

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | SUNDAY | 11 JULY 2021

WEATHER



Max: 29.8°C
Min: 24.0°C
RH: 75%
Rain: Trace

Forecast: Cloudy sky. A few spells of rain likely. Max/Min temp. 31/24 °C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana
Tithi: Ashada Shuddha Padyami till 7.45 am
Star: Pushyami till 2.19 am (Monday)
Variyam: 9.26 am to 11.07 am
Durmuhurtam: 5.06 pm to 5.58 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR
Zeeqad 29,1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.39 am
Zohar: 12.31 pm
Asar: 4.56 pm
Maghrib: 7.00 pm
Isha: 8.16 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.54 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.48 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 6.42 PM
MOONSET TODAY 8.11 AM

COUNTER POINT



Happy population day... more population, more voters!

SHORT TAKES

Eric Garcetti is US envoy to India

Washington: US President Joe Biden on Friday nominated Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, to be ambassador to India. Garcetti, who has led Los Angeles since 2013 with a focus on improving transportation and sustainability, declined to run for president but has been widely seen as seeking to burnish his credentials with a new job.

Report on Page 5

4 held with heroin worth ₹2,500 cr

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Special Cell has arrested four men, including an Afghan and recovered a record 354 kilograms of heroin worth over ₹2,500 crore from them, officials said. The accused have been identified as Rizwan Kashmiri, a resident of Ghitorni here and native of Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir, Gurpreet Singh and Gurjot Singh, both residents of Jalandhar in Punjab and Hazrat Ali, from Afghanistan, they said.

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Bonalu festival begins today

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EU vaccinates 70% of adults

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Aussie Barty is Wimbledon champ

TABLOID

A field day for Harleen



Sky no limit for Sirisha Bandla



An artist paints a portrait of astronaut Sirisha Bandla in Mumbai on Saturday. Sirisha, the Indian-origin aeronautical engineer who was born in Guntur and brought up in Houston, Texas, will join Sir Richard Branson, Virgin Galactic's billionaire founder, and five others on board SpaceShip Two Unity to make a journey to the edge of space from New Mexico on Sunday.

— PTI

UP to reward 2-child parents

Rule violators to be barred from jobs, sops, contesting local polls

Lucknow, July 10: According to a draft of the proposed population control Bill, anyone violating two-child policy in Uttar Pradesh will be debarred from contesting local bodies elections, from applying for or getting promotion in government jobs, and receiving any kind of government subsidy.

The UP State Law Commission (UPSLC) states that the provisions are part of the draft titled the Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilisation and Welfare) Bill.

2021. The UPSLC website says, "The State Law Commission, UP, is working on control, stabilisation and welfare of the population of the state and has prepared a draft Bill."

Suggestions have been invited from the public to improve the Bill and July 19 is the last date. Listing incentives for public servants who adopt the two-child norm, the Bill says, "Public servants who adopt the two-child norm will get two additional increments during their service, maternity or as

the case may be, paternity leave of 12 months, with full salary and allowances and three per cent hike in the employer's contribution fund under national pension scheme."

A State Population Fund will be constituted for the purpose of implementation of the Act.

Listing the government's duties, the draft Bill says that maternity centres will be established at all primary health centres. The Centres and NGOs will distribute contraceptive

pills, condoms, etc, spread awareness about family planning through community health workers and ensure registration of pregnancies, deliveries, births and deaths across the state.

The Bill also says that it shall be the duty of the government to introduce a compulsory subject on population control in all secondary schools. It seeks to revitalise efforts to control, stabilise and provide welfare to the population by enforcing the norm.

— PTI

CONGRESS TO KEEP SPEAKER POST, TURNS DOWN SENA

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, JULY 10

Veteran Maharashtra Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat has ruled out allocating the Speaker's post in the Assembly to Shiv Sena saying it will remain with his party.

Ever since senior Shiv Sena MLA Bhaskar Jadhav, acting as a presiding officer, suspended 12 BJP MLAs on the charges of unruly behaviour in Vidhan Sabha in the recently concluded Monsoon Session of the State Legislature, there have been talks of Sena interested in holding the Speaker's post by giving up the forest minister's post from its quota to the Congress. In the portfolio allocation within the Maha Vikas Aghadi government consisting of Sena, NCP and Congress, the Speaker's post was allotted to the grand old party. However, Jadhav has said the he will be happy to become the Speaker of Vidhan Sabha if given a responsibility.

Shah to empower all cooperatives

Minister meets leading figures in coop movement

New Delhi, July 10: The government is determined to make cooperatives and all cooperative institutions more empowered, Union minister Amit Shah, who met some leading figures of the country's cooperative sector on Saturday, said.

The meeting came three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi reallocated the portfolios of his ministers in which Shah was given the charge of the newly-created Ministry of Cooperation. Those who met the Union home minister include chairman of the National Cooperative Union of India Dileep Sanghani, the chairman and the managing director of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) B.S. Nakai and U.S. Awasthi respectively and chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) Bijendra Singh.

"Today met @ncuicoop chairman Dileep Sanghani ji, @IFFCO_PR chairman B.S. Nakai ji, managing director U.S. Awasthi ji and @nafedindia chairman Dr Bijendra Singh ji.

"Under the leadership of Modi ji, we are determined to make cooperatives and all cooperative institutions more empowered," Shah tweeted in Hindi.

Officials said even though Shah has not yet assumed the charge of the ministry of cooperation, he has begun to meet people.

In the meeting, the minister asked cooperatives like IFFCO and KRIBHCO to work in the field of seed production using vacant land of 38,000 hectares as well as in organic farming, the NCUI said in a separate statement.



Home minister Amit Shah meets Iffco chairman Dr U.S. Awasthi in New Delhi on Saturday.

— PTI

Cong. furious at 'coup' in coops

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 10

The Congress on Saturday launched a scathing attack against the Centre for creating a new ministry of cooperation.

Senior Maharashtra Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan questioned the need for carving out a separate ministry when there was already a department of cooperation. He said, "Administratively it makes

no difference. Cooperatives are important for Gujarat and Maharashtra. Both states are important for the BJP." He said the benefit for cooperatives is not clear. "It is only to control cooperatives because cooperative institutions hold massive influence locally."

Several Opposition leaders feel that the the move was to "hijack the cooperative movement" that currently falls under the State governments.

Shah also assured the delegation that the same benefits given to Farmer Producer Organisations will be provided to primary agriculture cooperatives in the country for strengthening them, it added.

In the meeting, the minister desired that a conference with representatives

of state-level cooperatives should be organised by NCUI, IFFCO and other cooperatives for discussing issues confronting the cooperative movement.

The delegation apprised him about problems and challenges confronting the cooperative movement.

— PTI

TURNING | POINT

Telangana plans stench-free spots in order to attract tourists

14 dams, boating facilities on Musi

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 10

The state government in coordination with Hyderabad Road Development Corporation Limited and irrigation department has decided to construct 14 check dams on the Musi River, replicating the one on the Himayatsagar. The idea is to maintain water levels at sufficient levels so as to create boating facilities at 14 locations, all of which ought to be clean.

During a meeting chaired by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao,

instructions also given to the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) to lay emphasis on the construction of the 14 dams and ensure that the water would be stench-free given that the spots have the potential to attract tourists.

Officials were told that the state government would rope in bankers, financiers and agencies to undertake construction of the project.

Besides, there is a proposal to construct several bridges across the Musi and the Esa. The idea was first proposed when the

THE GOVERNMENT has now decided to construct 15 bridges across the Musi and the Esa, one of which would be the bridge near Salar Jung Museum

government decided to shelve the iconic bridge project near Salar Jung Museum for financial reasons. The government has now decided to construct 15 bridges across the Musi and the Esa, one of which would be the bridge near Salar Jung Museum that can provide space to about 300 hawkers who would be

displaced from Charminar. The authorities have also prepared a detailed project report and decided to take up the project at a cost of ₹231.5 crore.

The government later on asked officials to bring the cost of the pedestrian bridge down to ₹40 crore and prepare a proposal for another 14 across Musi. The officials prepared proposals to construct an iconic pedestrian bridge at Afzalgunj costing ₹40 crore and high-level bridges at the following places: missing link corridor no. 99 (cost: ₹30 crore),

Ibrahimbagh causeway (₹24.50 crore); Suncity to Chintalmet (power corridor) on the Esa river (₹19.10 crore) and one connecting Inner Ring Road (IRR) with Kismathpur road on the Esa at Bandlaguda Jagir (₹19.10 crore)

The project proposes high-level bridges at Moosarambagh and Chaderghat both costing ₹30 crore, as well as a new bridge parallel to the existing bridge at Attapur at ₹46 crore.

