

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
VISAKHAPATNAM | SATURDAY | 8 AUGUST 2020

WEATHER

Max: 32.2°C
Min: 27.2°C
RH: 89%
Rainfall: 005.4 mm
Forecast: Mist.
Max/Min temp.
32/27°C

COVID-19 CUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+60,622)	(+923)
20,85,124	42,554

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,207)	(+12)
TS: 75,257	601
(+10,171)	(+89)
AP: 2,06,960	1,842

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

1,93,92,016

DEATHS

7,20,193

COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES

213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Shravana Bahula Panchami till 4.19 am (Sunday)
Star: Uttarabhadra till 4.12 pm
Variyam: 5.39 am to 7.27 am (Sunday)
Durmuhurtam: 6.01 am to 7.43 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HIJRI CALENDAR
Zulhijja 17,1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.50 am
Zohar: 1.30 pm
Asar: 4.45 pm
Maghrib: 6.15 pm
Isha: 8.15 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.27 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.38 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 9.43 PM
MOONSET TODAY 9.21 AM

COUNTER POINT

Double trouble, sir... you have tested positive and GDP negative!

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CAPITAL | SAGA

HC stay order scuttles Vizag plan; YSRC cadres upset I-Day fete to be in Vijayawada

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 7

The YSR Congress government has decided to conduct Independence Day (I-Day) celebrations in Vijayawada, indicating that it will not shift to Visakhapatnam to establish the executive capital in a hurry. Earlier, the plan was to hoist the national flag in Visakhapatnam and lay the foundation for the establishment of the executive capital, but the government

decided to celebrate the I-Day because of the status quo ordered by the High Court and the next hearing being on August 14. Chief secretary Neelam Sawhney conducted a review meeting and directed officials of all departments to make arrangements for the I-Day celebrations in Vijayawada following Covid-19 protocol. The I-Day celebrations will be held in IGMC stadium on August 15. After getting consent for

three capitals and the APCRDA repeal bills from Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan, municipal administration minister Botsa Satyanarayana had said that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy would hoist the national flag in Vizag on August 15 and further will lay foundation stone for the establishment of the executive capital. Further, several other leaders also affirmed the shifting of the administrative capital on August 15.

TDP and other opposition parties created hype about the CM shifting his residence to Visakhapatnam immediately after getting approval for three capitals bills. The YSRC cadres expected Mr Reddy to hoist national flag at Vizag and begin working from CM camp office in the city. Sources said the YSRC is not in a hurry to shift to Visakhapatnam overnight and that the government will go to Vizag after clearing all hurdles.



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ED grills actor Rhea in money laundering case



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Lebanon Prez suspects missile caused blasts

SPORTS | 5
Barca bank on Messi in Champs League knockout



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New J&K Lt. Gov. to resume talks, eliminate terror

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, AUG. 7

Jammu and Kashmir's new Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday set "ridding it completely of years of militancy and putting it on the path of development with peace" was his agenda. Speaking to reporters after taking oath at the picturesque Raj Bhavan on the foothills of Zabarwan overlooking Dal Lake here, he said, "My mission in J&K is to bring peace, end militancy and ensure development without any disparity or discrimination with any section of the people or region. I will stay in direct contact with people of J&K and the media". He pledged to open free dialogue with the people of the UT to have a better understanding of their problems and issues and then try to address these. He said there is a need to instill confidence among the "aam janata (general public) of J&K" in democracy.

Sinha said, "There won't be any bias against anyone. Constitutional powers will be used for people's welfare. I assure the people that their genuine grievances will be listened to and we will try to find a way to the solution. It is my aim to take forward the development here." He said that his other main priority would be 'zero tolerance for corruption'. Pledging to take forward "developmental initiatives" launched during the last year and establishing dialogue with the



Former Union minister Manoj Sinha takes oath as the new Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir in Srinagar on Friday. — PTI

people, he asserted that J&K embarked on a 'new journey' on August 5 last year when it was fully integrated with the Union of India, "ending a long era of isolation, discrimination and lack of development". He asserted that because of its geographical, climatic, cultural and ethnic diversity, J&K is like a colourful bouquet; hence truly called the 'Crown of India'.

Mr. Sinha who earlier quit from the basic membership of the BJP said that the people of J&K have suffered enormously but the "new dawn promises hope, optimism, and bright future" for them. He said that he was told by officials that J&K has achieved tremendous results in some of the programmes and schemes during the last one year. He reiterated, "I'm hopeful that I will be able to carry forward the agenda of development, inclusiveness and restoration of peace in J&K."

India, US discuss crisis with China

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, AUG. 7

The Sino-Indian military stand-off as part of "recent destabilising actions in the region" by China was understood to have been discussed during a phone call between external affairs minister S. Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo on Friday. During the conversation, both nations decided to hold a meeting in the four-nation "Quadrilateral" format — involving India, the US, Japan and Australia — to increase cooperation amid increasing Chinese military assertiveness in the region. The US State Department's principal deputy spokesperson Cale Brown said, in a statement, that the two sides discussed ongoing bilateral and multilateral coop-

eration on issues of international concern, including efforts to combat the Covid-19, support the peace process in Afghanistan, and address recent destabilising actions in the region." The US added, "Secretary Pompeo and minister Jaishankar reiterated the strength of the US-India relationship to advance peace, prosperity, and security in the Indo-Pacific and around the globe. Both leaders agreed to continue close cooperation on a full range of regional and global issues and look forward to Quadrilateral consultations and the U.S.-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue later this year." Meanwhile, Jaishankar tweeted on Friday, "A wide-ranging conversation yesterday night with @SecPompeo. Reviewed our bilateral cooperation including working of relevant mechanisms."

16 die as AI flight falls into valley

Pilot among dead; plane overshoot Kozhikode tabletop runway, broke apart

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC with agency inputs THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUG. 7

At least 16 persons including pilot D.V. Sathe were killed when an Air India Express aircraft from Dubai overshoot the runway at the Kozhikode International Airport and fell into a 35-feet valley at its far end before breaking into two pieces on Friday evening.

There were 174 passengers on board, including 10 infants, two pilots and five crew members. Aviation ministry said there were 190 passengers. The flight was part of Centre's Vande Bharat Mission to bring back expatriates from the Gulf region.

According to officials, the casualties are likely to go up considering the critical injuries sustained by many passengers, who are currently under treatment in various hospitals.

The co-pilot and a majority of passengers who sustained serious injuries have been admitted to the Kozhikode Medical College Kozhikode, Malabar Institute of Medical Science (MIMS) and Baby Memorial Hospital.

Air India Express AXB1344, a Boeing 737 aircraft, which took off from Dubai at 4.45 pm landed on Runway No 10 at



Airport officials and rescuers gather around the Air India Express flight that skidded off the runway while landing in Kozhikode on Friday. There were 190 persons on board en route from Dubai in the flight. — PTI

Kozhikode at 7.41 pm amid heavy rain and low visibility. According to a DGCA statement, the aircraft after landing continued moving till it hit the boundary wall, fell into a valley and broke in two. The front portion of the aircraft from the cockpit to

the main passenger door got ripped off due to the impact of the accident. Several passengers who were trapped inside the aircraft were rescued by police personnel, CISF, fire and local people. Over 60 ambulances from various hospitals of

Kozhikode and Mala-ppuram districts rushed to the airport to take the injured to hospitals. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan directed ministers A.C. Moideen and minister K.T. Jaleel to rush to the airport and oversee rescue operations. The North

Zone IG was asked to coordinate the rescue operations, the district administration of Kozhikode and Malappuram asked to provide medical care to the injured. The rescue operations were carried out amid heavy rains.

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DECCAN Chronicle

8 AUGUST 2020

RBI loan policy spells relief for borrowers

The Reserve Bank of India's decision to allow banks to restructure retail and corporate loans to mitigate unexpected financial damage caused by Coronavirus to individuals and companies will give a great relief to stressed borrowers. The move fulfils the demand of bankers, who sought a one-time recast of loans accounts instead of a further extension of a loan moratorium.

