam's Ly Hoang Nam.

Ramanathan Krishnan was the first Indian to win a junior major when he won the 1954 Junior Wimbledon championship.

His son Ramesh Krishnan won the 1970 junior Wimbledon and junior French Open titles while Leander Paes won the 1990 junior Wimbledon and junior US Open. Paes was also a runner-up at the junior Australian Open. — PTI

## Neeraj ready for maiden Games



### PRANEET TENSE ABOUT TURNING FALSE COVID +VE

**New Delhi, July 11:** Striving to master "closing out" narrow games, Indian shuttler B. Sai Praneeth is entering his maiden Olympics "a bit worried" about returning false positive for Covid-19 in one of the many tests he might undergo in Tokyo.

Praneeth, who had ended India's 36-year-long wait for a men's singles medal at the world championship with a bronze in 2019, has reasons to get anxious having returned false positive during the Thailand Open in January.

Forced to pull out of the tournament, a re-test showed negative result.

"You know what happened to me in Thailand, it was a false positive and I couldn't play. Since it happened to me so I am a bit worried," Praneeth said.

"Olympics is the biggest sporting event. Before you could just focus on your game now there are so many things: testings, so many protocols, you have to think about all that and then practice and play. But I am vaccinated now. A lot of effort has been made to conduct a safe Olympics, so hopefully, things will be okay. There is no guarantee and we need to be positive and focus on the game." — PTI

**● The 23-year-old Chopra said he has missed the 'natural feeling' of being in a world-class field, except for one occasion, in the run up to the Games which open on July 23. He meditates to keep himself focussed when not training.**

natural feeling which gives you the best performance comes after you take part a lot of world class events," Chopra said from his training base at the 2023 World Javelin Throw Championships in Finland.

"For me, that was the only time," he added.

Talking about the challenges that came with the restrictions that came into force because of the Covid-19 pandemic, Chopra said he has tried to stay positive nonetheless.

"I had a new experience in Finland. During the run-up, I felt the real experience of a top-level competition, the kind of

had to be several changes in training and competition schedule.

"But, I am in positive frame of mind because a lot depends on the performance of the day. I am just hoping to give my best and realise my dream of winning a gold for the country."

Chopra, who has pulled out of the June 13 Diamond League at Gateshead due to visa issues, has taken part in only three international events since June 10.

— PTI

## TOKYO | HOCKEY NO BRONZE GAME IF FINALISTS ARE COVID AFFLICTED

**New Delhi, July 11:** The losing semifinalists in hockey might get a shot at Olympic gold in the Tokyo Games if one of the finalists teams is forced out because of Covid-19 as the afflicted side's last-four stage opponent would be elevated to the summit clash.

This has been made clear in the Games' Sport-Specific Regulations (SSR) unveiled on Sunday. The SSR has been developed jointly by IOC and the International Federations to determine the impact of a confirmed positive Covid-19 case and its management in competition formats and structures.

"In Hockey, teams unable to compete due to Covid-19 will not be disqualified and will be marked as DNS (Did Not Start). In case a team in the knockout stages is no longer able to compete due to Covid-19 their minimum ranking achieved will be protected and, if time allows, their opponent will advance to the next round."

"Therefore, if a team is unable to participate in the final, the team that was eliminated by the Covid-19 impacted team will be brought into the final to compete for the medal on the field of play."

"The other losing semifinalist will be awarded the bronze medal," the regulations developed for hockey read. — PTI

## ODI SERIES | VS INDIA

# All Lanka players return negative

**Colombo, July 11:** The entire Sri Lankan first team, including senior players Kusal Perera, Dushantha Chameera and Dhananjaya de Silva, have all returned negative in their latest RT-PCR tests ahead of the limited overs series against India.

The tests were conducted by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC).

It is now expected that the players would be allowed to enter the bio-bubble by Monday as they complete a week-long hard quarantine after their arrival from the United Kingdom.

negative," he added.

As far as its revised training itinerary is concerned, it is understood that the Sri Lankan team will be practising at the Kettarama (R. Premadasa Stadium) here, since the Indians are training at the Singhalese Sports Club ground (SSC).

"If all goes well, the UK-returned players would be able to come out of their hard quarantine (room isolation) and enter the bio-bubble. The robust testing is expected to continue as per norms (every third or fifth day)," he informed.

Once the players get to enter the bio-bubble, they can at least meet each other in their rooms and also start using the gymnasium in a staggered manner.

"Since we haven't got any positive report, which we normally receive by mid-day, it can be presumed that all players have tested

— PTI

## SHAH FEELS ALL AGE-GROUPS SHOULD GET COMPENSATION

### DOMESTIC | CRICKET

**New Delhi, July 11:** Saurashtra's Jaydev Shah, who is part of BCCI's newly-formed working group for domestic cricket, feels all age-group cricketers should be compensated for loss of games last season and not just Ranji players.