Page 2: Two bridges planned to Budvel

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IN BRIEF

Adulterated tea powder seized

Hyderabad: The East Zone Task Force police seized adulterated tea powder worth ₹1.4 lakh and arrested one Mahender Singh from Rajasthan state. Police said Singh procured the adulterated tea powder of a famous brand from another accused, Surrender from Rajasthan, who is absconding. Singh was arrested previously, police said.

TRS MLA gets legal notice

Nizamabad: Telangana state Congress party in-charge and MP B. Manickam Tagore sent legal notice to TRS MLA D. Sudheer Reddy for making defamatory charges against him in appointment of Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president A. Revanth Reddy. Sudheer Reddy had alleged that Revanth Reddy had got the TPCC post by paying ₹25 crore bribe to Manickam Tagore at a press conference at TRSLP office on July 3.

Cops create green channel

Hyderabad: Traffic police created a green channel to facilitate the rapid transportation of live organs from the Shamshabad airport to KIMS Hospital, Begumpet. The ambulance took a mere 26 minutes to cover the 36.8 km distance on Saturday. Hyderabad traffic police said this is the 15th time they have facilitated organ transport this year. A medical team carrying the liver lungs and heart left the airport at 2.09 pm and reached the hospital at 2.35 pm.

2 BRIDGES PLANNED ON ESA RIVER

From Page 1

There will be two bridges to Budvel (IT parks and connecting roads parallel to Esa river), one costing ₹11 crore and another ₹41 crore.

In the proposals are a bridge connecting Uppal layout to south bank of Musi at ₹39.1 crore, high-level bridges connecting Manchirevula village and Narsingi (₹24.50 crore), Hydershakote-Ramdevguda (₹11 crore), Pratapsingaram to Gowrelly (₹16 crore) and a link road to Manchirevula bridge costing ₹11 crore. According to sources, minister K.T. Rama Rao, while going through the proposals, asked officials to prepare plans to construct check dams underneath the 15 bridges. Officials replied that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had called for construction of floodwater dams and gates and to maintain water levels to facilitate boating. The nodal agencies were urged to coordinate with the irrigation department and come up with a detailed study.

A senior official, requesting anonymity, said that the nodal agencies, including HRDCL and HMWS&SB, have taken appointments with irrigation chief engineers to work out the modalities.

AP SAID IT WILL BE PUSHED INTO CRISIS

From Page 1

AP said it will be pushed into a irrigation and drinking water crisis.

The AP government dashed off several letters to Union Jal Shakti ministry and Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) urging them to direct the Telangana state government to stop hydel power generation. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy even wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi twice complaining against the TS government in the past 10 days. The KRMB too asked the TS government to stop hydel power generation. Despite all this, the TS government refused to stop and continued hydel power generation all these days.

But on Saturday, it stopped power generation all of a sudden. Though no reasons were cited for this, it is learnt that the decision was taken to ease tension with AP after the KRMB agreed to cancel the three-member meeting on July 9 and instead hold a full body meeting after July 20 as demanded by the Telangana government. It is learnt that the KRMB has decided to hold full-body meeting on July 24 to resolve the Krishna disputes.

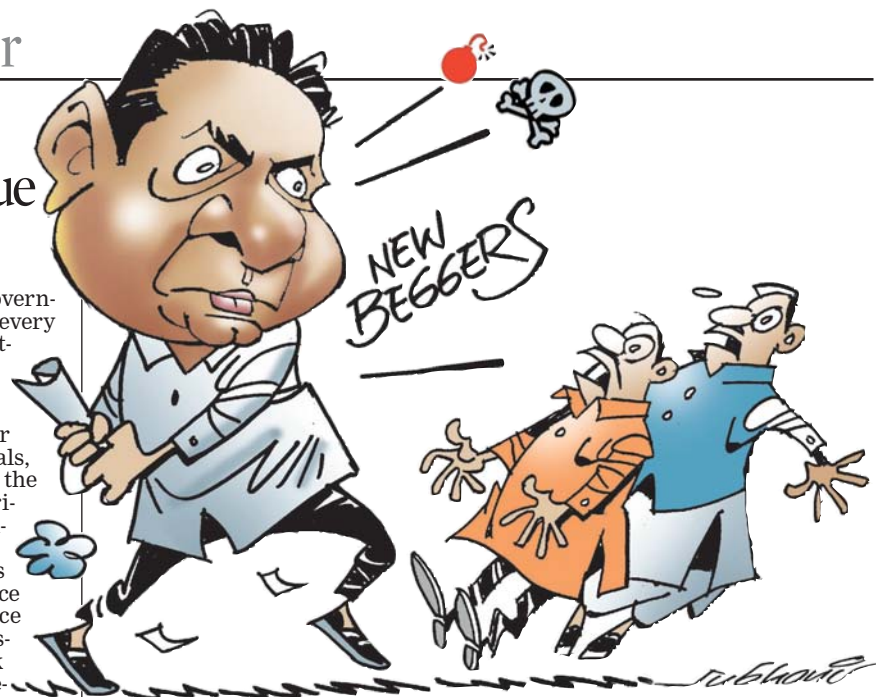
Neta's Natter**AP's move to increase revenue boomerangs!**

The Andhra Pradesh government has been trying every trick to meet its mounting expenses. However, all those efforts seem to be of no use, and, making matters worse, they also create utter confusion among the officials, resulting in further loss to the exchequer. The latest experiment that AP has undertaken is to bring the taxes and registration departments into the fold of the finance department, a practice unheard in the state administration for decades. The task has been entrusted to a secretary-level officer, N. Gulzar, which came as a shock to many officials. They are said to be wondering how such a change can improve the state finances. They feel that the move will certainly increase red-tapism as the finance department is already loaded with pending files and anything more will only add to further delays.

Babus propose, but the big boss disposes

A new trend has emerged in Andhra Pradesh badudom. Officers themselves have been deciding on what posts they want to handle or at least propagating their choices of the posts. Senior bureaucrat Sameer Sharma, who is currently on Central deputation, requested Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to allow him to join the state cadre before retirement. Coming back to the state will help the officer make some monetary gains in the form of post-retirement benefits. The Chief Minister immediately agreed and a request was sent to the Centre to relieve him. The order of his repatriation was drafted in such a manner that it appeared that the officer was being sent back on the request of the state government and it coincided with the end of term of chief secretary Adityanath Das. Rumours started just a night before Das' retirement that Sameer Sharma will be the new chief secretary, only to subside the next day when the Centre extended the former's tenure by three months. Then came the illusionary transfer of Gandham Chandrudu as Visakhapatnam collector. He was shunted out of Anantapur recently and put in charge of the village secretariat administration. The WhatsApp group of babus received a forward message of someone congratulating him on being appointed as Visakhapatnam collector from Chandrudu himself. Some media publications even uploaded to their web editions the news of his appointment which later turned out to be fake.

● **RUMOURS STARTED** just a night before Das' retirement that Sameer Sharma will be the new chief secretary, only to subside the next day when the Centre extended the former's tenure

**KTR joins foul-mouthed club**

TRS working president and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao, may be unwillingly, has joined the race of ranters, apparently to survive among aggressive leaders of Opposition parties. Rama Rao had carved a place for himself during the Telangana agitation and subsequently in the government led by his father K. Chandrashekar Rao. Smart, sophisticated and a go-getter, Rama Rao won the hearts of many, particularly the urban middle class and the elite. Active on social media, the minister used them to convey his views, ideas and highlight his efforts besides lending a helping hand to the needy. He has also been credited with success in developing the capital city and attracting investments. But changes in the political arena following the appointment of Congress MP A. Revanth Reddy as Pradesh Congress Committee chief and his BJP counterpart Bandi Sanjay preparing himself for a walkathon, seem to have made the minister rethink. Moreover, his father himself becoming hyperactive in the recent past turned the arc lights slightly away from the son. The two opposition leaders succeeded in drawing media and thereby public attention for, what the political analysts say, speaking to the Chief Minister in his own language. Neither the Chief Minister nor his two adversaries think for a moment to use language that puts the sophisticated lot ill at ease. Now comes Rama Rao with a verbal attack on his political adversaries whom he described as "new beggars on the street". Welcome to the club!

**TS political leaders, high officials immune to rules, even for Covid**

Has the Covid-19 called it a day in Telangana state? Or may be gone on a vacation? It certainly appears so if one were to see various ministers, MLAs, MLCs, Opposition leaders and anyone and everyone, waltzing around the city and the rest of the state without wearing the mandatory face mask. Even the state's top bureaucrats do not seem to care much for the orders issued by the Chief Secretary for not wearing a face mask while in a public space, punishable by a fine of Rs 1,000. Such events can be seen every day in every news bulletin on television news channels, in videos forwarded by the PROs of the ministers and MLAs and Opposition leaders, and anywhere and everywhere. The other day, a minister

and a former minister held a press conference about the upcoming Bonalu festival and spoke about how Covid-19 safety guidelines would be strictly followed to ensure safety of all those who might participate in the festivities in temples across the city. Only, neither the current minister, nor the former one, was wearing a face mask while promising citizens that safety of the people was paramount for the Telangana state government. Meanwhile, the police are yet to make a single announcement of slapping a ₹1,000 fine on any minister, and the rest of the political class members. Clearly, two sets of rules are in operation in the state, one for the elite ruling class, and another for the common folk.

