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HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 21 AUGUST 2020

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COVID-19 **UNT**

DEATHS

(+985)(+68,921)54,963 29,03,676

covid19india.org STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,724)(+10)TS: 97,424 729 (+9,393)(+95)

AP: 3,25,396 3,001

CASES AROUND THE WORLD



7,93,808 AREAS WITH CASES

worldometers.info/ coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana **Tithi:** Bhadrapada Shuddha Tadiya till 11.03 pm Star: Utara Phalguni till 9.28 pm Varjyam: 6.19 am to 7.44 am; 5.04 am to 6.31 am (Saturday) Durmuhurtam: 8.33 am to 9.24 am; 12.44 pm to 1.34 pm **Rahukalam**: 10.30 am to 12 noon **HIJRI CALENDAR**

Muharram 1,1441 AH Faiar: 4.56 am **Zohar:** 12.29 pm

Maghrib: 6.44 pm Isha: 7.54 pm SUNSET TODAY 6.37 PM **SUNRISE** TOMORROW 6.00 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 8.02 AM **MOONSET** TODAY 8.39 PM



We can't create jobs... Let's create a recruitment agency at least!



CITY... PAGE 3 **Hyd best mega city:**

Swachh Survekshan

CITY... PAGE 4 **Yellareddy MLA tests Covid positive**

A record of sorts for Kamala Harris



US Democratic vice-presidential nominee Kamala Harris gives two thumbs up during the third day of the Democratic National Convention in Wilmington, Delaware, on Wednesday. Kamala became the first Indian-American and also first Black woman to accept the nomination for V-P from a major US political party. ■ Report on P7. — AFP

Rain havoc continues in state, highways flooded

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Normal life was thrown out of gear across the state with the heavy rainfall since Wednesday night. Two youngsters were

washed away in Mulugu Eturu Nagaram district and another drowned in a check dam in Mahabubnagar district on Thursday.

After a brief respite in the last two days, the rains again picked up in the state with Warangal Mulugu, Peddapally, Karimnagar and Bhadradri-Kothagudem and also Hyderabad receiving heavy to very heavy rainfall on Wednesday night.

Public transport was also severely affected in the state as the heavy rainfall left many roads, including several national highways waterlogged and streams, tanks and rivulets overflowing in many parts of the state. Several villages lost road connectivity in the state with breaching of roads

due to flood water.

trict, the highway con-necting Narsampet and Nekkonda is flooded at Chennaraopet mandal obstructing traffic movement to either side. Coal production is also severe-Iv affected in the mines of Singareni collieries in Karimnagar, Ramagundam, Kothagudem and Jayashankar Bhupalap-

ally.
Officials said crops in 3.6 lakh acres were submerged and the enumeration of crop loss is on.

■ Page 2: Ramappa lake

I do not ask for mercy: Bhushan

SC asks him to relent; A-G says don't punish him; Prashant quotes Mahatma, stands by his remarks

PARMOD KUMAR I DC NEW DELHI, AUG. 20

Quoting a statement made by Mahatma Gandhi to a court in the British era, senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan on Thursday refused to apologise to the Supreme Court for his two tweets, which a three-judge bench found to be contemp-"I did not tweet in a fit of

absence mindedness. It would be insincere and contemptuous on my part to offer an apology for the tweets that expressed what was and continues to be my bonafide belief. Therefore, can only humbly paraphrase what the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi had said in his trial: I do not ask for mercy. I do not appeal to magnanimity. I am here, therefore, to cheerfully submit to any penalty that can lawfully be inflicted upon me for what the Court has determined to be an offence, and what appears to me to be the highest duty of a citizen." Bhushan told a bench comprising Justice Arun Mishra, Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Krishna Murari.

Bhushan was held guilty of criminal contempt for his two derogatory tweets against the judiciary on August 14 and faces simple imprisonment of up to six months or with a fine of up

punishment. Attorney General of India K.K. Venugopal, however, told the Supreme Court that the contempt proceedings against Mr Bhushan should rest with the court holding him guilty of criminal contempt and pleaded that he should not be punished.

However, the AG's plea was declined as the court "the way he (Mr Bhushan) has worded his statement, we cannot accept your argument. We are giving him time to consider" modification of his statement.

The hearing saw Justice Mishra repeatedly telling Bhushan to consider and make modifications in his statement that he had read out to the court but the senior lawyer appeared unrelenting and stood his ground.

On being repeatedly asked by the court to modify his statement, Bhushan said, "I will consider and discuss with my lawyers" Justice Mishra pointed to maintaining a "balance' while saying anything crit ical of the court and not cross the Lakshman rekha.

Senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan, representing Mr Bhushan, said Lakshman Rekha also applies to judicial restraint.

Dhavan wondered if all the five former judges of the Supreme Court who statement too are guilty of contempt as under contempt law those repeating or enduring a statement that is held to be contemptuous too are also guilty. Earlier, senior counsel

Dushyant Dave also appe-

aring for Bhushan urged the court to defer the hearing as he (Bhushan) has to file a plea seeking review of the judgment and that under the court rules he has 30 days time to do so. The bench, however

refused the plea as it felt that it was a way to avoid Justice Mishra who is retiring on September 2.

Justice Mishra told Dave that no judgment convicting a person is complete without sentencing and that it would not be right for any judge that the question of sentencing going to any other bench.

Justice Mishra, however, said, "Even if we decide on his punishment, it will not be activate till review is decided." An order on the Supreme

Court website posted late Thursday evening, while reserving the order on sentencing of Bhushan after being held guilty of criminal contempt, says, "We have given time to the con-temnor to submit unconditional apology, if he so desires. Let it be filed by 24.08.2020. In case, apology is submitted, the case to be posted for consideration on

AOSmith. Water Purifiers Water Heaters

MEA TO PAK: LET INDIAN LAWYER DEFEND JADHAV

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, AUG. 20

India on Thursday said that it has asked Pakistan to permit an Indian lawyer to represent former Indian naval Kulbhushan officer Jadhav when his review petition comes up in a Pakistani civilian court against the verdict sentencing him to death on charges of "espionage and sabotage"

Ministry of external affairs (MEA) spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "On this issue, we are in touch with Pakistan through diplomatic channels. For a free and fair trial in keeping with the letter and spirit of ICJ judgement, we have asked for Mr Jadhav to be represented by an Indian lawyer. However, Pakis-tan has to first address the core issues — giving copies of relevant documents of the case and providing unimpeded consular access to Mr Jadhav.

India had last month hired a Pakistani lawyer after Islamabad told New Delhi that the relevant documents in the Jadhav case could be handed over only to an authorised Pakistani lawver. But New Delhi had stated earlier that to "our surprise, as advised by the Pakistani officials, when the authorised Pakistani lawyer approached the concerned authorities, they declined to handover the documents to the lawyer". On April 10, 2017, a Pakistani military court had sentenced

GMAIL OUTAGE SPREADS CHAOS ACROSS WORLD

New Delhi, Aug. 20: Google on Thursday said its Gmail service has been restored for some users and the outage issue will be resolved for all affected users "in the near future", hours after the emailing service faced a global disruption.

■ Full report on Page 6

AIR PASSENGERS TO PAY HIGHER SECURITY FEE

New Delhi, Aug. 20: The civil aviation ministry has decided to charge higher aviation security fee (ASF) from domestic as well as international passengers from September 1, senior officials said on Thursday.

Full report on Page 6

River meet may get postponed

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

The Apex Council meeting, scheduled by Union Jal Shakthi Ministry on August 25 with Chief Ministers of Telangana and AP, is likely to be postponed as Union Jal Shakthi minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat was tested Covid positive on Thursday.

Shekhawat was scheduled to chair the meeting as he is the chairman of

the council.

On Wednesday, Chief
Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao decided to attend the council meeting to personally counter issues being raised by the AP government, which has been opposing various irrigation projects taken up by Telangana. At the meeting, Mr Rao

also wanted to oppose the

AP government's move to

increase the height of Pothireddypadu Head Regulator and construct the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project, as also excess usage of Krishna and Godavari waters by Andhra Pradesh.

The Apex Council was set up under the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 to oversee the functioning of the Goda-vari River Management Board and Krishna River Management Board and also to resolve disputes between both the states on the sharing of river waters

The Jal Shakti ministry had decided to convene the meeting of the Apex Council after a dispute arose over the AP government's order to increase the capacity of Pothireddypadu head regulator and the construction of a lift irrigation project.

AMMONIA LEAK IN CHITTOOR, 14 HOSPITALISED DC CORRESPONDENT

TIRUPATI, AUG. 20

At least 14 people fell ill after inhaling gas emanating from ammonia liquid that leaked in a milk processing factory at Bandalapalli village in Gudipala mandal of Thursday night.
According

According to officials, the incident happened at Hatsun Dairy factory, when ammonia liquid leaked from a tank within its premises.

There were about 20-40

employees in the factory at the time of the incident. Among them, 14 fell unconscious and were immediately shifted to hospitals in Chittoor and Gudipala.
The condition of them

has now stabilised, said

■ Page 2: Scared people near plant ran for safety

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Cash-strapped drivers say no help received from cab aggregators TOUGH | RIDE

4K taxi drivers test positive for Covid

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

More than 4,000 registered drivers of Uber, Ola and other cab aggregators have been infected by Coronavirus, claim a senior official of Telangana state taxi drivers body. He also said that there was no help offered to

them by cab aggregators. Drivers say that many passengers opting for cabs are Covid-19 positive. Mostly those who are seektrips to the hospital or back from hospitals. Drivers have no option to say no as the trip is booked online. If they refuse a passenger, huge penalties are slapped on them or sometimes their services are discontinued. Given that the metro and RTC busses have been suspended, cabs are the only easily available transport

services. However, cab

commuters express concern

that when the driver is

asymptomatic or has not

ing cab services are for

• DRIVERS SAY that many passengers opting for cabs are Covid-19 positive. Drivers have no

option to say no as the trip is booked online. If they refuse a passenger, huge penalties are slapped on them or sometimes services are discontinued.

gone for a test, passengers are at high risk for the transmission of virus.

On August 13, E. Nagesh, driver, was confirmed as Covid-19-positive. He is in home quarantine. According to Nagesh, it is

difficult to isolate himself in a rented house, with two children who are 10 and 8. He informed the aggregator company to which his car is attached, but the company offered him no help. "There has been no call of

concern or any type of help extended. We used to see in

the media that these compa-

nies have extended crores

vers during the lockdown, but none of the drivers I know have got any help from them. Where is that money gone?" Nagesh asks.

of rupees to support the dri-

Before the nation-wide lockdown, there were 1.2 lakh drivers mostly operating in the city. Among them, 35,000 were registered drivers for Ola, Uber and other aggregators in

■ Page 2: No protection for us, rues cab drivers

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IN BRIEF

SCB moots welfare

schemes for locals

Hyderabad: Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) could shortly be dishing out new welfare schemes to its residents. This comes after the Union Government agreed to implement central schemes across cantonments. Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Ramakrishna, SCB vice-chairman, said that he was happy and is prepared for a meeting of all cantonments. "These meetings were to take place in March but they were postponed due to Covid-19. Now it would happen online on August 25," he said. This would mean that the freshwater and drainage infrastructure received by the state government from GHMC could be replicated in the

RAMAPPA LAKE **OVERFLOWS. AFFECTS NH 163**

From Page 1

Two youngsters were washed away in the flood waters of the Medi vaagu near Mulugu on Thursday. They were identified as Allam Yuvaraju and Allam Shivaji, res Bandarupally Mulugu mandal. residents village

Due to heavy rains in the district, Ramappa lake is overflowing and flooded the National Highway (NH) 163 at Jangalapally. From the opposite side of the highway, the Medi vagu stream, which is in spate, also reached the highway. As a result, the highway got completely submerged and blocked traffic movement between Hyderabad and Bhupalpatnam in Chhattisgarh.

Two persons who tried to cross the flooded section of the highway with a motorcycle on Thursday morning got washed away and were untraceable.