Shah, who is a former Saurashtra captain, said how to compensate the cricketers and the quantum of the payout will be decided by the working group after due consultation with BCCI secretary Jay Shah and President Sourav Ganguly.

"The working group has just been formed and we will work with the guidance of Jay bhai (BCCI secretary). A time frame

A domestic player earns ₹15-16 lakh per season but it was not the case last season with the Ranji Trophy being cancelled for the first time in 87 years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



England's Lewis Gregory (second left) celebrates with teammates the dismissal of Haris Rauf of Pakistan in the second ODI at Lord's cricket ground in London on Saturday. The hosts won by 52 runs. — AP

## Gregory stars as Eng clinch Pakistan series

**London, July 11:** Lewis Gregory starred with both bat and ball as England beat Pakistan by 52 runs in the second one-day international at Lord's on Saturday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in a three-match series.

Set 248 to win in a game reduced to 47 overs per side by rain, Pakistan were dismissed for 195.

Somerset pace-bowling all-rounder Gregory, in just a second match at this level, struck with his first ball Saturday on the way to 3-44 as England won with six overs to spare.

That followed the Somerset all-rounder's valuable 40 and a stand of 69 with Brydon Carse (31), in a maiden ODI innings for both members of the eighth-wicket duo, after

— AFP

**Brief scores:** England 247 (Salt 60, Vince 56, Gregory 40, Hasan 5/51) vs Pakistan 195 (Shakeel 56, Gregory 3/44).

## Quick passes

### Messi, Diaz Copa's top goal-scorers

Argentina's Lionel Messi and Colombia's Luis Diaz finished Copa America as the top scorers in the tournament with four goals each. Messi did not score in Saturday's 1-0 win against Brazil in the final, while the young striker Diaz led his team with two goals in the 3-2 win against Peru on Friday for the third place in the South American tournament.

Messi scored his first goal in the tournament from a free kick in the 1-1 draw against Chile, Argentina's first group stage match. The 34-year-old striker scored twice in the 4-1 win against Bolivia, one from the spot and another in a gentle lob past goalkeeper Carlos Lampe. He netted his fourth in another free kick in the 3-0 victory against Ecuador in the quarterfinals.

Messi also had five assists in the tournament. The only Argentine goal at Copa America which did not involve him was the Angel di Maria's in the final against Brazil.

The 24-year-old Diaz, once a player of an Indigenous team in Colombia, made a big splash with beautiful goals in the South American tournament. Diaz' first came from an impressive volley at the 2-1 defeat against Brazil during the group stage, a goal that many analysts consider to be the best of the tournament.

Later he scored with almost no angle against Argentinian in the semifinal. —AP



Argentine fans celebrate Angel Di Maria's goal while watching the Copa America final against Brazil on a TV in Buenos Aires on Saturday. — AFP

### Kolkata goes crazy over Argies victory

India celebrated in Kolkata as Argentina won in Brazil. Referring to them as we, some 15,000 km from where Lionel Messi held aloft the Copa America trophy, Kolkatans lapped up his jinx-breaking triumph with Argentina, a much-loved team who don't know of their existence, their fandom.

Known for its unwavering loyalty and devotion to Argentina and their captain, the "City of Joy" fondly recalled the first time Messi led the Albiceleste, in a friendly international against Venezuela in 2011, at their very own Salt lake Stadium.

While Kolkata was mostly overwhelmed with emotion, for one Twitter user in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's famous retort, 'hum ghar mein ghus ke marenge' (we take the attack home), after the air strikes on Pakistan for the Pulwama terror attack, best encapsulated Argentina's triumph.

Meanwhile, Kerala also celebrated their favourite football star's feat in their own style as scores of jubilant fans thronged the streets and burnt crackers. —PTI

### Brazilians hit out at Argentine strategy

Brazil coach Tite praised Argentina for the title, but also said the defeat at home also came because Argentina didn't want the match to flow.

After Argentina took the lead, the match increasingly descended into a fractious, niggly affair with little fluid play between fouls and a plethora of theatrics and petulant bickering. It was within Argentina's hands as they looked to run down the clock and hold onto their slender lead.

"We wanted to play, but there was a lot of anti-football. Fouls all the time, it took ages for the match to go on. There was no pace. Their strategy was that," Tite said.



Argentina captain Lionel Messi celebrates with the trophy after beating Brazil 1-0 in the Copa America final at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Saturday. — AP

# MESSIMERISING

## Argentina beat hosts and arch rivals Brazil for Copa

**Rio de Janeiro, July 11:** Superstar Lionel Messi won his first trophy with his national team as Angel Di Maria's goal gave Argentina a 1-0 win over hosts Brazil in the Copa America final on Saturday.