While the six-month-long moratorium offered relief to thousands of people, it impacted the fund flow of banks and, more importantly, Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFCs). A longer pause of loan repayments could make it difficult for NBFCs to service debt, which could have a cascading effect on the fundamentals of the Indian economy. A loan restructuring, on the other hand, could allow the banks to extend the tenure of the loan, thereby making Equated Monthly Instalments (EMIs) smaller and, therefore, easy on the borrower's pocket.

While industrial activity has picked up pace, it is nowhere near the old normal. The RBI's Monetary Policy itself admits that the economic growth could be in the negative territory for some time. With several sectors, such as hospitality, food and beverages, construction, infrastructure, travel and tourism reporting subdued performance, lakhs of people, if not crores, have either lost their jobs or are facing reduced incomes on account of salary cuts or lower business income.

A survey conducted by Finway showed that 45 per cent of people who borrowed from NBFCs and 30 per cent of those who borrowed from banks had applied for the loan moratorium till August 30. Most of them were found to have applied for the moratorium as they were unsure of the future and wanted to hold on to cash in the uncertain times.

Additional liquidity window provided by the RBI to the National Housing Bank, the home loan refinance, hints at stress in financial institutions. An offer to restructure corporate loans mirrors the strain on their fund flow. The higher loan-to-value ratio for gold loans too indicates that the RBI is cognizant of the financial stress faced by a significant number of people. Apart from these concerns, RBI fears that inflation too could be on the rise.

In such a scenario, it would be a grave mistake on the part of bankers to expect a regular repayment of EMIs. When faced with a choice between basic essentials required for his and his family's survival and his commitment to pay EMIs regularly, an average person would use the money for his survival. It would be prudent on the part of bankers to restructure loan repayment to ensure that borrowers are not forced to default — which is obviously not good either for the borrower or the lender. So the RBI giving a green-signal to loan restructuring is a step in the right direction. However, it should ensure that such loan restructuring does not affect the credit rating of an individual. Otherwise, it would leave people with no option but to default on EMIs or get debt-trapped by borrowing at higher rates. The RBI hopefully has its ear to the ground.

When documents disappear

In what looks like an attempt at damage control via obfuscation, executed in a tearing hurry, the defence ministry, without an explanation, removed from its website a document containing its first official admission that China had "transgressed" into Indian territory in May.

The move has sparked some consternation. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi flagged it on Twitter, bluntly accusing the Prime Minister of "lying" to his citizens. At an all-party meeting called by the government on June 19, the PM had famously said, "Neither has anyone intruded into our frontier there, neither is any intruder there, nor is any of our posts occupied by someone else." That was good news for Beijing — the Chinese media had then used it to justify its assault on Indian soil. The statement was indeed contradicted by 14 Corps Commander Lt Gen Harinder Singh as well as external affairs minister S. Jaishankar who earlier called for restoration of status quo ante. It dishonoured the sacrifice made by 20 Indian soldiers in Galwan valley on the night of June 15. The disappearance of the document, which had thus crossed Mr Modi's line, acts as a face-saver for him and his government. It also keeps intact the triumphalism following the egregious *bhoomi puja* gathering at Ayodhya on Wednesday.

Following the Galwan valley face-off, there have been five rounds of talks between India and China. China has resisted putting Pangong Tso on the table in the latest round. Beijing is firm in its assertion that it is on its own territory and has, citing a road constructed by it during the 1999 Kargil war to stake claim, asked India to pull back instead. The ministry's document, too, reflected this reality as it had mentioned a "protracted stand-off". So all isn't glory and hunky-dory in days ahead.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Subhani



Playing cops & robbers in Mumbai-ishstyle drama



Shobhaa De

The tragic SSR suicide saga was raging away, with two state governments (Bihar and Maharashtra) battling each other aggressively and publicly, to control investigations and dominate the case. Till — trumpets and bugles, please — a monster was introduced. Enter the Dragon: the CBI! Meanwhile, the main protagonist, 34-year-old actor Sushant Singh Rajput, has been reduced to three letters of the alphabet. And we remain as clueless about his untimely death today as we were when the controversy broke. This week, all the loose ends were supposed to be tied up neatly by the Mumbai police, but wait! The Bihar police dramatically arrived in Mumbai to rain on their parade. The focus shifted to the Cops vs Cops confrontation, and totally idiotic voices started taking sides while pointing fingers at just about anybody remotely connected to the tragedy. Overnight, the spotlight was turned on Bihar. I was vastly amused by the dramatic arrival of an IPS officer from the state, Patna SP Vinay Tiwari, who made his Mumbai debut in style! There he was, a slim and trim young man with so much swag! I loved his attitude. And above all, I loved that he kept his sunnies on while addressing the media, even though it was 8.30 pm. He came with *bhaari* backing from his bosses back home and didn't mince words as he criticised the sloth/ineptness of his Mumbai counterparts. He all but accused them of messing up a sensitive case, and everybody cheered. Everybody, that is, who is not politically aligned.

By now, the case had ceased to be an open and shut suicide investigation. Murder! They said. There were wild rumours and wilder names flying around. All eyes were on the son (Aaditya Thackeray) of a top politician (Uddhav Thackeray), known for his self-declared close connections to Bollywood. Bandra folks talked about late night parties and fights, leading up to the tragedy... and a whole new can of worms got opened. What was already a shocking death by hanging, suddenly became a much grislier story — involving money, fisticuffs, booze, drugs, girls, assaults, gangsters, coverups and more. A masala script, with a terrible ending.

Why can't our Mumbai cops be smarter? And develop a spine? The thing is — left to themselves, they are smart, competent AND bloody good at what they do. But the political interference they have to endure completely stymies their best efforts. Left to their own devices, and permitted to do their job, our police force is second to none. Unfortunately, the political environment being toxic and corrupt, they are forced to compromise, and in so doing, they end up looking like clowns. Mumbai's legendary top cop Julio Ribeiro has written often and forcefully about unseemly political involvement, especially when it comes to transfers and appointments in the police force. He has mentioned an urgent need for police reforms, combined with more autonomy granted to the cops. Does anyone listen or care? In this case, it is obvious how hard political foes of the current lot controlling Mantralaya are working to discredit

the government in power and topple it. Back in Bihar, the stakes are equally high, with elections around the corner. What better than a juicy, high-profile case like this one, to fling mud, make allegations and divert attention from the real issues that both Maharashtra and Bihar are facing? Surprisingly, the glamorous wife of a former CM of Maharashtra, Amruta Fadnavis, pitched in with her own personal dig aimed at the present CM and his minister son, taking the battle directly into the opponent's camp.

Meanwhile, the lady at the centre of the controversy — SSR's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty — has turned invisible! Easily and smoothly. Initially, the Mumbai police confessed they were "unable to locate" her or her family members — all of them in the eye of the storm, after being accused by SSR's father of being responsible for his son's death. Some said Rhea had left for Canada on a private jet, while others scoffed, joking that she was hiding under a *charpoy* in the suburbs. At the time of writing, she, her kin and two associates have been booked by the CBI and an FIR filed. And she is being questioned by the ED. Mr Tiwari, the dashing, straight-talking SP from Patna, ignominiously packed off to quarantine himself at the SRPF Guest House in the suburbs by Mumbai's cops, must have chewed his nails in frustration till he was allowed to leave on Friday. The other four cops had slyly managed to give everybody the slip and were already back in Patna.

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Phew! All this drama just to fix Uddhav Thackeray, get the CBI to handle the SSR case, and have the BJP back in the saddle in Maharashtra! Had Mumbai's police commissioner been a tougher person, with no political patronage involved (as is alleged), this investigation would not have taken such a strange turn.