In Mahabubnagar district, a 21-year-old, Sai Kumar Goud, drowned in Allipur check dam on Thursday. According to the police of Chinna Chinthakunta mandal, the victim slipped into the check dam while taking a selfie. Police launched a search

SCARED PEOPLE NEAR PLANT RUN FOR SAFETY

From Page 1

The pungent smell emanating from the factory sparked panic among people in the surround-ing localities and they started unning to safer locations. District officials rushed ambulances to the spot to rescue

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, District Collector Narayan Bharat Gupta said that they have taken up all safety measures to contain the leakage of the ammonia.

"Officials were pressed into service to take up relief operations on a war-footing. We have ordered an enquiry and will take appropriate action based on the report given by the enquiry committee," Gupta said.

The leakage was confined to the factory premises and it has not spread outside. There is no need for people to get panicky. The condition of 14 staffers of the factory is currently stable and the situation is under control," he added.

NO PROTECTION FOR US, RUE **CAB DRIVERS**

From Page 1

"There were passengers who are Covid-19-positive who travelled in the cab in spite of knowing they are positive. One such case came to my knowledge when the person forgot his hospital reports in the cab. In an attempt to trace his phone number, the reports were opened and I came to

know he is Covid-19-positive." "The drivers are in a bad financial state. Many of the drivers are jobless. Those who have bought their vehicles on EMIs are unable to pay the monthly instalments. Apart from that, it is estimated across the 16 associations of drivers. more than 4,000 drivers have been infected," said Shaik Salauddin, the chairman of Telangana state taxi and driv-

ers Joint Action Committee. Ramakrishna Yadav, who started his career as a cabbie in 2013, was diagnosed with Covid-19 last month. Yadav, who lives in a rented house at Uppal with his wife and two children, he said, "I was infected by one of the passengers. There is no protection for the drivers; companies are just concerned about their profits."



Ten spillway gates at Srisailam Dam were opened on Thursday following heavy inflows of floodwater into Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers on Thursday.



Nagarjunasagar reservoir is filled up following heavy inflows from the Srisalam project. The authorities have geared up for the release of water on Friday.

Nagarjunasagar gates to be opened today

Authorities say reservoir is expected to reach its full capacity of 590 feet by Friday morning

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Authorities of Nagarjunasagar Dam have decided to lift four of its gates at 11 a.m. on Friday and release water in view of the heavy inflows into the reservoir from upstream Srisailam project.

According to the NS Dam engineers, the current water level in the reservoir is 576 feet as against its full storage level of 590 feet. The reservoir is expected to reach its full capacity of 590 feet by

Friday morning. Meanwhile, Suryapet district authorities and Nandikonda municipality have decided against allowing visitors to view the release of water. They fear cool weather conditions with moisture in air may lead to spread of Coronavirus if people arrive at the dam site in

SURYAPET DISTRICT authorities and Nandikonda municipality have decided against allowing visitors to view the release of water. They fear cool weather conditions with moisture in air may lead to spread of

hence not be allowed to watch the release of water, authorities clarified.

Coronavirus.

Suryapet superintendent of police R. Bhaskaran cautioned people from going near Krishna going near Krishna River in the district, as gates of Nagarjunasagar Dam will be opened and flow of water in the river will be heavy and rapid due to water gushing out. The SP also advised fishermen against venturing into Krishna River for fishing. He further asked people living in villages along rivers Krishna and

10 spillway gates lifted at Srisailam dam DC CORRESPONDENT

KURNOOL, AUG. 20

With heavy floods in both Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers, ten spillway gates of Srisailam Dam were opened on Thursday.

Priyadarshini jurala project on Krishna River is discharging 350000 cusecs of water into Srisailam Reservoir while Sunkesula Barrage has opened 23 gates by letting out 110000 cusecs of water. A total of 460000 cusecs were received till Thursday evening.

water level at Srisailam reservoir stood at 883.90 ft as against the total height of 885 ft. The quantum of water stored is 209 tmc against its full

officials released 3,02,716 cusecs of water, including cusecs Nagarjuna Sagar by lifting

seven crest gates.

Meanwhile, officials are on high alert and advising people not to visit water reservoirs and dams. Nandval sub-collector Kalpana Kumari, along with revenue and police officials, visited several low-lying areas in the river bank of Kundu in Nandyal

Presently, all 13 generators of both power stations are continuing production. Sources said seven units of Andhra Pradesh power house were producing 700 MW of power by utilising 31,062 cusecs of water from the Srisailam Telangana power house were producing 900 MW by utilising 40,259 cusecs from the same dam.

Outflows from Srisailam reservoir are 302577 cusecs from spillway, Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanti lift irrigation scheme draws 1,688 cusecs, Pothireddypadu head regulator is drawing 37,000 cusecs while the reservoir is receiving water from both Jurala project via Krishna River and Sunkesula dam through Tungabhadra

Jagan to visit Srisailam today.

Minister Y.S. Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy is visiting Srisailam project on Friday to perform Jal Harathi on Krishna River

bestowed on the territory. This is his first visit to Srisailam after assuming office.

It is customary on the part of the State ministers to offer Jala harathi before the main gates are opened for the first time during the season. Jagan Mohan Reddy

will be accompanied by water resource Minister Anil Kumar Yadav and Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy. He will interact with engineering officials and find out the progress of various works taken up from Pothireddypadu head regulator and Rayalaseema lift irrigation scheme tenders that were finalised

OUTFLOWS FROM the Srisailam reservoir are 302577 cusecs from spillway, Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanti lift irrigation scheme draws 1,688 cusecs, Pothireddypadu head regulator is drawing 37,000 cusecs while the reservoir is receiving water from both Jurala project via Krishna River and Sunkesula dam

• CHIEF MINISTER Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is visiting Srisailam project on Friday to perform Jal Harathi on Krishna River for the water wealth bestowed on the territory.

through Tungabhadra

State stares at surplus rainwater due to rise in weather systems

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

This August, the number of weather systems that have brought on rain over the state has increased manifold. This could explain why the state is staring at a surplus of rainiali this year

As a result of the incessant rainfall over the last ten days, there are no districts in the state which are rain-deficit as of now. As of Thursday, the state had received 777.6 mm of rainfall as against a normal of 523 mm, which translates into a 49 per cent rainfall surplus. Currently, there are 14 districts that have received a large excess of rainfall. Similarly, there are 11 districts which have received excess rainhave received normal rainfall. fall and six districts that

"There are several systems that have formed on either side of the peninsula. These systems have been feeding moisture that is aiding in the formation of clouds over the state. The monsoon has been very active over the state and that has brought about a lot of rain," K. Naga Ratna, director, Indian meteorological depart-ment (IMD), Hyderabad,

Adding to her statements experts from Skymet (a private weather



As heavy rains continue to lash city, motorists struggle to make their way through the flooded roads in Hyderabad on Thursday. - DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Mahesh Palawat, say that the number of weather systems have been unusually high, this year.

There were close to five systems that have impacted the weather over Telangana. These systems have brought along copious amounts of rain over the state There will be another such system over Telangana on August 23," IMD has also issued

a yellow alert for the next

two days for the state. In its alert, it asked officials concerned to restrict movement and asked told Deccan Chronicle. experts from the municipalities concerned to display warnforecasting unit), like

Rain lashes city for four days in a row

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

For the fourth day in a row, the city saw the skies open According to the Telangana state development planning society (TSDPS), the highest rainin city, recorded was Mehdipatnam where the would continue for the next

48 hours. "There are going to be light to moderate showers over the city for the next two days. We predict that there would be a new weather system over the state that would hit it around 23 August. Once this system is in place, more showers are expected," said an official of the Indian meteorological department.

HYD POLICE LAUNCH PLASMA DONATION CAMP

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Hyderabad city police, in association with the Hyderabad city security council, launched a plasma donation campaign on Thursday. A website was launched where donors and receivers can register themselves and et the plasma for needy Covid-19 patients.

The website donateplasma.hcsc.in will help donors register themselves and requests for plasma can be made. NGOs can also register through the website to deliver services. To register, the public can also 9490616780 and and 23434343. So far, 150 police personnel working in the Hyderabad police commissionerate have donated plasma and saved lives

Home minister, Moha-Mahmood Ali, mmed launched the website and health minister, Etala Rajender, launched the campaign video, in a programme at Khairatabad.

Hyderabad police commissioner, Anjani Kumar, said. "Telangana state's swift response in dealing with the virus has helped in maintaining the lowest fatalities and fewer cases in Hyderabad compared to other metropolitan cities in the country." Appealing to elderly people to stay home and stay safe, Kumar congratulated his colleagues and subordinates for all efforts put in the battle against

TS records 1,724 cases, 10 deaths

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Telangana has recorded 1,724 new cases of Coronavirus on Wednesday, apart from 10 deaths. total number of Covid-19 cases and deaths has thus gone up to 97,424 and 729 respectively.

State medical authorities tested 23.841 additional samples, whereby total people Telangana have undergone Coronavirus tests.

Hvderabad Greater Municipal Corporation limits have recorded 395 cases while districts are continuing to have a high load of cases. There are new cases Karimnagar district, followed by 105 in Medchal Malkajgiri, 169 in Ranga

ing Covid-19. Reddy and 91 in Warangal Urban district.

DISTRICTS ARE wit-

nessing a lot of young

people in the age group

of 20-40 years contract-

Districts are witnessing a lot of young people in the age group of 20–40 years contracting Covid-19.

People, including youngsters, have been asked to not undertake unwanted travel and restrict themselves to their homes

The government has requested people to wear masks, practice social distancing and also report to hospitals early in case they feel any symptoms of Coronavirus. This would ensure better treatment

Gov. concerned over Covid cases

Hyderabad, Aug. 20: Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Thursday expressed concern over the estimates of a new study that at least six lakh people in the city may have been infected by the Coronavirus.

"Concerned on the numbers.Congratulations
@ccmb_csir for your
efforts to study the problems in depth," she tweeted, tagging a report on the findings of the study based on harvested sewage samples in the city. Soundararajan, a med-

ical doctor herself, had on Tuesday last stressed the need to conduct adequate numbers of Covid-19 tests in the state, saying eradication of the virus would be difficult without sufficient testing. The state's Covid-19 tally stood at 97,424 as of Wednesday night with the capital city continuing to remain the hotspot, accounting for a lion's share of the cases.

Conducted by the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), the study said said there may be at least six lakh people in the city who have been infected by coronavirus but a large number of them could be asymptomatic. — PTI

BJP DEMANDS SAIDI APOLOGISE TO GOV.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Telangana wing condemned Huzurnagar TRS MLA S Saidi Reddy's statement on Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan.

The party spokesperson K. Krishna Sagar Rao alleged that the MLA's comments were irresponsible and disrespectful to the constitutional head of the

Rao said MLA Saidi Reddy seems to be an illiterate, who doesn't know that the Governor is also head of the state executive to which the Chief Minister and his Council

of Ministers report. Alleging that the Legislator abused his own government, he said that the Governor had highlighted serious lapses by the state administration in dealing with Covid-19 situation in the state and had advised corrective

measures

The BJP demanded a written public apology withdrawal of his irresponsible statement.

PROBE I REPORT Multiple identification documents recovered from arrested persons

rain gauges measured 26.3

Weather officials say this

mm of rain (till 8 pm).

NIA charges couple for trafficking

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

National Investigation Agency at Hyderabad filed a supplementary chargesheet against a couple including the woman Bangladesh national who was arrested for trafficking young girls from the neighbouring country and pushing them girls into prostitution.

In 2019, the agency re-registered a case and probed the cross-border human trafficking case

booked at Chatrinaka, Hyderabad, where six women from Bangladesh were rescued.

The four accused Mohd Yousuf Khan, Bithi Begum, Sojib Shaik and Rahul Amin Dhali — were arrested and a chargesheet was filed against them in March 2020.

During the probe, on May 23 this year, Mohd Abdul Salam alias Kounla Justin, 47, and his wife Shivuli Khatun alias Sheela, 30, a Bangladesh national, were arrested from Hayathnagar and

investigation revealed that the couple along with the other accused trafficked poor young Bangladeshi girls to India through a well-organised network of agents in both India and Bangladesh, by luring them with high-paid job offers.

The premier investiga-tion agency which filed a supplementary chargesheet against Abdul Salam and Shivuli on Thursday before an NIA Court in the

three minor girls were rescued.

The NIA said the city said that the raids at the couple's house resulted in recovery of many incriminating including multiple identification documents of the trafficked girls.