Paedophile held for abusing girls

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

A paedophile who sexually assaulted a three-and-a-half year old child was arrested by the Rachakonda police on Saturday. The arrest occurred after he tried to kidnap another minor girl.

Police said the accused, Abhiram Dass, 40, who migrated to the city from

Odisha, had abducted the first victim while she was on her way to a shop from her house on July 4. Dass allegedly took the victim into a nearby forest, raped the girl and abandoned her near a water tank at Venkateshwara Colony, Dammaiguda. The girl was found unconscious by onlookers on July 5. The police was called and began an investigation, said Rachakonda police

● **DASS ALLEGEDLY** took the victim into a nearby forest, raped the girl and abandoned her near a water tank.

commissioner Mahesh M. Bhagwat.

On July 10, the Jawaharnagar police received information that an unidentified person had tried to misbehave with a nine-year-old girl at Pragathinagar. When the

victim screamed for help, the accused escaped. During investigation, special teams verified CCTV footage and could identify the accused. Dass was caught at the Katta Maisamma temple at the Nagaram Reserve Forest on Saturday.

When questioned the accused confessed to both the offences. He used to target children to fulfill his sexual desires.

Bonalu spirit high despite Covid-19**City all set for month-long fest from today**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

Even as the deep wound caused by the Coronavirus pandemic yet to heal, the historic city of Hyderabad is all set to celebrate its annual festival of 'Bonalu,' a thanksgiving ritual to the Goddess Mahakali for fulfilling devotees' vows.

Prayers, devotion, animal sacrifices to the deity, 'Potharaju' processions, oracle's predictions and 'teen-maar' beats and dances will mark the traditional festivities at the Golkonda Fort on Sunday, followed by other parts of the city in the coming Sundays till the end of the month of 'Ashadam'

The state government officially takes part in this festival. All arrangements have been looked after by the government officials of water works, electricity department, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and the police.

Sarvesh, the chief priest of Jagadambika Yellamma Thalli temple at Golkonda, explained the historic significance of the temple. "From the time of Kakatiya period, the deity has been offered with 'Bonam' at the temple which is on the top of the Golkonda Fort. Those who are unable to climb the steps to reach the temple, offer 'Bonam' at Yellamma Putta. Which is at the entrance of the fort," he said. Madhavi Poretti, a resident of Golkonda, said, "I am very excited for this years 'Bonalu' as we missed the festival last year because of the pandemic situation. After visiting the temple and performing regular rituals, our relatives in other parts of the city will visit us, and the feast will go on till late at night."

The main 'Bonalu' will be celebrated on August 1 at Simhavahini Sri Mahankali Devalayam, Lal Darwaza. The temple holds celebrations for eleven days, starting from July 23. K. Venkatesh, chairman of the temple committee, said, "All the preparations including painting of the temple, decorative lights works and patch works on roads



The Mahankali temple in Golconda fort being decked up on Saturday, eve of the Bonalu celebrations on Sunday.

— P. SURENDRA

POLICE ISSUE TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS, PARKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR FEST

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

The traffic police said heavy traffic congestion was expected on three routes leading to Golconda fort for the Golkonda Bonalu celebrations on Sunday — from Ramdevguda via Makkai darwaza; from Langer Houz via Fateh darwaza and from Seven Tombs via Banjara darwaza.

In view of this, commuters using these roads were advised to take alternative routes from 8 am to 8 pm on Monday.

The following parking arrangements have been made for devotees attending Golkonda Bonalu:

From Ramdevguda via

Makkai Darwaza: Two-wheelers to be parked from Ashoorkhana to Military Sentry point; four-wheelers at Ashoorkhana parking place and thereafter on the main road at Ramdevguda junction.

From Langer Houz: Two and three-wheelers in HUDA Park; four-wheelers to proceed through Banjara darwaza via Seven Tombs and park at Salar Football Ground or Owaisi Ground.

From Seven Tombs: Two and three-wheelers at Priyadarshini School, area hospital and bus stop near Golconda fort; four-wheelers at Salar Football Ground or Owaisi Ground.

are going on. This year, we have an additional arrangement of sanitisation of the temple and its surroundings. Marking

for queues to maintain social distancing is also being done. The GHMC authorities are supervising the works."

Service to humanity

Archbishop of Hyderabad, Poola Anthony distributes essential items and medical kits to guest workers at the launch of Pravasi Bandhu, a project for the welfare of guest workers, at the Holy Trinity Church in Begumpet, Hyderabad on Saturday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

SHARP | ATTACK**Secular parties adopting majoritarian agenda, says MIM chief****Oppn. has no clear stand: Owaisi**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

The Opposition lacks a clear-cut stand on critical issues including the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Registry of Citizens (NRC). Hence, the common man is hitting the streets and playing the role of an effective Opposition, as seen in the protests by farmers and other groups, said MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday.

Speaking at an online event organised by the Indian School of Business (ISB) on Saturday, Owaisi said the country was in dire need of ideological

differences since the secular Opposition had failed to counter the BJP and safeguard the foundational principles of the Indian Republic and the Constitution. The secular Opposition was carrying the majoritarian agenda which is not a good sign and is a potential threat to democracy, Owaisi said.

Speaking on the topic, 'Does India lack an effective opposition?', Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said the Opposition lacked coherence. She said that due to the "aristocratic government" at the Centre, the four pillars of democracy were under serious threat and the implementation of the

Constitution was compromised on many occasions.

She said that the Opposition should have a common programme and the coalition Aghadi government in Maharashtra had shown the way to countering the BJP.

Former Union minister Manish Tewari, a Congress MP, pointed to the longer period of anti-incumbency. He said that due to the lack of an effective Opposition the BJP was in power for 15 years in Madhya Pradesh, the Congress had ruled New Delhi for 15 years, the UPA government was in power for 10 and the NDA dispensation is in its second term.

Tiwari said that 2014 had opened up a new phase in democracy, giving rise to a government with a strong ideology. The strong ideology has been weakening democratic values; the ideology is an onslaught to the Constitution, he said. Due to the failure of the Opposition, the judiciary played an activist role during the Covid-19 pandemic, Tiwari pointed out.

Sanjaya Baru, political commentator and policy analyst, emphasised on the role of effective Opposition. He recalled the role that the communists played during the Congress regime from 1950 to until 1980.

He said that the

Opposition is relatively weak now when compared to the Communists, though less in number. He saw the period between 1990 and 2014 as a consensual phase in India politics when Prime Ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao, Atal Behari Vajpayee and Dr Manmohan Singh carried forward the development agenda.

Baru said that from 2014, the radical policy-making changes and ideology have posed a greater challenges to the economic-political situation. Whether in power or not, political parties should work within the foundation principles of the Constitution for democracy to prevail.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

BJP senior leader Gudur Narayana Reddy on Saturday urged the Telangana High Court to speed up the trial of contempt cases being filed against the government officials.

In a media statement, he welcomed the admonishment of Telangana government by the Supreme Court of India regarding Prevention of Dangerous Activities Act. He said the Supreme Court had described this law as a draconian one.

He alleged that the ruling party had been using

the Act as an instrument to undermine the political activities in the state. He said under the Act, the police had been detaining the persons who got bail for an unlimited period of time. He said the Act had become an instrument in the hands of the ruling party to settle political scores. Narayana Reddy demanded Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao as to why he had been using this draconian Act.

He made it clear that it was completely unconstitutional and it should be abrogated immediately. He said the Act did not comply with democratic norms.

IN BRIEF

RTC staff thrash boy in bus

Nizamabad: TSRTC bus driver and conductor allegedly thrashed a 16-year-old boy on Saturday for travelling without ticket in Nizamabad district. The incident went viral on social media as video shot by co-passengers. According to sources, the boy, along with his grandmother, Fathima of Gandhari travelling in Armoor depot bus. The bus conductor noticed that the duo was travelling without taking ticket. Angered conductor and driver halted the bus and thrashed the boy. Other passengers raised objection for thrashing of the boy and suggested them to initiate action as per norms.

TWO HELD FOR STEALING ORNAMENTS

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, JULY 10

Two women, who target women in crowded buses or autorickshaws and steal gold ornaments from them, were arrested by the Warangal commissionerate police on Saturday.

Appreciating the CCS and Lingala Ghanpur police, Commissioner of police Tarun Joshi said ₹24 lakh worth of gold ornaments have been recovered from the accused who were identified as Akshinthal Sandhya, 35, and Boya Kavitha, both natives of Budavaripeeta, Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh currently residing in Nagole of Hyderabad. A car and four mobile phones were also recovered from them.