The real tragedy is that SSR's death is being used by so many agencies to further their own agendas. He has become incidental! What started off as a much-needed debate on showbiz nepotism and how Bollywood can destroy the dreams of people who are not considered a part of the power structure, soon disintegrated into a sleazy crime thriller, with wild conjecture and crazy theories floating around. The chances are, a week from now, this too will become one more high-profile death with nothing further to push the narrative to the next level. Unless, of course, there is a fresh development involving Aaditya Thackeray — will he be summoned? People are taking bets on this. Nobody is actually interested in solving the mystery of either SSR's money, or his horrific death.

Meanwhile, there is a lot of irresponsible talk about his fragile mental health, with publicity-seeking psychotherapists showing up on television shows and disclosing confidential client information. This is shockingly intrusive and unprofessional. Prominent television anchors too have made utter idiots of themselves commenting on whether or not SSR had "looked depressed". Like depression is a "look". Nearly everything about this awful incident has been trivialised and bowlderised in the most vulgar manner. Surely, Sushant Singh Rajput deserves better.

Readers can send feedback to www.shobhaade.blogspot.com

LETTERS

BEIRUT LESSONS

Lessons have to be learnt from the explosion of ammonium nitrate in Beirut, Lebanon (*In Beirut, avoidable tragedy, DC, Aug. 7*). It claimed hundreds of lives. It is a wake-up call for all those industries storing hazardous chemicals in warehouses. Protocols for these risky chemicals must be adhered to.

Ghanshyam Chirravoori
Visakhapatnam

HEALTH WORKERS

Recently, AP issued an order to take care of the health of lawyers, clerks and their families during pandemic. This is an appreciable move. Covid care centres, whenever necessary, are based on the advice of Medical Health Officer. However, the key people like doctors, nurses, lab technicians and health department officials are prone to get infected. The government should help health workers and not drain their services.

Lingala Sai Rishitha
Anantapuramu

RAM TEMPLE

We understand that the construction of Ram temple will be completed in three-and-a-half years, perhaps to coincide with the general elections. Seneca, the Roman senator in the 1st century had once said, "Common people believe in religion, for the wise it is false and the rulers find it useful."

P.A.S. Prasad
Visakhapatnam

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Israel, UAR agree to ceasefire

WASHINGTON, August 7 Israel and Egypt have agreed to a full ceasefire effective at 2200 GMT today (0330 hrs IST—Saturday) Secretary of State William Rogers announced.

Mr Rogers said that the two countries had accepted the US proposal for a stand-still ceasefire.

Discussing action on the Israeli-Jordan front, officials stressed that neither Israel nor Jordan had followed the United Nations; ceasefire resolutions adopted at the end of the 1967 June war.

Manan Kumar



Progressives must unite to expose govt's 'Ram' narrative

Notwithstanding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's impressive address in Ayodhya to build an inclusive India based on the ideals of *Ramrajya* of social harmony, justice, piety, love and peace, the edifice of the Indian republic remains damaged.

By performing *bhoomipujan* for Ram Mandir, PM Modi junked his constitutional oath of office that makes it mandatory for him to "discharge all duties faithfully and conscientiously" for the Union and "do right to all manner of people in accordance with the Constitution and the law, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will". The very act signals a resolve to replace constitutional virtues of justice, secularism, equality and fraternity with equivalent concepts acceptable to Hindu majoritarianism.

There is no parallel of such gross departure from the Constitution in the history of independent India. Only two acts come close enough — installation of Somnath temple after its renovation in May 1951 by President Rajendra Prasad and,

Rajiv Gandhi's approval to open Babri mosque's locks (where idols were surreptitiously installed in 1949) in 1986.

The first act was strongly opposed by Jawaharlal Nehru. After cautioning his minister K.M. Munshi of the dangers of "Hindu revivalism", Nehru told Rajendra Babu, "I confess I do not like the idea of you associating yourself with a spectacular opening of the Somnath temple. This is not merely visiting a temple... but rather participating in a significant function which unfortunately has a number of implications."

Nehru's warning, not to mix religion with statecraft, proved prophetic. The blunder by his grandson led to *shilanyas* of the temple in 1989 and a militant movement to release the idols from "captivity". It prompted L.K. Advani to launch Ram Rath Yatra in 1990 that culminated in demolishing Babri Mosque, thus, badly scarring the syncretic fabric of India. Innumerable communal riots and rise of extremist Islam in the immediate aftermath bear a testimony of this folly.

Justice suffered a blow in

November 2019 when the Supreme Court overturned Allahabad high court judgement and handed over the entire 2.77 acres of land to the deity despite no archaeological evidence to back such a claim. With this, it removed the final hinge holding the secular character of India to pave way for a *de jure* Hindu Rashtra.

Why the foundation ceremony in times of crises?

The answer lies in the word — crises. The Hindutva forces chose August 5 precisely to smother the rising anger against the blunders the Modi government committed through draconian demonetisation, faulty GST, accosting crony capitalists at the expense of public exchequer and erroneous handling of Covid-19 pandemic.

Despite efforts to hide and manipulate data, the ground realities show the deep crises India has been sucked into. PM Modi managed to hide poverty by constructing a wall around a shanty alongside President Trump's route from Gandhinagar Airport to Motera stadium but walls

cannot be built across India. A rosy picture cannot be painted in the midst of a plunging economy when millions start marching to villages for fear of dying of hunger.

In such a scenario, any people-centric government would pull all stops to tackle the crises. But what a government would do whose sole concern is to win elections to forward its bigoted agenda? It will do what it knows best, build a smokescreen to divert people's attention from real issues and keep them on a high with a sense of purpose to win elections.

This is precisely what the Modi government has done despite the dangers of Covid-19 that is now growing fastest in India. The rest of the agenda has already been put to practice. A web of pliant television channels and an army of social media trolls will try to keep the public discourse limited to Ram Mandir and PM Modi's aura to help BJP win upcoming elections in states of Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. The ultimate aim is to keep crises shrouded in this smokescreen until the inauguration of Ram Mandir in 2024 to ensure a dream

run for a third straight win in Lok Sabha elections.

The onus to save Indian democracy now squarely lies upon Opposition parties and democratic, progressive liberal forces that lie scattered on the Indian political scene. It has been made a wee bit more difficult by PM Modi's smart move to change the narrative, from militant Hindutva to Ram's inclusivity. Yet they can still do the impossible by getting together to pull down this smokescreen and help people see the reality that lies exposed everywhere.

By doing so they will do justice to the *Maryadapurshottam* who gave up his throne and embraced exile to help his father satisfy the whims of crafty stepmother, Kaikeyi. He is again being used to break the *maryada* of the Constitution to establish a New Republic by an equally crafty political party. Hey Ram!

The writer is a senior journalist with over 22 years of experience in reporting on politics, internal security and social issues

IN BRIEF

Aug. 25 last date for AP Model Schools

Visakhapatnam: The government has extended the date to Aug. 25 for the admissions into the Andhra Pradesh Model Schools for the academic year of 2020-21. The parents can apply for their wards' admissions into the Model Schools online. The government has informed that the last date will not be extended further.

14 islands identified for defence infra

Kakinada: The Union Home Ministry has identified 14 islands off the East Coast, including Hope Island off Kakinada, as very important for defence and communication purposes. In this regard, studies are being conducted by central officials for improving defence and communication infrastructure on the island. District Collector D. Muralidhar Reddy has instructed officials to prepare a detailed project report on improving infrastructure facilities and communication development system on the island.

CS Nilam gets another extension

Vijayawada: The services of Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney have been extended up to December 31. This is the second three-month extension for Ms Sawhney, who was scheduled to retire on June 30. The Centre has approved both extensions following requests by the state government. Principal Secretary to government (political) (FAC) Praveen Prakash issued GO Rt: 1242 on Friday night issuing orders of extension of Ms Nilam's services for three months beyond September 30 and she will retire on December 31.

Sanitisers misused, SCB holds drives

Vijayawada: Officials of Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) have been conducting surprise checks for the last three days as part of a special drive against misuse of sanitisers in the absence of liquor. SEB Commissioner Vineeth Brijil said that as many as 345 vulnerable places were identified and 144 people were counseled against such an addiction. He explained that sanitiser manufacturing units were inspected for licensing norms, quality control measures and sales. He said that about 303 awareness campaigns were organised against consumption of sanitisers.