The teams also seized contraceptive pills, mobile phones and a large number of diaries and registers containing names and mobile numbers of various brothel agents to trafficked whom the girls were sent for sexual exploitation on a commission basis, said the

IN 2019, the agency reregistered a case and probed the cross-border human trafficking case booked at Chatrinaka, Hyderabad, where six women from Bangladesh were rescued.

THE TEAMS also seized contraceptive pills, mobile phones and a large number of diaries and registers containing names and mobile numbers of various brothel agents whom the trafficked girls were sent to.

POWER | SHUTDOWN

14.00 to 17.00 Sub Station- S.D.Hospital
11 KV Feeder- Police Mess Areas affected: Ahmed Nagar, Masab Tank, Garden Towers, Police Mess, Khaja Mansion, Khadi Board, Khaja Nagar, First Lancer, Diamond Hotel, Fazal Residential. Banjara Function Hall



harassing minor

Hyderabad: Neredmet police arrested a 23-year-old Ayurveda student from Andhra Pradesh for sexually harassing a minor through Instagram. Neredmet inspector A Narsimha Swamy said that accused Syed Farooq, is a third-year student of Bachelor of Ayurveda Medicine and Surgery at Davangere and is a native of Guntur. A few months ago, Farooq came in contact with a 14-year-old girl through some friends and started to chat with her on Instagram. He said that recently Farooq started sending messages in a filthy language and harassed her with the sexual content. Following a complaint from the victim, a case was registered against him under relevant sections of IPC and POCSO Act. The accused was arrested and produced before the court for judicial remand on Thursday.

TWO KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT, **CASES LODGED**

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

An elderly pedestrian was killed when a speeding lorry hit him at LB Nagar X roads. The body was shifted to Osmania General Hospital mortuary and investigation was taken up to identify the victim. In another incident at Jubilee Hills, two persons escaped with minor injuries when the SUV they were speeding hit a road median.

According to LB Nagar police, the accident took place

at around 9.30 pm on Wednesday, on the main road located opposite to Rajiv Gandhi statue at LB Nagar X roads. A speeding lorry hit a male pedestrian, aged about 50 years.

The lorry was proceeding to Chintalkunta. Rash driving resulted in the death of the pedestrian on the spot, said police, who registered a case. In another incident at Jubilee Hills, a speeding SUV (TS 07 GT 2157) met with an accident on Road No 82 in the early hours on Thursday. The speeding car rammed into the road median and turned turtie. The Jubilee Hills police registered

LAND RECORDS **OFFICIAL TAKES BRIBE, ARRESTED**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

A Superintendent in the office of Assistant Director of Survey and Land Records at Rangareddy district was caught by Anti-Corruption Bureau ₹5,000 for rendering official favours.

According to ACB, Bommireddy Venkateshwary Reddy was caught at his office Thursday noon when he demanded and accepted ₹5,000 from T. Venkateshwar Reddy of Khajaguda. The official demanded the bribe to process the file of an application forwarded to the RDO office of Rajendranagar, in connection with fixing of boundaries of the land belonging to the complainant.

The bribe amount was recovered from the accused and he was produced before the Special Judge for SPE and ACB cases at Hyderabad, said the ACB in a



GHMC maintenance staff carry out temporary road repairs on the busy Chaderghat bridge at Malakpet in

Hyd best mega city: Swachh Survekshan

Beats Greater Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Delhi

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH I DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Hyderabad has been adjudged best mega city in the Swachh Survekshan 2020 citizens' feedback category. It also trumped Greater Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, north and south Delhi and is ranked 23rd in the overall category.

The greater Hyderabad municipal corporation (GHMC) roped in the civic body's sanitation wing and instructed to them give feedback in person and through various other platforms. Supervised by an additional commissioner (Swachh Bharat mission), zonal commissioners played a key role enhancing the marks in the feedback category.

For Swachh Survekshan 2020, the centre has allotted a total of 6,000 marks divided in four categories: service-level progress, certification, direct observation and citizen feedback. Each category had 1,500 marks. In the first, 200 marks were reserved for SS 2020 league and the remainder for servicecomprised 1,000 out of 6,000 marks. The third and fourth categories did not have sub categories and all marks were dedicated to the overall observation by the survey conductors and on the basis of citizen participation and feedback on the GHMC's work.

level progress; 1000 marks for garbage-free status (GFC) and 500 towards ODF++) certificate in the second category.
The star certification comprised 1,000 out of

6,000 marks. The third and fourth categories did not have subcategories and all marks were dedicated to the overall observation by the survey conductors and on the basis of citizen participation and feedback on the GHMC's

According to highly placed sources, after the declaration of the Swachh Survekshan ranking durhas hidden the ranking

• THE STAR certification comprised 1.000 out of 27 in 2018 to 38 in 2019. However, in order to achieve a better ranking, the corporation has relied upon the citizens feedback category despite maintaining poor sanitation.

During the field visits, the centre's sanitation workers were deployed in disguise at multiple locations, so the team members could take feedback randomly between 6am and 9am. The gamble worked for the civic body since the timing of the centre team's visit was known well in advance.

Against this backdrop, the GHMC has been awarded in the above-40 lakh population category and ranked 23rd in the above-10 lakh population category for overall performance, ahead of other competing metros.

This year there were separate rankings for cities with one lakh or more population and those below one lakh. It is based on an assessment of progress from January 2019 till December 2019 ing January-February 2019 till December 2019 this year, the corporation under the Swachh Bharat mission urban which cov-

ers 4,384 cities. The central government released these rankings on Thursday. There are 500 oiting rankings

cities with a population above 1 lakh. Hyderabad participated under the category of cities with a population above 1 lakh. It was conducted in three

quarters of the previous year 2019, in a bid to keep the cleanliness drive spirited throughout the year. The annual cleanliness survey was conducted between January and February 2020 by the ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA).

"With the co-operation of public representatives, citizens and the efforts of sanitation workers, the Hyderabad city secured a good rank in the performance of sanitation," said, mayor, Bonthu Ramohan.

Adding that GHMC has been appreciated for the implementation of innovation and best practices in the country, including the installation of green kiosks (street food park), a special park for dogs, two bins with recycled plastic, and the feed the need ini-

TS degree admissions to begin from Aug. 24

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

The Telangana state council of higher educa-tion (TSCHE) issued a notification for opening of the online dost portal undergraduate degree admissions in the state from August 24.

Students can register on dost by paying a registration fee of ₹200. After the registration, students will get a dost id and pin to be used to open the application form. Students must exercise

web options by choosing the course and college of their preference by giving priority numbers according to which seats will be allotted.

After this, if students are satisfied with the seat allotted, they can proceed to confirm the

STUDENTS CAN register on dost by paying a registration fee of ₹200. After the registration, students will get a dostid and pin to be used to open the application form.

ALL CANDIDATES will further be required to visit their respective colleges to submit the required documents and fee from October 8 to October 12 to confirm their seats.

seat by online selfreporting. Students allotted to government/university colleges and not eligible

for an e-pass fee reimbursement will be required to pay an amount of ₹1,000 for self-reporting, online whereas those allotted private colleges and eligible for an e-pass reimbursement need to pay an amount of Students allotted to government colleges and eligible for an e-pass reim-bursement, however, will not be required to pay any amount.

All candidates will further be required to visit their respective colleges to submit the required documents and fee from October 8 to October 12 to confirm their seats.

TSCHE has also introduced additional services on the DOST platform to ease the Covid-19 burden on students, like real time digital face recognition to T-App folio to avoid human touch.

An online grievance system has also been introduced to resolve the issues of students on Whatsapp, Facebook. Twitter and YouTube.

CCS ARRESTS 4 FOR DEFRAUDING BANK OF ₹1.8 CR

Hyderabad, Aug. 20: Hyderabad CCS police on Thursday arrested four persons for taking a loan of ₹1.8 crore from Bank of Maharashtra in 2012 by submitting fake documents.

According to police, the bank registered a complaint against Gali Niranjan, Vodde Krishna, Vodde Laxminarayana and Vodde Prabhakar, apart from a few others, for allegedly cheating the bank.

Police said accused created fake will deeds and pahanies to execute sale deeds in favour of Gali Niranjan with respect to lands that had already been sold. They submitted these fake documents to Bank of Maharashtra branch in Khairatabad and obtained a working capital loan of ₹1.8 crore.

The accused failed to pay money to the bank and became defaulters.

Centre releases protocol for conducting JEE main, NEET

HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

The Central government has announced standard operating protocols for the national testing agency (NTA) ahead of the JEE (main) and NEET examinations, scheduled for next month.

According to the guidelines, all examination centres will be sanitised thoroughly before the exams to ensure maximum safety. The exam halls will be equipped with masks, gloves, hand sanitisers, and disinfectant sprays.

There will be no physical

year and contactless verification of documents like admit cards. Students will be required to produce a self-declaration form stating they are not Covid-19 positive and do not exhibit any symptoms either upon reaching the exam centres. Students with body temperatures higher than the recommended limit of 99.4 degrees will be allowed to

lated room. This year, the NTA will fol-low an odd-even scheme to implement social distancing.

take the test only in an iso-

shift timings, for example, odd seat number candidates will take the exam in shift one and shift three, whereas even seat numbers will take the exams in shift two and shift four, enabling 50 per cent utilisation of the exam

While JEE mains will be conducted from September 1 to September 6 across 605 centres for BTech courses, and 489 centres for BArch and BPlanning courses, NEET 2020 will be conducted on September 13 across 161 exam centres, for close to 25 lakh aspirants.

Jamiat meet on masjids in Sectt

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Jamiat Ulema Hind has decided to meet leaders of Opposition parties urging them to raise the issue of demolition of two mosques in the Secretariat in the ensuing Assembly session. A meeting of the Ulema and office-bearers was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Moulana Hafiz Peer Shabbir Ahmed, State President to chalk out protest programmes for reinstating the demolished mosques.

It observed that the government showed an indifferent attitude towards the reconstruction of two mosques. It decided to approach Opposition parties before September 1 and asked them to raise the issue of demolition of places of worship as the

government had assured the Assembly to protect it. The Jamiať wilĺ also submit memoranda to District Collectors, Police Superintendents and MROs. Before organising mass protests a round-table of political and non-political outfits will be conducted. At the district level, Jamiat workers will call on local MLAs and in case the government fails to reconstruct the two mosques at the specific locations, a Jail Bharo campaign will be launched. Prominent among those

who attended the meeting include Moulana Mufti Abdul Mughni Mazaheri, City President of Jamiat Hafiz Peer Khaliq Ahmed, Moulana Giyas Ahmed Rashadi President Safa Bait ul Maal, Moulana Zallal ur Rahman President Lajannat ul Ulema and others







We have it for you

DECCAN CHRONICLE

INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY (A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, GOVT. OF INDIA)
KOLKATA CAMPUS P-19, Taratala Road, Kolkata - 700 088. ADMISSIONS-LATERAL ENTRY FOR THE YEAR 2020

ligible Candidates desirous of joining into Second Year B.Tech (Marin ngineering) under Lateral Entry can submit their applications on or befor 1.09.2020 at IMU, Kolkata Campus, P-19 Taratala Road, Kolkata-700088 alor ith attested photocopies of all the Certificates, Medical Certificate and Prescribe in the form of Dernand Draft.

Candidates are requested to refer IMU, Kolkata Campus websit (www.merical.ac.in) or IMU website (www.imu.edu.in) regarding Eligibility criter and other details for Lateral Entry admission. During admission, candidate must have a valid passport which is compulsory f INDOS application in DGS portal. Interested candidates having an account about INDOS application in DGS portal. Interested candidates having no passport shoul apply passport in Tatkal mode so that during admission candidates can subm

Lateral Entry admissions into Second Year of B.Tech (ME) will be made in the

DIRECTOR davp 37217/11/0001/2021



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10	41	Patta	Dry	0.0100	Maskuri Yellaiah (Yellaiah)	42	17	40	41	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.		Total Area:0.3650 This notification is issued for payment of compensation to									
11	18	Patta	Dny	0.0400	Bollaboina Yadaiah (Nagaiah)	14	17	18	17	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	R	land owners under the provisions of Section-11(1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. A									
12	17	Patta	Dry	0.0450	Bollaboina Nagaiah (Ramaiah)	4	16	18	17	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	plan of the land may be inspected, by all the concerned, in the office of the District Collector, Siddipet and Revenue Divisional Officer, Gajwel, Siddipet District on any working day										
13	17	Patta	hikam	0.0050	Bollaboina Ramulu (Narsaiah)	41	16	19	17	Borewells.	during the office hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector, Siddipet is pleased to authorize Revenue										

Divisional Officer, Gajwel, and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the subsoil; do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section - 12 of the said Act. Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction of the section transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e transaction or cause any transaction or land i.e. sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector, Siddipet. Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within e 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before the Land Acquisition Officer.

