

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
VISAKHAPATNAM | FRIDAY | 25 JUNE 2021

WEATHER

Max: 32.6°C
Min: 23.8°C
RH: 76%
Rainfall: Trace
Forecast: Drizzle.
Max/Min temp.
32/23 °C

Hyundai ALCAZAR.

6 and 7 seater SUV.



Turn to page 4-5

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana
Tithi: Jyeshtha Bahula Padyami till 9.02 pm
Star: Moola till 6.40 am;
Purvashada till 4.25 am
(Saturday)
Varjyam: 5.14 am to 6.40 am;
3.22 pm to 4.49 pm
Durmuhurtam: 8.24 am to
9.16 am; 12.45 pm to 1.37 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon
HUIRI CALENDAR
Zeeqad 13,1442 AH
PRAYERS
(ROYAL MOSQUE)
Fajar: 5.05 am
Zohar: 1.30 pm
Asar: 5.00 pm
Maghrib: 6.19 pm
Isha: 8.30 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.35 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.24 AM
MOONSET TODAY 5.38 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 7.25 PM

COUNTER POINT



Crisis is over... no threat to my government for the next 48 hours!

SHORT TAKES

China caused border row: India

New Delhi: India on Thursday said China's amassing of a large number of troops close to the border last year and attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo seriously disturbed peace and tranquillity in the region. India's comments on the matter came a day after China said its military deployment in the region is a normal "defence arrangement" to respond to actions by the "relevant" country. India said these acts are in violation of its bilateral agreements with China.

India asks Opec to cut oil prices

New Delhi: With domestic retail fuel prices jumping to record high, India on Thursday pressed oil cartel OPEC for 'affordable' oil price within a 'reasonable band' and that the producers should phase out production cuts. Petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan in virtual dialogue with Opec secretary general Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo reiterated concerns over oil prices shooting above \$75 per barrel.

MEA: Will pursue Nirav Modi case

New Delhi: After fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi lost the first stage of his extradition appeal in the UK High Court, the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday said it has noted the decision and will continue its efforts to pursue his early extradition to India to face justice. MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "We will continue efforts to pursue his early extradition."

WORLD | 7

McAfee antivirus founder dead



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SPORTS | 8

Ronaldo equals record for most goals



TABLOID

Britney wants her life back



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State decides to cancel Class 10, inter exams

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 24

Ending a long anxious wait, the Andhra Pradesh government on Thursday announced cancellation of Class 10 and Intermediate second year (Class 12) examinations. The decision comes within hours of the Supreme Court bench expressing its dissatisfaction over the adamant stand of the state government in deciding to conduct the examinations in the last week of July, while many states had done away with the examinations.

At a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, minister for education Adimulapu Suresh and higher officials of the education department explained about the apex court directions and it was decided to cancel both exams.

Addressing a press meet later, Suresh said that all the states had ordered that the examination results by July 31, which was impossible as Andhra Pradesh would take 45 days to evaluate the exam papers. He announced that the government would appoint a high-

Declare results by July 31: SC to states

New Delhi, June 24: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed all the state boards to declare results of internal assessment of Class 12 examination by July 31, making it clear that each board is free to formulate its own evaluation method for students and there can't be a "fit-all" scheme.

The apex court, which said it would not pass any direction for a uniform assessment scheme across the country for students whose board exams have

been cancelled amid the Covid-19 pandemic, directed the state boards to ensure that schemes are formulated and notified at the earliest and not later than 10 days from Thursday.

A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari said, "We direct all the state boards to ensure that the schemes are formulated and notified at the earliest and not later than 10 days from today and also declare the results."

EDUCATION MINISTER

Suresh said the Supreme Court had ordered that all the states should declare the examination results by July 31, which was impossible as the state needs 45 days to evaluate the exam papers.

power committee to look into the announcement of results and awarding of marks.

Meanwhile, Telugu Desam MLC Nara Lokesh termed the decision as a victory for students, parents and teachers after their relentless agitation demanding cancellation.

He said that it was after a two-month agitation that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had relented and cancelled the exams. CPI state secretary K. Ramakrishna also welcomed the government's decision.

AP SEES SLIGHT RISE IN COVID INFECTIONS

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 24

Thursday saw a slight rise in Covid19 infections in Andhra Pradesh, with the registration of 4,981 such cases on its daily chart against the 4,684 cases on Wednesday. A total of 38 new deaths were registered, increasing the death toll to 12,452.

As many as 6,464 patients were discharged following recovery from infection across 13 districts and 88,622 samples were tested in which 4,981 were found infected. The state conducted a total 2,14,49,636 Corona tests in the 13 districts so far.

The total Covid19 infections in the 13 districts were of 1,86,701 of which the total recoveries were 17,98,380. The East Godavari district was on top of the daily chart, with 943 new infections, followed by Chittoor with 854, West Godavari 593, Sriakakulam 500, Prakasam 380, Krishna 372, Anantapur 283, Nellore 269, Guntur 267, Kadapa 238, Visakhapatnam 115, Kurnool 107 and Vizianagaram 80 new cases of infections.

