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HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 14 JULY 2021

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## WEATHER

Max: 27.4°C  
Min: 21.8°C  
RH: 92%  
Rain: 21.8 mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky.  
Moderate rain. Max/Min  
temp. 29/22°C

## ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana  
Tithi: Ashada Shuddha  
Chaviti till 8.01 am  
Star: Purva Phalgundi till 3.41 am  
(Thursday)

Varjyan: 11.39 am to 1.16 pm  
Durmuhurtam: 11.56 am to  
12.47 pm

Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm

HJRI CALENDAR

Zilhaj 3,1442 AH

PRAVERS

Fajar: 4.41 am

Zohar: 12.32 pm

Asar: 4.56 pm

Maghrib: 7.00 pm

Isha: 8.16 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.54 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.50 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 9.28 AM

MOONSET TODAY 10.19 PM

## COUNTER POINT



He used to stand up  
and salute us when we  
were in the Cabinet!

## SHORT TAKES

₹35,000cr GST  
detected in 1 yr

New Delhi: In the year-long crackdown on tax evasion, the GST authorities have unearthed over ₹35,000 crore of tax fraud committed by misuse of input tax credit provision under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. During the 2020-21 financial year, the CGST zones and the DGII booked about 8,000 cases involving fake ITC of over ₹35,000 crore, a statement from CBIC said. Under the GST regime, at the time of paying tax on output, entities can reduce the tax they have already paid on inputs.

## Deuba becomes Nepal premier

Kathmandu: Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba on Tuesday became Nepal's Prime Minister for the fifth time after the Supreme Court's intervention. President Bidya Devi Bhandari appointed the Opposition leader as the prime minister in accordance with Article 76(5) of the Constitution. This is the fifth time that 75-year-old Deuba is returning to power as the Nepal PM.

Full report on Page 9

## Monsoon covers entire country

New Delhi: After advancing over Delhi-NCR, the Southwest Monsoon covered the entire country on Tuesday after a delay of five days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The Southwest Monsoon usually covers entire India on July 8. The earlier normal date for the monsoon to cover entire India was July 15. Last year, the IMD revised its onset date for several areas.

Full report on Page 8

## Cabinet meet to okay recruitment; clarity on vacancies today

## TS clears draft annual job plan

## Cabinet okays funds for city water supply

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

The Telangana state Cabinet meeting, which started on Tuesday, will be continued to the next day after the meeting failed to arrive at the exact number of vacancies existing in various departments for issuing job notifications.

The Cabinet will again meet on Wednesday at 2 pm to discuss and finalise the vacancies. This is for the first time that the Cabinet meeting is being continued to the next day, which is unheard of in any state or Union Cabinet meetings.

The meeting chaired by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao at Pragathi Bhavan discussed in detail about this issue, no decision was taken as the meeting could not arrive at a consensus on the amount of hike to be effected.

The cabinet sub-committee on resource mobilisa-

tion headed by finance minister T. Harish Rao submitted a report to the Cabinet seeking enhancement of market value of properties, registration charges and stamp duty as they were last revised in 2013 in undivided AP.

This apart, the Cabinet approved release of ₹1,200 crore to ensure adequate drinking water supply in the peripheral municipalities of Hyderabad city.

He instructed the officials to initiate measures to prevent scarcity of drinking water in Hyderabad and its surrounding areas.

■ Page 4: Key decisions on many issues today

would be beneficial for job seekers and unemployed youth to know in advance

the vacancy position besides schedule of issuance of job notifica-

tion and conduct of exam and plan their exam preparation accordingly.

The Cabinet directed secretaries of all departments to attend the meeting with full details of existing vacancies in their respective departments on Wednesday. It also directed officials to distribute all existing posts and future vacancies to all districts, zones and multi-zones as per the recently approved new zonal system to implement 95 percent jobs to locals in each district, zone and multi-zone.

The Cabinet also approved 50 per cent reservations for local students in admissions into government residential schools in every Assembly constituency.

The previous recruitment drive in the state came to a halt for over three years, after the government devised a new zonal system for recruitments to ensure 95 per cent reservations for locals in employment and education opportunities.

## Festive frenzy



Devotees take part in Kalyanam festivities at Balkampet Yellamma temple in Hyderabad on Tuesday, ignoring Covid-19 safety protocol. — R.PAVAN

## Gandhis, Prashant Kishor meet over Punjab, LS polls

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

The internal strife in the Punjab Congress intensified as poll strategist Prashant Kishor met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday. The meeting, which lasted for nearly two hours, was also attended by AICC general secretaries K.C. Venugopal and Harish Rawat.

His lawyers had alleged that he was abducted from Antigua in a plot hatched by men of Indian origin. — PTI

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's political adviser. The crisis in Punjab was precipitated after the public utterances of disgruntled Congress legislator Navjot Singh Sidhu against the party's state government and the chief minister.

Sources said the meeting was to assess the position of the Congress in the state as Assembly elections are due early next year. The meeting assumes significance as the Congress is all set to announce a major decision on

its Punjab crisis that will pave the way for the coming polls.

Mr Kishor has in the past also given "constructive suggestions" to the Congress leadership. In the 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, he was managing the campaign for the Congress-Samajwadi Party alliance.

Insiders claim that the Congress high command may once again rope him in to "guide" the party, after he successfully helped the Trinamul Congress' win in West Bengal.

However, there has been no change in the composition of the country's highest decision-making body on security affairs — the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) — and the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, which takes call on all important

## COVID | EFFECT

## Only one in four students pay attention to online classes, claim teachers

## Teachers red flag students' online behaviour

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

that they have to attend the classes and the remaining are not showing any interest.

Online classes for Class 1 to 12 have begun from July in SSC and CBSE schools and in the first month itself, the teachers have encountered several problems.

With CBSE schools charting out an internal tests schedule which will evaluate the performance of children throughout the year, it has been noted that

● DUE TO THE ongoing pandemic, teachers claim that they found no motivation for the students and their focus has shifted from academics to social media.

many are not taking it seriously.

Despite online counselling sessions for students and parents, the response is not as desired.

Dr Syed Shafiuuddin

Aijaz, a senior educationist, explains, "The students who have to appear in March 2022-23 are convinced that they do not need to prepare for exams as they shall be promoted like their seniors. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we find that there is hardly any motivation for the students and their focus from academics has shifted to social media."

"Many children are mesmerised by what they see on social media and explor-

ing the world of the internet which gives them ideas far from reality," Dr Aijaz said.

Teachers say that they are facing unmet challenges and often find that parents are not aware of the situation or they are not interested.

Take for example the case of CBSE schools where they had instructions to call on the parents whose children are not responding positively to online classes. Similarly, children

have been taken in separate rooms and counselled online. In one such online session, there were children who revealed their hopelessness in times of Covid-19.

A senior teacher and counsellor, on condition of anonymity, said, "There are bright students who do not require help from teachers, but are not able to communicate online."

■ Page 4: Students believe pandemic will last for 6 yrs



FORMER INDIA CRICKETER YASHPAL DIES

New Delhi, July 13: India's 1983 World Cup hero Yashpal Sharma, who was admired for being a gutsy middle-order batsman at the peak of his prowess, died on Tuesday after suffering a massive cardiac arrest here.

He was 66 and is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

"Yes, Yashpal is no more with us. We just received the information from his family," a former India teammate of Yashpal confirmed.

Yashpal collapsed at home after returning from his morning walk here. He was cremated at the Lodhi Road crematorium with his former teammate Kirti Azad among those in attendance.

In his international career, Yashpal played 37 Tests, scoring 1806 runs, and 42 ODIs in which he made 883.

He also picked up one wicket each in the two formats to his credit.

He was known for his gutsy attitude and his stroke-filled half century in the semifinal against England in the 1983 campaign at the Old Trafford will forever be etched in the public memory.

■ Obit, tributes on Page 12

# CLASSIFIEDS

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## TIMINGS: Weekdays

**IN BRIEF**  
SI, constable held  
for accepting bribe

**Hyderabad:** Two police personnel, including a sub-inspector of Peddemul Police Station in Vikarabad district, have been nabbed by Ranga Reddy district team of Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday. According to the law enforcement agency, SI T. Chandra Shekar belonging to Tandur Rural Circle and constable Krishna Reddy demanded a bribe of ₹50,000 from Y. Srinivas for releasing two tractors of the latter seized for illegally transporting sand.

**PROTESTING  
NURSES HELD  
AT CM'S HOUSE**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

Outsourcing staff nurses who gathered near BB-I Gate of the Pragathi Bhavan, official residence of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao were taken to custody on Tuesday.

The police found around 14 women who unlawfully assembled near Pulla Reddy Sweet House on Tuesday afternoon 2 pm.

On enquiry, they disclosed that they were outsourcing staff nurses and they came to the camp office to meet the Chief Minister regarding their termination without any intimation and wanted to take them back to duties.

The police performing bandobast duty took them into preventive custody and shifted them to Goshamahal Stadium. "If they were not taken into preventive custody, they might have committed any cognizable offence," said the Panjagutta police.

**WOMAN OFFERS  
₹30K REWARD  
FOR MISSING CAT**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

A woman lodged a missing complaint stating that her pet cat was missing from a veterinary hospital under Raidurgam police station of Cyberabad Commissionerate.

The complainant Serina Natto reportedly admitted her cat Ginger to Trusty Vet Multi Specialty Pet Hospital on June 23 and next day she was informed about the cat missing from the hospital.

The complainant took the cat on 17 June for some surgery and again visited the hospital on June 23 when Ginger fell sick after the surgery was done. "The doctor advised me to admit the cat in the hospital and I agreed to it," Serina told the media.

She added that the next day, the hospital authorities informed her that the cat was missing from the hospital. The woman approached the Raidurgam police station on June 27 and made a complaint. "We have received the complaint and are making efforts to track down the animal with the help of hospital staff," said G. Rajagopal Reddy, in-charge Inspector of Raidurgam police station.

Meanwhile, the woman announced a reward of ₹30,000 for anyone one who helps trace her cat that went missing from an animal care centre at Raidurgam.

**RESCUE | MISSION**

**Lockdown had forced minors to get engaged in work to earn money**

# Cops rescue 20 kids under Op. Muskaan

## Satyarthi demands passage of anti-trafficking Bill

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi demanded urgent passage of the anti-trafficking Bill in the monsoon session of Parliament.

He said that in order to help continue their education, with permission from the children's mother, they were handed over to the Auxilium Vikas Home.

Police arrested pharma company owner Gambali Mallickarjuna Rao, 60, of Krishna Pharma. He was handed over to Uppal police.

In another rescue operation, Rachakonda police held rescue operations in Maheshwaram town under the limits of Maheshwaram police station and rescued ten minor boys, while they were working in bike mechanics' shops, fast food centre and bakery. They were produced before the CWC.

"These are the effects of Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the lockdown, two girl children came and worked with their

mother. Another two girls are school dropouts," said police.

"Among the two rescued girls, aged 15 and 10, and studying in 10 and 8th grade respectively, are from Auxilium Vikas Home (child care institution). During the lockdown, the children were sent to their parents' home. The single mother who was taking care of them took them along with her to work in the pharma company," claimed Venkateshwari from BBA.

He said that in order to help continue their education, with permission from the children's mother, they were handed over to the Auxilium Vikas Home.

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**TRAFFICKING IN Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021, covers various aspects of trafficking by including offences pertaining to trafficking.**

more prone to various kinds of exploitation especially trafficking and child labour.

Speaking about the importance of the Bill, Satyarthi, in a statement, said, "A strong anti-trafficking law is the moral and constitutional responsibility of our elected leaders, and a necessary step toward nation-building and economic progress. As long as children are bought and sold at lesser cost than cattle, no country can call itself civilised. Covid-19 has caused a rise in trafficking, especially of

women and children. We cannot take this lightly. A law for prevention, timely investigation, punishment for traffickers, and the protection and rehabilitation of survivors is a matter of urgency. I call on all parliamentarians to pass a strong and comprehensive anti-trafficking law in the upcoming session of Parliament. Our children, their freedom and dignity cannot wait."

Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021, covers various aspects of trafficking by including offences pertaining to trafficking, including aggravated forms of trafficking.

The Bill also provides stringent punishment for offences of trafficking of women, or children, or transgenders under institutional care.