Sd/-Tahsildar Revenue Divisional Additional Collector District Collecto Officer, Gajwel Siddipet District Siddipet Distric DIPR No.500/LA/PP-Agency/2020-21

Wakf Board issues guidelines for Muharram **MUHARRAM CRESCENT SIGHTED** procession. Wakf Board mandatory that Tabarruk

first of Muharram, which

is also the first day of Hijri

year 1442 according to the

Islamic calendar, will be observed on August 1

participate in the alam

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Telangana Wakf Board has finally released guidelines for the month of Muharram. It stated that customs and rituals related to Alams of 9th and 10th Muharram will be performed by mujawars, mutawallis, or managing committees by following social distancing. It says Alaava (walk on fire) will be allowed only in places where it had been tradi-

tionally followed. The guidelines, however, make no specific mention of historical 'Bibi ka Alam' procession. Confusion is

Hyderabad, Aug. 20: The Basha Shuttari however stated that the moon was not sighted in Hyderabad due to cloudy climate. The

Muharram crescent was sighted on Thursday and the Ashoora would fall on August 30, according to the Ulema e Deccan.

Markazi Ruiyat Hilaal Committee of Sadar Majlis Secretary of organisation Moulana Syed Qubool

ities during the period.

The Department of thus continuing whether or not the central proces-Environment, Forests, Science and Technology sion will be allowed. City has not issued NOC for police are not in favour of the procession because of bringing an elephant from the neighbouring state to Covid-19 and Ganesh festiv-

(Friday).

has also not released any funds for hiring of the pachyderm. Bibi ka Alam (standard) is installed at Bibi ka Alawa in Dabeerpura on the first day of the first Islamic month of Muharram, which falls on Friday this time. The Wakf Board has

custodians asked Ashoorkhanas to display the maximum number of devotees who can be accommodated for Majlis (congregation).

Gates will have to be closed once the devotees occupy their slots, as per government guidelines. The board has also made

in packets and distribution while ensuring social distancing in the premises of Ashoorkhanas. Even water should be distributed only in sealed water bottles or sachets. Managements of Ashoorkhanas have been asked to display preventive measures with regard to

5

P

Du

(Pentaiah)

0.0400 Palle Shanka

0.0400 Palle Kumar

0.0350 Palle Shanka

(Narsaiah)

(sacramental items) and

sharbat (drinks) be sealed

Covid-19 in vernacular language at a prominent place near Ashoorkhanas, Senior citizens and children have been advised to stay away from all gatherings connection Muharram.



FORMER ADVOCATE GENERAL DIES OF CARDIAC ARREST

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Legal luminary and former advocate general of composite Pradesh Ramachandra Rao passed away on Thursday evening due to cardiac arrest.

During his 50 years of service as advocate, he made every effort to solve grievances of people through various consti-tutional courts. He succeeded in most of his efforts.

TS ECET LIKELY TO BE CONDUCTED ON AUGUST 31

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Telangana ECET 2020 online exams have been tentatively scheduled on August 31 during morning and evening, an official communication stated. The state government is making all arrangements to conduct the first CET at 56 centres in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, while taking precautions against Covid-19. Candidates can download their new hall tickets, which will need to be produced before the examination.

The hall tickets will tenta-

tively be made available from August 25. For more updates, students have been advised to regularly visit the TSECET 2020 website.

YELLAREDDY MLA TESTS POSITIVE

DC CORRESPONDENT NIZAMABAD, AUG. 20

Yellareddy MLA J. Surender has tested positive for the Coronavirus on Thursday. He was admitted to a corporate hositai in Hyderabad and is the fourth MLA from undivided Nizamabad district to test posi-

tive for Covid-19.
The MLA had actively participated in various developmental programmes in his assembly constituency. He displayed mild symptoms of Covid-19 and got himself tested in Hyderabad. The results came back positive. MLA's PA and family members

PARENT ACCUSES COP OF BIAS IN SCHOOL FEE ISSUE

HARLEEN MINOCHA I DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

have tested positive.

Hyderabad Parents Association has accused police of siding with management of St. Andrews School, Bowenpally, after police took into custody some of the protesting parents and also issued notices to them.

Parents of students studying in the school have been protesting against high fee being collected by authorities of St. Andrews in violation of Government Order 46.

Representatives of the association said while parents have been protesting peacefully, police have acted unfairly under the influence of school management and threatened to book them under pandemic laws. The association says cops have ignored harassment by school managements over fees and instead are enthusiastic about booking parents and intimidating them over phone.

HSPA says it will challenge in High Court notices issued by police to parents.

St. Andrew's School in Bowenpally had earlier been found guilty of violating the government order by collecting huge fees. The issue came to light when parents of students studying in the school lodged a complaint with the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Secunderabad Mandal 2, who

conducted an inquiry. The parents' body says the school management has outright refused to decrease fees for online classes

Congress marks Rajiv's 76th b'day

Recalls ex-PM steered India in tough times

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee leaders on Thursday paid rich tributes to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 76th birth

anniversary.

TPCC president N.
Uttam Kumar Reddy,
apart from CLP leader Bhatti Vikramarka, senior leaders K. Jana Reddy, V. Hanumantha Rao and Ponnnala Lakshmaiah, MLA Jagga Reddy and other leaders, paid floral tributes at Rajiv Gandhi's statue in Somajiguda as well as to his portrait at Gandhi Bhavan.

Speaking on the occasion, Uttam Kumar Reddy recalled that Rajiv Gandhi had become Prime Minister of India at the age of 40 years under very difficult circumstances. Still, he left an indelible impression because of his unique style of administration.
The TPCC chief under-

lined that it was Rajiv Gandhi who empowered youth by reducing the voting age to 18 years, so that they could be involved in the exercise of nation building. The late leader also promoted science and technology on a large scale and inculcated sci-entific temperament among all citizens.

He introduced largescale reforms to boost technological industry, encouraged modernisation of industries and promoted foreign investments in economy. Rajiv Gandhi was the architect of digital India and party's victory during the forthcoming municipal elections in Greater



TPCC chief and MP N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and other Congress leaders pay tributes former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 76th birth anniversary at – S. SÚRENDER REDDY Somajiguda on Thursday.

'Father of Information Technology and Telecom Revolution in India," he

Uttam Kumar Reddy asked party cadre to get inspired by the life of Rajiv Gandhi. He also wanted them to work hard for ensuring Congress

Hyderabad, Khammam

and Warangal.
Former MP and senior leader V. Hanumantha Rao said the former prime minister empowered local bodies and backward classes in the country by constituting the Mandal Commission on granting reservations to BCs and making amendments to

Transgenders denied promised rations by govt

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

As the hijras in Telangana continue to face trouble in getting ration rice from the fair price shops, even after the government promised before the court, that 10 kg of rice is to be given to each hijra irrespective of whether or not she has a ration card, the Telangana High Court asked the advocate general to get the government to look into the issue.

The court also sought information on whether separate wards were crepitals to extend treatment to the hijra community.

The bench, headed by

chief justice, Raghavendra Singh Chauhan, expressed concern on this issue on Thursday, in relation to the contentions raised by Ms. Kothari, counsel for the petitioner, nijra activist vyjayanti Vasanta Mogli, who informed the bench that despite the orders of the court, the people running the fair price shops are insisting that hijras show ration cards defying the orders of Anil Kumar, comdepartment, Telangana, who had issued circular instructions to concerned officials dealing with supply of free 10 kgs of rice to all hijras, from July to

November, 2020. Though the director of medical education has made a statement in the media that separate wards will be created in all government hospitals to extend treatment to hijras infected with Covid-19 nothing of the sort has materialised as yet, contended the counsel for the petitioner.

back land allotted DC CORRESPONDENT

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Telangana High

Court has expressed worry over the state

executive remaining

passive towards pro-

tecting water bodies

within TS from encr-

oachments or being turned into dump yards. The court

wanted district collec-

tors to pay attention

towards retaining water bodies as they

These observations

were made by a divi-

sion bench compris-

ing Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B.

Vijaysen Reddy while

directing Nirmal col-

lector to visit all lakes

under the district's ju-

risdiction, inspect them and find out if any

of them are being en-

croached by filling th-

em with sand or con-

struction material. If

such a thing is happening, the collector

must initiate stringe-

nt action against enc-

roachers and submit

a cogent and cohesive

report to the court before September 10.

The bench was hear-

ing public interest lit-

igation filed by K. Anju Kumar Reddy

seeking a direction to Nirmal district autho-

rities that they protect Jafur Cheruvu,

Kurranapet Cheruvu

and Kothaikotch cher-

uvu tanks in the dis-

trict from illegal encr-

oachments. Counsel

for petitioner Chinn-

ola Naresh Reddy inf-

ormed the bench that

miscreants have encr-

oached nearly eight

lakes in Nirmal dis-

trict. They have also

started constructions

HC: Can't take

HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

The Telangana High Court made it clear that once land is allotted to an ex-serviceman, then such allocation cannot be cancelled on the ground that the land was not allocated by a competent authority or the land was in shikam or in any prohibited list of land to assigned, prescribed in GO 1406

The Court also said that if that land was named in a prohibited classification of land, then Revenue authorities should provide an alternative land to the beneficiary.
The division bench

comprising Chief Justice Rahavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijavsen Reddy was dealing with a petition by ex-servicemen, challenging the cancellation of land allotment to them.

THE LAND was in shikam or in any prohibited list of land to assigned, prescribed in GO 1406 of 1958.

TWITTER SEEKS TIME HC: Take stock **TO EXPLAIN TWEETS** of Nirmal lakes **AGAINST MUSLIMS**

any permission from

Nirmal municipality.
On the High Court's

sioner and Irrigation

Department executive

engineer furnished a

report on the lakes

mentioned. The court

opined that these rep-

orts are deficient and

misleading with false

bench asked the com-

missioner to inform

whether or not any

construction has tak-

en place on lake areas

without obtaining

permission. The com-

ntained a steady sile-

nce on this and also

further queries from court whether the

said lake had been

filled up with rubble.

directed additional district judge, Nirm-

al, to personally visit

the site and submit a factual ground report

in case any part of the

lake has been filled

with rubble and wh-

ether or not any ille-

gal constructions ha-

ve come up on the

land. The court also

wanted the district

judge to find out from

chief engineer and

superintendent engi-neer, Irrigation, Nir-

mal, the exact extent

of the lake's full tank

level area and alleged

encroachments on the FTL.

bench directed Nir-

mal collector to visit

all lakes falling with-

in the district and al-

so ensure that their

FTL, including the

buffer zone, is discov-

Further, the division

The High Court then

mai-

information.

missioner

Nirmal

commis-

directive

municipal

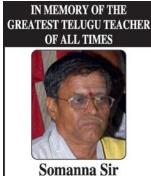
DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Microblogging site Twitter has sought more time from the Telangana High Court to submit its explanation on allowing posts against Muslims portraying them as Covid-19 spreaders.

Twitter's senior counsel from Delhi submitted that the inflammatory material had been removed and sought some more time to file an affidavit as it has to come from the US. It maybe recalled that the High Court had issued notices to Twitter, Union government and the Telangana state police, in a PIL filed by an advocate seeking action against Twitter for allowing the tweets, which he said "promoted hatred against Muslims".