Panel set up to study 12 new dist

Vijayawada: The state government has formed a Committee to study the restructuring of districts on Friday. Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney issued GO Rt: 2098 to study the various aspects related to the creation of new districts and the measures to be undertaken to optimally utilize the existing resources in their creation. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy earlier had stated about formation of 12 new districts taking the total to 25 districts. According to the order, the Committee will be named as the "Committee to study the restructuring of Districts in AP" with the Chief Secretary as chairperson, and CCLA, secretary GAD, secretary Planning Department CMO representative as members and principal finance secretary as convener.

Cops grill Shruti hosp traffickers

Visakhapatnam: The Maharanipeta police continued to grill universal Shruti hospital managing director, Dr. P. Namratha, for the second day on Friday. The police took her into their custody for two days from the judicial remand to find more about the trafficking racket. During the investigation, it was found that one more baby was sold two months before the current incident. The police on Thursday evening arrested Dr. Chekuri Padmaja of Padmaja hospital, Seethammadhara and N. Nooka Ratnam, a resident of Cheedikada in Vizag district. Dr. Namratha and Dr. Padmaja ganged up and sold a new-born baby girl to a couple from Vizianagaram, informing the mother of the infant that the baby was born dead.

CM urges MLAs to lead virus prevention drives

Jagan asks officials to check performance of call centres

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 7

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said that the rate of positive Covid-19 cases and mortality rate in Andhra Pradesh has been less than the national average even as the government is extensively carrying out tests, more so, in containment clusters.

He said it was pertinent that legislators should be part of all preventive measures besides helping to create awareness about Covid do's and don'ts among people.

Chairing a review meeting on Covid-19 here on Friday, the Chief Minister said that about 85 to 90 per cent of tests are being conducted in containment zones. He instructed that "Call centres, 104 and 14410, should function effectively and officials should monitor their performance levels at regular intervals."

On scope for further reduction of the mortality rate, officials briefed the Chief Minister that for those with severe respiratory problems around five to 10 beds are available at PCH level and that clinical protocol was being strictly followed. Patients with fever and low oxygen levels are being immediately admitted to hospitals. If the problem aggravates, the patient is being shifted to Covid hospitals, they pointed out.

The officials informed that while the national average of positivity was 8.87 per cent, the state average has been 8.56 per cent, whereas in Karnataka it was 9.88 per cent, Tamil Nadu 9.26 per cent, Maharashtra 19.36 and Delhi 12.75 per cent.

The national mortality rate average is 2.07 percent while it was at 0.89 per cent in Andhra Pradesh while



Y.S. Jagan Reddy

UK DIPLOMATS LAUD STATE GOVT'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT COVID-19

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 7

British diplomats have lauded the steps being taken by the government to deal with the Covid pandemic and invited CM Jagan Mohan Reddy to visit Britain after normalcy returned.

During a video conference with CM here on Friday, acting British High Commissioner Jan Thompson and Deputy High Commissioner for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Andrew Fleming appreciated public health initiatives of the state government. They said AP has been doing an excellent job by conducting a huge number of tests to identify positive

cases and check mortality rate. Telemedicine came for special appreciation of the diplomats.

Jagan told them that the state was conducting about 62, 000 tests per day. "Testing, tracing and isolating Covid patients is being done quickly. As a result of this, the mortality rate is as low as 0.89 percent as against the national average of 2.07 percent, he said.

They expressed optimism that the MoU signed by the state with AP Med Tech zone for manufacture of medical equipment would help the government contain Covid. They assured that the UK would encourage start-ups in this regard and jointly work in containing the virus.

Karnataka recorded 1.85 per cent and Maharashtra 3.52 per cent. Tests per million were recorded at 43,059 in Srikakulam, Kurnool, Kadapa, Krishna, Nellore, West Godavari and Chittoor districts and tests conducted were more than the state average.

On the functioning of

telemedicine, he asked officials to return calls in order to get feedback and take corrective measures wherever there were complaints about shortcomings. He directed that apart making available medicines for emergencies, there should be consistency in medicare.

Naidu asks Jagan to explain hatred towards Amaravati

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 7

TD chief N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday clarified to AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy that he would be able to achieve true decentralised development in all the three regions only with the help of a centrally located capital like Amaravati.

Naidu demanded that Reddy explain to the people why he had so much "hatred" for the present capital that he was "viciously bent upon destroying an excellent project." He expressed the fear that YSRC's actions would only push the state into darkness and destroy the opportunities of future generations.

Addressing a press conference here, Naidu said that from the Chief Minister to ministers, all YSRC leaders made had pre-poll assurances that they would not change the capital but were now not even coming forward to accept the TD challenge to go for a fresh mandate on the three capitals plan.

The TD chief claimed that all-round development of AP was started by the TD government under which 132 projects were started in Amaravati, and 160 in the 13 districts from Srikakulam to Anantapur.

GALLA BLAMES CENTRE FOR STAYING OFF CAPITAL SELECTION CONFLICT

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 7

Guntur TDP MP, Galla Jayadev, said that the centre filing an affidavit in the court that they do not have any role in the choice of capital for Andhra Pradesh (AP) is just a way to shake off responsibility. Blaming the central gov-

JAGAN GREETES WEAVERS, PROMISES SOP

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 7

Chief Minister, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, greeted the weavers' community on the occasion of national weavers' day on Friday. He said, "Andhra Pradesh is one of the most important states in the handloom industry, with the second-largest concentration of weavers in India. We are proud of our weaver community and are making every effort to preserve the rich textile heritage of the state."

Pointing out that the YSR Nethanna Nestham scheme has provided annual assistance of ₹24,000 to all eligible weaver families for two consecutive years, positively impacting the lives of all the weavers, especially during the Covid-19 induced lockdown, Jagan added, "Besides taking up the welfare activities to boost the handloom sector in the state, we introduced e-platforms, through which marketing of handloom and handicrafts can be done easily. The state government is planning to launch the initiative on October 2 this year."

Minister for BC welfare, Chelluboyina Srinivas Venugopalakrishna, said, as promised during his 3648 kms praja sankalpa yatra, Jagan launched Nethanna Nestham on December 21. He explained that under the scheme, 81,783 families have benefited, accounting for nearly ₹200 crore per annum.



Sri City founder managing director Ravindra Sannareddy (right) presents a memento to finance minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy (left) when the latter attended a meeting on Friday. Shamsher Singh Rawat, Principal Secretary (finance) Government of AP, and Dr Arja Srikanth, IRTS MD & CEO, APSSD, are also seen.

Min invites opinions on Skill Development Varsity

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC
NELLORE, AUG. 7

Finance minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy has sought suggestions and inputs from CEOs and senior manager of industries in Sri City for the proposed Skill Development University.

During a visit to Sri City along with a high level team of senior IAS officers on Friday, the minister appreciated the growth of the SEZ.

"It is one of the successful and most efficiently managed business cities in

the country, and it is our duty to support it in all respects."

Briefing on the intent of his visit, he said that the government had taken up an ambitious programme of setting up skill development centres to bridge the gap between the skills of students and industry needs.

Ravindra Sannareddy, founder MD of Sri City, said that the visit of the minister and senior officers reflected the strong will and seriousness of the government on skill development and creation of

better employment opportunities in the state.

He said, "We wholeheartedly extend our support to the government in making the skill development initiative a grand success."

The minister was accompanied by Shamsher Singh Rawat, principal secretary (Finance), Arja Srikanth, MD & CEO, APSSDC, Narayana Bharath Gupta, Chittoor collector, and Koneti Adimulam, MLA, Sathyavedu.

Rajendranath Reddy launched Sri City's new online portal www.sricityjobs.in on the occasion.

Delhi airport builds web portal for isolation relief

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 7

Delhi International Airport Limited has developed a web portal called 'Air Suvidha' for the benefit of India-bound international flyers to seek exemption from mandatory institutional quarantine either by filling up the self-declaration form or by submitting it online.