"The accused used to work as tailors but their earnings were insufficient. So they decided to rob people and make easy money. According to their modus operandi, they dress up in expensive attire and get into buses and target single women wearing handbags and steal their contents. Once done, they get off the bus and escape from the scene in the car which follows the bus. They committed a total of 11 crimes under the jurisdiction of the Warangal police commissionerate since the last year. We set up special teams to track them down and nab them," he said.

The duo was previously arrested for similar crimes in Hyderabad. However, they changed their target locations and continued robbing women.

COMPENSATION OF ₹75L SETTLED IN LOK ADALAT

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, JULY 10

A motor vehicle accident claim compensation was settled for ₹75 lakh in Mega Lok Adalat held in Karimnagar on Saturday.

According to petitioner's counsel E. Dilleshwar Reddy, the deceased Nazma Parveen, 38, and her husband Mohd Meraz were travelling on a motorcycle on 30 December 2014.

When their bike reached Kothi Rampur locality of Karimnagar, a van, driven by one Ramesh, hit their bike from the back in a high speed, resulting the spot death of Nazma Parveen whereas her husband Mohd Meraz sustained injuries.

On a complaint by Meraz, the police registered a case.

The deceased Nazma Parveen was working as Junior Lecturer in Urdu in Government Junior College.

After her death, Mohd Meraz filed a claim before District Judge, Karimnagar for compensation.

On the appeal by Principal District Judge the claim was settled.

Docs push realty prices up

With guaranteed moolah from Covid pandemic, politicians plan new hospitals

DC CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD, JULY 10

Some private and government doctors, who earned huge money after charging Covid patients exorbitantly, are now investing the "money" in real estate.

In Adilabad district, some private hospitals fleeced Corona patients, particularly in the second wave.

Political leaders are eyeing a windfall from corporate hospitals by taking advantage of the pandemic situation and anxiety among people. With this idea, some political leaders are planning to establish private hospitals, which they feel are guaranteed money-spinners. In this business, caste also plays a role as does the medical and health department.

Land values have suddenly gone up with the entry of doctors in and around the Adilabad

● Even farmers and landowners are increasing the prices of their agricultural and prime commercial lands and plots after knowing about the keenness of doctors to buy lands. Real estate brokers are visiting nursing homes and hospitals to meet doctors to fix mutually beneficial deals.

● Many government employees have emerged as real estate brokers and some of them have started their own ventures. There are strong allegations that the government assigned lands are being used for real estate ventures in certain places. Some businessmen from Nizamabad and Karimnagar are hiring doctors and establishing hospitals while rural medical practitioners earn commission for referring patients to them.

town and in the Adilabad district. It is observed that some private doctors are offering rates over and above the actual price, thereby skyrocketing land value, especially in Tamsi, Thalamdugu, Bela, Jainad, Adilabad, Adilabad Rural, Boath, Neredigonda and Ichoda mandals.

Even farmers and landowners are increasing the prices of their agricultural and prime commercial lands and plots after knowing about the keenness of doctors to buy lands. Real estate brokers are visiting nurs-

ing homes and hospitals to meet doctors to fix mutually beneficial deals.

On the other hand, political leaders are showing interest to set up nursing homes or hospitals by hiring doctors from outside or as a joint venture with them considering the jackpot while treating Covid patients. They want to invest in 'Covid virus' keeping in mind a possible third wave.

Already, some local political leaders, irrespective of party affiliation, set up hospitals in

Adilabad town and reportedly earned handsome profits.

These developments have, meanwhile, exposed the nexus between private hospitals and political leaders and how they were supporting each other. When remdesivir injections were in short supply, some private hospitals allegedly 'managed' to get them during the second wave from Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Adilabad.

There are allegations that some government

employees working in the medical and health department and also teachers are playing a key role in setting up private hospitals after motivating politicians to invest in the medical field.

In the process, many government employees have emerged as real estate brokers and some of them have started their own ventures. There are strong allegations that the government assigned lands are being used for real estate ventures in certain places. Some businessmen from Nizamabad and Karimnagar are hiring doctors and establishing hospitals while rural medical practitioners earn commission for referring patients to them. A private doctor, practicing in Adilabad town, said that political leaders establishing hospitals is a new development.

Plant a sapling



BC welfare minister Gangula Kamalakara planting a sapling at Irukulla village in Karimnagar rural mandal on Saturday.

— DC

Ramappa temple Unesco tag to be decided on July 16

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, JULY 10

The 13th-century Ramappa temple in Palampet of Mulugu district, which has been awaiting recognition as the Unesco heritage site might have its fate decided when the Unesco Heritage committee meets on July 16. Ramappa Temple has been proposed from India for the year 2020, and Dholavira Temple, in Gujarat has been nominated for 2021.

The Kakatiyas, who ruled the Telugu region with Warangal as its centre, built many magnificent structures including Warangal Qilla, 1000-pillar temple, Panagal Temple among others. However, the Ramappa Temple in the Venkatapuram mandal of

Mulugu district stands out among all these.

The Unesco Heritage Committee will hold a virtual meeting on July 16 in China. The meeting will be attended by representatives of 21 member countries who will vote online on the award of heritage status. A majority vote is required to give the status to the Ramappa Temple.

The Ramappa Temple was built in 1213 by Recherla Rudra Reddy, the general of emperor Ganapatideva. It took 40 years to complete. The temple has been named after its sculptor, Ramappa.

The Kakatiya Heritage Trust, INTACH Warangal Chapter, central and state governments have been working for five years to make the Ramappa Temple a Unesco World

Heritage Site.

It was inducted into the Unesco Heritage Site Tentative List in 2017. Vasu Poshyanandana (Thailand), a Unesco representative and a member of the ICOMAS (International Council of Monuments and Sites) then visited the temple in September 2019. He thoroughly examined every aspect and expressed satisfaction that the Ramappa Temple has the necessary qualifications for Unesco recognition. Later, a comprehensive book (Dossier) on the Ramappa Temple was compiled and submitted to the Unesco.

Although the Ramappa Temple is 808 years old, it still attracts onlookers. Sandbox technology, lightweight bricks that float on water.

TS most corrupt in country: Bandi

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, JULY 10

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar alleged that Telangana was recognised as the most corrupt state in the country during the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) rule. TRS president and Chief Minister

K. Chandrasekhara Rao was involved in several scams as union minister in the UPA government, he said, adding that the BJP would definitely send Chandrasekhara Rao to jail on corruption charges in near future.

Addressing the BJP district executive committee meeting at Chittapur in Balkonda mandal on Saturday, Sanjay Kumar said Chandrasekhara Rao had met union home minister Amit Shah after the GHMC polls and had shown willingness to work with the NDA government. Chandrasekhara Rao himself told his Cabinet colleagues about his induction into the union Cabinet as agriculture minister and offered the Chief Minister's post to other family members.

The BJP state unit chief said Amit Shah did not encourage Rao and was

firm to bring the BJP into power in Telangana. TRS ministers and MLAs should realise the credibility of Chandrasekhara Rao after union cabinet rejig, he said. He reiterated that the BJP was not against Islam and Christianity, and it worked for all. The AIMIM won six MLAs in Bihar purely on religious lines, then why could BJP not polarise votes of majority people in Telangana, he questioned.

Sanjay Kumar said Muslim intellectuals realised that MIM was using the community for

vote bank politics and it was not sincere in development and welfare. Triple talaq Bill provided justice to Muslim women, he said, adding that the kin of Telangana martyrs and separate statehood movement leaders were ignored by the TRS government.

MP Dharmapuri Arvind, former MLA and BJP state vice president E. Laxminarayana, party senior leader G. Premender Reddy, party district president Baswapuram Laxminarayana, Aleti Mallikarjun Reddy and others were present.

TSPCB TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON PRLIS ON AUG. 10

DC CORRESPONDENT
MAHBUBNAGAR JULY 10

The TS Pollution Control Board (TSPCB) will conduct a public hearing on August 10 as part of the procedure to seek environmental clearance Phase-II of the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS). Nagar Kurnool collec-

tor L. Sharman said a notification to this effect has been issued and the public hearing will be held at 11 am on August 10 at Annam Venkata Reddy garden at Veldanda mandal. He urged the public and NGOs to participate in the hearing and ventilate their grievances on the PRLIS second phase.

CONGRESS TO PROTEST AGAINST FUEL PRICE HIKE TOMORROW

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

TPCC working presidents J. Geetha Reddy and Anjan Kumar Yadav demanded that the Union and state governments reduce cess and taxes on fuel prices so as to give relief to the people. Even as people bear the brunt of Covid-19 pandemic, the NDA and TRS govern-

ments have added to the problems with hikes in fuel prices, they said.

Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, they said that the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre had increased petrol and diesel prices 43 times in seven years. The price of an LPG cylinder had increased up to ₹200. The UPA government had stabilised the petrol price.