Inserted by: Husband & Children Ph: 9848015812, 9550288851



Departed: 04 Aug 2020

St. John's Church High School 1990 B Section Students



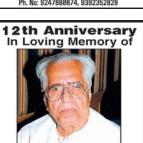
Retd. Office Superintendent, DM & HO DOB:21-07-1961 DOD:20-08-2020 FUNERAL will be held at St. Thomas SPG Church Cemetery Sec-bad at 10:30 am (today) Inserted by: Wife & Children Cell:9704474252 / 9989994625

OBITUARY



Sri Satyanarayan Kachwaha MAY YOUR SOUL REST IN PEACE. Deeply Mourned by: Raju, Prakash (Sons) **BALAJI TIFFINS**

BALAJI SHIVNARAYAN SWEET HOME Beside Royal Plaza, Sultan Bazar, Hyderab Ph. No: 9247888674, 9392352828



Late Kishan Kumar Mehra "Your life is always an inspiration strength and pride for us, you wil always in our hearts forever

Mehra & Kapoor Family 9346517530/ 9395579580 CAR FASHIONS, Minister Road MEHRA Trading Co.

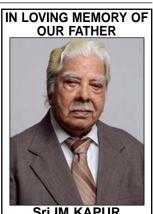
29th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

have fought a good fight, I have finished my burse, I have kept the faith 2 Timothy 4:7°

Late Mrs.Y.ANNA JOHN BABU W/o Late Rev Y.S. John Babu Founder Chairman, SION FELLOWSHIP, 2-10, Hydernagar Inserted By: Sons, Daughters, Sons-in-Law, Daughters-in-Law, Grand Children & Church Member

ASP donates tarpaulins

Warangal: Mulugu ASP Potharaju Sai Chaitanya on Thursday donated tarpaulin covers to the Ganapeshwaralayam temple which got



Sri IM KAPUR

le breathed his last on 19-08-2020 le has etched a place in our hearts Daughters: Ritu, Renu, Arti



Mrs. K. SUSHEELA GEORGE (PAO DOB: 09-09-1942 DOD: 21-08-2015 Your memories, love and affection are sti esh in our hearts. Inserted by: Brother, Sisters-in-law, Sisters, Brother-in-law, Nieces and Nephews





Mrs. DEEVANAMMA RADUVA Went Home on: 21-08-2017 Forever in our hearts! MR RADUVA MITHRA (Husband)



BATCHU SUKUMARI Telukunta Krishna Murthy & Family



Wife, Sons, Daughters-in-law, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Grand Children Relatives & Friends. Ph: 27962397

17[™] DEATH ANNIVARSARY

MALLEMPUDI RADHA MOHAN 17th Anniversary on 21-8-2020 You are still fresh in our hearts Insterted by wife M. Seshamani & Members of Family, Hyd.

ANDHRA PRADESH

JAGAN TO PRAY AT SRISAILAM PROJECT TODAY

D.S. REDDI | DC KURNOOL, AUG. 20

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is visiting Srisailam project on Friday to perform Jal Harathi on Krishna River for the water wealth bestowed on the territory. This is his first visit to Srisailam after assuming office.

It is customary on the part of the State ministers to offer Jala harathi before the main gates are opened for the first time

during the season. Jagan Mohan Reddy will be accompanied by water resource Minister Mr Anil Kumar Yadav and Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy. He will interact with engineering officials and find out the progress of various works taken up from Pothireddypadu head regulator and Rayalaseema lift irrigation scheme tenders that were finalised recently.

IT IS CUSTOMARY on the part of the State ministers to offer Jala harathi before the main gates are opened for the first time during the season.

JAGAN MOHAN REDDY will be accompanied by water resource Minister Mr Anil Kumar Yadav and Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy.

AP cops announce ₹1L reward for info on Ramesh hospital top brass Earlier, he told media persons

DC CORRESPONDENT /IJAYAWADA, AUG. 20

AP police has announced a cash award of ₹ one lakh for those who give information leading to the arrest of top management personnel of Ramesh Hospitals.

Though the police have arrested three hospital officials in the aftermath of the death of 10 patients in the fire mishap in Swarna Palace Hotel hired by the hospital to run Covid Care Centre on August 9, the big guns, including managing director Dr P. Ramesh Babu, has been evading

The police even released the names and photos of four suspects, including hospital chair-

• CP B. SRINIVASULU said, "It is unfair on the part of top management of Ramesh Hospitals to abscond without helping the police to take up the inquiry.'

Maddipati Ramamohana Rao, Ramesh Babu, COO Potluri Gopi Krishna and CFO Pothineni Ravi Kiran. In their bid to nab the four, the police announced the cash reward for information on their whereabouts.

CP B. Srinivasulu said, "It is unfair on the part of top management of Ramesh Hospitals to abscond without helping the police to take up the inquiry.

that special teams had been visiting Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru and other areas as part of the investigation but they had failed to get details of the MoU between Ramesh Hospitals and Swarna Palace Hotel. Referring to the treatment, the

CP said that it was found in their inquiry that Ramesh Hospitals had collected huge fees to treat Covid-19 patients and added that notices under Sections 91 and 161 were served on the board of members of the hospital.

In a separate development, he advised people to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi by installing clay Ganesh idols in their

AP crosses 3K toll, 9,393 new cases

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 20

After a brief lull, the number of Coronavirus cases has risen in Andhra Pradesh again, registering 9,393 new Covid-19 cases, raising the tally to 3,25,396, apart from 95 deaths, taking the deal toll to 3.001.

The state health department has reported that of 55,551 samples tested for Covid-19, 9,393 individuals have tested positive. The state has so far tested 30,74,847 samples. Of them, 3,25,396 tested Covid-19 positive while 2,35,218 patients have been discharged after recovery and 87,177 patients are still undergoing treatment.

Godavari district continues to lead with 1,357 cases, followed by 995 in West Godavari, 985 in Visakhapatnam, 973 in Anantapur, 836 in Chittoor, 805 in Kurnool, 762 in Srikakulam, 635 in Prakasam, 588 in Nellore, 443 in Guntur, 434 in Kadapa, 385 in Vizianagaram and 195 in

With regard to cumulative infections, East Godavari is the worst hit with the highest number of 45,356 cases, followed by 36,381 in Kurnool, 32,603 in Anantapur, 28,808 in Guntur, 28,075 in Visakhapatnam, 27,025 in West Godavari, 26,573 in Chittoor, 19,672 in Nellore, 19,193 in

Among new infections, East Kadapa, 16,990 in Srikakulam, Godavari district continues to 14,421 in Vizianagaram, 14,168 in Prakasam, 13,236 in Krishna, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other countries. The rate of recovery from the

infection has been good in

Kurnool as 29,168 patients have recovered in the district, followed by 28,988 in East Godavari, 26,554 in Anantapur, 21,697 in Visakhapatnam, 21,641 in West Godavari, 21,012 in Guntur, 16,765 in Chittoor, 14,481 in Nellore, 14,421 in Kadapa, 11,062 in Srikakulam, 10,532 in Krishna, 8,640 in Prakasam, 7,362 in Vizianagaram, 2,461 from other states and 434 from other coun-

SHORT TAKES **NAGA TRIBAL COUNCIL WRITES LETTER TO PM**

MANOJ ANAND DC **GUWAHATI, AUG. 20**

Bogged down by demands by a section of organisations for changing the interlocutor for Naga talks, R.N. Ravi, the Nagaland civil society organi-sations, including the power-ful Nagaland Tribal Council, has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking for a review of the ground situation and substantial progress of the Naga talks before taking any decision on changing the interlocutor.

Though, authoritative security sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs on Thursday ruled out any such move, the organisations including 14 Apex Naga Tribal Hohos of Nagaland, Lotha HoHo (LH), Nagaland Gaon Buras Federation (NGBF), Central Nagaland Tribes Council (CNTC), Zeliangrong Baudi (AMN) and Sumi Kukami Hoho (SKH) in a joint memorandum to the Prime Minister said that the sole motive behind the demand to replace Ravi was to derail the peace process so that the Naga political issue was back to square

Asserting that they want an early solution that too without changing the interlocutor, the joint memorandum signed by NTC president Toniho Yepthomi and general secre-tary Nribemo Ngullie said, "We request the government of India to respect the sentiment and listen to the cry of the peo-ple of the state and stakehold-

WOMEN MUST BE EMPOWERED POLITICALLY: V-P

New Delhi, Aug. 20: Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday pitched for adequate reservation for women in Parliament and state legis-latures and urged all political parties to arrive at an early consensus on the issue.

He said the country's progress will be hampered if women are not empowered politically.

Naidu also expressed concern over reports of neglect and abuse of the elderly, saying the "completely unacceptable trend" must be checked and noted that it is the sacred duty of the children to take care of the aged members of

'We must also ensure adequate reservation for women in Parliament and all state legislatures and I urge all political parties to arrive at a con sensus at the earliest on this important issue," he said.

An official statement said the Vice President observed that it was "unfortunate" that the proposal was pending for a long time.

He made these remarks while releasing reports on 'Status of Sex Ratio at Birth in India', and 'Elderly Population in India: Status and Support Systems', brought out by the Association Parliamentarians Population and Development.

HC GRANTS BAIL TO WADHAWAN BROTHERS

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, AUG. 20

The Bombay high court on Thursday granted bail to Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd promoters Kapil Wadhawan and Dheeraj Wadhawan, who have been accused of money laundering Enforcement Directorate in the multi-crore Yes Bank fraud case. The brothers, however, will remain in jail as they have also been booked by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the same case.

Bharati Dangre Justice granted them bail as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) failed to file its charge sheet in the case within the stipulated 60-day period. The court noted that there is a period prescribed in law for filing of the charge sheet, and an accused cannot be kept in custody even for a day after that stipulated time and they have the right to default bail.

An accused can seek default bail if the investigating agency fails to file a charge sheet against him or her in the case within the period prescribed under section 167 the Criminal Procedure

Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, appearing for ED, sought the court to stay its order for two weeks so that the agency could appeal in the Supreme Court.

FB row: BJP MP asks Speaker to replace Tharoor on IT panel

'Spenserian' English does not give MP right to abuse Constitution, says Dubey

Stepping up his attack parliamentary panel on information techpanel on information tech-nology chairman Shashi manner and to serve his Tharoor, BJP MP and a political agenda of spreadmember of the panel Nishikant Dubey on Thursday wrote a letter to the Lok Sabha Speaker requesting him to remove the Congress leader from

Citing the Lok Sabha rules, Dubey requested Speaker Om Birla to appoint any other member as the chairman of the committee in his place.

Taking a dig at Tharoor, Dubey alleged, "speaking in 'Spenserian' English with a foreign accent does not give freedom to an individual to not only disregard our glorious parliatutions/organs to meet his own political ambitions but also to abuse our con-

Ever since Tharoor has

become the panel head, "he is running the affairs of the committee in a thoring rumours and defaming my party," Dubey said in the letter.

"..it would be highly improper for Dr. Shashi Tharoor to continue and regulate the proceedings of the committee. I, therefore, appeal to your good self to persuade Dr. Tharoor to proceed on leave and thereafter,... choose another member of the Committee to act as Chairperson," Dubey said

in the letter.

Dubey and Tharoor have filed breach of privilege notices against each other on Wednesday after a spat on social media over the Congress leader's remarks on summoning the Facebook India executives over reports that the social media giant went

Remembering Rajiv Gandhi

soft on some BJP leaders who had made hate speeches ahead of the general elections last year.
While Dubey said
Tharoor was treating the

committee as an extension of Congress party, the Congress leader had alleged that the BJP MP made "disparaging remarks" on social media over his decision to summon a panel meeting to discuss the "misconduct" alleged Facebook.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary standing commiton Information Technology has summoned Facebook on September 2 to discuss the issue of alleged misuse of social media platforms in the wake of claims that the US firm did not apply hate speech rules to certain BJP politicians. A day before, the panel will also discuss the issue of inter-

net shutdowns.

Twitter: 66% rise in info requests

New Delhi, Aug. 20: Microblogging platform Twitter on Thursday said requests for information on user accounts from India grew over 66 per cent to 789 in July-December 2019.

These requests — which include those from the government agencies (a combination of routine requests and emergency requests) — stood at 474 in the first half of 2019, as per data from Twitter's latest Transparency Report.

These 789 requests (in the second half of 2019) were related to 2,873 accounts.

Twitter also received 144

account preservation in the July-December 2019 period, it said.