The victory at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium ended Argentina's 28-year wait for a major trophy, and also ended Brazil's unbeaten home record that stretched back more than 2,500 days.

Argentina had last tasted success at a major tournament in 1993 when the great Gabriel Batistuta's brace gave them a 2-1 win over Mexico in the Copa final in Ecuador.

It was the first time in six editions playing at home that Brazil had failed to lift the trophy.

And while 34-year-old Messi's odyssey has come to an end, Brazil's Neymar, five years his junior, is still without a major title at international level having missed the Selecao's win

on home soil two years ago through injury.

Argentina edged a brutal and fractious affair thanks to Di Maria's goal on 22 minutes. The 33-year-old winger ran onto Rodrigo De Paul's sumptuous through ball to lob Brazil goalkeeper Ederson with a first time finish.

Messi could have wrapped up the win two minutes from time but slipped when clean through with only Ederson to beat.

#### DI MARIA TORMENTOR

In a frantic start, Argentina's burly enforcer Nicolas Otamendi was quickly in with his first foul while Brazilian midfielder Fred picked up the first booking after just three minutes for a studs up lunge at Gonzalo Montiel.

Brazil were unchanged from their semifinal win over Peru while Argentina made five alterations, notably bringing in Di

**Argentina 1**

(Angel di Maria 22)

**Brazil 0**

#### COPA WINNERS

- 2021: Argentina
- 2019: Brazil
- 2016: Chile
- 2015: Chile
- 2011: Uruguay
- 2007: Brazil
- 2004: Brazil
- 2001: Colombia
- 1999: Brazil
- 1997: Brazil
- 1995: Uruguay
- 1993: Argentina

#### MOST TITLES

- 15 — Uruguay, Argentina
- 9 — Brazil
- 2 — Chile, Paraguay, Peru

The final was the first match of the tournament, which was originally due to take place last year, to allow in fans as 7,800 — a tenth of the Maracana capacity — took their seats after authorities partially lifted pandemic restrictions.

The first clear chance came on 13 minutes as Richardson headed down Marquinhos' long ball into the path of Neymar but the Brazilian star was crowded out by a pair of defenders.

The brutal nature of the early challenges could be seen on the players' kits, with Neymar sporting ripped shorts and Lucas Paquetá being left with a hole in his sock following an intervention by Otamendi.

Argentina played with aggression and commitment, but no lack of quality with Di Maria tormenting Brazil's left back Renan Lodi, who probably should have cut out De

Paul's pass for the winger's goal.

Di Maria had a shot from 20 yards blocked while Messi fired just wide following a 40 yard run.

#### BRAZIL FIRE BLANKS

Brazil struggled to create anything of note and even when they had a free-kick from shooting range, Neymar couldn't beat the wall.

When the hosts did finally maintain some pressure late in the first half, Everton's deflected strike bobbed though to keeper Emilio Martinez.

Brazil managed to up the pressure again at the end of the half but they lacked a killer touch against some full-blooded defending — Montiel even finished the game with his white sock soaked in blood.

When Brazil substitute Gabriel Barbosa fired a volley on target, Martinez was equal to it. — AFP

## Superstar's trophy quest finally ends



Lionel Messi is thrown into the air by teammates after winning the Copa America final against Brazil at Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Saturday. — AFP

ished the tournament as top goalscorer and with the most assists.

He was named player of the tournament, during which Messi equalled and then broke Javier Mascherano's record of 147 caps for Argentina, setting a new mark of 151 on Saturday.

His four goals during the competition took him to 76 for his country, just one off all-time South American mark set by Pele for Brazil.

Winning this tournament was no simple feat for an Argentina that was outclassed by Brazil in the semifinals two years ago.

They had gone 28 years without

a major trophy and hadn't won on Brazilian soil since 1998 — in a friendly — while the hosts hadn't lost at home in 2,553 days.

Neymar, who missed Brazil's victory two years ago through injury, was also seeking his first major title with the Selecao.

#### NEXT STOP QATAR

While he had been unable to replicate his club success at country level, Messi's never stopped trying and has always led Argentina by example.

In this tournament Messi shed blood — from his ankle in a bruising semifinal win over Colombia — and sweat to drag his side into

the title match.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni even revealed Messi had played the final with a tight hamstring.

Quite apart from his goals and assists, Messi was at the center of almost every attacking move produced by Argentina.

Having won Olympic gold with Argentina's under-23 side in Beijing in 2008, and been world under-20 champion with his country three years before that, Messi finally has the senior title he's craved for so long.