## Covid cases on rise in Khammam as norms are ignored

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

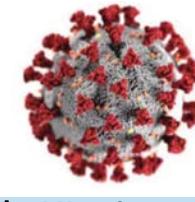
There are sporadic spikes also being reported from Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Ranga Reddy, Warangal Urban and Bhadravati Kotagudem districts. In Karimnagar district, there has been a call for increased testing in public health centres.

Experts state that in the first and second waves, after the decline, it was noted that there were sporadic spikes but they were not taken seriously. These spikes must be monitored as the virulent strain of the virus emerges from these spikes.

Dr Yadgiri Rao, senior member of Indian Medical Association in Telangana, says, "There is a spike in cases in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Telangana shares borders with Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh and cross-border travel will lead to an increase in the cases in districts bordering these states. Controlling them in the districts is very important now to check on the variants and avoid escalation."

The challenge noted at the ground level is understanding and following Covid 19 protocols. Small gatherings, birthday parties, marriage anniversaries and other religious functions on a small scale are also causing spread of Covid-19 cases."

### DAILY COVID BULLETIN DATA



Update: Cases   Deaths	
Fresh Cases	767
Deaths	3
Tests Done	1,18,778
Active Cases	10,064
Total Cases	6,33,146
Total Deaths	3,738

### Highest New Cases

Jogulamba Gadwal	1
Narayanpet	2
Nirmal, Komarambheem	3
Asifabad, Vikarabad	3
Wanaparthy, Kamareddy	4
Adilabad	4
Nizamabad	5

### NATIONAL URDU SCIENCE CONG. FROM TODAY

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

the chief guest. MANUU vice chancellor Prof. S. M. Rahmatullah will preside over the Congress.

SoS dean Prof. Parveen Jahan will deliver the welcome address and Department of Mathematics Prof. Syed Najamul Hasan, convenor of the Congress, will make introductory remarks.

Prof. Sher Ali, former director, Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia, will be

the chief guest. MANUU vice chancellor Prof. S. M. Rahmatullah will preside over the Congress.

School of Sciences (SoS), Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Manuu) is organising the Fifth National Urdu Science Congress 2021 in the online mode on Wednesday and Thursday.

Dr Monika Setia of US Consulate will deliver a special lecture on Full Bright Scholarship.

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## SHORT TAKES

## LEGAL NOTICE TO KOUSHIK OVER BRIBE ALLEGATION

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13.

AICC general secretary and Telangana state Congress in-charge Manickam Tagore has sent legal notice to former Congress leader Padi Koushik Reddy of Huzurabad assembly constituency over an allegation of bribe-taking, of ₹50 crore, against him for the recent appointment of A Revanth Reddy as TPCC president.

R Aravindan, Madurai-based advocate, issued legal notice to Koushik Reddy on behalf of Manickam Tagore on Tuesday.

The advocate said Koushik Reddy should tender an unconditional apology to Manickam Tagore within a week. "The baseless and malicious allegation of Koushik Reddy damaged my client's reputation," the advocate said.

Sources said a ₹1 crore defamation suit will be filed against Koushik Reddy for making the allegation of bribe-taking against Manickam Tagore.

## WHY BORROW FROM GOVT, ASK KTR FOR MONEY: REVANTH

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

TPCC president Revanth Reddy has urged Chief Minister Chandrashekhar Rao to not borrow funds from government agencies, and said he could instead get crores as loan with nominal interest from municipal minister K.T. Rama Rao and Rajya Sabha member Jogiapal Santosh Kumar.

The Kalvunkula family has amassed huge wealth after it came to power in Telangana, he alleged.

Revanth Reddy met former MP Konda Vishveshwari Reddy at his residence on Tuesday. The two discussed various issues of Telangana including unemployment and Krishna waters.

Speaking to the media, the TPCC chief said the CM is trying to get loans for developmental activities in the state. Instead, the CM should talk to KTR and Santosh Kumar for mobilization of funds. The two are experts in fund-raising and could offer thousands of crores as loan at 10 paise interest," he ridiculed.

Reddy said richest state Telangana became debt-ridden under the rule of KCR in the last seven years. "Konda Vishveshwari Reddy had always thought for the integrated development of Telangana and the Congress welcomes him to join the party at any time," he said.

Vishveshwari Reddy said he fought hard to make Revanth Reddy the TPCC president. "I will join the Congress party at an appropriate time and participate in the protest on the unemployment issue," he said.

"In realization of the dreams of the Telangana people, I will support any individual or organisation," he said.

## TRS aspirants line up for Huzurabad ticket

No indications from the EC about the schedule for bypoll

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

The Election Commission is yet to take a call on when to hold the Huzurabad Assembly bypoll and the list of aspirants vying for party ticket to contest the poll in the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) is getting longer.

Though a month has passed since former minister Etala Rajender submitted his resignation from Huzurabad Assembly seat on June 12 which was immediately approved by Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy on the same day, there are no indications from the Election Commission till date about the issuance of schedule for byelection.

With Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Telangana state former president L. Ramana joining the TRS on July 12 and Congress leader

Koushik Reddy likely to join the ruling party on July 16, ticket aspirants are on their toes as they both are considered to be the strong contenders for TRS ticket for Huzurabad.

Speculation is rife in the TRS circles that BJP leader E. Peddi Reddy would join the TRS any time as he is upset with party leadership for taking Etala Rajender in BJP without consulting him and for fielding Etala in the bypoll as BJP candidate.

● FORMER MP AND TS Planning Board vice chairman B. Vinod Kumar's name is also doing the rounds.

the BJP, Peddi Reddy sees no chance of him getting a ticket even in 2023 Assembly polls and reportedly offering to join the TRS if he is given ticket to contest Huzurabad bypoll.

The other aspirants in TRS include V. Sarojini Devi, wife of TRS senior leader and Rajya Sabha member Captain V. Laxminatha Rao,

known to be the close aide of party president and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

Former MP and TS Planning Board vice chairman B. Vinod Kumar's name is also doing the rounds.

Telangana BC Commission former member Vakulabharanam Krishna Mohan and TRS student wing president Gellu Srinivas are also making efforts to secure tickets, it is learnt.

Former minister and TDP leader Muddasani Damodar Reddy's son M Kashyap Reddy recently joined the TRS from the TDP hoping for the party ticket. He contested against Etala from TDP in 2014 but lost.

Damodar Reddy's brother M Purushottam Reddy, a retired IAS officer and vice chairman of Vemulawada Temple Development Authority, is also said to be in the race.

## Leaders will join yatra, says Bandi

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Tuesday announced that union ministers and party's national leaders will also participate in the padayatra being undertaken by him throughout Telangana from August 9.

He was addressing a meeting of party office bearers, district presidents and in-charges at BJP's state headquarters here. The meeting discussed Sanjay scheduled padayatra and Huzurabad by-poll issues. He said no decision has been taken yet on where the padayatra will end.

The state party president said the objective of padayatra is to flag the "dictatorial Gaddafi rule" of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and achieve a democratic Telangana. He maintained that a clear feeling is developing among people who are supporting the BJP candidate. Sanjay expressed confidence that no matter how many conspiracies TRS government may hatch, saffron flag will fly high in Huzurabad.

Party's national vice president D. K. Aruna and OBC Morcha national president K. Laxman participated in the office bearers meeting.

## Kamala Nehru Polytechnic for Women 'not closing down'

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

Even as a denial has come on reports of closure of the Kamala Nehru Polytechnic for Women in the city, members of the pro-CPI All India Students' Federation (AISF) on Tuesday registered their protest over such a move. The college is run by the Exhibition Society, which holds the annual All India Industrial Exhibition in its sprawling campus in Nampally area.

When contacted, Aditya Margam from the Society

told Deccan Chronicle: "We are not shutting down the college. The college is being upgraded to an engineering college. The state government has decided that there is no need to provide teachers to any private engineering college. We are not enrolling new students for some courses. We are not shutting down."

Student organisations pointed out that the college played a significant role in equipping many students in the Commonwealth countries as technical professionals since its inauguration in 1964 when techni-

cal education was restricted to men only. "The state government should work hard to protect the college, which is one of the leading technical women's colleges in India," AISF member Shankar said. Those who say Beti Bachao, Beti Padao are failing to allocate funds and develop the college, he alleged.

Shankar said the AISF sought development of Kamala Nehru Women's Polytechnic College. He requested the government that the "decision to close the college" be withdrawn.

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## SHORT TAKES

## TTD MAY ADOPT ISRAELI TECH FOR SECURITY

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC NELLORE, JULY 13

The TTD Vigilance and Security Wing has been asked to examine the possibility of adopting Israeli technology for providing a foolproof security cover for Tirumala, both to the temple and the multitude of visiting pilgrims, since the technology is believed to be the best.

TD executive officer, Jawahar Reddy, said security in Tirumala shall be further strengthened with new technology. He, along with additional EO Dharma Reddy and chief vigilance and security officer Gopinath Jatti inspected the Common Command Control Centre at PAC (pilgrims amenity centre)-4 in Tirumala on Tuesday.

During the visit, the CVSO thoroughly explained the functioning of the centre with the help of power point presentation. He had explained to the EO with some video clipings about how their personnel prevent wild animal intrusion in living areas using automatic sirens and diverting them back to the woods.

Gopinath Jatti gave details on how thieves, dalaris and cheats are caught hold with the help of CCTV footages inside the temple, at the hundi, at PACs, the Akhilandam and laddu counters.

He also explained how missing children are reunited with their parents, how unauthorised hawkers are being identified etc.

## LAND SCAM: SC TO HEAR AP'S PLEA

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, JULY 13

The Supreme Court on Tuesday will hold the final hearing on July 22 on Andhra Pradesh government's plea against the September 15, 2020 high court's order against coercive action against former advocate general Damalapati Srinivas. The state's plea was also against the HC order against investigation and gagging of the media from reporting the FIR, while it had "cold-shouldered" the state governments' plea to remand that matter back to high court.

The top court had on September 25, 2020, lifted the state's curbs on the media against reporting the FIR in the Amaravati land case allegedly involving Damalapati Srinivas.

A bench comprising Justice Veer Saran and Justice Dinesh Maheshwari directed that the matter be listed for final hearing on July 22. Senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan made a vain effort to persuade the court that the matter be remanded back to the high court and the state will withdraw its plea against the interim order of the high court.

Dhavan said no coercive steps will be taken against advocate general Srinivas but the investigations may be allowed to proceed.

Reiterating his earlier argument of an act of "regime revenge" against Srinivas, senior lawyer Harish Salve said the matter could be sent back to the HC provided the plea by the state government against the interim order of the high court is dismissed.

## Monsoon beauty



A panoramic view of Tank Bund amidst rain that lashed the city, in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

— P. SURENDRA

## TS slowly stops power generation on Krishna

Action taken due to no fresh inflows into the reservoirs

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 13

The Telangana state government which remained adamant on generation of hydel power at projects over Krishna river despite repeated complaints by the Andhra Pradesh government to the Centre and Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) since June last week, has now been stopping power generation at projects one after the other on its own.

The Telangana government's decision in June last week to generate hydel power at all proj-

ects over Krishna up to 100 per cent of installed capacity triggered a water war between Telangana and AP.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy dashed off letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi twice requesting him to take steps to stop Telangana from producing hydel power on the ground that water levels in dams were fast depleting, pushing AP into irrigation and drinking water crisis. This apart, the AP government had lodged several complaints with KRMB against the Telangana government.

However, the Telangana government ignored all these complaints and continued hydel power generation from June 29.

But on July 10, the Telangana government stopped power generation at Nagarjunasagar dam and continued in Sriram and Pulichintala dams. On Tuesday, it stopped power generation at Pulichintala dam also. It is likely to stop hydel power generation at Sriram in a day or two. Though the state government is citing no reasons for stopping power generation completely at all projects much before the meeting.

complete silence on the issue, it is widely believed that it is forced to stop generation due to lower water levels in dams and no fresh inflows into the reservoirs. The current levels in dams were insufficient to take up power generation.

The KRMB is planning to hold a full body meeting on July 24 to resolve the Krishna water row between AP and Telangana but going by current developments, the Telangana government will stop power generation completely at all projects much before the meeting.