Removal requests from India also grew 55 per cent to 782 in July-December 2019 from 504 in the preceding six months.
Of the 782 removal

requests, seven were court orders, while the remaining 775 were other legal demands, Twitter

Twitter said governments and law enforcement agencies globally submitted approximately 21 per cent more information requests compared to the previous reporting

Congress accuses govt of shielding PM Cares Fund

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 20

Congress on Thursday accused the Modi govern-ment of shielding PM Cares Fund from any kind of scrutiny and questioned the origins of

creating this reserve.

"It is abundantly clear that the BJP government is making desperate efforts to shield PM Cares Fund from any kind of scrutiny. Was the fund set up by the central govern-ment as concluded by Ministry of Corporate Affairs? If not, who set up the fund and in what capacity," Congress leader P. Chidambaram asked.

former Union The finance minister's comments came after Supreme Court refused to direct the central government that it transfer contributions made to PM Cares Fund to National Disaster Response Fund for battling Covid-19 pan-

demic. In a series of tweets, Chidambaram asked if the fund was not set up by the central government, why are the PM and three Union ministers serving as trustees, and who appointed

"If the fund is a privately established fund, why are donations to the fund counted against CSR? Will donations to other privately established funds be also counted

against CSR," he asked in

his tweet. The Rajya Sabha member questioned as to who authorised Ministry of Corporate Affairs make a retrospective amendment Companies Act inserting the name of PM Cares

Fund in the schedule. He wanted to know if the ministry would insert names of other pri-vately established funds as well in the said sched-

"Retrospective amendment in favour of a pri-vately established fund is obviously an act of favouritism and discriminatory. It will be challenged," he added.

BJP president J.P. Nadda had earlier said Supreme Court judgement was a "resounding blow to nefarious designs" of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his "band of rent a cause

Public to donate copper for temple

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 20

The Ram Mandir in Ayodhya will be constructed by adhering to India's ancient and traditional construction techniques; copper plates will used to fuse stone blocks. Iron will not be used in the construction.
The construction has
"begun" and currently soil testing at the site is being done. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had performed the 'bhoomi pujan' of the temple on August 5.

Members of the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra, Supreme Court appointed trust for the construction of the temple, held a meeting in New Deini on Thursday

Asking 'Ram bhakts' to donate copper for the construction, the trust said donors can "engrave family names, place of origin

or their community temples' names" on copper plates which should be 18 inches long, 30 mm wide and three mm in depth.

"This way, the copper plates will not only sym-bolise the unity of this country but also be a testament to the entire country's contribution towards mandir construction, tweeted the trust.

After the meeting, trust's general-secretary Champat Rai said "We are taking help of Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee and IIT Chennai. 1,200 pillars with one metre diameter will be brought up from depth of 30-35 metre for a

strong foundation.' Engineers from CBRI Roorkee, IIT Madras along with L&T are cui rently testing the soil at the temple site and the construction work is expected to finish in 36-40 months, said the trust.

We will not remain silent on abrogation of Art 370: Abdullah

contribution to nation building and his leadership.

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC

Former chief minister and National Conference Abdullah on Thursday said that he or his party will not remain silent on the issue of the erstwhile state of being stripped of its special status by the Centre "arbitrarily"

"We won't remain silent on the abrogation of Article 370. We're not helpless. God is our savior," he said after holding a marathon discussion with his senior party colleagues here to chalk out its future strategy and to look at ways and means of seeking lifting of curbs on the other party men.

It was for the first time since August 5 last year that Abdullah, a sitting LoK Sabha MP, could deliberate on issues face to face with his party colleagues. The meeting was held at his residence along Srinagar's Gupkar Road and was attended by two other NC MPs Hasnain Masoori and Muhammad Akbar Lone and senior party leaders Muhammad Shaffi 'Uri' Abdur Rahim Rather, Ali Muhammad Sagar who is also the party general secretary, Nasir Aslam Wani

and some others.
Abdullah said he would be meeting five more party leaders at a separate meeting on Friday and that such interactions would continue in

Earlier on Wednesday, the NC had said that it had taken a note of the government's statement before the J&K High Court that none of its leaders was in detention. The court is hearing several habeas corpus peti-tions filed by Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah who is the party vice president seeking the liberty of various party colleagues from their "illegal" house detention.

While speaking reporters, Abdullah said, "Government is lying. All leaders are not free. 16 leaders are still facing house detention. They can't come out from their houses. I am grateful to God that those sitting beside me are free.'

He, however, declined to divulge the details of his discussion with the first group of party leaders. When all meetings will take place, I will tell you about the results. Let all the leaders be free", he said adding "I want my leaders to be as free as you (media)." Reiterating the main issue faced by J&K today was how to bring back its special status than statehood or doing away with the new domicile law, he said, "As said we will not remain silent over what was done to J&K. I couldn't attend Parliament because I was not free. Let me attend the Parliament and you will see what I will do.

Upset with RJD for ignoring demands for committee, Manjhi quits alliance

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, AUG. 20

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi pays tribute to his late father and former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 76th birth anniversary, as it rains at

ahead of his time. Taking to social media and using the hashtag "Remembering Rajiv Gandhi", several Congress leaders hailed Rajiv Gandhi's

Vir Bhoomi in New Delhi on Thursday. Paying respects to his father, Rahul Gandhi said his father was a man with a tremendous vision and was far

Hindustani Awam Morcha -Secular (HAM-S) on Thursday announced that it has decided to part ways with the grand alliance led by the RJD in Bihar.

HAM leaders said that party chief Jitan Ram Manjhi has been upset with the RJD for not consulting alliance partners before taking any decisions and ignoring his demands for the formation of the coordination committee.

Sources said that others leaders in the party were also in favour of snapping ties with RJD and forming an alliance with other like-minded political par-ties in Bihar ahead of Assembly polls slated to be held later this year.

The final ultimatum served to the RJD for the formation of coordination committee had ended a month ago following which it was being speculated that Manjhi may quit the alliance and join hands with either the JD(U) or BJP.

On Thursday after the decision to quit the grand alliance was announced Danish Rizwan said that "those who don't listen to coalition partners will not listen to the people after coming to power. The decision to quit the grand alliance has been taken after our repeated demand for the formation of a coordination committee was turned down by the RJD. In such a situation it would be difficult for us to remain in the alliance with RJD".

Manjhi's decision is being seen as a major jolt to the RJD and Congress which has been trying to strengthen their organisational structure and voter's base in Bihar ahead of assembly elections scheduled to be held

When asked whether the party would be joining hands with NDA Danish Rizwan said 'party chief Jitan Ram Manjhi has been authorised by our leaders to take decisions on the issue".

COVID-19: NCW **TAKES STOCK OF WOMEN HOMES**

New Delhi, Aug. 20: The National Commission for Women on Thursday held a virtual meeting with representatives of psychiatric homes to discuss the various measures taken for women inmates in view of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The meeting was held to assess the arrangements made in women wards of psychiatric homes with an emphasis to improve the living conditions of the inmates, the NCW said in a statement. — *PTI*

CLEANEST | CITY | Swachh Sarvekshan 2020 survey was conducted in 4,242 cities

Indore retains 'Swachh' title for 4th time

Indore, Aug. 20: Participation of over 35 lakh population, hard workers, innovative steps taken for waste management and its processing and key financial measures helped Indore get the top position in the Swachh Sarvekshan 2020 for the

fourth time in a row. Indore, the industrial hub of Madhya Pradesh, was adjudged India's cleanest city for the fourth straight year in the central government's cleanliness survey announced on Thursday.

The survey was conducted in 4,242 cities in the country in which 1.9 crore people gave their opinions.

With the results, the and public representatives Indore Municipal Corpo- for making the city ration's (IMC) slogan 'Chouka lagayenge' (Will

hit four) came to reality. After the results were announced, celebrations broke out in the city. Sanitation workers drew rangolis on the city streets by mentionining 'Indore No. 1' in them.

BJP MP from Indore,

Shankar Lalwani. expressed his happiness by dancing with women sanitation workers on the occasion.

In a message to the people of Indore, Municipal Commissioner Pratibha Pal said, "I congratulate the people of Indore and the understanding people for making the city remain on top in the Swachh Sarveskshan for the fourth time in a row." "The laborious cleanli-

ness workers, too, deserve to be congratulated on the occasion as they worked irrespective weather to ensure that the city remains neat and clean," she said. The waste management and processing schemes of the city also played a major role in

achieving the target. The IMC officials said that the capacity to dispose of about 1,200 tonnes of waste — 550 tonnes of wet and 650 tonnes of dry waste - in a secured manner daily has been developed in the city.
They said that nearly 8,500 sanitation staffers work in three shifts from 6 am to 4 am — daily to clean the city.

The officials also said that the waste collection boxes had already been removed from the city and nearly 700 vehicles of the civic body collect dry and wet waste, including diapers and sanitary napkins. and segregate them in separate compartments for their safe disposal.

Centre's Advisor for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Asad Warsi, said that for collecting waste from houses and commercial establishments, ₹60 lakh was collected from the

people as user charges in 2014-15.

In 2019-20, increased by 60 times to reach ₹36 crore, he said, adding that in the current fiscal, it will be around ₹40 crore.

According to Warsi, waste processing plants in the city were set up on rublic Private
Partnership (PPP) mode
for making them financially viable.
"Now wood

"Now waste is not a burden for the city, but a valuable resource as through these plants, after processing dry and wet waste, the IMC has earned ₹6 crore in 2019-20, which is likely to increase to ₹10 crore in 2021-22," he added. -PTI

SHORT TAKES **MUKHERJEE'S HEALTH SHOWS**

IMPROVEMENT

Delhi, Aug. 20: Respiratory parameters of former president Pranab Mukherjee have shown a slight improvement, though he continues to be on ventilator support, the hospital said on Thursday.

Mukherjee, who was admitted to the Army's Research and Referral Hospital on August 10, developed a lung infection on Wednesday. infection on Wednesday. Doctors attending on him said his vital parameters remain

"The respiratory parameters of Pranab Mukherjee have shown slight improvement though he continues to be on ventilatory support. His vital and clinical parameters remain stable and are being closely monitored by a team of specialists," a hospital statement said.

Mukherjee was operated on for removal of a clot in the brain on August 10 at the Army Hospital in Delhi Cantonment. He was also tested positive for Covid-19.

INFILTRATION FROM Pok DOWN **BY 50 PER CENT**

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, AUG. 20

Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police, Dilbagh Singh, on Thursday claimed that the security forces combating a threedecade old insurgency in the erstwhile state have wreaked the leadership structure of separatist militant organisations apart by killing as many 26 of their top commanders in, so far, this year.

He said that two of themboth belonging to outlawed Lashkar-e-Tayabba (LeT)were 'neutralised' in the past three days along with four other militants in three separate operations.

Singh also claimed that infil-tration of militants from across the border had decreased by half this year. The alertness of our forces and border management are so good that for the first time the level of infiltration has come down by 50 per cent when compared to the past. Also, the local recruitment into the militant outfits has decreased considerably. I think people, particularly our children are listening to our advice and appeals and staying

away from the gun". Speaking to reporters in Handwara town of frontier Kupwara district, the police cniei said, 'We've succeeded in breaking the leadership structure of militants in Kashmir. 26 top most com-manders have been killed in encounters across the Valley, so far, this year."

MEDICAL OFFICER HELD FOR KILLING FEMALE DOCTOR

Agra (UP), Aug. 20: A medical officer was arrested from Uttar Pradesh's Jalaun district for allegedly killing a 26-year-old female doctor of the SN Medical College in officials said on

Thursday.
Yogita Gautam's body was found with injury marks along an isolated road stretch in Agra's Dauki area on Wednesday morning and her identity ascertained in the evening, the officials

Accused Vivek Tiwari, who was a senior of Gautam at their medical school in Moradabad, had been harassing her and allegedly pressuring her into marrying him, according to officials.

"Dr Yogita Gautam, pursuing MD at the SN Medical College here, went missing on Tuesday and her mobile phone was not reachable after which her family approached the local police station and an FIR was lodged, Senior Superintendent of Police, Agra, Babloo Kumar said.

The family alleged in the complaint that Dr Vivek Tiwari, currently medical officer at Jalaun Medical College, would often call her, harass and threaten her,

Kumar said. He said the Agra Police tied up with their counterparts in Jalaun district, leading to the arrest of the accused doc-

Kumar said there were visible injury marks on Gautam's head and neck and other struggle marks which have been

recorded. The body has been sent for post mortem, he said, adding the accused was being interrogated and all facts of the case would be unveiled soon.