TRS is enrolling fake voters: Etala

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, JULY 10

Former minister Etala Rajendar has accused ruling TRS of enrolling fake voters in Huzurabad constituency, apart from misusing government machinery to remove names of those it suspects of being BJP supporters.

Addressing media in Huzurabad on Saturday, Rajendar charged that 30 fake votes have been enrolled in the house of Huzurabad chairman and around 41 votes in another TRS leader's house. A complaint is being lodged with Election Commission against officials who are illegally working in support of TRS.

He said BJP is chalking out an action plan to trace bogus voters in an attempt to stymie the ruling party, which is planning to win Huzurabad bypoll either by hook or crook. He alleged that TRS government is transferring unbiased officials and bringing its favourites, so that it could subvert the election result. Rajendar advised the newly appointed officials to discharge duties as per law, or face punishment under law in days to come.

The former minister alleged finance minister T. Harish Rao is camping at the Ranganayaka Sagar guesthouse and paying money to his own party leaders to enrol bogus voters. He maintained that people of every village in Huzurabad constituency have come to hate Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao for such cheap tricks. "People are ready to take ₹1 lakh for each vote if the TRS is ready to pay them, but they have decided not to vote for TRS. They are waiting for an opportunity to teach CM KCR and TRS a fitting lesson," Rajendar observed.

He asserted that the coming byelection will be a fight between KCR and Rajendar. "People will do justice to Rajendar and defeat the injustice meted out by the ruling party," he remarked.

The former minister said TRS government has completed construction of double bedroom houses only in Sircilla, Gajwel and Siddipet, ignoring other regions.

The government had even sanctioned 1,500 double bedroom houses for Huzurabad. But it has not released any funds for their construction, he stated.

Cong. seniors in K'nagar 'let down'

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, JULY 10

Indian National Congress does not seem to be giving prominence to Karimnagar district as much as parties in power – Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) in state and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at Centre, are doing in the run up to 2023 Assembly general elections.

TRS has given responsibility for Karimnagar district to IT minister and Sircilla MLA K.T. Rama Rao, who is also party working president. Ruling party appointed former Karimnagar MP B. Vinod Kumar as vice chairman of State Planning Commission.

In addition, TRS gave four ministerial posts to the district by way of Rama Rao, Koppula Eshwar, Gangula Kamalakara and Etala Rajendar, though Rajendar has since joined BJP.

Even BJP gave prominence of Karimnagar district to come to power in 2023 Assembly polls. It appointed senior Karimnagar leader Ch. Vidyasagar Rao as Governor of Maharashtra. Party's national leadership gave reins of Telangana to Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar over many others who were aspiring

to be state president of the party.

But Congress has been found wanting. None of Karimnagar's leaders have been given a prominent post in the recently formed Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), which has disappointed party leaders in the district. Karimnagar had been a stronghold of Congress in the past. Even when there was TRS wave in the district, many Congress leaders remained within the party.

Before the announcement of new TPCC, there was surety that the mantle of leading Congress in state will fall on senior Karimnagar leaders – either MLC T. Jeevan Reddy or former minister and Manthani MLA D. Sridhar Babu. Party leadership had even called Jeevan Reddy to New Delhi for discussions. He is a non-controversial leader capable of coordinating between senior and junior leaders and injecting new life into the party.

A Congress leader, on condition of anonymity, said when ruling parties – TRS in state and BJP at centre – are focusing on state politics with Karimnagar as focus and preparing ground to prove their supremacy in 2023 state polls.

VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (Affiliated to Kakatiya University) Vill & Mand: Mavala, Dist: Adilabad - 504002 EMAIL ID: vivekananda_coe_adb@yahoo.com Cell No: 9848125053, 6303560092		
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WORK | WISE

Biswal committee had identified around 1.9L vacancies: TPCC chief

Revanth warns KCR over delay in jobs

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

TPCC president A. Revanth Reddy expressed displeasure over the state government's decision to recruit 50,000 jobs when the Biswal committee had identified around 1.91 lakh vacancies in the state.

He wrote an open letter to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao on unemployment and other issues here on Saturday.

The letter was after contract outsourcing nurses urged Reddy to mount pressure on the state government over reinstatement of 1,640 staff nurses, who were terminated by the government on Tuesday.

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● The letter was after contract outsourcing nurses urged Reddy to mount pressure on the state government over reinstatement of 1,640 staff nurses, who were terminated by the government on Tuesday.

● He reminded Rao that he had himself praised nurses as goddesses at the peak of Covid-19 pandemic.

sure on the state government over reinstatement of 1,640 staff nurses, who were terminated by the government on Tuesday.

He reminded Rao that he had himself praised nurses as goddesses at the peak of Covid-19 pandemic. It is

inhuman to remove them, he said while assuring them of complete support from Congress.

"Is Pragathi Bhavan the official residence of the Chief Minister or an office of Kalvakuntla Private Limited Company?" Reddy

wondered.

Distressed staff nurses had tried to plead with the Chief Minister, but police forcibly shifted them away, he said.

"Why is the Chief Minister not able to spend at least five minutes to lis-

ten to the frontline warriors", he asked.

Reddy demanded the immediate release of the schedule for recruitment into government jobs.

"If TRS government tries to delay the recruitment process, TPCC will prepare an action plan to fight it out," he said.

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Sake Sailajanath, along with a delegation, met Reddy here on Saturday, and wished him for his new assignment.

SHORT TAKES

NIA RELEASES
LIST OF 20
WANTED NAXALSRABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
RAIPUR, JULY 10

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), probing the killing of the local BJP MLA Bheema Mandavi in Chhattisgarh's south Bastar district of Dantewada in April, 2019 by Maoists, on Saturday released a list of 20 wanted Naxals in the case.

The premier probe agency has issued a list of 20 Maoists including Nambala Keshav Rao alias Gaganna alias Basavraj, Kottam Sudarshan alias Anand alias Mohan and Madvi Hidma, the commander of battalion number one of CPI (Maoist), declaring different bounties on them.

NIA has declared a reward of ₹10 lakh each on Basavraj and Mohan, while a bounty of ₹7 lakh has been announced on Hidma.

Barring Basavraj and Mohan, all the Naxals figured in the wanted list of NIA in the killing of the Dantewada MLA, have been active in insurgency-hit Bastar.

The NIA filed a chargesheet in the case in the NIA court in Jagdalpur in Bastar in March, 2020, naming 33 people as accused. Six of them have so far been arrested.

AYURVEDA DOYEN
DR P.K. WARRIER
DIES AGED 100DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 10

Doyen of ayurveda medicine Dr P.K. Warrier died at his residence in Kottakkal in Malappuram district on Saturday. He was 100.

Warrier who popularised ayurveda globally, had celebrated his 100th birthday on June 8. He was also honoured by the nation with Padma Bhushan in 2010 and Padma Shri in 1999.

He became the trustee of the Aryavaidya Sala, one of the leading Ayurveda Healthcare chains in the country, at the age of 24 and remained its managing trustee till death.

Dr Warrier made huge contribution to ayurveda sector and initiated several measures to make the alternative system of medicine accessible to the common masses. He also focused on extensive research and drug standardisation.

Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi expressed deep condolences over Warrier's death. "Saddened by the passing away of Dr P. K. Warrier. His contributions to popularise ayurveda will always be remembered. Condolences to his family and friends," Mr Modi tweeted.

Chief Minister Mr Pinarayi Vijayan said Warrier brought principles of ayurveda to the grassroots level. He was known for his secular and progressive ideas.

D.K SHIVAKUMAR
SLAPS MAN FOR
EMBRACING HIM

Bengaluru: Karnataka Congress President D. K. Shivakumar on Saturday allegedly slapped a man who attempted to put his arms around him, drawing criticism from the BJP and on social media.

In the video that has since gone viral, Shivakumar can be seen getting irritated by the action of the man, who tried to get close to him and pace along with him.

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee Chief, who appeared to lose cool, can then be heard telling the man, said to be a party worker: "...you should be responsible...", before asking cameramen present there to delete the footage.

The incident took place during his visit to the district headquarters town of Mandya to inquire about the health of ailing veteran leader, former Minister and MP G. Madegowda.

Tweeting the video of the incident, BJP national General Secretary C. T. Ravi, asked Congress national leader Rahul Gandhi whether he had given "licence for violence" to Shivakumar, whom he referred to as a follower of Kotwal Ramachandra, one of the underworld dons of Bengaluru in the 1970s and 1980s.

"Karnataka Congress President @DKShivakumar Slaps his party worker in full public view. If this is how the 'former shishya' of Kotwal Ramachandra treats his party worker, one can imagine what he would do with Others. Have you given DKS the 'licence for violence', @RahulGandhi?" he asked.