## Cops helping cow vigilantes: Quraish

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 13

Quraish – butchers within Muslim community – have accused police of seizing their cattle worth ₹5 crores, apart from vehicles, at the instance of cow vigilantes during the last four weeks in and around Hyderabad in the run up to Bakrid.

As per Sharia, every able Muslim must offer at least one Qurbani.

Jamiat ul Quraish president Mohammed Saleem, who is also chairman of Telangana Wakf Board, protested that this custom has been disturbed by authorities, who are seizing animals on a large scale. Approximately 2,500 animals have been stopped at different places and shifted to goshalas, while 250 vehicles carrying the animals have been seized.

Saleem alleged that most vehicles carrying cattle had been intercepted by vigilantes, though there had been no cows among them. The vigilantes then forced police to seize the animals and vehicles. The Quraish president pointed out as not a single cow had been found among seized cattle, police authorities under pressure ended up registering cases against traders and vehicle own-

ers under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Muneer Ahmed Qureshi, a trader, said their community is already suffering a lot due to decline in demand for beef. "We could not do any business during last one year due to Corona pandemic. This year, we purchased cattle by investing all our money. Yet police are seizing our vehicles, causing us a loss of ₹4 lakh per vehicle."

## BPCL to set up ethanol unit

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 13

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has said that it was interested in setting up a five lakh litres a day capacity ethanol manufacturing plant in Telangana state. Company executives discussed the plans with Principal Secretary (Industries & commerce) Jayesh Ranjan on Tuesday.

The proposed plant will be set up with an investment of around ₹1,000 crore. According to Anurag

Saraogi, executive director — Bio Fuels, BPCL Telangana was ethanol deficient as on date, considering 10% blending requirements in Motor Spirit. The Centre's road map for ethanol blended motor fuels targets 20% blending by 2025-26.

Jayesh Ranjan assured that the Government of Telangana will extend all necessary support to set up 1st Generation Ethanol production plant in the State, and that allotment of land.

Govt of India issued a Procurement Notice No. 65/SE/Unit-I/IV/NT/Procurement/2021-22 dated 13-07-2021 for Construction of Vacuum Pumping Station at Murrupur Km 94.330 for 1st work -Project cost Rs. 100 Lakhs. The bid down load start date 14.07.2021 and end date 22.07.2021. Further details can be seen @ e-procurement market place i.e. www.tender.telangana.gov.in and for any further clarification required, please contact office of the Superintending Engineer (PH), UNIT-I, TUFIGC, Warangal. Ph: 9849906304. Sd/- Superintending Engineer (PH) Unit-I, TUFIGC, Warangal

Govt of India issued a Procurement Notice No. 65/SE/Unit-I/IV/NT/Procurement/2021-22 dated 13-07-2021 for Construction of 3 nos Subway in lieu of existing level crossing no. 13/C, 14/C & 15/C in between Gaya - Son Nagar section of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Division. (ii) Approx cost of the work in (Rs.): 39,58,53,850.59 (iii) Cost of tender form in (Rs.): 0.00 (iv) Earnest money in (Rs.): 0.00 (v) Period of work completion: 24(Twenty Four) Months

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Date and time for closing of tender: 29.07.2021 at 15.30 hrs.

Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/ Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted.

All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website http://www.reps.gov.in.

Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final.

Tenderers are requested to visit the website http://www.reps.gov.in atleast 15 days before last date of closing, for latest corrigendum/ corrections etc in connection with this e-tender. Any change/addendum/ corrigendum will be published on IREPS website only.

CAO/Con/South East Central Railway, MHX, Patna

PR/00495/CONS/ENGG/T21/22/60

Applications are invited for filling up 04\* posts of Deputy Directors in the National Horticulture Board (NHB) on deputation basis (including short term contract) in the Pay Level-10, Pay Matrix Rs. 56100-177500 of the 7th Central Pay Commission. Applications complete in all respect may be submitted through proper channel to the Managing Director, NHB at the above address, within 45 days of the publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.

Detailed information about the post such as required Educational Qualification, Experience, Age limit and other Terms and Conditions etc. including prescribed Format for submitting the application are available at the website of NHB i.e. www.nhb.gov.in under section/link "Tenders/Vacancies".

\*Number of vacancies may decrease/increase at the time of final decision.

Davp 01113/11/0005/2122

Managing Director

## KTR offers 'Singapore hub' to woo investors

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 13

Industries minister K.T. Rama Rao has offered to set up an 'exclusive zone' or 'Singapore hub' for Singapore companies in Telangana if they evince interest to invest in the state.

Rama Rao mooted the idea during a meeting here on Tuesday with a delegation from Singapore headed by its High Commissioner to India, Simon Wong.

Wong welcomed the idea and said they would definitely consider this proposal positively. He said when he was working in Vietnam, a similar initiative was taken up to draw investments and had been successfully opera-

tional since then.

Wong said Telangana offered several investment opportunities in new sectors, and told the minister that he would help brief Singapore companies and investors about these opportunities. He also told the minister that he had received positive feedback about the business climate in Telangana, the government's investor-friendly policies.

Wong told Wong that even since the formation of Telangana, the government's investor-friendly policies, TSPASS single window clearance and other steps had helped Telangana attract international investors. He pointed out that for centuries, Hyderabad had been developing with a conducive atmosphere in the IT ecosystem and innovations

and the Telangana government's friendly industrial policies had helped attract major global companies to the state. He added that many Singapore-based firms had already established their units here and were positive about the state's ecosystem.

Rao told Wong that ever since the formation of Telangana, the government's investor-friendly policies, TSPASS single window clearance and other steps had helped Telangana attract international investors. He noted that T-Hub and other such initiatives were driving a conducive atmosphere in the IT ecosystem and innovations

Request for Proposals for Setup, Installation & Operationalization of Prakritik Paint Unit on Turnkey basis at Seven different KVIC Training Centres namely Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Nashik, Panjokhara KGV, Sevapuri (Varanasi) & Chitrakoot (M.P.)

The RFP Document containing the details of eligibility criteria, submission requirement, brief objective & scope of work and evaluation criteria etc., can be downloaded from the KVIC website www.kvic.org.in

The last date for submission for RFP bid is 30.07.2021 upto 1:00 pm. Sealed envelope marked to the Director (Capacity Building), containing RFP bid may be submitted mentioning "Request for Proposal for setup, installation and operationalization of Khadi Prakritik Paint Unit on Turnkey basis at Seven different KVIC Training Centres" on the top of the cover.

Director (Capacity Building)

## Rain lashes city, likely to continue for 48 hours

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 13

Incessant rains on Tuesday - sometimes heavy at times just drizzles - soaked the city, flooding the streets and leading to traffic snarls at many places across the state capital. Meanwhile, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) warned that the city can expect similar weather over the next two days.

Parts of the city received nearly 3 cm of rain since morning with 34 locations across the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area receiving over 2 cm of rain, according to the Telangana State Planning Society (TSPDS) which maintains a large number of automated rain gauges and weather stations in the city and across the state. Following the rains, there were incidents of water-logging and overflowing of streets across the city. Raj Bhavan Road, Chintal Market Road and several other roads were unclogged by GHMC officials. As per TSPDS, the highest rainfall in the city (till 9.20 pm) was recorded at the Owaisi Community Hall in Kanchanbagh, measuring 29 mm.

## RECOVERIES HIGH THAN COVID-19 CASES IN AP

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 13

The recoveries were higher than Corona infections in AP as 2,567 new infections registered and 3,034 patients discharged after recovery from Covid-19 in the past 24 hours on Tuesday. As many as 81,763 samples were tested in the past 24 hours in which 2,567 found Covid-19 positive and a total of 2,31,30,708 samples tested in 13 districts of AP State. The cumulative Corona infections were 19,26,988 in which total recoveries were 18,87,236 and 18 new Corona deaths registered increased the total death toll to 13,042.

Four new Covid-19 deaths were in Guntur district followed by three deaths each in Chittoor and Nellore districts, two deaths each in East Godavari, Prakasam and West Godavari districts.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA IRRIGATION AND CAD DEPARTMENT		
O/o The Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, G.V.Gudem, Nalgonda.	Name of the work	Estimate Cost
1/SE/2021-22 Dt. 13.07.2021	18/CAD Dept. AMRLBC Project - Rehabilitation and resettlement of Chandrapally(V), Nalgonda (MDist) coming under submerged area of USBR-Estimate for raising of existing drains for internal road and Sub roads M1, M2, M3, M4 Block A of R&R of Chandrapally(V), Nalgonda (MDist)	Rs. 60.81 lakhs
12SE/2021-22 Dt. 13.07.2021	18/CAD Dept. AMRLBC Project - Rehabilitation and resettlement of Chandrapally(V), Nalgonda (MDist) coming under submerged area of USBR-Estimate for raising of existing drains for internal road and Sub roads M1, M2, M3, M4 Block A of R&R of Chandrapally(V), Nalgonda (MDist)	Rs. 60.48 lakhs
13SE/2021-22 Dt. 13.07.2021	18/CAD Dept. AMRLBC Project - Rehabilitation and resettlement of Chandrapally(V), Nalgonda (MDist) coming under submerged area of USBR-Estimate for raising of drains in Block B of R&R of Chandrapally(V), Nalgonda (MDist)	Rs. 110.50 lakhs

Submission of Tender Documents last date: 28-07-2021 upto 3:00 p.m. Further information visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in

DPR.R.O. No.: 1954-PP-CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22 Date: 13-07-2021 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, G.V.Gudem, Nalgonda

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 29, DATED : 14.07.2021

COFMOW (INDIAN RAILWAYS)

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 29, DATED : 14.07.2021

PCMM/COFMOW's Office invites e-Bids for the following STORES Tenders:

Tender No.	Brief Description	Closing Date
OP-7207005B	Grit/Shot Blasting Plant Machine,	06.08.2021
OP-909573	Pneumatic Coil Spreading Machine.	12.08.2021

Bidders may visit the website www.reps.gov.in to download the tender document and submit their e-Bids. No manual offers shall be accepted.

**CORRIGENDUM, DATED : 14.07.2021**

# DECCAN Chronicle

14 JULY 2021

## Pushing two-child policy: Can it ramp up growth?

**N**ot since the dark days of the Emergency, when the late Sanjay Gandhi became an extra-constitutional authority and ordered a mass sterilisation drive in which the poor were mostly caught up, have we heard of coercive population control policies. The Himanta Biswa Sarma government in Assam kicked off with blatant public announcements last month, asking the Muslim minorities to be "decent" and adopt a two-child norm, the implication being that Muslim couples alone have more than two children.

The Yogi Adityanath government in UP has hardly lagged behind and has made proposals of a similar nature. Fundamentally, in both Assam and UP, the idea is to deprive families with more than two children of government benefits and subsidies, and to accord benefits to families with no more than two offspring.

While this is not spelt out, the unspoken assumption seems to be to get at the minorities, although it is not yet clear how the issue would pan out in the case of non-Muslim families which have two children or more. So, there is turmoil on the horizon if the policies under consideration are sought to be implemented.

As far as the Hindu Right goes, the idea of population control for Muslims goes back a long way. It is interesting to recall that the Jana Sangh, the precursor of the BJP, tore into Indira Gandhi for the Emergency, but not Sanjay Gandhi — the architect of the sterilisation drive — whose widow afterward found a place of honour in the saffron party.

Indeed, before the Assam and UP state government plans were put on the table in recent weeks, some BJP MPs had moved private member Bills in Parliament along similar lines. One of them, Ajay Bhatt of Uttarakhand, was recently made a minister. Rakesh Sinha, a nominated Member close to BJP, moved a similar Bill, as did Ravi Kishan, a UP MP. Mr Sinha appears to be keen on reviving his Bill in the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament.

The idea that large populations dragged down economic growth, and hence practically wiped out prospects of rapid economic development in developing societies, once had a measure of acceptance even in academic literature. But the very fast rise of China has doused enthusiasm for that view. The forcibly implemented one-child policy has had to abandoned. It led to serious economic consequences with shrinking of the labour force and the rise of older people demanding state support.

Standard economic development theory shows that more children are associated with poor societies as more children translate to more earning members in conditions of poverty. According to the last population census (2011), the rate of growth of population among Muslims was higher than the Hindus. This is consistent with the official finding that Muslims in India are poorer than even the scheduled caste population on average, and have a literacy rate that is well below the national average.