Kerala resists airport lease Covid recovery

CPM, Cong call for stir against handing over airport to pvt operator

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANTHAPURAM,

With the ruling and Opposition fronts in Kerala on the same page, a big resistance is building up in the state against the Narendra Modi govern-ment's decision to hand over Thiruvananthapuram airport to Adani

group.

Both CPM and Congress leaderships have called for a statewide protest against the move which they term "sell out" to corporate. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has convened an all-party meeting to decide the future course of action on the

Vijayan has shot off a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to reconsider the Union Cabinet's decision to hand over the airport to the private sector.

"We have successfully operated the Cochin and Kannur airports and it proves the state government's expertise in this sector. The private bidder has no work experience that can match up to the state government in this field," he said.

Vijayan took the Centre to task for ignoring the requests made earlier for transferring the operations and management of the airport a Special Purpose Vehicle in which the state government would

be a major stakeholder. He reminded the Centre that in 2005 the state govTharoor, CPM spar over KERALA DIDN'T QUALIFY FOR BID: MINISTER

ing the sellout of airport.

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has come in for sharp criticism from the ruling CPM and his own party for supporting the Centre's decision to lease uvananthapuram airport

the Adani group. Kerala tourism minister and CPM leader Mr Kadakampally Sur-endran slammed Tharoor for taking a position in favour of corporate. The Congress MP's statement amounts to betraying the people of Kerala.

The minister said the people will make him answerable for support-

ernment had transferred

23.57 acres of land free of cost to the Airports Authority of

India to build an interna-

tional terminal on the

condition that the land

value should be reflected

as the state's share capital

"All our requests to hand

over the airport to SPV have been ignored by the

Centre. Moreover, the

Centre's decision comes at

a time when, on the direc-

tions of the Supreme

A DTC bus gets submerged in a waterlogged area following heavy rains at Pul Pehlad

Pur in New Delhi on Thursday. Meanwhile, low-lying areas were submerged and elec-

CBI team reaches Mumbai

The team is likely to stay

in the city for around 10

days, another official said.

ernment norms, govern-ment officials on impor-

tant duty and doctors on

Covid-19 duty are exempt-

ed from the home quaran-

tine rule for a period of seven days, but have to

apply to BMC for an

exemption if they plan to

stay in the city for over a

The CBI team, which includes forensic experts,

landed at Mumbai airport

around 7.30 pm, an official

said, adding it will visit

the actors residence, where he was found dead.

Mumbai police will hand

over evidence collected in

the case to CBI and will

help in the investigation, he said. -PTI

week.

As per Maharashtra gov-

to probe SSR's death case

Mumbai, Aug. 20: A CBI rule," said the official.

team reached Mumbai on

Thursday evening for probe in the Sushant Singh Rajput death case,

even as the municipal cor-

poration announced it has

been exempted from home

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) had quarantined

Bihar IPS officer Vinay

Tiwari earlier this month

after his arrival to oversee

probe in the actor's death

A BMC official said the

agency had applied for

exemption from the home

"They are on official duty and sought an exemption from quaran-

tine norms. They have

been given exemption

investigation

from the home quarantine he said.

central

quarantine rule.

tricity and road links snapped at several places in Odisha after torrential rains trig-

in the SPV.

Tharoor responded to the criticism through a tweet; "My position on the airport has been consistent since before the elections. I am not a politician who says one thing to the voters and something else after-wards for political convenience. Ĥad my col-leagues consulted me before taking a negative stand, I would have explained my views to them. I am speaking in the best interests of my constituency as its MP and it's my job."

Tharoor said the people of Thiruvananthpuram wanted a first class airport worthy of the city's history, status and poten-

sion, however controversial, is preferable to the long dealy we have suffered. The reality is that a private entity running the operations competitively is the only way this airport could flourish. Whoever it is, the ownership of the land and airport as well as the responsibilities of the ATC, security, customs and immigration remains with the government agencies," he said.
A section of Congress

tial. In this context a deci-

leaders have also opposed Tharoor's stand. They said the Congress cannot be a part to the sale of precious public sector enterprises to the private sector.

Court, there is a case pending in Kerala high court on the issue," he Vijayan said under these

circumstances it would be difficult to cooperate with the Centre and provide support for implementing the decision. He told the PM that this was also the opinion of the people of

The ruling CPM said it will launch a statewide agitation since Centre's decision to hand

over the airport with assets worth ₹30,000 crore to Adani was not acceptable and against the interests of Kerala.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Mullapally Ramachandran echoed similar sentiments. He called for statewide protests to force the BJP Government at the Centre to roll back the unilateral decision. "None of us need to be on the payroll of these corporate giants," he

GOVT TO CHARGE

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs

REVISED AVIATION FEE

FOR ALL FROM SEPT. 1

Passengers will have to pay ₹10 extra for their air travel from September 1 as the Ministry of Civil

Aviation has decided to revise the

rates of aviation security fee (ASF) for domestic and international pas-

According to officials, the ASF for

domestic flyers will be increased by

₹10 to be ₹160 from present ₹150 while the international

passengers will have to pay \$5.2

Airlines collect the ASF from pas-

sengers when they book their tick-

ets and then give it to the govern-

The aviation security fee is used to

fund the security arrangement at

airports across the country.

The aviation security fee was hiked last year from July 1 to be ₹150 instead of ₹130 and interna-

tional passengers were charged

Airlines collect the ASF from passengers when they book their tickets and then give it to the govern-

ment. The ASF is used to fund the

security arrangement at airports

The aviation sector has been sig-

nificantly impacted due to the travel restrictions imposed in India and

other countries in view of the

All airlines in India have taken

cost-cutting measures such as pay

cuts, leave-without-pay and firings of employees in order to conserve

cash. After a gap of two months due

to the Coronavirus-triggered lock-

down, India resumed domestic pas-

senger flights on May 25. However,

the average occupancy rate in Indian domestic flights has been

around just 50-60 per cent since May

25. Scheduled international passen-

ger flights continue to remain sus-

pended in India since March 23 due

to the coronavirus pandemic. However, special international

flights have been operating with the

approval of aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

instead of current \$4.85.

\$4.85 instead of \$3.25.

across the country.

Coronavirus pandemic.

Talking about the airport's 2019 privatisation process on Twitter, Puri said, "Winning bid quoted ₹168 per passenger, KSIDC (Kerala State Industrial

years.

Development

per passenger."
Per passenger fee was the criteria for the bidding process that was conducted in early 2019 for six airports Lucknow. Ahmedabad, Mangalore,
Guwahati Thiruvananthand

New Delhi, Aug. 20: The Kerala government did

not qualify in Thiruvan-

anthapuram airport's

bidding process that was

carried out in a transpar-

ent manner, Civil Aviation Minister

Hardeep Singh Puri said

on Thursday.
The Kerala government

has opposed the Union

Cabinet's approval on Wednesday to lease out

the Thiruvananthapuram

Enterprises through pub-

lic private partnership (PPP) for a period of 50

oration) quoted ₹135 per

passenger and third qualifying bidder was at ₹63

Enterprises turned out to be the highest bidder for these six airports.

Corp-

rate crosses 74%

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 20

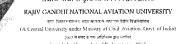
India on Thursday registered 69,438 fresh infections of Coronavirus taking the country's overall cases to 29.04 lakh. In the last 24 hours 993 new deaths were recorded taking the nation's total death figures to 54,971.

India's recovery figures, at the same time, too remain impressive as total recoveries reached nearly 21.57 lakh taking country's Recovery Rate to over 74 per cent. Health ministry officials

ered patients is now three times higher than the number of active cases which currently is 6.90 lakh. "With the recoveries of 61,873 in the last 24 hours, India's Recovery Rate has crossed 74 per cent reflecting that the number of patients rec-overing is on a steady rise over the past several months. India has posted more than 14 lakh recoveries than the active cases (6,86,395 which are under active medical care)," officials

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Start Date/ Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids Officer Cell No 21-08-2020 @ 10.00 a.m. Sri. P. Chinna Reddy, E.E. DIV-21/2020-21 Various Types of 28-08-2020 @ 3.00 p.m. Item No. 01 & 02) For Further details Pl. Check ghmc.gov.in.





Date: 18 August 2020 CORRIGENDUM
ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 2020

This refers to our earlier advertisement published in leading newspapers on 29th June, 2020 inviting applications for admission towards PGDAO & BMS in Aviation Services & Air Cargo.

Due to COVID-19 situation, the last date for online applications is extended upto 1700 hrs on 10 September 2020 and no written examination will be held.

For further details please visit RGNAU website i.e. https://www.rgnau.ac.in Any corrigendum, in this regard, will be published only in the official website of RGNAU. Sd/- **Registrar**, davp 03110/11/0005/2021 Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Rend. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001

(OFFICE OF CE/RE & APDRP (D), SHED NO: F2, SHAKTI VIHAR, PATIALA) Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-22227, Fax No. 0175-2224168 Email Id: ase.std@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-Tenders are invited for initial site survey, planning and subsequent execution of project for restructuring of overhanging existing HT/LT lines for Rainik Bazar, Jalandhar under Smart City Project on Turnkey Basis agains ender Enquiry No. 57A/CE/RE & APDRP/2020-21 DATED 19.08.2020

Tender documents from e- tendering website	20.08.2020				
Last date and time of online submission of bid	09.09.2020 up to 11:00 AM				
Date & time for opening of tenders	10.09.2020 at 11:00 AM				
Cost of Specification	Can be downloaded free of cost from online tendering portal https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/				
Contact Person	SE/RE & APDRP (D) Ph: 0175-220049 Mob: 096461-22227 Shed A-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala-147001				

Detailed NIT and Specification may be downloaded from e-tendering website http://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

The prospective bidders may contact customer care of above cite webiste in case of any difficulty.

CORRIGENDUM if any will not be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on e-tendering website http://eproc.punjab.gov.in. Dv.CE/RE&APDRP (D)

For CE/RE&APDRP, PSPCL, Patiala.

Govt. of Bihar



BIHAR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD [A Govt of Bihar Undertaking]



NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA (NAMAMI GANGE PROGRAMME)

Re-Invitation for Bids

International Competitive Bidding

NIT. No: BUIDCo/Yo-871/2017 (Part-4)-169

The Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited for and on behalf of the Owner in the State of Bihar, India invites bids from eligible Bidders for the works (I) Design and Build Sewage Treatment Plant of Installed Capacity 22 MLD and all Appurtenant Structures and Allied Works (for remaining work of ASP Technology); (II) Survey, Review the Designs, Redesign where Necessary, and Build New Underground Sewerage Network of about 138.9 km Length Including Survey, Design, Construction of 4 No. Intermediate Pumping Stations and all Appurtenant Structures and Allied Works; And (III) Operation & Maintenance of the Complete Works of Sewage Treatment Plant, Sewerage Network and Pumping Stations for a Period of 15 Years in Hajipur, State of Bihar, India. Period for design/redesign, build, test and commissioning is 2 years and Operation and Maintenance period is 15

Detailed Invitation for Bid which includes instructions for submission of bids and all other relevant information is available on www.eprocbihar.gov.in website Bidding Documents will be available with effect from 28.08.2020.

The last date & time of bid submission is 28.09.2020 at 15.00 hours on e-proc. The last date & time of bid submission in hard copy is ${\bf 29.09.2020}$ at ${\bf 15.00}$ hours. The bids will be opened on the same day at **16.00** hours. E-bidding will be permitted.

The interested eligible bidders may participate in the bidding process as per instructions given in the bidding documents.