And on this form, who would bet against him leading Argentina to World Cup glory in Qatar next year. — AFP

## Angel comes to Argies rescue

**Buenos Aires, July 11:** Angel Di Maria once admitted that he sought out a psychologist to help him deal with the trauma of his performance in finals. He overcame that stigma on Saturday with the goal that gave Argentina a 1-0 victory over Brazil in the final of the Copa America at the Maracana Stadium.

"I can't cry, I can't fall, we dreamed so much of achieving this. So many people said I shouldn't come back, I kept banging my head against the wall and today it happened," the veteran winger said.

Argentina's winner came in the 22nd minute after Rodrigo de Paul made a long pass to Di Maria. The 33-year-old striker counted on poor defending by Brazil left-back Renan Lodi to take control and lob it past goalkeeper Ederson.

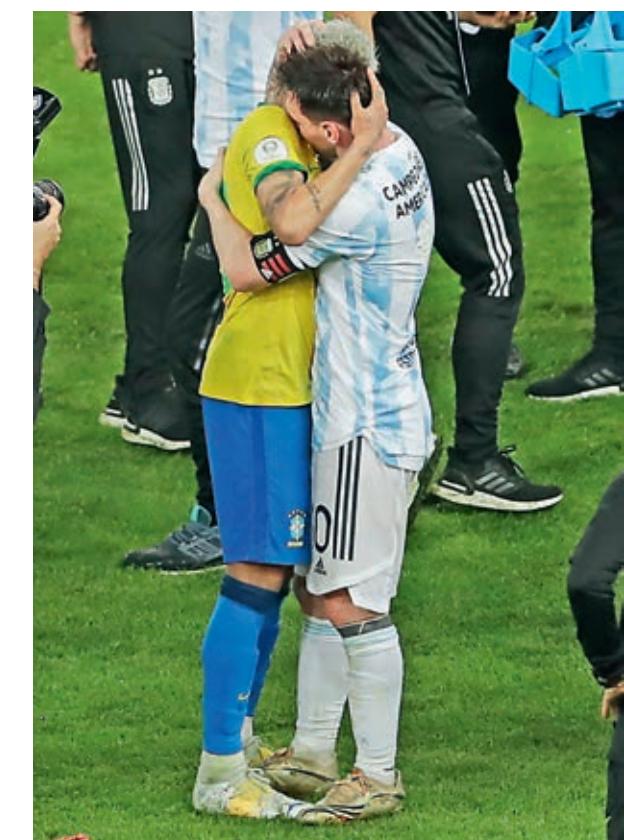
Di Maria, captain Lionel Messi and striker Sergio Aguero are the sole survivors of the squad that lost the 2014 World Cup final in Brazil. They also experienced defeat against Chile in the deciders of Copa America in 2015 and 2016.

That is when Di Maria started seeing a psychiatrist. Argentina fans wanted him out of the squad, but he turned the tables on them on Saturday, despite the fact he started the tournament as a substitute.

Di Maria promised more joy for Argentina fans after the Copa title on Saturday. "This is enough to continue here. The World Cup is coming soon, and this is a great push," he said. — AP



Angel Di Maria scores Argentina's goal against Brazil during the Copa America final at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Saturday. — AP



Brazil's Neymar (left) embraces Argentina's Lionel Messi at the end of the Copa America final at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Saturday. — AP

## Brazil World Cup hopes take a hit

**Rio de Janeiro, July 11:** Brazil trusted their defence even more than Neymar to keep their Copa America title. It was a move that failed.

Argentina's 1-0 victory at the Maracana Stadium on Saturday proved that the Selecao's defensive prowess was not as strong as their players and coach have shown. Now coach Tite will have to rethink some of his alternatives, as he promised to use Copa America as a testing ground ahead of the World Cup in Qatar.

Argentina's winner came in the 22nd minute after Rodrigo de Paul made a long pass to Angel di Maria. The 33-year-old veteran striker counted on poor defending by left-back Renan Lodi to take control and lob it past goalkeeper Ederson.

Brazil had conceded only two goals in the tournament before the final. But Di Maria knew that Lodi could possibly be beaten.

"Before the match I told him (de Paul) that the left-back slept a little in the marking," the Argentinian striker said after the match. Brazil's most frequent starter in the position, Alex Sandro, was recovering from injury.

But it wasn't only Lodi who made mistakes in Brazil's defence against Argentina. Veteran Thiago Silva and midfielder Casemiro, two of the steadiest players of the team, gave Argentina opportunities in the second half, some of them in unforced errors. Silva acknowledged Brazil was under par in a match that marked the first Copa America title that the Selecao lost playing at home — they won in all previous five.

Dani Alves and midfielder Fred, both starters at the Maracana, did not make clear mistakes in the final, but neither supported Brazil up front. Neymar was isolated for most of the match. — AP