However, it is important to note that, according to the National Family Health Survey-3, fertility is declining at a faster rate among Muslims than among Hindus. This aspect is wholly lost in popular — especially political — discourse as communal agendas are sharpened on the basis of faster (although declining) population growth data. The poverty angle is wholly discounted as higher populations are spuriously co-related to religious teachings, fuelling majoritarian anxieties.

When a comprehensive national effort is needed to fight the pandemic, the present dispensation is expected to have squelched population-related communalism. It has done no such thing.

## Soccer's race hurdle

**I**t seems they were the best of times when the universal sport of football ruled the airwaves from Europe and South America. Poetry in motion, which flowing soccer is, may have come like a balm when the coronavirus pandemic raged in many parts of the world. But they also seemed like the worst of times as the game brought with it all its attendant evils like false nationalism, hooliganism and outright racism.

An absorbing final of the Euro 2020 competition in which the England team, which had whipped up overwhelming enthusiasm, came up short in the penalty shootout was followed by the worst kind of on-site as well as online behaviour. Thousands of brutes of fans had already invaded the Wembley Stadium in London before kick-off and created bedlam inside for paying spectators. Scenes of weekend drunkenness gave way to violence as English soccer hooligans began beating up Italian supporters as they were exiting the arena after Italy's triumph.

In its excess, demonstrative loyalty to the national team can be an embarrassing jingoistic phenomenon, with politicians themselves not loath to climbing the bandwagon and appropriating popular sentiment. The beautiful game is to be enjoyed, not to be berated its players like many did on the social media, particularly roasting the three hapless players of colour who missed penalty kicks for England in a nerve-shredding shootout.

The social media is a modern phenomenon that lends itself too easily to toxic content in hate mongering and several evils as common people use them as platforms to display their biases. Big Tech exacerbates the problem as it does little to filter out the obvious, even when there are giveaways symptoms as in the use of icons such as bananas, monkeys and gorillas to deride people of certain races.

The FA and UK government have stood up to the racism of Internet ruffians. But fans were also guilty of booing when teams "took the knee" to condemn just the kind of racism that gives football, with its historical hooliganism, such a bad name. There is much to be done towards stamping it out from public spheres like sport.

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KAUSHIK MITTER  
Editor

The bigger the organisation the more complex and stumble-prone the process of recalibrating it to deliver on the manifest destiny of being the unassailable champion is what the meticulous exercise in expansion, face-saving resignations and reappointments looks like from a distance.

**T**he bigger the organisation the more complex and stumble-prone the process of recalibrating it to deliver on the manifest destiny of being the unassailable champion is what the meticulous exercise in expansion, face-saving resignations and reappointments looks like from a distance.

Basically, the BJP, at least in West Bengal, has temporised. It has included and given representation to the marginalised, which in an electoral democracy is a big positive as it works as an inclusion mechanism for people who had not been given a share in power. It has boosted the image of never represented or seriously powerless communities as it seems to have done painstakingly and methodically across the Hindi speaking heartland and in its stronghold of Karnataka and in the other states from where it has drawn its new ministers.

Seen through the lens of a state that delivered an electoral verdict which was as much an evaluation of 10 years of Mamata Banerjee's government in West Bengal as it was of the seven years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule at the Centre and the BJP's communally divisive Hindutva agenda and plans for domination on the basis of "one nation-one party", the 43 new additions (including seven promoted to the Cabinet from junior ministerships) in the Union government have stirred up more trouble than cheer. The inclusions, ostensibly of the marginalised, but in fact of a section of problematic claimants, have compelled the BJP to issue orders that no one should violate the party line.

In plain terms, two new ministers of state, both political mavericks, John Barla from Alipurduar and Nishit Pramanik from Cooch Behar in North Bengal, have been clearly told that reiterating the demand for breaking up West Bengal by creating a new Union territory for the north districts is not the BJP's officially approved objective and that they should watch what they say. The inclusion of Shantanu Thakur from Bongaon in North 24 Parganas as a representative of the politically divided refugee settlers from the Scheduled Caste Matua community and "namashudras" from across the border who ostensibly fled religious

persecution, the West Bengal BJP leadership, namely its chief Dilip Ghosh, felt it necessary to issue a caveat. The appointment of Subhash Sarkar is a nod to the fact that there were old-timers in the BJP before the wave of defectors arrived and seized the limelight.

Basically, the BJP, at least in West Bengal, has temporised. It has included and given representation to the marginalised, which in an electoral democracy is a big positive as it works as an inclusion mechanism for people who had not been given a share in power. It has boosted the image of never represented or seriously powerless communities as it seems to have done painstakingly and methodically across the Hindi speaking heartland and in its stronghold of Karnataka and in the other states from where it has drawn its new ministers.

Looked at from the BJP's local leadership's rush to douse expectations in West Bengal, it does seem that the party hasn't worked out how the raised status in terms of a place in the Modi ministry is to be converted into substantive action or policy or legislated action. BJP state president Dilip Ghosh equivocated on a key political issue, the inclusion of Hindu refugees and identification and exclusion of illegal Muslim migrants from across the border, by saying it was all up to Mamata Banerjee to implement the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens. Given her emphatic refusal to do any such thing, it seems that the BJP has pushed the CAA-NRC to the back of the list of deliverables. It's equally significant that Assam's chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has modified his initial position on the CAA-NRC and Muslims; he has declared that old Muslim

settlers were with him on identifying new illegals.

"Mainstreaming" the marginalised, converting one individual into an elite representative: is that enough? The question is fundamental to meeting expectations, where such expectations exist that the BJP is aware of and has a strategic position on. The question is equally important to policymaking over the next three years.

What, if anything, are the 27 new Other Backward Caste, 11 women, 12 new Scheduled Caste and eight new Scheduled Tribe ministers in the Modi Cabinet going to deliver for their specific constituencies?

Having raised the status and stoked aspirations, the Modi government must have a plan to convert the newly bestowed prominence and the desires that go with it into something tangible that would then work to firmly bind the community's loyalties to the BJP, in the state elections between now and 2024, and of course in 2024.

The Cabinet's overhaul and its vast expansion is a tacit acknowledgment that the government was treading water and going nowhere in managing the crises that continue to overwhelm India's population: containing the killer virus, providing health services, offering relief to the brutally affected poor as a consequence of the economy's standstill or slowdown and cranking up the economy even as inflation threatens to spiral out of control.

The rejig focused on health, labour, employment, education and petrol prices. The followup announcements on increased financial allocations for key problems, including farmers' demands raised by the seven-month protest, the world's longest ever such anti-governance

**The visuals of super-spreader crowds at Kempy Falls in BJP-ruled Uttarakhand is incontrovertible evidence of a failure of governance**

**Shikha Mukerjee is a senior journalist in Kolkata**



Rod Liddle

## How language gets mangled: 'Myselfitis' on the rampage?

**I**thought that this week I would share with you a bunch of words and phrases which are currently overused and I find thoroughly annoying. The idea came to me after hearing a woman with the IQ of a soap dispenser speaking on Radio 4 about the programme Love Island. In the course of her peroration she continually referred to myself. Not to me, but to herself as "myself". Such as: "I would say so far as myself is concerned..." No, dear. The word is "I".

She is far from the only culprit. "Myselfitis" is spreading rather more rapidly than the Delta variant. So too is its kind of antithesis. Twice recently I have been asked by phone-callers if "yourself" is happy with the service being provided, etc. Why do they do this? Do they think that addressing me as "you" is too blunt? Or is it an attempt to make their grammar more pretentious so that I might afford them greater respect? I have to say, if this is the case, it doesn't work. It makes me want to smash their spectacles and spit on their shoes.

One suggestion I've heard is that

"myself" gets misused (it's a reflexive pronoun) because the speaker is worried about the egotism inherent in the word "me". So it's a kind of false modesty. Whatever, it gets my goat. So does the wholly unnecessary use of the word "today" — again, usually deployed by people in the service sector. Such as "How can I help you today?" or, upon my entering a restaurant — one I've never been in — "And where would you like to sit today?"

I can't for the life of me work out what "today" in this context signifies. Is it something taught at some hospitality finishing school? "Always add the word 'today' when talking to a customer. It will let them know how alert you are." Or do they think that I am not wholly aware that it is today — that it might, instead, be yesterday, or several weeks ago, or tomorrow?

These infractions are not politically offensive, of course, and not really something to get worked up about. They are just another tiny little reason why I will not necessarily rage against the dying of the light, when the dying of the light finally arrives,

but instead greet it warmly, shaking it by the hand.

Equally minor is the verbal tic I hear more and more often when people are about to state an opinion. The ubiquitous prefix: "You know what..."? One supposes that this is intended to let the listener know he or she is about to be granted an audience to a hidden truth of great meaning and import. Whereas in fact the speaker is just about to tell you that he intends to wear a face mask after July 19, or something similarly humdrum and boring and stupid. These words and phrases are kind of prosthetic limbs for the intellectually amputated. But sure, they are not something about which one should get too overwrought.

The remaining annoyances, though, all have political or cultural baggage draped over their shoulders. The word "vile", for example, is overused to such an extent that it has almost lost its meaning. It is always deployed when a charge of racism has been made, as if the writer or speaker is bound by law not merely to distance themselves from whatever transgression had been made, but

to eviscerate that transgression with the most severe word they can find in their stunted lexicon. The various "racist" social media posts made by the "disgraced" cricketer Ollie Robinson were described across the national press as being "vile". They were nothing of the sort. They were daft, at the very most. And this mangling of language matters, especially when it comes to check exactly what Robinson had said. They will have been content to believe simply that they were "vile".

Likewise, the word "toxic". In my world, no words are toxic. Stuff which is toxic includes Strontium-90, blue asbestos and nerve gas: not words. But "toxic" these days is used simply to describe comments which run counter to the opinion of the person passing comment, or perhaps counter to the prevailing orthodoxy.

This may make those words problematic or controversial, but it does not make them "toxic". Which brings me to "survivor". I speak as a survivor of measles, chickenpox, pneumonia and, following a riotous holiday in Thailand many years ago, peculiarly resilient public

lice. But me? I'm OK. I'll get by. I survived. Whereas once you were a survivor if you had managed to get into one of the Titanic's lifeboats or had fought and been wounded on the Somme, it is now used to describe people — usually women — who were touched inappropriately on the top of the leg by an unpleasantly sweating middle-aged bloke. They are "survivors". The word is deployed (by the Left) because to use the word "victim" is disempowering. And yet "survivor" is in a sense even more disempowering because it implies that their entire lives have been defined by that rogue accosting. Never has a word been more devalued than "survivor".

Then there are the phrases used by the Left to deny reality. Such as "lived experience" and "my truth", which these days easily trump objective fact: if you think you experienced it, you must be right, despite all the evidence to the contrary. And best of all — social justice. There is no such thing as social justice.

By arrangement with *the Spectator*

Subhani



## Managing expectations after Modi's big shuffle

Shikha Mukerjee

### LETTERS

#### SIRISHA'S FEAT

It is a proud moment for the people of the Telugu states that Sirisha Bandla, hailing from Guntur, has travelled by the Virgin Galactic to become the third Indo-American woman astronaut to travel in space. She deserves the congratulations of our nation in achieving this feat.

**Dhiraj Dangoria**  
Hyderabad

#### CHOKSI, STAN

Choksi who swindled ₹13,000 crore in our country and is in the custody of Dominican Republic gets bail. (*Choksi gets bail from Dominica for treatment*, DC, July 13, 2021). He was granted bail by the court in Dominica which said, "to uphold the rule of law and right of human to be treated in the medical facilities of his choice". In contrast we see how our country treated an 84-year-old sick man Stan Swamy. He ultimately died in custody. There is a need to respect the rights of a citizen by the constitutional authorities.

**P.J. David**  
Hyderabad

#### VAX CENTRE SCARY

People reaching the Urban Primary Health Centre, Vinayaknagar, Medchal Malkajgiri district, for their second dose of Covid-19 vaccine are not following social distancing norms. The staff are not issuing tokens. The cops posted there are of no help at all.

**T.S. Noel Prashanth**  
Secunderabad

#### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

#### 'Padma' not carrying US arms to Pak

**BALTIMORE**, July 13. The manager of shipping agency in charge of loading a Pakistani ship, reportedly carrying military hardware to that country, has offered to give peace demonstrators "any military cargo" they might find being loaded on the vessel.