LA Mayor is US envoy to India

Los Angeles Mayor nominated by Biden to replace Kenneth Juster if confirmed

DC CORRESPONDENT
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, JULY 10

United States President Joe Biden has nominated Los Angeles city mayor Eric M. Garcetti as the next US ambassador to India. If confirmed by the Senate, Mr Garcetti, 50, would replace Kenneth Juster, who served as the US ambassador to India during the Trump administration.

Mr Juster's term had ended a few months ago. In between, after his departure, the US had appointed Daniel Smith as Chargé d'Affaires (CdA) to head the US embassy in

New Delhi and after his retirement had recently appointed senior career diplomat Atul Keshap — who is of Indian origin — as the CdA to head the US embassy in India.

Announcing the nomination along with several other ambassadors, the White House said Eric M. Garcetti has been the mayor of the City of Los Angeles since 2013, following 12 years as a member of the City Council, including six as Council President.

As Mayor, Garcetti oversees the busiest container port in the Western Hemisphere, the largest municipal utility in the



Eric M. Garcetti

country, and one of the busiest airports in the world.

He led LA's successful bid to return the summer Olympic Games to American soil for the first time in three decades.

He currently chairs LA

Metro, the country's second-busiest transit agency, which is building or extending 15 new transit lines, and shifting to an all-electric fleet.

Mr Garcetti, a Rhodes Scholar, had earlier spent 12 years as an intelligence officer in the US Navy Reserve Component and had served under the US Defence Intelligence Agency.

Mr Garcetti co-founded Climate Mayors and led more than 400 US mayors to adopt the Paris Climate Agreement.

He is the current Chair of C40 Cities a network of 97 of the world's biggest cities taking bold climate action and has led the

organisation's engagement and expansion in India as well as C40's global response to the Covid-19 pandemic through the sharing of best practices and resources.

A Rhodes Scholar, he studied at Queen's College, Oxford and the London School of Economics and Political Science. Garcetti was selected as an inaugural Asia 21 Fellow of the Asia Society, and taught at Occidental College's Department of Diplomacy and World Affairs, as well as at the University of Southern California's School of International Relations.

People's plight



Police personnel detain Youth Congress activists during their agitation outside Governor House to protest against hike in the fuel and LPG prices in Kolkata, on Saturday.

—PTI

ANANTNAG
GUNFIGHT: 3 L&T
MILITANTS KILLEDDC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR JULY 10

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday said that it along with the Army and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) killed three Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) militants in a fire fight that broke out in southern Anantnag district earlier during the day.

The police claimed that one of the slain militants was involved in the murder of a Territorial Army (TA) soldier in June 2019.

It said that the fighting broke out in Kwarigam village of Anantnag's Achabal area following a cordon-and-search operation was launched jointly by its counterinsurgency Special Operations Group (SOG), the Army's 19 Rashtriya Rifles and the CRPF to flush out militants.

The J&K police and Army officials said that when the joint teams zeroed in on the suspected hideout of the militants they opened fire, triggering the gun battle.

BJP claims win in UP local polls

Lucknow, July 10: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday claimed victory in the polls for the posts of the block panchayat chief, amid allegations of violence by the opposition parties.

The Opposition has slammed the state government over incidents of violence in the run-up to the polls. Reports of clashes had surfaced from several areas of the state with allegations that candidates backed by opposition parties were not allowed to file nomination papers.

However, claiming an outstanding show by the

BJP in the polls to the posts of block and district panchayat chiefs, Adityanath said almost 85 per cent seats went in favour of the ruling party.

Terming the success an outcome of the team work, the chief minister said the BJP and its allies bagged 635 of 825 seats of block panchayat chief on Saturday.

Meanwhile, lauding the BJP's win in the elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted that the "big victory" is a reflection of the benefits people have received due to the Yogi Adityanath government's policies and pro-

people schemes.

All party workers deserve congratulations for this win, he said.

The CM also praised the state Election Commission for the peaceful and fair polls.

Conducting such a massive election process peacefully, in a state where democracy was mortgaged before professional criminals and mafia on the basis of caste religion and sect, is praiseworthy, he told reporters at the BJP headquarters here.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday congratulated Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath and other BJP leaders for the party's victory in the elections to posts of block and district panchayat chiefs and said it happened due to people's faith in the state government's welfare programmes.

Adityanath said almost 85 per cent seats in the polls went in favour of the ruling BJP. "This grand victory of @BJP4UP in the Uttar Pradesh block chief election is a result of the public's faith in the welfare policies of the Yogi government under the guidance of Prime Minister @narendramodiji," Shah said on Twitter.

—PTI

AIKSCC: Maha govt betrayed farmers

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
MUMBAI, JULY 10

Farmers' union All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) of Maharashtra on Saturday alleged that the MVA government has betrayed the farmers by bringing three amendment bills in connection with the central farm laws. Despite giving assurance of passing a resolution in connection with revocation of all the farm laws, the MVA government has acted under pressure from the corporate lobby and the Union government, the AIKSCC said.

Dr. Ajit Nawale of the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) said that if the state government did not stop from implementing the proposed three bills, the farmers would protest in Mumbai on the lines of

the Delhi protests.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra agriculture minister Dada Bhuse denied the allegation that the state government is working under anyone's pressure.

The bills were drafted after several rounds of discussion and deliberations, he said. "Accordingly, the bills were tabled in the state Assembly. The farmers' body can give their suggestions to the

proposed bills," the minister said.

Earlier in this week, the MVA government in Maharashtra had introduced three amendment bills in the assembly in connection with agriculture, co-operation and food and civil supplies, in a move to counter contentious farm laws enacted by the Union Government that are facing stiff opposition from farmers in the Country.

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WHO to decide on
Covaxin inclusion
within 4-6 weeks

New Delhi, July 10: The World Health Organisation (WHO) is likely to take a decision on including Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin in the emergency use list (EUL) within four to six weeks, Soumya Swaminathan, the global health body's chief scientist has said.

Speaking at a webinar organised by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on Friday, Ms Swaminathan said the WHO is reviewing Covaxin as its manufacturer Bharat Biotech is now uploading its entire data on the health body's portal.

According to WHO guidelines, EUL is a procedure to streamline the process by which new or unlicensed products can be used during public health emergencies.

"There is a process to be followed for EUL and pre-qualification of vaccines under which a company has to complete phase 3 trials and submit the whole data to the regulatory department of WHO which is examined by an expert advisory group," Ms Swaminathan said.

"The completeness of the data, which includes safety and efficacy and also the manufacturing quality, standard is provided. So, I expect that Bharat Biotech has already submitted data and in four to six weeks there will be a decision on its inclusion," Ms Swaminathan added.

At present, the WHO has approved vaccines by

INDIA RECORDS
42,766 NEW
COVID-19 CASESDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI JULY 10

India on Saturday recorded 42,766 fresh cases and 1,206 fatalities, taking the total Covid-19 death toll to 407,145. With 455,033 active Coronavirus cases, India's share of global active cases now stands at 3.82 per cent (one in 26) and it is the fourth most affected country in the world.

Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla on Saturday sounded a note of caution against the blatant disregard of Covid-appropriate behaviour at hill stations and other tourist locations, stressing that the second wave of the pandemic is not yet over.

Amid the huge influx of tourists in Uttarakhand, newly-appointed chief minister of the state, Pushkar Singh Dhami, on Saturday said that the state government has issued an order restricting occupancy of hotels in Nainital and Dehradun, the two most visited tourist places in the state.

Pfizer/BioNTech, AstraZeneca-SK Bio/Serum Institute of India, AstraZeneca EU, Janssen, Moderna and Sinopharm for emergency use.

—PTI

India, Georgia
to work jointlySRIDHAR
KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, JULY 10

Becoming the first Indian Foreign Minister to visit the strategically-located Caucasus nation of Georgia after its independence three decades ago, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar held talks with the Georgian leadership, even as India made a major goodwill gesture by permanently handing over a part of the Holy Relics of the revered 17th century martyred Georgian Queen St. Ketevan that had been preserved in Goa for centuries.

The move, on the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has generated enormous goodwill for India in the Caucasus nation that borders Pakistan's friend Turkey, estranged neighbours Armenia and Azerbaijan as well as India's time-tested friend

Russia.

But it is Georgia's troubled relations with Russia that has been viewed with a lot of interest by foreign policy watchers. Georgia claims that 20 percent of its territory comprising the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia has been illegally occupied by Russia. It is an issue on which India is expected to tread carefully, given New Delhi's close ties with Moscow, even though Georgia is understood to have thanked India for "strong and steadfast support" for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Georgia was part of the erstwhile Soviet Union that broke up in 1991.

After talks on Saturday with both Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili and Deputy PM and Foreign Minister David Zalkaliani, EAM Jaishankar said, "I come here in a sense with a sacred purpose".

SHIVRAJ, NATH
RIVALRY SPILLS
TO RAJ BHAVANRABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, JULY 10

A day after Leader of Opposition (LOP) Kamal Nath met governor Mangubhai Chaganbhai Patel here to draw his attention to 'deteriorating' law and order situation in Madhya Pradesh, chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday invited the latter for dinner at his official residence, taking his political rivalry with the Congress veteran to the Raj Bhavan.