The DIAL, a GMR-led consortium in a release on Friday stated that online forms have been developed in collaboration with the Centre and several state governments, including Andhra Pradesh, for the benefit of all international travellers from Saturday

onwards. Passengers seeking exemption under five specific categories are to fill in the e-form available on www.newdelhiairport.in and submit all relevant documents at least 72 hours before boarding the flights. In case, the passengers fill in a self-declaration form, no such time-limit is there.

Five categories for exemption to passengers include: pregnant women, a death in the family, serious illness, parents accompanying children below 10 years and Covid-19 negative report in recent RT-PCR test (within 96 hours prior to undertaking the journey as per government guidelines).

JR DOCTORS THREATEN TO BOYCOTT DUTIES OVER NO STIPEND INCREASE

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 7

Junior doctors are threatening to boycott their elective duties soon if the state government failed to resolve several pending issues such as stipend hike, insurance cover, incentives, etc.

Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors' Association has submitted representations to the top brass of the department of health, seeking their intervention to resolve their long-pending issues.

In a release issued here on Friday, the JUDA demanded a 45% hike in their monthly stipend with retrospective effect from January, 2020.

Their contention was that they were getting much less than their counterparts in other states like Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal. They also demanded insurance cover and ex-gratia for those treating Covid-19 patients apart from such incentives as were being given in Odisha and Maharashtra.

TENSION AT TADIPATHRI AS PRABHAKAR REDDY IS ARRESTED FOR ABUSING C-I

NAGABUSHANAM HOSKOTE | DC
ANANTAPUR, AUG. 7

Tense situation prevailed at Tadipatri on Friday after police detained and rearrested former MLA J.C. Prabhakar Reddy within 24 hours of his release on bail. Police have registered several cases against Prabhakar Reddy, including under the SC/ST Atrocity Act, for abusing Tadipatri rural inspector Devendra Kumar near Bondladinne village in Tadipatri mandal on Thursday night. Kadapa police too have registered cases against J.C. Prabhakar Reddy, his son Asmith Reddy and J.C. Pavan Reddy, son of J.C. Diwakar Reddy, for violation of norms at the Kadapa prison.

Prabhakar Reddy and Asmith Reddy had been arrested on June 13 following

a case registered against them in Anantapur for forging documents to convert banned BS-III vehicles into BS-IV and selling them to other transporters. They had got bail on Wednesday and were released on Thursday evening. A large number of Telugu Desam party cadres and close aides of J.C. family reached the Kadapa prison to offer them a grand welcome.

When Prabhakar Reddy came to Tadipatri Town police station on Friday to sign on his conditional bail, police reportedly kept him at the station for about four hours. Towards the evening, police announced that Prabhakar Reddy was being arrested under the SC/ST Act for abusing the inspector. The former MLA was then shifted to Gooty court. J.C. Prabhakar Reddy was shifted to Kadapa central prison.

COVID | RISE

Out of 62,938 samples tested in 24 hrs, 10,171 tested +ve

AP records 2 lakh cases, 89 deaths

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 7

The number of Covid-19 cases in Andhra Pradesh has crossed the two-lakh mark and reached 2,06,960, with 10,171 new Coronavirus cases reported during the last 24 hours. The period also witnessed the highest number of 89 deaths in a single day, raising the death toll to 1,842.

The state health department, in its Covid-19 bulletin released on Friday, reported that out of 62,938

samples tested during the last 24 hours, 10,171 individuals have been found infected with Covid-19. Out of total number of 23,62,270 samples tested so far in the state, 84,654 infected patients are undergoing treatment, while 1,20,464 patients have been discharged after recovery.

Among new infections, Kurnool district has been affected badly with 1,331 cases, followed by 1,270 in East Godavari, 1,100 in Anantapur, 980 in Chittoor, 941 in Nellore,

852 in Visakhapatnam, 817 in Guntur, 596 in Kadapa, 548 in West Godavari, 530 in Vizianagaram, 449 in Srikakulam, 420 in Krishna and 337 in Prakasam.

With regard to cumulative number of Covid-19 positive cases, East Godavari district has topped the list with 28,850 cases, followed by 24,679 in Kurnool, 22,273 in Anantapur, 20,236 in Guntur, 17,534 in Visakhapatnam, 16,334 in West Godavari, 15,286 in Chit-

toor, 12,089 in Kadapa, 11,646 in Nellore, 10,085 in Srikakulam, 9,462 in Krishna, 7,998 in Vizianagaram and 7,593 in Prakasam.

Among the total 89 deaths of Covid-19 infected patients during the last 24 hours, Chittoor registered 10 deaths, followed by nine each in Anantapur, Guntur, Nellore and West Godavari, seven each in East Godavari, Kadapa and Prakasam, six in Krishna, five each in

Kurnool and Visakhapatnam, and three each in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts. AP has conducted Covid-19 tests on 44,237 samples per million population and has registered Covid-19 positive rate at 8.76, while Maharashtra has recorded a positive rate of 19.25, Telangana 13.44 and Karnataka 10.01.

State health authorities have discharged 7,594 patients after recovery from various hospitals during the last 24 hours.

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Registrar

SHORT TAKES

NEP FOUNDATION OF NEW INDIA, SAYS PM MODI

New Delhi, Aug. 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the new National Education Policy (NEP) is not just a circular and its implementation will be like a "mahayagya" which will need strong determination and collective efforts from all stakeholders.

Referring to the policy as the foundation of the "new India", he said the NEP focusses on "how to think", while the country's education system so far emphasised on "what to think". "The new education policy is not just a circular. The job doesn't end with the notification of the policy, it has to be successfully implemented, for which a strong determination is needed from everyone. This is like a "mahayagya" for building the present and future of the country," Modi said.

He made the remarks while delivering the inaugural address at the 'Conclave on Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under National Education Policy' via a video link.

The conclave is being organised by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) and the University Grants Commission (UGC).

ED GRILLS ACTOR RHEA IN MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, AUG. 7

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday grilled actor Rhea Chakraborty in connection with the alleged money laundering case that stems from a complaint filed by late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's father. The officials questioned Chakraborty, business manager and brother on some shell companies that were registered in the addresses of Navi Mumbai. The action comes a day after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) filed a case against her and others taking over the suicide probe.

The central agency is investigating the monetary trail in connection with the properties owned by Chakraborty and her family to ascertain how the funds were arranged to buy them. The officials found a flat measuring 500 sqft in the name of Chakraborty located at Khar (east). The ED questioned her to find out how she arranged money to partly pay the total cost of ₹85 lakh.

SC DISMISSES BAIL PLEA OF ACTIVIST REHANA

New Delhi, Aug. 7: The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed controversial activist Rehana Fathima's plea seeking anticipatory bail in cases against her for allegedly circulating a video in which she was semi-nude, allowing her minor children to paint on her body, and said the court is a little baffled at the kind of case that has come up before it.

The top court further observed as to what kind of impression the children will get about the culture of this country through such videos. A bench of Justices Arun Mishra, B.R. Gavai and Krishna Murari said this kind of thing is unthinkable and would leave the society in a bad taste.

Senior advocate Gopal Shankaranarayan, appearing for the petitioner, said however that strangely, the allegation of child pornography has been made.

NSCN (I-M) to hold talks with Nagaland Governor

MANOJ ANAND I DC
GUWAHATI, AUG 7

The Prime Minister's envoy for Naga peace talks, R. N. Ravi, also the Governor of Nagaland, will be leaving for New Delhi next week to hold talks with the collective leadership of nationalist social council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) (NSCN-IM) led by its general secretary, Thuingaleng Muivah, to sort out variances on rhetorical issues like flag, separate constitution for Nagaland and setting up a memorial of arms and ammunitions of Naga rebels at Kohima.