■ Page 3: East Godavari tops in fresh Covid cases

Jagan to spend ₹34,000cr for housing infra

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 24

The Andhra Pradesh government will spend ₹34,000 crore on providing basic infrastructure in mega housing colonies in the 13 districts.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday said that the whole country is looking towards AP for its construction of 30 lakh houses under mega housing programme. He instructed officials to have a dedicated phone number to receive complaints and suggestions on the mega housing programme.

Reddy held a review meeting on the progress of construction of houses, action plan on developing infrastructure facilities in Jagananna colonies and TIDCO houses and directed officials to solve any problems in arranging water and electricity facilities. He said the works should be completed within a week in all layouts.

The Chief Minister instructed the officials to take appropriate measures to ensure that other rates, including transport

charges, do not rise abruptly in view of house constructions. He said it's his dream to spend ₹34,000 crore to develop infrastructure facilities in Jagananna colonies.

Reddy said there should be no scope for corruption and no compromise over quality. He said the goal was to provide the best living standards to the poor and colonies should not be turned into slums.

During a review on TIDCO houses, officials informed that 2,08,136 units would be completed in eighteen months and around ₹10,000 crore will be spent on it.

■ Page 2: Construction of 7 lakh houses to begin in July

PM: J&K polls after rejig of Assembly segments

Says he wants to end Dilli Ki Duri and Dil Ki Duri

RAJNISH SHARMA
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

In a major initiative, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday reached out to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, saying that he was committed to remove "Dilli ki doori", as well as "Dil ki doori", and also reiterated that he was committed to restoring full statehood to J&K at an "appropriate time".

Mr Modi expressed his views at a marathon meeting with 14 top J&K leaders from eight different parties, which included four former CMs — Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mehbooba Mufti, Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah. Home minister Amit Shah and national security adviser Ajit Doval were among those present.

This is the first time top political leaders from J&K held detailed talks with Prime Minister Modi and other Central leaders like



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an all-party meeting with various political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir, in Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

Amit Shah since J&K's special status under Article 370 was abolished in August 2019 and the state was split up into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, former CM Omar Abdullah said both Mr Modi and Mr

Shah pledged they were committed to restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

The Centre wants to hold Assembly polls immediately after the delimitation commission submits its report, but senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad urged the Prime

● HOME MINISTER Amit Shah tweeted that the delimitation exercise and holding of peaceful elections in the Union Territory are key milestones in restoring statehood.

● FAROOQ ABDULLAH said his party National Conference would continue to challenge through legal and constitutional means the abrogation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution.

Minister to restore full statehood before conducting the polls, he said.

He said that, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, said there was an urgent need to rebuild trust in J&K.

■ Page 2: Mehbooba wants revival of talks with Pak

Power projector



Indigenous aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant* docked at Ennakulam Wharf ahead of defence minister Rajnath Singh and Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh's visit to Southern Naval Command, in Kochi on Thursday. Singh said *INS Vikrant* will be completed soon and is likely to be commissioned as the country completes 75 years of Independence. — PTI

AP opposes Centre's Maritime Bill

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 24

The Andhra Pradesh government has objected to certain provisions of the proposed Indian Ports Act, 2020, amendment bill mooted by the Union shipping ministry at a virtual meeting of the Maritime State Development Council held on Thursday.

Industries minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy, who attended the virtual meet chaired by shipping minister Mansukh L. Mandaviya, conveyed the AP government's objection to

the proposed port bill, saying its provisions went against the Constitution.

"We support the good deeds and decisions taken by the Centre. But we told them that they cannot take away our rights. The power of supervision and control over the ports is vested in the state governments. We have to study the draft bill and sought one month's time for this to present our views. A committee will be appointed to study the provisions," the minister said in a statement.

The minister made it

clear that the Indian Ports Bill, 2020, is welcome only if the Centre agreed to some changes. The AP judiciary department is reviewing the draft bill.

Goutham Reddy said the bill provides the setting up of a Maritime Port Regulatory Authority for 160 minor ports in India.

"As per the same law, 13 major ports have 13 regulatory authorities. This increased discrimination between minor and major ports. Hence, as in the case of major ports, each state should delegate the powers of Maritime Port

Regulatory Authority to the respective State Maritime Boards," he said.

He said the central government should not interfere in the regulatory responsibilities of minor ports. Instead, state governments should be empowered to control ports.

"In order to take the economy of the states forward, the role of ports within those states is crucial. This is because only states provide the key infrastructure and land allocation for minor ports," he said.

MONEY | MATTERS

State team ends dispute over land compensation by landlords Nellore to get Midhani's alloy plant

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC
NELLORE, JUNE 24

The sustained efforts of revenue authorities and APIIC have put an end to land compensation issues that had delayed the proposed aluminium alloy plant of Midhani in association with Nalco, spread over 110 acres in Boddavaripalem near Nellore.