East-West shipping agencies manager Walter Spieker told representatives of the protesters yesterday that "there is no military cargo scheduled to go on board the 'Padma' here".

The only cargo on board the ship Mr. Spieker said was 1,800 tonnes of general cargo including steel, flour, glassware and so on.



## SHORT TAKES

**TAMIL NADU CM WRITES TO PM ON VACCINES**DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, JULY 13

Chief Minister M K Stalin sought the immediate personal intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to correct the imbalance in the vaccine allocation for Tamil Nadu and urged him to make a special allocation of 1 crore vaccine doses so that the State could vaccinate the targeted population in the shortest possible time.

In a letter to the Prime Minister on Tuesday, Stalin said: 'I invite your kind attention to my earlier letter dated 27-05-2021, wherein I had requested your immediate intervention in making a special allocation of Covid-19 vaccines to Tamil Nadu to correct the disproportionately low allocation made to the State, in terms of doses made available per thousand eligible population.'

The Chief Minister said that till July 8, the State had received only 29,18,110 doses of vaccines from Government of India to inoculate the people in 18-44 years category and 1,30,08,440 doses for the above 45 years category.

**U'KHAND GOVT CANCELS KANWAR YATRA**

**Dehradun, Jul 13:** The Uttarakhand government on Tuesday cancelled the Kanwar Yatra in view of the looming threat of a third wave of Covid-19.

"We decided to cancel the yatra, according to the topmost priority to human life in view of the threat of a possible third wave, the surfacing of the Delta Plus variant of the virus and its impact across the country and abroad," Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said.

The decision was taken after a meeting with senior officials and considering all aspects into account including the opinion of medical experts, he said.

The chief minister also asked Director General of Police Ashok Kumar to coordinate with officials of the neighbouring states and request them to take effective steps to stop the pandemic from spreading.

It is for the second consecutive year that the yatra is not being held due to the pandemic in BJP-ruled Uttarakhand. However, neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, where the saffron party is in power, has allowed the yatra from July 25.

**NEET-PG EXAM TO BE HELD ON SEPT. 11**

**New Delhi, Jul 13:** The NEET postgraduate exam will be held on September 11, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced on Tuesday.

In view of a spike in Covid-19 cases, the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test-Post Graduate (NEET-PG) which was scheduled to be held on April 18 was postponed.

"We have decided to conduct #NEET Postgraduate exam on 11th September 2021. My best wishes to young medical aspirants!" the minister tweeted.

On Monday, the Centre announced that the NEET-Under Graduate (UG) 2021 will be held on September 12 across the country while following Covid-19 protocols.

The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) in a notice said according to the announcement made today by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, "the NEET-PG 2021 has been rescheduled to be held on 11th September 2021".



A damaged road due to flash flood at Sheela village near Dharamshala on Tuesday. — PTI

**Monsoon covers entire country, confirms IMD****Monsoon covered its last outposts in Raj on Monday****New Delhi, July 13:**

After advancing over Delhi-NCR, the Southwest Monsoon covered the entire country on Tuesday after a delay of five days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The Southwest Monsoon usually covers the entire country on July 8. The earlier normal date for the monsoon to cover the entire country was July 15. Last year, the IMD revised its onset date for several areas.

It is also one of the usual instances when monsoon has covered the national capital in the end. The monsoon covered its last outposts — the desert town of Jaisalmer and Ganganagar in Rajasthan — on Monday but evaded Delhi. It covered Barmer, another desert district in Rajasthan some two weeks before its normal onset date.

On Tuesday, several parts of the NCR received rainfall following which the IMD declared monsoon's arrival in Delhi.

In association with the continued prevalence of

moist easterly winds from the Bay of Bengal in the lower levels since past four days, enhanced cloud cover and scattered to fairly widespread rainfall, the Southwest Monsoon has further advanced into remaining parts of the country including Delhi, remaining parts of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan," the IMD said.

It hit Kerala on June 3, two days after its normal date of June 1. It rapidly covered most parts of central, west, east, north-east and south India by June 15. It also covered many parts of north India.

However, its advance over parts of west Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and Punjab was halted due to unfavourable conditions like the westerlies, lack of any system that could push the monsoon winds further.

Meanwhile, the much-awaited Southwest Monsoon finally arrived in Delhi on Tuesday bringing respite from scorching summer temperatures, with weather officials saying the onset

has been over two weeks behind the schedule, making it the most delayed in 19 years.

The IMD had on June 13 forecast that monsoon will hit nearly two weeks before its normal date of June 15. However, in reality, the monsoon reached Delhi nearly two weeks after its normal date. The monsoon had entered a "break" phase and there was virtually no progress from June 20 to July 8.

Over the last one month, the weather department struggled to accurately predict when the monsoon will reach the capital and came under sharp criticism

when the wind system repetitively gave Delhi a miss despite favourable conditions.

After several wayward forecasts, the IMD on Monday acknowledged that "such type of failure by numerical models in the prediction of monsoon over the capital is rare and uncommon".

It had earlier said monsoon would hit Delhi on June 15, which would have been 12 days early, but the wind system

entered a "break" phase.

In early June, the Met office said the conditions will become favourable for the monsoon to advance to Delhi and other parts of northwest India by July 7. Later, it said Delhi will get its first monsoon rains around July 10.

The weather department revised the forecast yet again on Saturday, saying the monsoon may reach the capital in the next 24 hours. But it kept the city waiting on Sunday and there was hardly any rainfall on Monday too.

On Tuesday, when the monsoon finally embraced Delhi, the Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative figures for the city, recorded 28.1 mm rainfall between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm.

The weather stations at Palam (8.2 mm), Lodi Road (37.8 mm), Ridge (11.4 mm), and Ayanagar (8.6 mm) during the period.

Rainfall recorded below 15 mm is considered light, between 15 and 45.4 mm is moderate, between 45.4 mm and 115.5 mm is heavy, between 115.6 and 204.4 is very heavy. — PTI

**LANDSLIDE IN BOH VALLEY: ONE DEAD, 9 TRAPPED**

**Dharamsala (HP), Jul 13:** Rescue operations are underway in Kangra district's Boh valley following a landslide in which one person died and nine others are still feared trapped beneath the debris.

A team of the National Disaster Response Force rescued four people on Monday and efforts are being made to pull others out of the rubble, an official said on Tuesday.

Kangra SP Vimukt Ranjan said a woman died and nine others are still feared trapped under the debris after their houses collapsed due to a landslide triggered by heavy rains in Boh Valley on Monday.

During his visit to Boh valley on Tuesday, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said the state government will provide new houses to those whose houses were destroyed in flash floods or landslides. — PTI

**21% deficit rainfall leaves Odisha farmers worried**

**DC CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR, JULY 13**

Despite making a good onset a month ago with heavy downpours, the southwest monsoon in Odisha has so far remained mostly weak, causing serious concerns to the farmers.

The peasants — who mostly grow paddy and pulses — are now apprehensive of a good crop season sans adequate water for irrigation.

The state has received a cumulative deficit of 21 per cent rainfall between June 1 and July 13 as compared to the long term average during the period, the Regional Meteorological Centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Bhubaneswar said on Tuesday.

The total average rainfall received in the state during the period stood at 273.6 mm.

The state as a whole recorded 17 per cent deficiency in rainfall during the month of June.

"The deficit in rainfall has already affected the sowing season. We hope for an early turnaround in the situation. Without a normal monsoon, the per acre productivity of paddy and other crops will go down drastically," said Ashok Baral, a farmer of Khurda.

As many as 17 districts namely Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Bolangir, Boudh, Sonepur, Angul, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Jajpur, Bhadrak and Mayurbhanj received deficient rainfall between 59 per cent and 20 per cent during the period.

Similarly, the amount of rainfall stood between 19 per cent deficient and 19 per cent excess of the normal in the rest 13 dis-

tricts of the State which includes Malkangiri, Koraput, Nuapada, Bargh, Sundargarh, Balasore, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha and Nayagarh.

In the past 24 hours, the average rainfall received in the state stood at 8.3 mm which is 27 per cent less than the normal figure, said the IMD.

Kalinga station in Kadhamal district received the maximum 44.0 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours followed by Malkangiri (43.4 mm), Batagaon in Sambalpur (40.0mm) and Talcher (40.0mm).

Taking to its Twitter page, the weather forecasting agency informed that the southwest monsoon covered the entire country by July 13 after a delay of almost five days. The monsoon usually covers the country by July 8.

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## SHORT TAKES

## INDIAN NAVY RECEIVES 10TH P-8I AIRCRAFT

PAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

Amidst it being used to keep an eye on Chinese in Ladakh, Indian Navy on Tuesday received its 10th long-range maritime reconnaissance anti-submarine warfare capable P-8I aircraft from Boeing.

The Indian Navy was the first international customer for the P-8I and today operates the largest non-US fleet.

This is the second aircraft to be delivered under an option contract for four additional aircraft that the defence ministry awarded in 2016.

Though P-8I are meant for sea operations, India had deployed them in Ladakh for reconnaissance and surveillance purposes amidst the ongoing stand-off with China.

It was first during the 73-day-long standoff at Doklam in 2017 with Chinese that India had deployed P-8I for surveillance purposes and were surprised with its capability even on land.

"I came to know about the capabilities of the P-8I anti-submarine warfare planes after they were deployed in Doklam for surveillance," CDS General Bipin Rawat, had said last year.

## ONLINE CLASSES RESUME IN MADHYA PRADESH

RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY | DC  
BHOPAL, JULY 13

Private schools association in Madhya Pradesh called off its indefinite strike and resumed online classes on Tuesday.

Around 47,000 private schools affiliated to Madhya Pradesh higher secondary education board and Central board of secondary education had suspended online classes on Monday demanding waiving of annual recognition fee and resumption of physical classes at least for standard nine to standard 12 students.

The association, however, met here late on Monday night till early hours of Tuesday and decided to call off their strike in the interest of the students, the association said.

The association decided to continue to mount pressure on the state government to accept to their demands.

A rift in the association over the decision to suspend online classes indefinitely had caused the association to end the strike, sources said.

## VIJAY TOLD TO PAY TAX ON HIS IMPORTED CAR

J. STALIN | DC  
CHENNAI, JULY 13

The Madras high court on Tuesday criticised actor Vijay for his attempts to avoid paying entry tax as per the statute for the luxury car he imported saying people who paid their taxes properly are the real heroes. The court dismissed the actor's petition with a cost of ₹1 lakh and directed him to pay the tax in two weeks.

Vijay had approached the court seeking a restraint on the authorities from demanding or collecting entry tax on the new Rolls Royce Ghost car he imported in 2012.

"In the absence of payment of entry tax by the petitioner within two weeks, the authorities are directed to initiate all further actions by following the procedures as contemplated under the statutes for recovery of the entry tax from the petitioner as well as the consequential liability if any, as per the provisions of the act and rules," Justice S.M. Subramanian said in his order.

The petitioner/actor has large scale fan groups and those fans are seeing him as real hero, the court noted. Cine heroes have become rulers in the state, the judge said, adding that they are not expected to behave like reel heroes.

Vijay had contended that he had paid import duty to the customs department. However, the regional transport officer, Chennai South, refused to register his vehicle without a certificate issued by the Customs saying no entry tax was payable for the vehicle. The Customs, however, took the stand that entry tax should be paid for the vehicle. Vijay contended that the Customs was imposing an extraordinary entry tax and that his vehicle was lying idle as it could not be operated on public roads without registration.

## Security matters



Army soldier trains youths aspiring to join armed forces near Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan border in Kausalian village of Poonch on Tuesday. — PTI

## Up in arms, West Bengal BJP MLAs quit House panel posts

**Adhikari, BJP MLAs meet Guv over Roy's appointment as PAC chief**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA, JULY 13

Eight West Bengal BJP MLAs jointly resigned as chairmen of various Assembly standing committees on Tuesday in protest of Mukul Roy's appointment as the public accounts committee (PAC) chairman after his defection to the Trinamul Congress from their party.

They are Manoj Tiggia, BJP legislative party chief whip, Anandamoy Burman, Ashok Kirtaniya, Nikhil Ranjan Dey, Bishnupada Sharma, Dipak Burman, Mihir Goswami and Krishna Kalyani.