Mr Chouhan visited the governor at the Raj Bhavan in the morning to extend his invitation for dinner at his official residence in Shyamla Hills here. Although, the dinner hosted for the governor is termed as a 'gesture of courtesy' and 'purely apolitical', sources said the chief minister was likely to apprise the governor of achievements of his government. The governor may be apprised of the law and order situation in the state on the sidelines of the occasion, sources said.

SHORT TAKES

UKRAINIAN
SOLDIER KILLED,
THREE WOUNDED

Kiev, July 10: The Ukrainian army said on Saturday that a soldier had been killed and three others wounded in the country's pro-Russian separatist east, amid rising tensions in the conflict-torn region.

It was the fourth Ukrainian soldier killed in the past week.

The wounded were being treated in hospital and their injuries not life-threatening. Ukrainian positions on the frontline had been targeted by artillery, mortars, grenade launchers and machine gun fire. The war, which has left more than 13,000 people dead, broke out in 2014 shortly after Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula.

TAJIKISTAN
QUAKE CLAIMS
FIVE LIVES

Dushanbe, July 10: An earthquake struck eastern Tajikistan on Saturday morning, killing at least five people, according to authorities in the mountainous Central Asian country. Tremors from the 5.9 magnitude quake could be felt in the capital of Dushanbe, 165 kilometres (100 miles) southwest of the epicentre.

"Dozens of houses were destroyed," the Tajik committee for emergency situations said.

"Power lines were also partly damaged" in three villages in the district of Tajikabad, where all the victims lived.

The quake struck at 7:14 am (02:14 GMT), and at a depth of 10 kilometres, according to the committee and state news agency Khovar.

Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon has ordered a commission of inquiry.

MOGADISHU
BLAST: UNKNOWN
CASUALTIES

Mogadishu, July 10: A car bomb targeting a top police chief exploded in Somalia's capital Mogadishu on Saturday, causing an unknown number of casualties, police and witnesses said. "The commissioner is unharmed but there are other casualties the attack inflicted," said Somali police spokesman Sadiq Dudihshe.

He said the bomber, using an explosive-laden vehicle, struck the convoy of Benadir region police commissioner Farhan Mohamud at a busy intersection in the capital.

"It caused huge devastation and casualties of both police and civilians," said Mire Adan, who was a few metres from the scene, adding that he counted six bodies.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing.

ZELDA GAME
CARTRIDGE SELLS
FOR \$870,000

New York, July 10: A sealed cartridge of "The Legend of Zelda" for the old Nintendo NES console has sold for a world record sum of \$870,000, auction house Heritage Auctions said in a statement Friday.

The cartridge, dated to 1987, is still in its original packaging and trumps the previous world record sale of a video game — \$660,000 for a 1986 "Super Mario Bros" cartridge sold in April — according to the auction house. The game was the "masterpiece" in a sale of 443 lots that runs until Sunday, Eric Bradley, spokesperson for the Dallas-based company, said. The auction house has not revealed buyer's identity.

Blending adventure, action and exploration in a magical universe, Zelda is one of the most significant titles in the history of video games.

REMOVAL OF
U.S. CAPITOL
FENCING BEGINS

Washington, July 10: More than six months after the deadly US Capitol insurrection, authorities on Friday began the process of dismantling fencing and barricades surrounding the iconic Washington building, although some access restrictions will remain in place.

Personnel were seen removing bars connecting sections of the eight-foot (2.4-metre) black metal fencing that had been erected in the days following the violent unrest at the citadel of American democracy.

Removal of the fence itself was to begin early Saturday, workers on the site said, with the operation expected to last through the weekend. Thousands of National Guard troops were stationed there following the attack, and a wide security boundary complete with razor wire turned the Capitol into a fortress for months.

EU hits goal of delivering
vaccines for 70% of adults

Brussels, July 10: The European Union has hit its target of delivering enough Coronavirus vaccine to cover 70 percent of the adult population, EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Saturday. The 27 EU member state governments are responsible for administering the vaccines to citizens — and some are working much faster than others — but von der Leyen stressed that: "The EU has kept its word." The EU joint vaccine purchasing scheme, run by von der Leyen's European Commission, has delivered 330 million BioNTech-Pfizer shots, 100 million AstraZeneca, 50 million from Moderna and 20 million Johnson & Johnson.

All but the J&J jab require two doses to achieve full efficacy, and the EU is home to an estimated 366 million adults. "This weekend, we delivered enough vaccine to member states to fully vaccinate at least 70 percent of the adult population this month. By tomorrow, some 500 million doses will have been distributed to all regions of Europe," she said.

"Covid-19 is not yet defeated. But we are prepared to continue supplying vaccines — also against new variants. Now the member states must do everything they can to ensure that vaccinations move forward. Only then will we all be safe." When the epidemic hit Europe last year, the European Commission stepped in to coordinate a joint buying programme for members. — AFP



People wait in a queue to register for the Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine at a convention hall building in Banda Aceh on Saturday. — AFP

Delta variant cases mark
32% weekly surge in UK

London, July 10: UK health officials said the Delta variant of Covid-19 continues as the dominant strain of Coronavirus and marked a sharp increase in the UK with 54,268 more cases logged on Friday, which marks a 32 per cent increase over the previous week. Public Health England (PHE) said its weekly

analysis shows the continued rise in infections is not followed by a similar increase in hospitalisations and deaths, which reflects a high protection offered by both doses of a Coronavirus vaccine.

In a separate study, PHE also found that all the vaccines being administered are as effective at prevent-

ing symptomatic disease in the majority of people with underlying health conditions as the rest of the population.

The data continues to show that the sharp increase in cases that we are seeing is not being followed by a similar increase in hospitalisation and death. — PTI

Kabul rushes
troops to border

Afghans try to retake Taliaban-held crossing

Kabul, July 10: Afghan authorities prepared Saturday to try to retake a key border crossing seized by the Taliban in a sweeping offensive that the insurgents claim has helped capture a vast swath of the violence-wracked nation.

As US troops continued their withdrawal, the Taliban said its fighters had seized two crossings in western Afghanistan — completing an arc of territory from the Iranian border to the frontier with China. It now held 85 percent of the country, a Taliban official said Friday, controlling about 250 of Afghanistan's nearly 400 districts — a claim impossible to verify, and disputed by the government. Beijing, meanwhile, which has criticised Washington for its hasty withdrawal, urged its citizens to leave the country "as soon as possible" after evacuating 210 nationals.

The "complex and severe domestic security situation" prompted the evacuation warning, the foreign

ministry said, adding that 22 of those flown out tested positive for Coronavirus on arrival in China.

On Friday Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said their fighters had captured the border town of Islam Qala on the Iranian frontier and the Torgundi crossing with Turkmenistan. Herat governor spokesman Jilani Farhad said Saturday the authorities were deploying fresh troops to retake Islam Qala post, the biggest trade crossing between Iran and Afghanistan.

"They will be sent there soon," he said.

The Afghan government has repeatedly dismissed the Taliban's gains as having little strategic value, but the seizure of multiple border crossings and the taxes they generate will likely fill the group's coffers with new revenue.

In a clear sign fighting was getting closer to major urban centres, an official at one hospital in Kandahar — the country's second-largest city and

the birthplace of the Taliban — said Saturday dozens of wounded had been admitted in the past 24 hours, including at least 15 service members.

With the Taliban having routed much of northern Afghanistan in recent weeks, the government holds little more than a constellation of provincial capitals that must largely be reinforced and resupplied by air.

The air force was under severe strain even before the Taliban's lightning offensive overwhelmed the government's northern and western positions, putting further pressure on the country's limited aircraft and pilots.

On Thursday President Joe Biden said the US military mission would end on August 31 — nearly 20 years after it began — but he admitted it was "highly unlikely" Kabul would be able to control the entire country. "The status quo is not an option," Biden said of staying in the country. — AFP

Haiti asks US, UN for troops

Port-Au-Prince, July 10: Haiti's interim government has asked the U.S. and U.N. to deploy troops to protect key infrastructure as it tries to stabilize the country and prepare for elections in the aftermath of President Jovenel Moise's assassination.

Amid the confusion, hundreds of Haitians gathered outside the US Embassy in Port-au-Prince pleading for a way out of the country. Women carried babies and young men waved passports and ID cards as they cried out, "Refuge!" and "Help!"

"We definitely need assistance and we've asked our international partners for help," Interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph said Friday. "We believe our partners can assist the national police in resolving the situation." — AP

Cyberattack hits
Iranian ministry

Tehran, July 10: Iran's transportation ministry said Saturday a "cyber disruption" had affected its computer systems and website, while the country's national railway company denied reports of being hit by a cyber attack. The disruption started before noon (07:30 GMT), taking down the body's website and links associated with it, the ministry said in a statement reported by state news agency IRNA.