Disclosing that a delega-

tion of NSCN (I-M) has left for New Delhi on Friday to join its 86-year-old general secretary, Th. Muivah, who is in New Delhi and also battling health issues, security sources however clarified that the NSCN (I-M) delegation was asked to reach New Delhi early because of Covid-19 restrictions.

Asserting that consensus has already been created on majority of issues, security sources said that NSCN (I-M) has been insisting on rhetorical issues like a flag and separate constitution of Nagaland, besides a museum or war memorial of the arms and ammunitions of Naga

armed rebels at Kohima. Indicating that the government of India may allow NSCN (I-M) and other stakeholders to have their own flag, security sources said that all the terms and conditions for surrender of arms and ammunitions and disbanding the armed rebel group have already been finalised.

Pointing out that all the arms and ammunitions surrendered by Naga rebels would be in the custody of the government, security sources said that the government of India may agree to set up a memorial of arms and ammunitions surrendered by all the rebel groups.



Locals move through a flood affected area near Mavoor in a boat, following heavy rainfall in Kozhikode district on Friday.

— PTI

15 dead, 50 feared trapped in landslide Kerala's Idukki

Police, NDRF, fire & defence officers get into rescue mode after heavy rains

DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUG. 7

Kerala woke up to a major tragedy on Friday with a landslide in Rajamalai near Munnar, in Idukki district of Kerala, leaving 15 persons dead and over 50 persons feared trapped under debris.

The dead include a 12-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl, apart from eight men and five women.

The state police, national disaster relief force (NDRF), fire force and defence personnel are engaged in a massive rescue operation in the area to save the lives of people trapped under the debris.

At a press conference here Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, said the landslide occurred in Pettimudi near Rajamalai in which 30 rooms of a residential cluster known as layams, of tea estate workers, was completely destroyed.

Over 80 people residing in the quarters were trapped in the landslide, of which 15 died, 15 were

Talacauvery temple chief priest, wife, others missing

SHILPA P. I DC
MYSURU, AUG. 7

Heavy rains continued to create massive floods and landslides in Kodagu, hitting normal life and road connectivity on Friday too.

Landslides at more than 30 places in the past three days, according to Kodagu DC, Annies Kanmani Joy, the disrupted national disaster response force (NDRF) team operations on Friday too. The team is trying to trace five missing people, suspected to be stuck under the debris

rescued and rescue operations are on at the site to retrieve the others safely from under the debris.

The seriously injured have been shifted to Kolenchery medical college and the others are

of their house which collapsed due to landslides on Thursday at Brahmagiri hills in Talacauvery, the birth place of river Cauvery in Kodagu.

Chief priest of Talacauvery temple, 80-year-old, Narayan Achar, his wife, Shantha, his brother, 86-year-old, Anandatheerthawamy, assistant priests, Pavan and Ravikiran, are the ones missing. Their 40 cows have also reportedly got stuck under the debris of the landslides.

20 other families at Bagamandala are being

moved to a relief centre. People in landslide and flood prone parts of Aiyappa hills, Nehru nagar and other unsafe places are being moved to relief centres.

There were landslides at Gaalibeedi road, Mangluru road, Madikeri-Siddapura road and other places too in Kodagu. Chedukaaru bridge, near Chettimaani, was submerged and Tavarekere road in Kushalnagar, 2nd mannangeri near Karthoji road and other areas were flooded.

Earlier in a tweet, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, said he was pained at the loss of lives in the landslide. He announced a ₹2 lakh ex gratia each for the fami-

lies of the dead and ₹50,000 to the injured.

According to eyewitnesses, the incident happened in the early hours of Friday. The landslide originated from the hills near Idamalakudy and completely destroyed the quarters of the tea plantation workers.

It also damaged mobile towers and Periyavarai bridge, connecting Rajamalai with Munnar, following which rescue operations were badly affected.

With power outage and no mode of communication in the area, the place was already cut off from the rest of the world.

The incident came to light after some survivors managed to walk up to the nearest forest station after trekking for a couple of hours. The entire area has been experiencing heavy rainfall for the past 24 hours, believed to be one of the major reasons for the landslide.

The people were caught unaware as the area is not prone to landslides. This is the first such incident in this village.

IAF Vice Chief visits airfield at Daulat Beg Oldie

PAWAN BALI I DC
NEW DELHI, AUG. 7

Indian Air Force Vice Chief Harjit Singh Arora on Friday visited Daulat Beg Oldie Advanced Landing Ground (ALG), where Chinese have intruded in the Depsang plains in an attempt to dominate this strategically important sector which is near Aksai Chin.

This is one of the world's highest airstrips, built in 1962 and reactivated in 2008. This airstrip could play an important role in case of any armed confrontation with China in providing logistic support to the Indian Army.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is unhappy with the construction of the 255-kilometre Darbuk-Shayok-Daulat Beg Oldie road which ends near the airstrip.

It provides all weather

road connectivity with Leh. China is sensitive to India building its capability at Daulat Beg Oldie as it is near China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

Air Marshal Arora visited forward air bases in Ladakh sector of Western Air Command (WAC), said Indian Air Force in a statement.

Besides reviewing the operational preparedness at these bases, he interacted with air force personnel of the combat units currently operating at these locations. He was briefed about the operational readiness of IAF assets deployed in the area. He asked Air Force personnel to ensure a high state of combat readiness at all times.

During the visit Air Marshal Arora also flew the Chinook and the Light Combat Helicopter.

Rlys to end colonial era Khalasi system

New Delhi, Aug. 7: The Railways is set to end a colonial-era practise of appointing khalasis or 'bungalow peons' who worked at the residences of senior officials, following an order from the Railway Board barring any new appointment to the post.

In an order issued on August 6, the Railway Board has said the issue regarding

telephone attendant-cum-dak khalasis (TADKS) is under review. "The issue regarding the appointment of TADK is under review in Railway Board. It has, therefore, been decided that any appointment of fresh face substitutes as TADK should not either be processed or made with immediate effect," the order said.

— PTI

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Inviting proposals for conducting Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP)

Proposals based on Innovative Appropriate Technologies to cater the need of the local masses are invited from R&D Institutes/ Academia/ NGOs and Skill Development agencies for conducting EDP under Skill India Scheme on "Empowerment of Youth in North East and Rural Areas and across the country" For further details please visit NRDC website: www.nrdcindia.com
Last date for submission of proposal is 31st August, 2020 upto 5.30 pm.
Davp 36206/11/0004/2021

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
Head Office: 10-152/1, Sri Sai Towers, Bandar Road Kanuru, Vijayawada-520007.
Tender No. POS. 3/32/Carry Bags/MDU/2020 Dated: 07.08.2020

TENDER NOTICE

EMPANELMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF MANUFACTURERS FOR SUPPLY OF NON WOVEN CARRY BAGS TO THE MLS POINTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH STATE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF RICE AT THE DOOR STEP OF CARDHOLDERS UNDER PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM THROUGH APE-KONUGOLU PLATFORM.

Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd invites Tenders for Empanelment and Appointment of Manufacturers for Supply of Non Woven Carry bags to all the MSL Points of (13) districts in Andhra Pradesh State for distribution of Rice at the Door Step of Cardholders Under Public Distribution System through AP E-Konugolu platform.

All the interested Manufacturers in All Over India may visit <https://konugolu.ap.gov.in> and www.apssci.in to view and download tender documents at free of cost.

Interested tenders to submit bids should be registered in website <https://konugolu.ap.gov.in> and should Digital Signature Certificates from any Certifying Authority in India. The details and procedure for obtaining Digital Signature Certificates are mentioned in the website <https://konugolu.ap.gov.in> or contact the helpdesk of Konugolu platform, Phone number: 08645246370/71/72/73/74.

Last date for registration and completion of formalities for the e-auction will be up to 5:00 PM of 19.08.2020 and the tentative date of online e-reverse auction through AP E-Konugolu platform would be 24.08.2020 from 11 AM onwards.

Sd/- VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR

EASTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P.LTD
OPERATION CIRCLE : VIZIANAGARAM

e-tender notice SE/OVZM/Civil/05/2020-21

Sealed tenders are invited from Registered Contractors for "Providing House Keeping services to Circle office, Vizianagaram."