They tendered their resignations to Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee who appointed Mr Roy as the PAC head last week. The move is bound to affect the legislative work of the panels.

Led by leader of the

opposition Suvendu Adhikari, the BJP MLAs later met governor Jagdeep Dhankhar at Raj Bhavan and complained to him against Mr Banerjee's role in awarding the post of PAC head to Mr Roy against whom they already moved a disqualification petition under the anti-defection law.

Mr Adhikari said, "Eight of our party MLAs resigned from their posts as chairmen of the Assembly standing committees for the politicisation of the PAC post. The governor is the constitutional custodian of the Assembly. We sought his interference about the deprivation to us by the ruling TMC in the House. We, as the main opposition party, should have got the PAC post as per the norms but we did not. This is also the first time the rule was broken."

He added, "We have

enough evidence against Mr Roy for his present political status. From the video footage of his entry to the TMC to his tweets, everything proves that he is very much in the TMC. Besides, his name for the PAC post was proposed by a TMC MLA. Still the speaker found him in the BJP and gave the post to him. It shows that the ruling party does not want its financial corruption to be revealed. Next week, we will submit the copies of deputation to President Ram Nath Kovind and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla against the Assembly Speaker for his decision."

Lashing out at the Nandigram BJP MLA, TMC MP Sougata Roy however alleged, "Mr Adhikari has no knowledge of the Assembly rules in the appointment of PAC chairman. The post can go to any member of the House."

It is likely to send a parliamentary delegation with the demand to the poll panel in New Delhi on July 15. It may suggest a seven-day campaign period from 10 am and 7 pm daily.

Sources said the TMC,

### TMC TO ASK ELECTION COMMISSION FOR EARLY ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS

RAJIB CHOWDHURI  
KOLKATA, JULY 13

West Bengal's ruling Trinamul Congress has decided to raise its demand to the Election Commission for early Assembly bypolls in the seven seats of the state following a significant drop in the Covid-19 infection rate.

It is likely to send a parliamentary delegation with the demand to the poll panel in New Delhi on July 15. It may suggest a seven-day campaign period from 10 am and 7 pm daily.

Sources said the TMC, which suspects the EC is working under the top BJP leadership's influence, fears that if there is a

delay in the Assembly bypolls in the event of a Covid-19 "third wave" by October-November, it may prevent its supremo Mamata Banerjee continuing as chief minister.

Ms Banerjee, who is a non-elected member of the Assembly due to her defeat to Suvendu Adhikari of the BJP at Nandigram, needs to win a seat in the bypolls and become an MLA within six months to retain her Chief Minister's chair.

She is all set to contest from her home turf, Bhowanipore, in the bypolls. The seat was recently vacated by state minister Sovandeb Chatterjee, who is expected to fight from Khardah in North 24 Parganas.

## India's first Covid patient tests +ve again

**Thrissur, July 13:** A woman medico, who was India's first Covid-19 case, has tested positive again for the virus, health authorities said here on Tuesday.

"She is reinfected with Covid-19. Her RT-PCR is positive, antigen is negative. She is asymptomatic," Thrissur DM O Dr K J Reena said.

Her samples were tested as she was prepared to go to New Delhi for study purposes.

Then the RT-PCR result turned out to be positive, she said.

The woman is presently at home and "she is OK," the doctor said.

It was on January 30, 2020 that the third year medical student from Wuhan university tested positive for coronavirus, becoming the country's first Covid-19 patient, days after she had returned home following semester holidays. After nearly three weeks of treatment at the Thrissur Medical College Hospital, she had tested negative twice for the virus, confirming her recovery, and was discharged on February 20, 2020.

Meanwhile, two more persons, including a woman, tested positive for Zika virus in Kerala on Tuesday, taking the total number of infections in the state to 21. — PTI



Joined PM @narendramodi's interaction with CMs of North Eastern states on the #Covid-19 situation earlier today. PM emphasised on #Test-#Track-#Treat-#Vaccine strategy to prevent the spread of #Covid-19. During the meeting PM stressed on debunking the myths against vaccination and on how important it is for the North-East to ensure 'Vaccination for All-Free for All' (sic)

— G. KISHAN REDDY  
Minister of development of North Eastern region

A 35-year-old man, hailing from nearby Poothura and a 41-year-old woman, native of Sasthamangalam here, were found infected with the virus, state Health Minister Veena George said. She urged people to be vigilant as the number of those testing positive for Zika virus has increased in the state. — PTI

## AICC member urges Sonia to restrain Digvijaya

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC  
MUMBAI, JULY 13

All India Congress Committee (AICC) member Vishwabandhu Rai has written to Congress president Sonia Gandhi asking her to control Digvijaya Singh as he is angering the Hindu voters in order to please a particular community's voters.

In his letter addressed to Mrs Gandhi, the AICC member said that Digvijaya Singh has angered the Hindu voters by raising the issue of reimposition of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Rai also sent a cartoon along with the letter. In the cartoon, Mr.

The letter has also gone viral and is being retweeted by the BJP leaders including Madhya

Singh was portrayed as burying a coffin of the Congress party.

With the Subject line, "There is a dire need to rein in Digvijaya Singh's tongue", Mr. Rai, who was former Mumbai General Secretary and close aide of Sanjay Nirupam, said, "Digvijaya Singh has been continuously angering the Hindu voters of the party since 2003 when he was ousted from power in Madhya Pradesh. He is constantly trying to hurt the sentiments of Hindus to please only a particular section of the country's voters."

In his letter addressed to Mrs Gandhi, the AICC member said that Digvijaya Singh has angered the Hindu voters by raising the issue of reimposition of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Rai also sent a cartoon along with the letter. In the cartoon, Mr.

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● ALL INDIA CONGRESS Committee (AICC) member Vishwabandhu Rai also sent a cartoon along with the letter.

Pradesh Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra.

"...Now it needs to be seen whether Mrs Gandhi takes action against Mr. Singh or supports his anti-Hindu statements," the senior BJP leader tweeted in Hindi. Mr. Rai also claimed that the country's majority Hindu population considers the irresponsible statement of Digvijaya Singh as the official thinking of the Congress party. Due to this, the Hindu voter is continuously moving

away from the party. On the other hand, even his appeasement politics is not increasing his follower base. The former Mumbai Congress General Secretary claimed that Mr. Singh's rhetoric is also one of the reasons for the defeat of the Congress party in UP

from time to time."

The letter also said that the people have started viewing the Congress party as an anti-Hindu party.

"Please take my words seriously and start the process of locking Digvijaya Singh's tongue so that the Hindu population of the country is not hurt again and again," the letter mentioned.

Cautioning the party high command about Mr.

Singh's role in upcoming assembly elections, Mr. Rai said, "His role (Digvijaya Singh's role) in the politics of Uttar Pradesh should be reviewed. The beginning of the disintegration of the Congress party in UP has started due to his unchecked statements from time to time."

The letter also said that the people have started viewing the Congress party as an anti-Hindu party.

"Please take my words seriously and start the process of locking Digvijaya Singh's tongue so that the Hindu population of the country is not hurt again and again," the letter mentioned.

Cautioning the party high command about Mr.

Pradesh, the demand for a similar population control policy in another BJP-ruled state, Karnataka, has been raised by BJP national general secretary and MLA C.T. Ravi, who tweeted: "With the limited natural resources available, it will be difficult to meet the needs of every citizen if there is a population explosion."

Karnataka law minister Basavaraj Bommai has said that a decision will be taken after discussion and deliberation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Independence Day speech in 2019, had expressed concern over the population explosion

from Gorakhpur Ravi Kisen's private member's bill could come up in the first week of the session, Rajya Sabha MP Rakesh Sinha's bill is also waiting to get a date for introduction.

Mr. Sinha asserts that a balance between resources and population is inevitable and population control "should not become a victim of the communal discourse".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Independence Day speech in 2019, had expressed concern over the population explosion

in the country. The proposed legislation on population control lays emphasis on disincentivising couples having more than two children, by making them ineligible for government jobs and subsidies on various facilities and goods given by the government.

After Assam and Uttar

BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyaya seeking the introduction of a two-child norm or framing a new law to control births. Meanwhile, slamming the government on the issue of price rise, the Congress on Tuesday said there is no respite from its "economic mess" and demanded that fuel prices and GST rates on mass-consumed goods be reduced to provide relief to the common people.

It also hoped that a joint strategy would be evolved by various parties to raise the issue in the upcoming session of Parliament.

## AAP always recognised my vision: Sidhu



Chandigarh, July 13: Amid attempts by the Congress high command to resolve the infighting in the party's Punjab unit, party leader Navjot Singh Sidhu on Tuesday said the opposition Aam Aadmi Party has always recognised his vision and work for Punjab.

His remarks came day after AAP Punjab unit chief Bhagwant Mann took a dig at the cricketer-turned-politician and asked him to tweet about the "funds" allegedly accepted by the ruling Congress from private power companies in the state.

"Our opposition AAP has always recognised my vision & work for Punjab. Be it Before 2017- Beadbhi, Drugs, Farmers Issues, Corruption & Power Crisis faced by People of Punjab raised by me or today as I present 'Punjab Model', it is clear they know who is really fighting for Punjab," Sidhu said in a series of tweets.

He said, "If the Opposition dares to question me, yet they can't escape my Pro-People Agenda ... This means they have resigned to their fate!"

Sidhu also shared old videos of AAP leaders praising him for raising his voice on several issues including the drug mafia and corruption during the previous SAD-BJP regime.

— PTI

## I am trying to avoid Dharmyuddha'

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC  
MUMBAI, JULY 13

While senior BJP leader Pankaja Munde from Maharashtra has denied she was using pressure tactics against the party, she has also issued a veiled warning that she might take a drastic step in future.

"I am trying to avoid Dharmyuddha, but when I realise that there is no worth working here, I will see what to do," she said while addressing her supporters who came to Mumbai to meet her on Tuesday.

Pankaja was reportedly upset over the non-inclusion of her sister and MP Pritam Munde in the recent expansion of the union cabinet. Her several followers have resigned

CRUCIAL POLICY

## Two Private Member Bills on the issue likely to come up

### Population Bill issue to echo in Parl

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

With the BJP-ruled states of Uttar Pradesh and Assam taking the lead in initiating the process of population control measures - an issue which is hotting up in the political discourse - the coming Monsoon Session of Parliament can also expect to see heated exchanges between the treasury and Opposition benches as at least two private members' bills are likely to come up on the same issue.

While Lok Sabha MP from Gorakhpur Ravi Kisen's private member's bill could come up in the first week of the session, Rajya Sabha MP Rakesh Sinha's bill is also waiting to get a date for introduction.

Mr. Sinha asserts that a balance between resources and population is inevitable and population control "should not become a victim of the communal discourse".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Independence

**SHORT TAKES**  
**HERZOG,  
ERDOGAN TALK IN  
SIGN OF THAW**

Jerusalem, July 13: Israel's newly inaugurated president spoke Monday with his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in a sign of a possible thaw after years of frosty relations between the two former allies.

President Isaac Herzog's office said in a statement that the two leaders emphasised "that Israel-Turkey relations are of great significance for security and stability in the eastern Mediterranean" and that cooperation had great potential for both countries. Israel and Turkey were once close regional partners, but relations between the two countries soured in the past decade. The Turkish government frequently criticises Israel's policies toward the Palestinians.

According to the Israeli President's Office statement, Herzog and Erdogan said that "ongoing dialogue despite all the differences of opinion" was important, particularly for advancing steps toward a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians.

Herzog took office last week after he was elected by the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in a June vote. He spoke Saturday with neighbouring Jordan's King Abdullah II after Israel and Jordan agreed to initiate negotiations for the sale of water to the Hashemite kingdom.

**SCRIBE ATTACK:  
GEORGIA OPPN  
ASKS PM TO QUIT**

Tbilisi, July 13: Opposition lawmakers in Georgia on Monday disrupted parliament to demand the prime minister's resignation after a TV cameraman died, blaming the ruling party for attacks on journalists. Alexander Lashkarava, who worked for independent TV news channel *Pirveli*, died on Sunday — days after he was beaten by far-right activists during a protest against an LGBTQ Pride march.

Lashkarava's death spurred demonstrations on Sunday outside parliament, drawing about 8,000 people.

On Monday, several opposition lawmakers occupied the parliament speaker's seat and demanded Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili stand down.