It said "technical experts" were investigating the issue and will announce when they are back up, without elaborating further. The body's website was still inaccessible around 5 PM (12:30 GMT).

The railway company's announcement came a day after *Fars* news agency reported "unprecedented chaos" at stations with hundreds of trains delayed or cancelled.

In the now-deleted report, it said the incident followed "a widespread disruption in... computer systems that is probably due to a cyber attack."

Sadegh Sekri, a spokesman for Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, said on Saturday that

NO CASUALTIES
FROM TEHRAN
BLAST: OFFICIALS

Tehran, July 10: Iranian police said a reported explosion early Saturday at a public park near state TV headquarters in the capital Tehran caused no casualties or damage, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Tehran deputy police chief Gen. Hamid Hodavand said the case was under investigation and details would be provided later. He accused foreign media outlets of exaggerating the reported blast. — AP

"there has been no disruption or cyber attack for passenger, cargo or intercity trains." The company had said in a statement late Friday that trains were arriving and departing on schedule with "no problems". This followed the *Fars* report, which had included a picture of a station's departures and arrivals board showing rows of cancelled trips. — AFP

B'desh factory
owner nabbed

Dhaka, July 10: The owner of a factory where 52 people died in a fire was arrested for murder Saturday along with seven others, as it emerged that children as young as 11 had been working there.

Police said Abul Hashem and four of his sons were among eight people detained over the inferno, which broke out Thursday and raged for more than a day.

A separate inquiry has been launched into the use of child labour at the food factory.

Jayedul Alam, police chief for Narayanganj district where the factory is located, said the entrance had been padlocked at the time of the blaze and the factory breached multiple safety regulations. — AFP

"It was a deliberate murder," the police chief said. All eight people detained face murder charges.

Before his arrest, Hashem told the *Daily Star* newspaper the fire "may have been a result of workers' carelessness", suggesting a discarded cigarette could have sparked the carnage.

Emergency services found 48 of the bodies on the third floor of the Hashem Food and Beverage factory in Ruganaj, an industrial town outside Dhaka.

The fire department said the exit door to the main staircase had been padlocked and highly flammable chemicals and plastics had been stored in the building. — AFP

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SHORT TAKES

India-Lanka series
now from July 18

New Delhi: The Indian team's six-match limited-overs series in Sri Lanka will now start from July 18, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Saturday, a day after a Covid-19 outbreak in the home team camp forced the postponement. The series, which was originally scheduled to start with the three ODIs on July 13, had to be rescheduled after Sri Lanka's batting coach Grant Flower and data analyst G.T. Niroshan tested positive for the dreaded virus on their return from the UK tour. It also meant an extended quarantine period for the squad members. While the tentative date that was originally being discussed was July 17, but Shah confirmed that it will start from July 18. — PTI

Sciver shines as
England beat India

Northampton: England all-rounder Nat Sciver smashed a record-equalling half century before the bowlers put the struggling Indian batters under pressure to ensure an 18 run-win for the hosts via DLS method in the rain-curtailed first T20I against here. Put in to bat, England rode on Sciver's 27-ball 55 and wicket-keeper Amy Jones' 43 off 27 balls to reach 177/7 in 20 overs. Sciver's sensational fifty was England's joint fastest in the format. In reply, India failed to keep up with the required run-rate despite vice-captain Smriti Mandhana's quickfire 29 off 17 balls before rain fell with the visitors at 54/3 in 8.4 overs, 18 runs behind England via the DLS method. — PTI

Brief scores: England 177/7 (Sciver 55, Jones 43, Pandey 3-22) bt India 54/3 (Mandhana 29, Deol 17, Glenn 1-6) by 18 runs (DLS method)

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IT'S BARTY TIME!
Aussie Ashleigh wins emotional Wimbledon title

London, July 10: Ashleigh Barty won her first Wimbledon title on the 50th anniversary of fellow indigenous Australian Evonne Goolagong Cawley's maiden crown, beating Karolina Pliskova 6-3, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3 in the final on Saturday.

The 25-year-old Australian — who wore a specially-designed dress in tribute to Cawley's iconic scallop one she sported in 1971 — adds the Wimbledon crown to her 2019 French Open title.

"It took me a long time to verbalise, to dare to dream it and say it," said Barty. "I didn't sleep a lot last night, I was thinking of all the what-ifs. I hope I made Evonne proud," she added.

It was the first women's Wimbledon final to go to three sets since 2012 when Serena Williams beat Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska.

Barty had looked like cruising to victory after soaring into a 4-0 lead over her opponent — the Australian's start so blistering that she won the first 14 points.

However, 29-year-old Pliskova steadied herself while Barty faltered when she served for the match at 6-5 in the second set. The Czech broke and then swept the tiebreaker to take the final into a decider.

Barty got the break for 2-0 in the final set and despite one or two wobbles she got herself over the line sinking to her knees, her hands over her face in disbelief.

She wiped a couple of tears away before climbing up to the player's box, just like her compatriot Pat Cash did when he won the Wimbledon men's title in 1987.

— AFP



Ashleigh Barty of Australia holds the Wimbledon trophy after winning the women's singles final against Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic at the All England Tennis Club in London on Saturday. — AP

Djokovic into 30th Slam final

London, July 10: Novak Djokovic reached his 30th Grand Slam final on Friday with a straight sets win over Canada's Denis Shapovalov to move one victory away from a sixth Wimbledon title and record-equalling 20th major.

The world number one triumphed 7-6 (7/3), 7-5, 7-5 in a tense semi-final in which he crucially saved 10 of 11 break points.

Shapovalov was so dis-

traught that he left Centre Court in tears. In his seventh Wimbledon final, Djokovic will face Matteo Berrettini after the world number nine became the first Italian to reach a Wimbledon singles final by beating Hubert Hurkacz 6-3, 6-0, 6-7 (3/7), 6-4.

"I don't think the scoreline says enough about the performance or the match. He (Shapovalov) was serving for the first

set and was probably the better player.

"I would like to give him a big round of applause for everything he has done today and also this two weeks. We are going to see a lot of him in the future, he is a great player," said Djokovic.

Victory on Sunday will not only take Djokovic level with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal on 20 Slam wins.

He will also just need the

US Open to become only the third man in history, and first since 1969, to complete the calendar Grand Slam. "I am trying to make the maximum of my own abilities each match and see what happens," said 34-year-old Djokovic.

"At this stage of my career, Grand Slams are everything and I have been very privileged to make history in the sport I truly love." — AFP

THE FINAL
COUNTDOWN
England, Italy gear
up for one big kick

London, July 10: England and Italy are holding their collective breath as the clock counts down to Sunday's Euro 2020 final showdown which will be watched by around 65,000 fans at Wembley and millions more on television.

The anticipation is great in England, as the hosts sense that this is their time to end a 55-year wait to add a second major trophy to their 1966 World Cup.

Wembley was the venue for that final and will be again on Sunday as Gareth Southgate's England seek to complete the job after edging out Denmark 2-1 in extra time in front of 64,950 supporters in Wednesday's semi-final.

England began the tournament as one of several contenders to lift the trophy but have taken advantage of playing most of their games at home. The final will be their sixth at Wembley out of seven.

England have never beaten Italy at a major tournament, although meetings between the nations have been few and far between.

Italy triumphed in a penalty shoot-out in the quarter-finals of Euro 2012 in Ukraine and won 2-1 when they met in the group stage of the 2014 World Cup, although both sides ended up being eliminated in the first round.

Both teams have been transformed since then.

The Azzurri have lit up Euro 2020 ever since beating Turkey 3-0 in the opening game a month ago.

They are on a national record 33-match unbeaten run under coach Roberto Mancini, who has spent time in England both as a player and as a manager. — AFP

Live on TV

EURO

Final: England vs Italy from 12.30 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

NUMBERS GAME

● Prior to this, Italy had reached the European Championship final in 1968, 2000 and 2012. And Italy's only title win in the European Cup came in 1968, when they beat Yugoslavia over two matches.

● England, on other hand, beat Denmark 2-1 after extra time to qualify for the final for the first time. England have to wait for 55 years to enter the final of a major tournament. Since winning the World Cup in 1966, England have reached the knockout stages of official tournaments 14 times out of a possible 28 — a 50 per cent success rate.

● This is Italy's 10th major final (six World Cups and four European Cup), Only Germany (14) having played in more among European nations.

HEAD TO HEAD

Matches: 27
Italy won: 11
England won: 8
Drawn: 8

LAST FIVE MATCHES

Italy won: 2
England won: 1
Drawn: 2

MEETINGS IN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

1980: In Turin, Italy beat England 1-0
2012: In Kyiv, Italy drew with England 0-0 (Italy won 4-2 on penalties)

— S. PERVEZ QAISER

MARUTI SUZUKI

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