Incidentally, it is the first defence manufacturing facility of Mishra Dhatu Nigam (Midhani) outside of Hyderabad and the organisation is expected to invest ₹2,000 on the facili-

ty, which has vast employment potential.

While 57.14 acres is government land, the remaining belonged to Cooperative Joint Farming Society (CJFS). The CJFS land was assigned to the landless poor (one acre per beneficiary) free of cost for cultivation in the 1980s but the land was resumed in 2010 as none of the beneficiaries utilised the land.

However, the government assigned the lands once again after 2013 at the rate of 60 cents per head to the old beneficiaries and some more eligible per-

● INDUSTRIES minister, officials of APIIC and Midhani negotiated with litigators and convinced them to accept a one-time settlement of ₹4 lakh

sons. In 2017, in a bid to allot the land required for Midhani, APIIC paid ₹10 lakh compensation per acre of CJFS land, although the market value was only ₹4 lakh.

Meanwhile, the assignees collected ₹10 lakh per acre initially but started demanding ₹56 lakh per

acre citing the amount paid for lands acquired for Coca-Cola unit in the neighbourhood.

In fact, they obstructed the construction of the compound wall, when Midhani started the work and moved the High Court to realise their demand.

In this backdrop, industries minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy, a team of revenue officials led by SPSR Nellore district collector K.V.N. Chakradhar Babu, officials of Midhani and APIIC negotiated with those involved in the litigation and convinced them to

accept a one-time settlement of ₹4 lakh per petitioner as a final settlement.

Expressing satisfaction over the outcome of deliberations, Chakradhar Babu said a public hearing was held on April 15 and they were awaiting environmental clearance and Consent for Establishment for the project.

Goutham Reddy said that decks are cleared for Midhani to recommence construction works. He thanked Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and DRDO chairman G. Satheesh Reddy.

Twitter India MD spared from action

Bengaluru/Ghaziabad, June 24: In a relief to Twitter India head Manish Maheshwari, the Karnataka High Court on Thursday restrained the UP police, which has summoned him in connection with a pro-be related to the assault of an elderly Muslim man at Ghaziabad, from initiating coercive action against him.

The single bench of Justice G. Narender said the police can examine Maheshwari through virtual mode. "If the police desire to examine the petitioner (Manish Maheshwari), they may do so through virtual mode."

"If the matter requires consideration, we list it on June 29. Meanwhile, restraining the respondents from initiating any coercive action against the petitioner," the court maintained.

Appearing on behalf of Maheshwari, advocate C.V. Nagesh said someone had posted a video on the Twitter alleging that a Muslim was forced to chant 'Jai Sri Ram' and 'Vande Mataram'. When he refused, his beard was cut. — PTI

SHORT TAKES

NEW POSTINGS
FOR 22 DSPS
IN STATEDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 24

Twenty-two Deputy Superintendents of police were transferred on Thursday, following the recommendations of the Police Establishment Board. The transfer orders were signed by Director-General of police Gautam Sawang. The DSPs were directed to report in their new place of posting immediately.

N. Ramya, SDPO, Kalyandurg is posted as SDPO, (Prob.DSP) Penukonda, in the existing vacancy.

V. Narayanaswamy Reddy, DSP, SB, Guntur Rural, is posted as SDPO, Darsi, in place of K. Prakash Rao, who was asked to report at the police headquarters, Mangalagiri.

D. Viswanath SDPO, Srikalahasti was posted as SDPO, (Prob.DSP) Guntakal, in place of S. Sharfuddin who was transferred to the police headquarters, Mangalagiri.

V. Srinivasa Reddy, DSP, Traffic, Kadapa was posted as DSP, SB, Chittoor.

G. Rajeev Kumar DSP, RSTF, Kurnool, was posted as DSP, DISHA, Krishna, in place of Abdul Azeed, transferred to the police headquarters, Mangalagiri.

Y. Srinivasa Rao, DSP, posted as DSP, SC/ST Cell, Nellore in place of M. Veera Kumar who was transferred as DSP, SB, Srikakulam.

Ch. Srinivasa Rao, DSP, SB, Srikakulam, was posted as ACP North, Visakhapatnam.

B. Venugopal, DSP, was posted as DSP Traffic, Tirumala.

S. Venkateswara Rao, DSP, ACB, was posted to Vigilance and Enforcement.

P. Bharatmataji, DSP, CID, was transferred to Traffic, Machilipatnam.

Sk. Masum Basha, DSP, Traffic, Machilipatnam, was posted as to CCS, Rajamahendravaram

B. Rama Krishna, DSP, posted as DSP, CID.

M.J.V. Bhaskara Rao, DSP, posted to CCS, Rajamahendravaram.

Md. Abdul Subhan, DSP, posted to Traffic, Nellore.

P. Mallikarjuna Rao, DSP, Traffic, Nellore, transferred as DSP, Traffic, Ongole.

B. Nagabhushana Rao, DSP, posted as DSP/AC, 2 Bn. APSP Kurnool.

Dr V. B. Raj Kamal, SDPO, Paderu, posted as ACP South Visakhapatnam.