They claimed he and the ruling Georgian Dream party had allowed violence against media workers.

Footage aired by the independent Mtavari TV station showed chaotic scenes in the plenary chamber where opposition parliamentarians scuffled with ruling party MPs.

The session resumed after four MPs who had occupied the speaker's chair were forcibly removed from the room.

Later in the evening, some 2,000 people — including hundreds of journalists and rights activists — staged a protest outside parliament, vowing permanent demonstrations until Garibashvili resigns.

**U.S. WILDFIRES  
THREATEN HOMES  
IN 10 STATES**

Los Angeles, July 13: Wildfires that torched homes and forced thousands to evacuate burned across 10 parched Western states on Tuesday, and the largest, in Oregon, threatened California's power supply. Nearly 60 wildfires tore through bone-dry timber and brush from Alaska to Wyoming, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Arizona, Idaho and Montana accounted for more than half of the large active fires. The fires erupted as the West was in the grip of the second bout of dangerously high temperatures in just a few weeks. A climate change-fuelled megadrought also is contributing to conditions that make fires even more dangerous, scientists say.

The National Weather Service says the heat wave appeared to have peaked in many areas, and excessive-heat warnings were largely expected to expire by Tuesday. However, they continued into Tuesday night in some California deserts, and many areas were still expected to see high in the 80s and 90s.

In Northern California, a combined pair of lightning-ignited blazes dubbed the Beckwourth Complex was less than 25% surrounded after days of battling flames fuelled by winds, hot weather and low humidity that sapped the moisture from vegetation. Evacuation orders were in place for more than 3,000 residents of remote northern areas and neighbouring Nevada. There were reports of burned homes, but damage was still being tallied. The blaze had consumed 140 square miles (362 square kilometres) of land, including in Plumas National Forest.

# 92 Iraqi Covid patients die in fire

Blaze in the Nasiriyah's Al-Hussein Hospital was fuelled by explosion of oxygen canisters



Rescuers and civilians look for bodies after a catastrophic blaze erupted Monday at a Coronavirus hospital ward in the al-Hussein Teaching Hospital, in Nasiriyah, Iraq, on Tuesday.

## Merkel says jabs to remain voluntary

Berlin, July 13: Germany is not planning to follow France and other countries in introducing compulsory Covid-19 vaccinations for parts of the population, Chancellor Angela Merkel said Tuesday.

"We do not intend to go down this road," Merkel said in Berlin after visiting the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) public health agency.

"We are at the beginning of the phase in which we are still promoting (vaccination), where we have more vaccines than we have people who want to be vaccinated," she said.

After a slow start to its vaccination campaign earlier this year, Germany sped up its drive over the summer and had by Tuesday fully vaccinated 42.6 percent of adults, with 58.5 percent vaccinated at least once.

But demand has slowed over the past two weeks, with the number of jabs given on Monday at its lowest since February.

French President Emmanuel Macron had on Monday announced mandatory vaccinations for healthcare staff, retirement home workers and others working with vulnerable people from September, in line with similar moves in Greece, Italy and Britain.

But Merkel said she did not believe the German government could "gain trust" by following a similar path.

"I think we can gain trust by advertising vaccination and also by letting as many people as possible in the population (...) become ambassadors for the vaccine from their own experience," she said.

— AFP

## Macron orders all health workers to get vaccinated

Paris, July 13: French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday ordered all French health care workers to get virus vaccine shots by Sept. 15 and urged all of his compatriots to get vaccinated as soon as possible, to fight resurgent infections that are threatening the country's economic recovery. In a televised address, Macron also mandated special Covid-19 passes for anyone who wants to go to a restaurant, shopping mall or several other public places.

As dawn broke, bodies covered with sheets were laid on the ground outside the hospital. Earlier officials had said the fire was caused by an electric short circuit, but provided no more details. Another official said the blaze erupted when an oxygen cylinder exploded. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to journalists. The new ward, opened just three months ago, contained 70 beds. Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi chaired an emergency meeting in the wake of the fire and ordered the suspension and arrest of the health director in Dhi Qar, as well as the director of the hospital and the city's director of civil defence. A government investigation was also launched.

In the nearby Shiite holy city of Najaf, mourners prepared to bury some of the victims. It was the second time a large fire killed Coronavirus patients in an Iraqi hospital this year. At least 82 people died at Ibn al-Khatib hospital in Baghdad in April, when an oxygen tank exploded, sparking the blaze. That incident brought to light widespread negligence and systemic mismanagement in Iraq's hospitals.

Doctors have decried lax safety rules, especially around the oxygen cylinders. On Monday, Ammar al-Zamli, spokesman for the Dhi Qar health department, said that there were at least 63 patients inside the ward when the fire began.

Maj. Gen. Khalid Bohan, head of Iraq's civil defence, said the building was constructed from flammable materials and prone to fire. — AP

● PRIME MINISTER Mustafa al-Kadhimi ordered the suspension and arrest of the health director in Dhi Qar, as well as the director of the hospital and the city's director of civil defence.

Washington, July 13: The nation's top doctor says it's "certainly possible" that Americans eventually will be advised to get a booster shot of the Coronavirus vaccine.

Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said no decision had been made yet after a meeting with Pfizer to discuss its request for approval of a third shot of its Covid vaccine. He added as officials make their assess-

● VIVEK MURTHY said no decision had been made yet after a meeting with Pfizer to discuss its request for approval of a third shot of its Covid vaccine.

speaking against the backdrop of the Eiffel Tower. He stopped short of any new lockdown-like measures, saying "we have to live with the virus".

He said his centrist French government would declare a medical state of emergency Tuesday, which allows more freedom to impose curbs. Most European governments have shied away from mandating vaccinations. But after deaths in nursing homes, Macron said, vaccination is essential for all health care workers, nursing home workers, and workers or volunteers who care for the elderly or ailing at home. — AP

virus. The Delta variant is driving France's virus infections back up again, just as the country kicked off summer vacation season after a long-awaited reopening process. Some 40 percent of France's population is fully vaccinated.

"The country is facing a strong resumption of the epidemic touching all our territory," Macron said,

speaking against the backdrop of the Eiffel Tower. He stopped short of any new lockdown-like measures, saying "we have to live with the virus".

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## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	52769.73
Nifty 50	15812.40
S&P 500*	4,388.57
Dollar (₹)	74.49
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.20
Euro (₹)	88.21
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,856.90
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	76.38
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.103
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.356 -0.007

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## S&P keeps India rating at BBB-for 14th year

S&P Global Ratings affirmed India's sovereign rating at the lowest investment grade of 'BBB-' for the 14th year in a row with a stable outlook, and said the country's strong external settings will act as a buffer against financial strains despite elevated government funding needs over the next 24 months. The ratings reflect the economy's above-average long-term real GDP growth and sound external profile, it said.

## DGH cuts down paperwork in oilfield approval



In a major overhaul, the DGH has made it easier for firms to explore and produce oil and gas by limiting the requirement of statutory approvals to only extension of contracts, sale of stake and annual accounts while allowing self-certification and deemed approval for the rest. The Directorate General of Hydrocarbons said processes for oil and gas blocks awarded under nine bids round of NELP are being simplified.

## Hotels' body approaches Niti Aayog for help

The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India has submitted a representation to Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, alleging Oyo's business model has caused "irreparable damage" to the hospitality ecosystem. It urged the Aayog to devise a system or policy to safeguard the interests of hotel- and lodge-owners. "Oyo operates its business under a maze of more than a dozen subsidiary entities," it said.

## Mahindra prices Bolero Neo at ₹8.48 lakh

Mahindra and Mahindra introduced the Bolero Neo SUV at an introductory price of Rs 8.48 lakh across India. The Mahindra Bolero Neo is a TUV300 repositioned as a more upmarket variant of the Bolero range, and gets a 100hp, 1.5-litre diesel engine. In an attempt to change the fortune of the slow selling TUV300, Mahindra has now repositioned the sub-four-meter SUV as the new Mahindra Bolero Neo.

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## ■ Shareholders to get equal share in NMDC Steel NMDC to spin off steel unit

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, JULY 13

The NMDC board has approved the demerger of its subsidiary, NMDC Steel, into a separate company after regulatory approvals.

NMDC Steel owns a 3 million tonne per annum greenfield integrated steel plant coming up in Chhattisgarh State.

Hyderabad-based NMDC Limited is a state-owned iron ore producer and exporter.

"As a part of the demerger process fully paid-up equity shares of Rs 10 each of NMDC Steel will be issued and allotted to the equity shareholders of NMDC against over 293.06 crore fully paid up equity shares of Re 1 each held by them in NMDC," NMDC said in a disclosure to the stock exchanges.

"The new shares of NMDC Steel to be issued



In October, the CCEA had approved strategic disinvestment of NMDC Steel by selling the entire Government of India stake

and allotted to the shareholders of NMDC as consideration under the scheme would be applied for listing on all the stock exchanges where the existing equity shares of NMDC are currently listed," marking the birth of a new PSU company.

The NMDC stock gained 3.80 per cent on the BSE, closing at Rs 172.05.

"The Board of Directors of NMDC at its meeting held today, July 13, 2021, has approved the Scheme

of Arrangement for Demerger between NMDC and NMDC Steel," NMDC said.

NMDC is considering adding more value to the company's stakeholders by subsequently inviting an investor, it said.

To this effect, in October 2020, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its 'in-principle' approval to the demerger of NISP from NMDC and strategic disinvestment of NMDC Steel

"NMDC said.

"The decision to construct the NISP was taken keeping in view the linkage with iron ore reserves and availability of investible surplus," NMDC said.

"We have got to strike a balance here," Bailey said.

The BoE said it welcomed the engagement of the finance ministry and Financial Conduct Authority on how to tackle risks from cloud computing, but that a broader approach may be needed, including other regulators and overseas partners.

— Reuters

by selling the entire Government of India stake in NMDC Steel to a strategic buyer.

NMDC is engaged in the exploration and mining of a wide range of minerals including iron ore, copper, rock phosphate, limestone, dolomite, gypsum, bentonite, magnesite, diamond, tin, tungsten, graphite, and beach sands.

"As part of expansion, value addition and forward integration programme NMDC is setting up a 3 MTPA capacity greenfield integrated steel plant i.e. NISP (NMDC Iron & Steel Plant) at Nagamar, located 16 km from Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh state."

"In terms of the standards of resilience and the testing of those standards of resilience, frankly we will have to roll some of that back, that secrecy that goes with it. It's not consistent with our objectives," Bailey said.

Bailey said the BoE understood

cloud providers' desire not to reveal too much publicly about their operations, in case it opened the door to cyber-attacks, but that the firms needed to give more information to regulators and customers.

"We have got to strike a balance here," Bailey said.

The BoE said it welcomed the engagement of the finance ministry and Financial Conduct Authority on how to tackle risks from cloud computing, but that a broader approach may be needed, including other regulators and overseas partners.

— Reuters

## CLERICAL CADRE TESTS FOR PSU BANKS PUT ON HOLD

New Delhi, July 13: The finance ministry on Tuesday directed the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) to put on hold examination for clerical cadre in public sector banks (PSBs) till a final view is taken on conducting tests in regional languages.

In order to look into the demand for holding examination for clerical cadre in PSBs in local/regional languages, a committee has been constituted to look into the matter in its entirety, the ministry said in a statement. "The committee will give its recommendations within 15 days. The ongoing process of holding the examination initiated by IBPS will be kept on hold until the recommendations of the committee are made available," it added.

Recently, the IBPS issued advertisement for holding an examination for recruitment in the clerical cadre of PSBs only in two languages—English and Hindi.

There has been demand, specially from southern states, to include other recognised regional languages for conducting bank clerical cadre. There are 22 languages recognised by the Constitution.

The finance minister in July 2019 had assured Parliament that the recruitment examination for employment in the regional rural banks (RRBs) would be conducted in regional languages as well. — PTI

## Temple food, prasad to get FSSAI certification



ing office bearers and managers of the religious places in Delhi are being encouraged to go for 'Bhog certification of their 'prasad' and 'langar' by the food safety department, which guides them and tests for quality and hygiene, especially in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, officials said.

The department recently issued Bhog certificates to Akshardham temple and Sai Baba temple after a training and audit exercise, Delhi's food safety commissioner Neha Bansal said.