For downloading the above tenders detailed Tender Notice explore website www.approcurement.gov.in or contact office of the Superintending Engineer, Operation, Vizianagaram. Last date & Time for receipt of Tenders through online is 25.08.2020 upto 12.00 Hrs. PH:08922-222942, 9440817671.

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E-TENDER NOTICE

QUOTING NO: RPYP/AMC/18-19/210(A)

- Digitally sealed tenders through E-Procurement are invited for AMC for 04 in Nos. Welding simulators of MFAB department at ND(V) for three years.
- The E-Tender documents can be downloaded from the web "www.defproc.gov.in." The demand draft of **Rs. 38,200/-** from a Nationalised Bank is also to be attached along with offline tender document towards payment of Earnest Money Deposit.
- For any clarifications on tendering of subject item, please send the mail to **MYP-ENCNDV@NAVY.GOV.IN** and any clarifications on technical aspects please contact MFAB department on **TEL. 0891-2816421**
- Offline sealed tenders are required to be dropped in tender box marked as "MYP" kept at Vijayanagar Gate of Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam or be sent by Registered Post so as to reach this office by **29 AUG 2020** (1830 Hrs).

davp 10702/11/0033/2021 **DGM (RP)**

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity Number: U40109SB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in
(Office: Superintending Engineer / Civil Design, PSPCL, E-2, Shakti Vihar, Patiala Mobile No. 9646119430)

Tender Enquiry No. 01/2021/CD

DNIT FOR PURCHASE OF 43 GRADE ORDINARY PORTLAND CEMENT CONFORMING TO IS:269/2016 (WITH LATEST AMENDMENTS) PACKED IN NEW SYNTHETIC/JUTE BAGS CONTAINING 20 BAGS IN A MT FOR PSPCL PILOT WORKSHOPS MOHALI, MUKTSAR & SARNA - TOTAL QUANTITY = 1000 MT. (FROM MANUFACTURER/PURE AGENT, CHAPTER 26 OF GSTT)

Last Date and Time for submission of tender documents - 07.09.2020 at 12.00 PM

Date and Time of opening of Tender - 11.09.2020 at 12.00 PM

The details regarding e-tendering process/DNIT may be seen on <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> or prospective bidders may contact their customer care.

Please note that corrigendum will NOT be published in newspapers and will be available only on website.

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SHORT TAKES

RAJAPAKSA CLAN
WINS 2/3RD
MAJORITY IN POLLS

Colombo, Aug. 7: Mahinda Rajapaksa will be sworn in as Sri Lanka's Prime Minister for the fourth time on Sunday after his party registered a landslide victory in the general election, securing two-thirds majority in Parliament needed to amend the Constitution to further consolidate the powerful Rajapaksa family's grip on power.

The Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP), led by prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, won in 145 constituencies, bagging a total of 150 seats with its allies, a two-thirds majority in the 225-member Parliament, according to the results announced by the election commission on Friday. It won all but four of the 22 electoral districts on offer, polling 6.8 million votes (59.9 per cent). — PTI

BOY SWEEPED OUT TO
SEA SURVIVES WITH
FLOATING SKILLS

London, Aug. 7: A 10-year-old indian-origin boy, who was swept out to sea during a family trip to the beach in northern England, has spoken about how he survived using the floating advice he picked up on a television documentary show.

Ravi Saini was able to battle the waves for more than an hour and even earned praise from the rescuers who found him on his back, with his arms and legs spread, shouting for help in the water near Scarborough, on the North Sea coast, on July 31.

As someone who takes weekly swimming lessons and is a fan of the BBC documentary 'Saving Lives at Sea', Ravi says that is where he saw the "Float to Live" technique of lying on your back, staying calm and spreading out like a starfish. "I felt like 'yeah I finally got a second chance to live'," said Ravi, in reference to his rescue. — PTI

Trump cites India to
ban TikTok, WeChat

Donald Trump

● **THE BAN** comes into effect in 45 days, Trump said in two separate executive orders signed on Thursday. India was the first country to ban TikTok and WeChat, citing national security concerns.

● **US WILL** end its reliance on China and other foreign nations for pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, President Donald Trump has said, asserting that Beijing would have to pay the price for the wound it has inflicted on America and the world by spreading the deadly Coronavirus.

ByteDance Ltd, automatically captures vast swaths of information from its users, Trump said.

This data collection threatens to allow the ruling Chinese Communist Party access to Americans' personal and proprietary information - potentially allowing China to track the locations of federal employees and contractors, build dossiers of personal infor-

mation for blackmail, and conduct corporate espionage, he alleged.

TikTok also reportedly censors content that the Chinese Communist Party deems politically sensitive, such as content concerning protests in Hong Kong and China's treatment of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities.

The US will end its reliance on China and other foreign nations for pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, President Donald Trump has said, asserting that Beijing would have to pay the price for the wound it has inflicted on America and the world by spreading the deadly Coronavirus.

President Trump and leaders of several countries have accused China of not being transparent in reporting the deadly disease, leading to huge human casualties and economic crisis across the world.

China, however, has denied US' accusation of covering up the extent of its Coronavirus outbreak and accused America of attempting to divert public attention by insinuating that the virus originated from a virology laboratory in Wuhan.

"What China did is a terrible thing. Whether it was incompetence or on purpose, it was a terrible thing that they did not only to the United States, but to the world. A terrible thing," Trump told reporters at the White House on Thursday before flying to Ohio to visit a Whirlpool manufacturing plant. has over one billion users worldwide, including users in the United States.

— Agencies

Lebanon Prez suspects
missile caused blasts

Rejects international probe as an attempt to dilute truth

Beirut, Aug. 7: Lebanon's president Friday rejected any international probe into the catastrophic port blast, saying a missile or negligence could have been responsible as rescuers desperately combed the rubble for survivors.

The entrenched ruling class has come under fire once again since Tuesday's explosion, which killed at least 154 people and devastated swathes of the capital.

The revelation that a huge shipment of hazardous ammonium nitrate fertiliser had languished for years in a warehouse in the heart of the capital served as shocking proof to many Lebanese of the rot at the core of their political system.

Even Lebanese President Michel Aoun admitted Friday that the "paralysed" system needed to be "reconsidered." "We are facing changes and reconsidering our system, which is built on consensus, after it was seen to be paralysed and incapable of swiftly executing decisions," Aoun told reporters.

He pledged "swift justice" but rejected widespread calls for an international probe, telling a reporter he saw it as an attempt to "dilute the truth." "There are two possible scenarios for what happened: it was either negligence or foreign interference through a missile or bomb," he said, the first time a top Lebanese official raised the possibility that the port had been attacked.

— AFP



French rescuers search the Beirut port on Thursday, three days after a massive blast there shook the Lebanese capital. - Rescuers combed through the rubble of Beirut port today in a search for survivors watched breathlessly by relatives of the missing, after an investigation.

— AFP

ISRAEL ARMY
DOWNS DRONE
FROM LEBANON

Jerusalem, Aug. 7: The Israeli army said it had shot down a drone overnight on Thursday into Friday that came from Lebanon, a border on heightened military alert due to recent skirmishes.

Israeli troops overnight "identified a drone which infiltrated into Israeli airspace in the Mount Hermon area, along the Israeli side of the Blue Line" demarcating the Jewish state and Lebanon, the army said.

"The drone was monitored and downed," it said, adding Israeli troops were conducting searches in the area.

— AFP

Rescuers scour blast
zone as arrests made

Beirut, Aug. 7: Rescuers combed through the rubble of Beirut port on Friday in a search for survivors watched breathlessly by relatives of the missing, with authorities making five new arrests in a high-profile probe.

Shock has turned to anger in Lebanon since Tuesday's colossal explosion killed at least 154 people and devastated swathes of the capital, with security forces firing tear gas at demonstrators who gathered near parliament late on Thursday.