S. Khader Basha, SDPO, Chintoor, posted as ACP Central, Vijayawada.

Y. Srinivasa Reddy, ACP, Central, Vijayawada City, posted as SDPO Dhone.

S.R. Vamsidhar Goud, DSP, posted as DSP intelligence, DSP,

APPSC TO CLEAR
DOUBTS OF GROUP-1
EXAM ASPIRANTSDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 24

The AP Public Service Commission (APPSC) refuted allegations about illegalities in the selection of candidates for Group-1 posts under the sports quota. APPSC member S. K. Salaam Babu said that the allegations levelled by a few people were "baseless and totally false". He said that APPSC was ready to clear all doubts of the candidates regarding the selection.

Speaking with the media here on Thursday, Salaam Babu said it was untrue that 70 candidates had been selected for Group-1 posts under the sports quota. On the allegations of change of Group-1 booklets in Kakinada and Srikakulam exam centres, he said that the APPSC replaces damaged booklets from the buffer stocks; hence the booklets were provided according to norms and there was no change for any illegality.

Salaam Babu said that there are no anomalies in the digital valuation of Group-1 exam papers as the APPSC had intimated aspirants about the digital valuation a year ago. He said that the APPSC had studied the digital valuation processes in several states for two months and approved its implementation in the state. He said that there was a separate wing to look after the question paper setting and answer paper valuation, and there is no involvement of others.

The official said the APPSC is ready to clear the doubts of Group-1 aspirants.

Salaam Babu said that unemployed persons had asked the APPSC to increase the number of posts in the job calendar, and the commission had forwarded them to the government and was awaiting a decision.

Kshatriya Corporation launched



Minister Ch Sriranganatha Raju (right), Kshatriya community MLAs, and MLC thank Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for launching the Kshatriya Corporation, at the camp office in Vijayawada on Thursday.

State against changes in
Airport Amendments bill

If GOI stakes are sold, there will not be any control on airports

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, JUNE 24

The state government has strongly opposed some amendments in the Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill 2021 as they would lead to monopolisation in the civil aviation sector.

Margani Bharat, YSRC Parliamentary Party Chief Whip, who is on the civil aviation parliamentary standing committee, opposed the Bill in the Airport Economic Regulatory Committee meeting at New Delhi on Thursday and raised several issues that he said would prove harmful to

airports and passengers.

He clarified that the state was not opposing privatization, but would oppose monopoly in privatisation. He said that the amendment of Section 2(i) of the parent Act has a very deep meaning and the repercussions would be terrible.

He said that the intention behind the proposed amendment was to privatise airports under AAI and the Centre would bundle or pair some airports and impose development charges and other tariffs on passengers to benefit the concessionaire.

He said that the foundation for the bill was in 2019 as the then AAI chairman

made a statement in 2019 that Vijayawada and Tirupati airports would be privatised. Bharat said that he had opposed the statement at that time. The MP said that ₹750 crore was allocated for expansion and modernisation of Vijayawada and ₹200 crore for the Tirupati airport. He questioned how AAI and Ministry of Civil Aviation were justifying the move for privatisation after investing nearly ₹1,000 crore for their expansion. He said that there are six airports in Andhra Pradesh and three of them are international airports. Kurnool airport started its operations in March and can't

assess its viability while Rajama-hendravaram airport is incurring losses ₹32.84 crore. Now once this Bill becomes an Act, the ministry will hand over all these airports to private players either through bunching or pairing and the private players would fleece passengers. Bharat said that the Civil Aviation Ministry has decided to sell its residual stake in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports and the government has given these airports on PPP mode and concessioners are allowed to operate for 25 to 30 years. If GOI stakes are sold, there will not be any control.

CONSTRUCTION OF
7 LAKH HOUSES TO
BEGIN IN JULY

FROM PAGE 1

They said that works related to mapping, geotagging, issuing of job cards, registration were almost complete and construction of 3.03 lakh houses have already started. Construction of seven lakh houses would start by July 10 and the first phase of houses would be completed by next June.

Ministers Botsa Satyanarayana and Cherukuvada Srikanth, Raju, municipal administration special CS, Y. Srilakshmi, housing special CS Ajay Jain, finance secretary KVV Satyanarayana, housing secretary Rahul Pandey, energy secretary Nagulapalli Srikanth, APSPHCL managing director Narayana Bharat Gupta and other officials were present.

YSRC SLAMS OPPN
FOR SPREADING
FALSE NEWSDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 24

Government public affairs adviser Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy slammed the Opposition and a section of the media for allegedly conspiring against CM Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and the state government by spreading false information.

Speaking to the media, Ramakrishna Reddy said that Chief Minister Reddy had actively participated in many protests as Opposition leader during the TD regime and the previous government had filed cases against him.