Project BHOG (Blissful Hygienic Offering to God) is an initiative by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to encourage religious places to maintain and adopt best practices in the manufacturing and handling of 'prasad' and other food items.

"We are in touch with several religious places like temples and gurdwaras in the city, including Iskcon temple, for their participation in the project and to ensure the best quality of prasad and hygiene practices are there," she said.

The department officials have been approached

## BoE sees threat to banks from cloud computing setup

HUW JONES & DAVID MILLIKEN  
LONDON, JULY 13

Cloud computing providers to the financial sector can be 'secretive', and regulators need to act to avoid banks' reliance on a handful of outside firms becoming a threat to financial stability, the Bank of England said on Tuesday.

Banks and other financial firms are outsourcing key services to cloud computing companies such as Amazon, Microsoft and Google to improve efficiency and cut costs, with the trend accelerating last

year as the Covid-19 pandemic unfolded.

The BoE said cloud computing could sometimes be more reliable than banks hosting all their servers themselves. But big providers could dictate terms and conditions as well as prices to key financial firms.

"That concentrated power on terms can manifest itself in the form of secrecy, opacity, not providing customers with the sort of information they need to monitor the risk in the service," BoE governor Andrew Bailey told a news conference. "We have seen

consideration and adapt our offers," the US tech giant said.

A Google spokesperson added: "We have acted in good faith throughout the entire process. The fine ignores our efforts to reach an agreement, and the reality of how new works on our platforms."

News publishers APIG, SEPM and AFP accuse the tech company of having failed to hold talks in good faith with them to find common ground for the remuneration of news content online, under a recent European Union directive that creates so-called "neighbouring rights".

The case itself focused on whether Google breached temporary orders issued by the antitrust authority, which demanded such talks take place within three months with any news publishers that ask for them.

"Our objective remains the same: we want to turn the page with a definitive agreement. We will take the French Competition Authority's feedback into

some of that going on." Bailey did not name specific firms he had concerns about.

Earlier the BoE's financial policy committee said additional policy measures were needed to mitigate financial stability risks in cloud computing.

"In terms of the standards of resilience and the testing of those standards of resilience, frankly we will have to roll some of that back, that secrecy that goes with it. It's not consistent with our objectives," Bailey said.

Bailey said the BoE understood

cloud providers' desire not to reveal too much publicly about their operations, in case it opened the door to cyber-attacks, but that the firms needed to give more information to regulators and customers.

"We have got to strike a balance here," Bailey said.

The BoE said it welcomed the engagement of the finance ministry and Financial Conduct Authority on how to tackle risks from cloud computing, but that a broader approach may be needed, including other regulators and overseas partners.

— Reuters

## France fines Google 500 mn euros over news copyright row

PARIS, July 13: France's antitrust watchdog slapped a 500 million euro (\$593 million) fine on Alphabet's Google on Tuesday for failing to comply with the regulator's orders on how to conduct talks with the country's news publishers in a row over copyright.

The fine comes amid increasing international pressure on online platforms such as Google and Facebook to share more revenue with news outlets.

The US tech group must now come up with proposals within the next two months on how it would compensate news agencies and other publishers for the use of their news. If it does not do that, the company would face additional fines of up to 900,000 euros per day.

Google said it was very disappointed with the decision but would comply.

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consideration and adapt our offers," the US tech giant said.

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— Reuters

groups the Organization of

Coopers LLP—which quit as auditor of Carlsberg India in November after a boardroom dispute at the brewery spilled into its book-keeping—had subsequently complained to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the people said.

Carlsberg's joint venture partner—Nepal-based Khetan Group—had in 2019 written to the Indian ministries of Corporate Affairs and Commerce alleging that Carlsberg India was offering illegal trade discounts and engaging in

potentially fraudulent practices for sales promotion, the people said. They added that the board hasn't resolved the dispute, prompting the PwC complaint and the government's examination.

Divergent views among the Carlsberg India board are the main reason for dissenters of opinion by the auditor, a representative for Carlsberg said by email.

It added that complaints made in 2019 and 2020 by its joint venture partner were closed last year without

any sanctions against Carlsberg India.

"We continue to be in a difficult dispute with the JV partner in India," Carlsberg said. "A dispute which is expected to escalate for some time, as the partner still owes Carlsberg \$43 million and still wants to sell his share of the business ahead of time and at a completely unreasonable price."

A representative for Khetan Group declined to comment.

Carlsberg in its Sustainability Report 2020 disclosed that an investigation during 2019 and 2020 found evidence of potential unethical practices at the India unit but found no evidence of actions aimed at personal gain for Carlsberg staff. An internal probe in 2018 had identified under-age labourers in a warehouse operated by a third party. The contract was terminated, Carlsberg said.

It added that a director nominated by the JV partner is unwilling to resign.

— Bloomberg

"The Opec+ stalemate means tight oil market: IEA

NOAH BROWNING  
LONDON, JULY 13

The oil market will see tighter supply for now amid a dispute inside Opec+ about how to ease production quotas will remain at July's levels. In that case, oil markets will tighten significantly as demand rebounds from last year's Covid-induced plunge," an IEA report said.

Opec+ has been slowly unwinding record output curbs agreed last year to cope with the pandemic. But a dispute over policy between Saudi Arabia and

## SHORT TAKES

## Messi dedicates title to Maradona

Buenos Aires: Lionel Messi has dedicated Argentina's Copa America triumph over Brazil to his family, his country and also late idol Diego Maradona. "I want to dedicate this success to my family, who have always given me the strength to continue, to my friends whom I love so much, to all the people who support us and above all to 45 millions Argentinians who have suffered so with this dreadful virus," Barcelona megastar Messi wrote on Instagram.

Messi, 34, also paid tribute to the memory of Maradona, who died aged 60 last November, saying that "Diego was surely urging us on wherever he is". Argentina's success over the Brazilians in Rio was not just Messi's first major trophy for the Albiceleste but his country's first continental honour in 28 years. — AFP

## Pakistan hockey ace Naved dead

Karachi: Pakistan's well-known hockey World Cup winner, Naved Alam, died on Tuesday in Lahore, barely few days after being diagnosed with blood cancer. He was 47.

Alam, a key member of the Pakistan team that last won the World Cup in 1994, was diagnosed with blood cancer only a few days back when he checked into a hospital after feeling unwell. "It is with sadness that we announce that Naved Alam has passed away today after a battle with cancer," his family announced.

Naved, a strong fullback had just started his chemotherapy in Lahore on Monday, after which his condition deteriorated. Naved also served as Pakistan's hockey team manager at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. — PTI

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# BIGGER, BETTER

India to send largest ever contingent of athletes at Olympics

New Delhi, July 13: India will be sending a 228-strong contingent to the Tokyo Olympics, including 119 athletes, IOA President Narinder Batra said on Tuesday.

Out of the 119 athletes, 67 are male and 52 female participants fighting at 35 medal events, Batra said during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interaction with Olympic-bound athletes.

This will be India's largest ever contingent of athletes at the Olympic Games.

Back stories of struggle, sacrifices and grit dominated Modi's interaction with India's Olympic-bound sportspersons during which he urged them to forget expectations and focus only on giving their best in Tokyo.

Among others, the PM spoke to iconic boxer M. C. Mary Kom, badminton ace P. V. Sindhu, talented shooters Saurabh Chaudhary, Elavenil Valarivan and veteran tennis player A. Sharath Kamal during a virtual interactive session.

Well aware of their preparations and formative years, Modi's conversations touched upon the making of their success stories and also some fun queries.

## JILL BIDEN TO ATTEND OPENING CEREMONY

First lady Jill Biden will attend the opening ceremony of the Olympics in Tokyo, the White House announced on Tuesday, even as the city has entered a new state of emergency over a rise in coronavirus cases.

Mrs Biden will attend the opening ceremony on July 23 without President Joe Biden. It will be her first solo trip abroad as first lady. — Agencies



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with the Olympic-bound sportspersons via video conferencing in New Delhi. — PTI

## IOC prez quickly corrects slip up

Tokyo, July 13: IOC President Thomas Bach appeared in public on Tuesday for the first time since arriving in Tokyo last week with the pandemic postponed Olympics opening in just 10 days.

Bach spent his first three days in isolation at the International Olympic Committee's five-star hotel in central Tokyo, and his movements in Tokyo are limited like almost everyone entering for the Olympics for the first 14 days. His first stop was the headquarters of the organising committee to deliver a pep talk with the beleaguered games set to go ahead without fans in almost all venues.

Organisers and the IOC



IOC President Thomas Bach gestures on his arrival at a meeting in Tokyo on Tuesday. — AP

decided last week to ban fans from all but a handful of outlying venues, a move that came after the Japanese government instituted a state of emergency in Tokyo forced by rising coronavirus cases.

"You have managed to make Tokyo the best-ever prepared city for the Olympic Games. This is even more remarkable under the difficult circumstances we all have to face," Bach said in his opening remarks to organising committee president Seiko Hashimoto and CEO Toshiro Muto.

Bach also pointed out the urgency of getting ready with deadlines looming. "Now it's 10 days to go to the opening ceremony. That also means there's still a lot of work to do."

Bach tripped over his words while addressing his Japanese hosts, referring to the Chinese people rather than Japanese people as he spoke. "Our common target is safe and secure Games for everybody; for the athletes, for all the delegations, and most importantly also for the Chinese people — Japanese people," Bach said, catching his mistake quickly. — AP

## Yashpal, epitome of guts and glory

New Delhi, July 13: "I shared a strange relationship with Malcolm Marshall. The moment I would come in, he would at least hit me twice on the chest," the late Yashpal Sharma would narrate while sipping tea at the Feroz Shah Kotla ground.

On Tuesday, as Indian cricket lost one of its gutsiest soldiers to a massive cardiac arrest, one couldn't help but remember what a nice easy-going person Yashpal was, someone who was great at having a laugh or two even if it was at his own expense.

Kapil, who captained the 1983 World Cup winning side of which Yashpal was part, was in tears when contacted and could only say, "I won't be able to speak."

Yashpal didn't have Sunil Gavaskar's class, Dilip Vengsarkar's flair or Gundappa Viswanath's elegance but anyone who knew "Yash paaji" would vouch that he was guts personified.

Born in Ludhiana, Yashpal was one of those quintessential domestic workhorses who rose up the ranks right from his days as a schoolboy cricketer (National Schools) when he scored 260.

A batting average of close to 34 in 37 Tests, with two hundreds, and less than 30 in 80 ODIs perhaps won't give an idea about the impact he had between 1980 to 1983.

The World Cup belonged to Yashpal as much as it belonged to Kapil Dev, Mohinder Amarnath or Roger Binny, whose performances are often highlighted more.

But very few people remember that it was Yashpal Sharma's 89 in India's opening World Cup game at Old Trafford against the West Indies, which the team won by 32 runs, that set the tone for things to come. — PTI

## WHAT THEY SAID



Shri Yashpal Sharma Ji was a much beloved member of the Indian cricket team, including the legendary 1983 squad. He was an inspiration for teammates, fans as well as budding cricketers. Anguished by his passing away.

— NARENDRA MODI  
Prime Minister

Shocked and deeply pained by the demise of Yashpal Sharma ji. Have fond memories of watching him bat during the 1983 World Cup. His contribution to Indian cricket shall always be remembered. My sincere condolences to the entire Sharmas family.

— SACHIN TENDULKAR  
cricket legend

It is unbelievable. He was the fittest among all of us. He was a vegetarian, tee-totaler, used to have soup for his dinner and very particular about his morning walks. I am just shocked.

— DILIP VENGASKAR  
former India captain

Shocking, this is the worst news that I have received. It is like ... 83 team is like a family, one of our family members is no more, it is so shocking.

— BALWINDER SINGH SANDHU  
former India pacer

I am deeply saddened by the demise of Yashpal Sharma. We have lost one of our cricketing heroes. His contribution to Indian cricket shall always be remembered. I extend my condolences to his family.

— SOURAV GANGULY  
BCCI president

I am shocked to hear this sad news. Yashpal was my roommate on a couple of tours, against Australia and Pakistan in the late 1970s. He was such a decent person, who was so conscious about his health — never smoked or consumed alcohol.

— N. SHIVLAL YADAV  
former Test cricketer and BCCI interim president.

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