The revelation that a huge shipment of hazardous ammonium nitrate fertiliser had lan-

guished for years in a warehouse in the heart of the capital served as shocking proof to many Lebanese of the rot at the core of their political system.

What ignited the 2,750 tonnes of fertiliser is still unclear — officials have said work had recently begun on repairs to the warehouse, while others suspected fireworks which were stored either in the same place or nearby.

Near the seat of the explosion, by the carcass of the port's giant grain silos, rescue teams from France, Germany, Italy and other countries coordinated their search efforts.

— AFP

GAMES

SHORT TAKES

Manpreet, three
others Covid +ve

New Delhi: The Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh and three other players have tested positive for Covid-19 ahead of the national camp's resumption in Bengaluru, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Friday.

Besides Manpreet, defender Surender Kumar, Jaskaran Singh and drag-flicker Varun Kumar have also tested positive for the deadly virus.

"I am self quarantined on the SAI campus and I am very happy with the way SAI authorities have handled the situation...I am doing fine and hope to recover very soon," the 28-year-old Manpreet said in the statement issued by SAI.

"I am very happy that they made the testing of athletes mandatory. That proactive step helped in identifying the problem right in time."

The players tested positive after returning to the national hockey camp at the SAI South Centre in Bengaluru following a month-long break.

They were earlier stranded at the centre for over two months (till June) when a national lockdown was imposed to contain the virus. — PTI

Malik to fly to Eng
if tests negative

Karachi: T20 specialist Shoaib Malik will need to clear two Covid-19 tests before he can leave on August 15 to join the Pakistan team at Southampton ahead of the three-match series against England beginning August 28.

"The PCB is planning to fly-out T20 specialist Shoaib Malik to Southampton on 15 August, provided he returns two negative Covid-19 tests as per the agreed protocols and processes," the Board said in a statement.

The T20 series, which follows the ongoing Test rubber between the two nations, will be held in a bio-secure environment in Manchester on August 28, August 30 and September 1. The PCB had allowed Malik permission to join the squad in England late as he wanted to spend time with his family in UAE.

The former Pakistan skipper, who is married to India's tennis star Sania Mirza and has a one-year-old son Ishaan.

— PTI

STRONG SEVILLA SURGE ON
Blank Roma to make Europa quarterfinals

Duisburg, Aug. 7: Sevilla beat Roma 2-0 in the round of 16 to stay in the hunt for a record sixth Europa League title, as Wolverhampton, Bayer Leverkusen and Basel also qualified for the quarterfinals.

Sergio Reguilon gave Sevilla the lead with a surging run through the Roma defense and a shot past keeper Pau Lopez in the 22nd minute. Youssef En-Nesyri added the second just before halftime, tapping in a low cross

from Lucas Ocampos.

Sevilla could easily have scored more, with two shots hitting the crossbar and a goal overturned for offside on video review. Playing after a packed run of Italian league games, Roma didn't muster a single shot on target in the first half and just one in the second.

It was a single game at a neutral venue in Germany because no first leg was played in March before the season was suspended amid the

Coronavirus pandemic.

Roma defender Gianluca Mancini was sent off in added time after video review for making contact with Luuk De Jong's head in a challenge for the ball. It was Roma's first game since its \$700 million takeover by the Texas-based Friedkin Group was confirmed Thursday morning.

Sevilla next faces a quarterfinal Tuesday against Wolves after the English team squeezed past Olympiakos 1-0 on the

night and 2-1 on aggregate for its first European quarterfinal in 48 years.

Bayer Leverkusen earned a quarterfinal against Inter Milan, beating Rangers 1-0 on Thursday thanks to a powerful shot from Moussa Diaby for a 4-1 aggregate win.

Basel already had a 3-0 lead from the first leg and made the quarterfinals after Fabian Frei scored the only goal of the game in a 1-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt.

— AP



Pakistan's Asad Shafiq (left) dives to catch the ball to dismiss England's Dominic Bess (centre) during the third day of their first Test at the Old Trafford in Manchester on Friday.

— AP

Pakistan's spinners set up
trap, English on backfoot

Manchester, Aug. 7: England were bowled out for 219, a 107-run first innings deficit, after losing six wickets to Pakistan's leg-spinners on the third day of the first test at Old Trafford on Friday.

At tea Pakistan stretched its lead by another 20 runs to take control despite Shan Masood's duck.

Ollie Pope's 62 was as good as it got for the England batsmen, with the majority of those runs scored on Day Two, with Yasir Shah claiming

4-66 and Shadab Khan taking the last two wickets.

England resumed the day on 92-4 with Pope and Jos Buttler hoping to continue the rescue mission they had started the previous evening.

Pope had 46 to his name when he walked out but almost fell short of his half-century, deflecting Shaheen Afridi over the top of the stumps in an early scare. He got there soon after, off 81 balls, but the first hour was little more than a trial for the home side.

Just nine runs came off

the bat in that time, outscored by the 10 extras Pakistan contributed, with the three-pronged pace attack of Shaheen, Mohammad Abbas and Naseem Khan working up a head of steam. Buttler edged the third ball of Naseem's spell just short of second slip but after that it was a string of plays and misses.

— AP
Brief scores: England 219 in 70.3 overs (O. Pope 62, J. Buttler 38, S. Broad 29*, Y. Shah 4/66, S. Khan 2/13, M. Abbas 2/33) vs Pakistan 2nd innings (20/1) lead by 127.

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ROUND OF 16,
SECOND LEG

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on Sony Ten 1

Barcelona vs Napoli
from 12.30 am (Sunday)
on Sony Ten 2

Back on court



Coach Park Tae-Sang (from left), chief coach Pullela Gopichand and P. V. Sindhu are all smiles on the first day of resumption of training camp at the SAI Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy in Hyderabad on Friday.

INDIA TO HOST
2021 T20 WC,
Oz IN 2022

Dubai, Aug. 7: India on Friday retained the right to host the 2021 T20 World Cup while Australia will conduct this year's postponed edition in 2022, the ICC announced after its board meeting, straightening out a schedule that went topsy-turvy due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The International Cricket Council (ICC) today confirmed that the T20 World Cup 2020 that was postponed due to Covid-19 will be held in Australia in 2022. India will host the T20 World Cup 2021 as planned," the ICC stated in a press release.

The global body also confirmed that next year's women's ODI World Cup in New Zealand has been postponed until February-March 2022.

ENGLAND'S INDIA TOUR
PUT OFF TILL 2021

India's white-ball series against England, scheduled at home in September-October, was on Friday postponed until early 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Both teams were scheduled to play three ODIs and as many T20s and the matches could now be held after the Test series between the two in India early next year.

— Agencies

Martic rallies for
a place in Last 8

Palermo, Aug. 7: Top-seeded Petra Martic rallied past Russian qualifier Liudmila Samsonova 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 to reach the Palermo Ladies Open quarterfinals Thursday in the first tournament following a five-month break due to the coronavirus.

"The struggle was real out there today," Martic said after the two-hour match.

"She's not the type of player I like to play. She plays really fast, hits really flat and low. And especially on these (clay) courts it can be tricky," she added.

"Overall I didn't really enjoy myself out there. But I realised right away that it was not going to be easy and I was going to have to fight," she said.

Martic will next face another qualifier, Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

Also advancing was fourth-seeded Anett Kontaveit, who also had to come from behind to defeat Laura Siegemund 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Kontaveit's quarterfinal

● **Top seed Petra Martic had to overcome a stubborn opponent in Liudmila Samsonova 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, in a match that lasted over two hours, to make the quarterfinal at the Palermo Ladies Open.**

opponent will be Italian wild-card entry Elisabetta Cocciaretto.

In yet another three-set comeback win, Italy's Camila Giorgi eliminated Slovenian qualifier Kaja Juvan 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Players and officials for the tournament are being tested every four days for Covid-19 and one player who tested positive withdrew over the weekend. New protocols include fewer ball kids, a limited number of fans and no post-match handshakes between opponents.

— AP

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