Based on SC's guidelines on cases against political leaders, the cases were closed after investigation by lower courts and the HC has taken suo motu cognisance on the issue. Earlier, the then HC judge Justice Rakesh Kumar took up the cases and made harsh comments against the CM and the government and the SC gave a stay on it.

Mehbooba wants revival
of talks with Pakistan

From Page 1

"The trust deficit among the people of Jammu and Kashmir needs to be addressed to immediately by the Centre, and for that the process of restoration of complete statehood is necessary," he said.

On the delimitation commission, Mr Abdullah said the central leadership was told that the exercise in itself was defeating the very purpose with which the BJP-led government had carried out the exercise of abrogation of special status on August 5, 2019.

"On one hand the central leadership claimed the decision in August 2019 was taken for a complete merger of Jammu and Kashmir with the Union of India, and on the other Jammu and Kashmir is treated differently by bringing in separate delimitation commissions for Assam and us.

"If the delimitation commission for Assam was withheld and Assembly elections held there, then why not for Jammu and Kashmir? Isn't this defeating the very purpose of the central leadership?" he asked.

The former CM said even the Central leadership was of the view that the government could not be run by bureaucrats and a political government needed to take charge.

Said Mr Abdullah: "Our party president has made it clear that as and when an invite for the (delimitation) commission meeting

will come, we will take consider it."

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad told reporters he put forward various points on behalf of his party at the meeting, including restoration of complete statehood, followed by elections. "I have also asked for a rehabilitation process for Kashmiri Pandits, release of political prisoners, and domicile rules whereby the Centre guarantees jobs for the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Mr Azad told reporters.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti told reporters the meeting went off well and she complemented the Prime Minister for initiating back-channel talks with Pakistan that led to the ceasefire agreement at the Line of Control and the decrease in infiltration levels.

"I have requested the Prime Minister that, if need be, we could talk to Pakistan once again for further boosting the peace process," she said.

On the abrogation of Article 370, Ms Mufti said her party would continue to fight for its restoration. "After all, the special status has not been given to us by Pakistan. It was given to us by late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar (Vallabhbhai) Patel. We will continue to fight for restoration of the special status through legal and constitutional means," she said.

While stressing on his

commitment to granting full statehood once again to J&K PM Modi sought "co-operation and assistance" from the senior State leaders urging them to help in the delimitation process which will help in redrawing new Assembly constituencies to hold elections. Assembly elections in J&K will be held only after the delimitation exercise can be completed. Sources said most J&K leaders at the meeting expressed their willingness in assisting the Election Commission and the local administration to help complete the delimitation process at the earliest.

Top government sources said most participants at the meeting agreed on the need to further strengthen the democratic process, and the holding of the District Development Council elections was just the beginning. "Our priority is to strengthen grassroots democracy in J&K. Delimitation has to happen at a quick pace so that polls can happen and J&K gets an elected government that gives strength to J&K's development trajectory," Mr Modi said in a tweet after the meeting.

Sources said the Centre also agreed to setting up a committee to review the cases of all political prisoners irrespective of whether they have been released or were still in detention. The committee is likely to be headed by lieutenant-governor Manoj Sinha.

Vizag to be South India's
hub for fitness equipmentV. KAMALAKARA RAO |
DC
VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 24

Vizag would become the southern India hub for manufacture of fitness equipment if the present plans of the Andhra Pradesh industries department for a tie-up with the Bangalore-based Stayfit Health and Fitness World Pvt. Ltd materialised.

At present, there is no fitness manufacturing unit in south India. The existing units at Jalandhar in Punjab are not able to fully meet the country's requirements. India imports \$5 billion worth of fitness equipment like treadmills from Taiwan, the US, and China.

The Stayfit managing met state industries Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy, who, in-principle, extended the state's support to the project and advised them to come with a detailed project report.

● KEY POINTS:

- Vizag likely to be a hub for fitness manufacturing plant in south India
- The estimated project cost is ₹700 crore
- 5000 odd employment opportunities assured
- India currently imports \$5 billion worth of fitness equipment from the US, China, and Taiwan
- Bangalore-based fitness company eyes Vizag to establish the project
- AP industries department gives in-principle approval for the project
- Nearly 100 acres of land is required

The firm is eyeing on Visakhapatnam since it would be easy for export of the products across the globe due to the presence of air and sea links.

Stayfit managing director G.K. Ganapathy Reddy said company representatives would come to Vizag next week to identify a location for the project. It

requires 100 acres of land. The estimated cost of the project would be around ₹700 crore with assured direct and indirect employment to nearly 5,000 people.

"India currently imposes an import tax of 31 per cent including GST on every imported fitness product from countries like China, the US, and Taiwan. This apart, it takes nearly 60 days to get the product from foreign countries. If we start our project here, we will start supply from the plant fast and the price would be affordable," Ganapathy Reddy said.

Ganapathy Reddy, who hails from Puttaparthi in Anantapur district, said they also kept Chennai as an alternative option.

"We are currently preparing a detailed project report and studying locations in Vizag. We will submit our report to the government shortly. I personally hope for our project being set up in Andhra," he said.

‘Chalo Rajoli’ bid foiled,
Cong workers detainedDC CORRESPONDENT
KURNOOL, JUNE 24

The 'Chalo Rajoli Banda' call given by All India Congress Committee

(AICC) Secretary and Former MLA Sampath Kumar created tense moments at Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) near Kosgi in Kurnool district. About 500 cars and motorbikes were taken out by Congress party sympathizers from Alampur to register their protest at the RDS for what they feared was

"illegal diversion of Tungabhadra water" for use by Kurnool farmers. However, the procession was stopped at a village near Baligere in

Karnataka on the TS-Karnataka border. The workers, including Sampath Kumar, were detained and released later.

Alleging that Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Reddy was not protecting interests of farmers, particularly in Gadwal and Alampur constituencies, which have maximum ayacut benefits from RDS waters, he said if AP draws four tmc of water from RDS farmers will suffer heavy losses, he said.

Adoni DSP Vinod Kumar had deployed about 50 policemen at the RDS site to address any untoward incident.

CPI SECRETARY SAYS NO ONE IN AP WILL
THINK OF TELANGANA'S WELFAREDC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, JUNE 24

CPI national secretary Dr K. Narayana strongly condemned the comments of Telangana State Minister Vemula Prashant Reddy, who said that everyone in Lanka is a demon, and that no one in Andhra Pradesh will think of Telangana's welfare.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Dr Narayana said that the tongues of those who make provocative comments like Minister Prashant Reddy should be cut. He said the Minister's comments cannot give provide any solution to water disputes between the two states.

The CPI leader also wondered how CM K. Chandrababhan Rao was

retaining Prashant Reddy in his Cabinet after he made such objectionable remarks against the people of a neighbouring state. He said Rao was in big trouble now, as a by-election was approaching with Eatla Rajendar quitting the TRS and the Assembly.

He said that AP had the right to use surplus waters in the Krishna, and that the CMs of the Telugu states should hold discussions on the matter. If the two CMs intend to discuss the matter, the Centre should mediate to find out a solution.

Shifting his focus to the Centre, Dr Narayana said the recent meeting at Nationalist Congress Party's house Sharad Pawar's house was a preliminary attempt to set up a third front.

TTD SPECIFIED AUTHORITY
CHAIRMAN, CONVENER TAKE OATHDC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, JUNE 24

TTD EO Dr K.S. Jawahar Reddy and Additional EO A. V. Dharma Reddy on Thursday took oath as Chairman and Convener of Specified Authority respectively on in front of the presiding deity of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala temple.

The Additional EO first administered the oath to EO as Specified Authority

Chairman at Bangaru Vakili in front of Srivaru and later he took oath as Convener. After taking oath, they both participated in the Jyestabhishekam programme took place at Sampangi Prakaram.

Speaking to media persons outside the temple, Dr Jawahar Reddy said, with the blessings of Swamyvaru he was appointed as TTD EO last year.

BOAT RIDE TO
PAPIKONDALU
FROM JULY 1DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA, JUNE 24

As the Covid-19 spread has reduced, the state government has given the go-ahead to run the tourist boat service to Papikondalu on Godavari river from July 1, Tourism Minister Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao has said.

The Minister held a meeting with tourism officials and boat operators in Vijayawada on Thursday. He said the boat rides that were suspended temporarily due to Covid-19 spread would now be resumed.

He said a committee was formed with officials of police, revenue, irrigation and tourism departments to supervise the boat operations through nine command control rooms.

Rao advised operators to provide all requisite equipment like GPS, life jackets, first aid kits and public address system in the boats. There are 300 boats in the state, of which 48 belonged to the tourism department.

The Minister said tourism is generating a lot of income and providing employment. Tourism should not be politicized. Liquor will be made available in tourism restaurants and it should be understood from the right perspective.

AP GOVERNOR
CONGRATULATES
K. MALLESWARIDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 24

Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan congratulated Karnam Malleswari, the only Indian woman weightlifter to win an Olympic medal, on her appointment as Vice Chancellor of the first Sports University by the Delhi government.

Governor Harichandan said Malleswari had become a household name in the country after she won the bronze medal in weightlifting at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. The Governor said Karnam Malleswari is an inspiration to sportspersons in the country, having won 29 international medals including 11 gold medals in the World Championships, Asian Weightlifting Championships etc. and has been conferred the Arjuna Award, Padma Shri and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

Governor Harichandan said it is a proud moment for the people of the state that Malleswari, who hails from Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh, has been appointed as Vice-Chancellor of the Sports University.

PROPERTY | ISSUE

Venkateswara temple officials ran bulldozers forcibly

Building razed, owners to file case

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 24

Owners of a building located in a prime locality on Station Road here which was demolished by the Venkateswara Swamy temple authorities said they would file a contempt of court petition in the High Court. They said the High Court had given a decree in favour of the building owners.

A member of the family,

B. Suresh Kumar, told Deccan Chronicle on Thursday said that the building having three shops in the front and the residence in the rear was constructed on 649 square yards, and costs ₹12 crore as per the market value.

The family said they had been living in the house for six decades. He said that on June 22, the temple authorities headed by assistant commissioner of endowments

K. JCBs came with police and JCBs and demolished the entire structure without giving advance notice.

"The officials showed no mercy and the shopkeepers lost their livelihood and we lost our shelter," Suresh Kumar said.

He said the land was registered in the name of his grandfather Kumili Suryanarayana Murthy in 1969 and the family had link documents dating

back to 1933. Murthy, an active Congress member, subsequently became a corporator.

Murthy obtained plan approval for constructing shops in 1970 and another plan for construction of the house in 1989. The endowments department went to a lower court challenging the ownership and later to an appellate court. The department lost on both the occasions, Suresh Kumar said.

"To avoid further harassment, we went to the High Court and got a decree in our favour in 2018. Yet the officials, despite production of these court orders, went ahead and demolished the structure," Suresh Kumar said.

He said he lodged a formal complaint in the police station and would file a contempt petition in the High Court in a day or two.

SHORT TAKES

NATIONAL BC WELFARE BODY PREZ CALLS ON CM

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 24

National BC Welfare Association president Krishnaiah has called on the CM at the camp office on Thursday and requested him to put pressure on the Centre as regards the demands related to BC communities.

Krishnaiah lauded the CM for his "transparent, corruption-free and efficient governance" and said the credit for introducing the historic BC Bill in Rajya Sabha goes to the CM. He said Jagan implemented BC welfare steps like the setting up of 56 BC corporations and allotting 50 per cent quota for BC, SC, ST and Minorities in nominated posts and contract works.

VIZAG RTC TOPS IN EARNINGS, SAYS TIRUMALA RAO

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 24

APSRTC vice-chairman and managing director Ch. Dwaraka Tirumala Rao on Thursday said that the Visakhapatnam region topped among all regions in the state in generating revenue during this Covid-19 induced crisis.

The region was able to achieve nearly 80 per cent of the total revenues in the Vizianagaram zone of the corporation by handling the cargo and parcel services, he added. Earlier, Tirumala Rao visited Tagarapavalasa, Maddilapalem, Waltair, and Dwaraka bus stations to take stock of the situation at the depots, wherein the services were partially suspended for nearly four months due to the second wave.

● **THE REGION** achieved nearly 80 per cent of the total revenues in the Vizianagaram zone.

No Delta variant infection in Vizag

People advised to maintain Covid protocol to ensure own safety

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC
VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 24

District medical and health officer Dr P. Satyanarayana scoffed at rumours and social media posts that Visakhapatnam had reported a case of the Delta variant along with 50 cases reported from various parts of the country.

Dr Suryanarayana said that they send one per cent of the total samples to the ICMR every week and get back reports of analysis. The institute would send back a

● **DISTRICT MEDICAL** and health officer Dr P. Satyanarayana said that they send one per cent of the total samples to the ICMR every week and get back reports of analysis. The institute would send back a detailed report if the Delta variant was found in any positive case.

● **HE SAID**, however, that the health system in Vizag district has been put in place to meet any challenges.

detailed report if the Delta variant was found in any positive case.

"I also received several inquiries after a report was shown on TV channels but there is no truth in it," the DMHO told DC on Thursday.

He said, however, that the health system in Vizag district has been put in place to meet any challenges. He advised that though the trends have been showing a decline in positive cases, there were chances of it

bouncing back if people lowered their guard.

He said that he has seen people swarming around markets without masks and jostling close to each other after the curfew was relaxed on Monday.

Several health officials also advised the public to maintain Covid protocol to ensure their own safety.

They said it was advisable if the traders and people imposed self-lockdown like in several developed countries that fought the virus successfully.

Protecting individual liberty is vital, CID chief tells cops

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 24

Protecting individual liberty is the most vital of laws, said CID chief PV Sunil Kumar while addressing his officials across the state in a zoom conference on better understanding of law in view of the recent judgments.

He said arresting a person meant suspending his individual liberty for a brief period of time.

The freedom to move around freely is a right assured to every citizen by the Constitution. Hence, arrest should not be a matter of routine but a result of application of mind and judgment, the CID chief said.

"Don't apply law as you understand and interpret. Apply it as interpreted by Supreme Court and High Courts" he said.

Sunil Kumar said Article 22 (2) of the Constitution prescribed that every person, who was arrested and detained in custody, shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within 24 hours of such arrest excluding the time necessary for the journey and no such person shall be detained in custody beyond the stipulated period without the authority of the magistrate, he explained.

He explained about the position of law under Section 167 Criminal Procedure code, which laid provisions for interstate arrests and transit warrants. He also narrated the recent discussion about Disha Ravi's arrest from Bangalore by Delhi police in the toolkit case.

He released an arrest checklist, comprising all rights of the person arrested which are enlisted by DK Basu judgement, Sections 41, 50, 51, 100, 56 and 57 of criminal procedure code.

DIGs of CID Nayak and S Harikrishna, SPs and several officers from all parts of the state attended.

GVMC to develop zone 8 dump yard

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 24

A dumping yard at Cheemalapalli under 95th ward of the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) will be developed soon. The GVMC Council recently approved a grant of ₹11.72 crore to develop this yard, which accommodates nearly 250 tonnes of waste including 50 tonnes of wet waste dumped daily by the people of 10 wards in Zone 8.

The dumping yard was established a decade ago but was neglected by the corporation. No scientific disposal system was established, said M. Demudu, the 95th ward corporator.

"A pungent smell is continuing to assail the residents of this area. We brought this issue to the notice of the corporation several times, but finally got respite after the proposal was approved in the Council," Demudu said.

The GVMC officials said that though the project was approved at the GVMC Council, it would take another three to four months to get financial sanctions from the govern-

ment. The GVMC has to send the file to the state government as the project is not supposed to be taken up under general works of the corporation, the officer added.

The Cheemalapalli dumping yard is one of the five stocking points of the main dumping yard at Kapuluppada on city outskirts. It is located in the southwest of the city, surrounded by Gopalapatnam, Chinnamushidiwada along Visakhapatnam-Araku road. The city has 98 wards. The corporation earmarked a stocking point for every 10 wards. The waste from these stocking points is transported to the main dumping yard at Kapuluppada, which daily receives nearly 1,000 tonnes of waste.

Cheemalapalli is located 25 km away from Kapuluppada. The GVMC sanitary wing team collects the waste to Kapuluppada without scientific segregation of the waste. Once the yard is developed, the segregation work will be done at the stocking point, the public health official from the GVMC said.

EG tops in new Covid-19 cases

From Page 1

Ten Covid-19 deaths were registered in Chittoor district, five each in East Godavari and Krishna districts, four each in Guntur and Nellore, three each in Srikakulam and West Godavari, and one death each in Anantapur, Kadapa, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts.

East Godavari is on top in total Covid-19 cases with a total of 2,58,543 infections followed by Chittoor 2,16,538, Guntur 1,60,649, West Godavari 1,58,799, Anantapur 1,52,944, Visakhapatnam 1,47,554, Nellore 1,26,171, Kurnool 1,21,287, Prakasam 1,19,290, Srikakulam 1,17,805, Kadapa 1,05,138, Krishna 99,792 and Vizianagaram 79,612 cases.

11 HELD FOR GAMBLING

Visakhapatnam: The Vizianagaram police nabbed 11 people for playing the game of cards in a house near Vizianagaram Rythu Bazaar. Based on the information, the police carried out a raid and busted the gambling activity. ₹1.16 lakh cash and 11 phones seized from them.

SHRADHANJALI



K. ANAND RAO
Ex. General Secretary, 25 Years
Deccan Chronicle Employees' Union
DOB: 10.09.1951 DOD: 16.06.2021
May his soul rest in peace
Deeply mourned by:
KUTHADI FAMILY
Mob: 9703216253

60-YEAR-OLD ATTEMPTS TO RAPE MINOR IN NANDIGAM MANDAL

Visakhapatnam: A 60-year-old man allegedly attempted to rape a seven-year-old girl in a village under Nandigam Mandal in Srikakulam district. The police registered a case against

the accused P. Raja Rao, who runs a pan-shop near a school. The police said that the locals rescued the girl when Rao attempted rape her in a lonely place close to the school.



BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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DAVP 34106/11/0003/2122

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Sd/-

Under Secretary to the Government of India
e-mail: sakhi-mwcd@gov.in

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F. No. 1(6)/2018-Exam Cell-Part(IV) Dated: June, 2021

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Imerys launches ₹350cr refractory plant in Vizag

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 24

Imerys SA, a French multinational, on Thursday announced its launch of commercial sales out of its new calcium aluminate plant in Visakhapatnam. The 3.8 billion revenue company having 16,400 employees has invested ₹350 crore in the Vizag plant.

A company release said the plant, which was commissioned remotely from Lyon, France, has recruited 100 people from the local communities. It will focus on specialty calcium aluminate binders, specifically designed for the Indian markets.

This is a rare FDI into India since the onset of the pandemic and one which has been invested in Andhra Pradesh, a release from Imerys said.

The plant will also serve as a distribution centre of imported ready-to-use mortars and bentonite solu-

tions to serve the infrastructure sector, for applications such as waste water, tunnelling and civil engineering in general. The choice of Vizag as a location was also to access the port of Visakhapatnam.

Imerys India so far employed 800 people in 16 industrial sites and eight sales offices. In addition to the production of calcium aluminate binders, the group produces specialty solutions for ceramics, plastics, polymers and refractory products.

"The opening of this new plant is a major milestone for Imerys. It is another proof that the group continues to invest in growing markets and geographies. The fully remote commissioning, caused by the enduring pandemic, has been an incredible achievement. Our local teams have been simply great, commented Alessandro Dazza, Imerys CEO.

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