Chief Engineer, Planning, Design & Monitoring, BUIDCo, Patna

Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Near Rajapur Pul, West Boring Canal Road, Patna-800001 (Tel: 0612-2506109, Email: mdbuidco@gmail.com)

PR. No. 005240 (NI NI) 2020-21

नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु 🔯 Toll Free No.: 🕇 🚺 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं। खाद्य सामग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुङ्गाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या ०६१२-२२१७६३६ पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।



Ministry of Information & Broadcasting



I-T sleuths raid nine major real estate developers in MP

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, AUG. 20

Income-Tax sleuths on Thursday conducted raids on the establishments of nine major real estate developers in Madhya Pradesh, several of them were reportedly said to have links to pow-

erful people in the state.
A strong contingent of around 600 I-T officers from Delhi conducted simultaneous raids on these establishments in Bhopal and Indore. The last reports came. "At least 112 'benami' properties have come to

fore so far following the raids. The properties include 357 acres in Bhopal. Valuation of the properties was being done", a senior I-T officer told this newspaper requesting not to be quoted since he was not authorised to speak to

the media. Sources said an anonymous letter reached the Enforcement Directorate (ED) last year informing

raids continued till the that some retired and last reports came. that some retired and serving civil service officers of MP cadre have invested in some real estate companies in the state. The ED had then referred the matter to the Central Board of Direct Taxation (CBDT) for a

SSR'S CASE WAS

SAYS SHIV SENA

A day after the verdict

on the transfer of the

death case of Sushant

Singh Rajput, the Shiv

Sena on Thursday said

Constitution will be

quarantining a Bihar

in Mumbai gives rise to suspicion due to which

the case has been

handed over to the Central Bureau of

tears

Indian

official

the

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC

MUMBAI, AUG. 20

that

Police

shedding

Investigation.

POLITICISED,

The Thursday's income tax raids on these establishments were fallout of the probe into the matter by CBDT, the IT officer indicated. Opposition Congress gave a political spin to the IT raids linking promoter of Faith

Group Raghavendra Singh Tomar to power corridor here.

Narendra Singh Saluja released a picture of 2012 showing the builder in company of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to establish their alleged links.

The party also referred to several pictures posted in the real estate developer's social media site showing him in the company of state minister Aurobind Bhadoria at several places





51st INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA, Goa **CALL FOR ENTRIES**

for INDIAN PANORAMA, 2020

Feature & Non-Feature Films

Eligibility

• Films produced between 1 st August, 2019 and 31 st July, 2020 are eligible.

Last date for submission of ON LINE applications is 31 st August, 2020 till 6 P.M. and for receipt of the other requisite documents is 7 th September, 2020.

· Screenings of the films would be in physical and virtual format.

For Regulations and Entry Form please visit: www.dff.gov.in & www.iffigoa.org





















IN BRIEF

Iran unveils 2 new missiles

Tehran: Iran's state TV is reporting the country has unveiled two new missiles amid heightened tensions between Iran and the United States They are named after top Iranian Gen Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, who were killed outside Baghdad's international airport in a US strike in January. The "Martyr Hajj Qassem" surface-to-surface ballistic missile has a 1,400kilometre range, according to the semi-official Fars news agency. State TV said the "Martyr Abu Mahdi" naval cruise missile has a 1,000-kilometer range.

Man gets 55 yrs for UK bombing

London: The brother of the suicide bomber who set off an explosion at a 2017 Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England, killing 22 people and injuring hundreds, has been sentenced to a minimum of 55 years. Hashem Abedi had denied helping plan the attack at the end of the Manchester Arena concert on May 22, 2017, but was found guilty of murder, attempted murder, and conspiring to cause explosions. His sentencing had been postponed due to travel restrictions put in place because of the Coronavirus pandemic. His elder brother Salman Abedi, who set off the bomb, died in the explosion. Sentencing Hashem on Thursday, judge Jeremy

Chokehold: City to pay \$6.5 Mn

New Mexico: A New Mexico

Baker said the two brothers were "equally culpable for

the deaths and injuries

caused by the explosion".

city has agreed to pay \$6.5 million to the family of Mexican American man who was choked to death by a police officer. A settlement agreement made public this week by Las Cruces, New Mexico, calls for the city to pay the family of Antonio Valenzuela within 30 days and promises the local government will embark on various police reforms. Financial terms of the settlement were not previously disclosed. Under the settlement, Las Cruces police agreed to ban all chokeholds and fire any officer who violates the new policy - something officials say the city already does. The city also must try to adopt a warning system involving officers who use excessive force and forge a policy so officers can undergo yearly mental health exams. Any police

ABEYWARDENA IS LANKA PARL SPEAKER

reforms must be approved by

the city council.

Colombo, Aug. 20: Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, who was sacked for opposing the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord in 1987, has been unanimously appointed as the Speaker of Sri Lanka's new parliament which met for the first time on Thursday following the August 5 general election. At the inaugural session of the 9th parliament, Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena proposed Abeywardena for the post.

The resolution was seconded by opposition Member of Parli-ament Ranjith Madduma Bandara. Soon after he was appointed, Abeywardena, 75, was congratulated by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and all other legislators.

Abeywardena, who is from the southern district of Matara, was removed from his seat in 1987 after entering the House 4 years before from the then ruling United National Party (UNP). He was opposing to the Indian intervention in Sri Lanka's conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who were fighting to create a separate homeland for the Tamils in the country's north and east. His sacking from parliament came as the then President JR Jayewardene and the then Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi signed the deal which brought the Indian troops to Sri Lanka's northern and eastern battle fields. Abeywardene was against the provincial councils system introduced as part of the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord by India in its bid to make Sri Lanka grant political power to the Tamils.

The system created nine provincial councils. Abeywardene, ironically became the chief minister of one of them, the southern provincial council in 1994 until he contested the 2001 national parliamentary election.

Trump ex-adviser Bannon nabbed for fraud

New York, Aug. 20: US President Donald Trump's former top adviser Stephen Bannon was arrested on Thursday and charged for his role in defrauding thousands of donors in connection with an online crowdfunding campaign known as 'We Build the Wall' that raised more than \$25 million. Bannon, 66, was charged in an indictment along with Brian Kolfage, 38, an Air

Force veteran from Florida, Andrew Badolato, 56, a financier also from Florida and Timothy Shea, 49, of Colorado, 'Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Audrey Strauss said on Thursday. The men were arrested on Thursday morning and Bannon will be presented in the Southern District of New York, while others will make their court appearance in their jurisdictions. "As alleged, the defendants defrauded hundreds of thousands of donors, capitalising on their interest in funding a border wall to raise millions of dollars, under the false pretense that all of that money would be spent on construction," Strauss said. It was assured to donors that Kolfage, the founder and public face of 'We Build the Wall', would

not be paid a cent but the defendants secretly schemed to pass hundreds of thousands of dollars to him, which he used to fund his lavish lifestyle, he added. The men are each charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, each of which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

Philip R. Bartlett said the defendants allegedly engaged in fraud when they misrepresented the true use of donated funds.

"As alleged, not only did they lie to donors, they schemed to hide their misappropriation of funds by creating sham invoices and accounts to launder donations and cover up their crimes, showing no regard for the law or the

serve as a warning to other fraudsters that no one is above the law, not even a disabled war veteran or a millionaire political strategist." According to the Indictment unsealed in Manhattan federal court, starting in approximately December 2018, Kolfage, Bannon, Badolato and Shea, and others, orchestrated a scheme to defraud hundreds of thousands of donors, including donors

in the Southern District of New York. In particular, to induce donors to donate to the campaign, Kolfage repeatedly and falsely assured the public that he would "not take a penny in salary or compensation" and that "100% of the funds raised...will be used in the execution of our mission and purpose" because, as Bannon publicly stated, "we're a volunteer organisation".

Kamala accepts Dem Party **VP** nomination, inks history

Harris attacks Trump for failure of leadership, vows to fight for nation

Washington, Aug. 20: Senator Kamala Harris has scripted history as she became the first Indian-American and also the first PoC woman to accept the nomination for vicepresident from a major political party in the US. Harris, 55, was nominated as the vice-presidential candidate on Wednesday at the virtual Democratic National Convention where she attacked President Donald Trump's for "failure of leadership" and blamed the Republican leader for the "lives and livelihoods" of the American people amidst the ican people amidst the Coronavirus pandemic.

"I accept your nomina-tion for vice president of the United States of America," she said while accepting the Democratic Party's nomination to be the running mate of the presidential candidate Joe Biden. In her acceptance speech, Harris paid tribute to the PoC women that came before her and she vowed to fight for the nation. "Let's fight with conviction. Let's fight with hope. Let's fight with confidence in ourselves, and a commitment to each other," she said. In reference to her

Indian heritage, Harris used a Tamil expression in speaking of "my uncles, my aunts — my chitthis". Harris said she was there standing on her mother's shoulders, a woman who "came here from India at age 19 to pursue her dream of curing cancer. At the University of California, Berkeley, she met my Donald Harris who had come from Jamaica to study economics". She assailed Trump's "failure of leadership".

She said the Republican leader "turns our tragedies into political weapons". Former vice president Joe Biden and Harris will challenge Trump and his Vice-President Mike Pence in the November 3 election. "We must elect a president who will bring something different, something better, and do the



tanced from former vice president and Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden at the end of the third day of the Democratic National Convention, being held virtually amid the Coronavirus pandemic, at the Chase Center in Wilmington, Delaware on Wednesday.

Harris: 'Oh, how I wish my mother was here'

Washington, Aug. 20: Democratic National Con- in my sister, Maya, and me Accepting the Democratic Party's historic nomination for the US vice-president, Kamala Harris fondly remembered. Chennai-born remembered her who instilled in her the values like compassion and service to others

mother which helped her to grow as a strong woman and be proud of her Indian heritage. Harris opened her vice-presidential acceptance speech on Wednesday night at the virtual

important work. A president who will bring all of

us together to achieve the

future we collectively want," Harris said, mak-

ing a passionate plea

before Americans to vote

them to power.

vention by remembering her late mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, lamenting the fact that she could not be there to see her daughter's achievement.

"My mother taught me that service to others gives life purpose and meaning. And oh, how I wish she were here tonight but I know she's looking down on me from above," she said. Harris' above," she said. Harris' mother died of cancer in 2009. "My mother instilled

and be proud of our Indian heritage," Harris said. Harris in her impressive speech said that her nomination is a testament to the dedication of generations before her. Women and men who believed so fiercely in the promise of equality, liberty, and justice for all, she said. — PTI

the values that would

chart the course of our

lives. She raised us to be

proud, strong women.

And she raised us to know

"We must elect Joe and deserve so much Biden. I knew Joe as Vice more," she said. "Joe will bring us together to build an economy that doesn't leave anyone behind. Where a good-paying job is the floor, not the ceiling." -PTI

WORSHIP WOES FOR MUSLIMS. **SIKHS: OBAMA**

Minority communities like Sikhs and Muslims have been made to "feel suspect" for the way they worshipped, former US president Barack Obama has said as he tore into Donald Trump's presidency and warned American voters that his administration would "tear oul democracy down" to get re-elected. Delivering an impassioned speech at the 2020 Democratic National Convention, Obama launched a scathing attack on Trump's policies and rhetoric, a break with the longstanding tradition of former presidents not publicly speaking out agai-

nst their successors. He urged Americans to vote in the November elections.

Belarus leader digs in as protests go on

President. I knew Joe on

the campaign trail. But I

first got to know Joe as the

father of my friend," she

said. "And here's the thing: We can do better

Minsk, Aug. 20: Demonstrators again took to the streets of the Belarusian capital and other cities Thursday, keeping up their push for the nation's authoritarian leader to step down after extending his 26-year rule in a vote the opposition saw as rigged. President Alexander Lukashenko has dismissed the protesters as Western puppets and threatened opposition leaders

with criminal charges. Following that, a leading opposition figure reported receiving threats and being threatened with arrest. The 65-year-old Belarusian leader dismissed the European Union's criticism of the Aug. 9 vote and told its leaders to mind their own business.

The EU leaders on Wednesday rejected the official results of the election that showed Lukashenko win

80 per cent of the vote and ed outrage, forcing authorexpressed solidarity with protesters. The EU said it's preparing sanctions against Belarusian officials responsible for the brutal post-election police actions. During the first four days of protests, police detained almost 7,000 people and injured hundreds with rubber bullets, stun grenades and clubs.

At least three protesters

died. The crackdown fuell-

ities to change tactics and stop breaking up crowds that grew to an unprecedented 200,000 on Sunday.

Police again beefed up their presence on the streets of the Belarusian capital Wednesday, blocking access to some government buildings and also deploying in numbers outside major factories where workers have been on strike since Monday. The

engulfed major factories across the country cast a tough challenge to Lukas-henko, who had relied on blue-collar workers as his core support base. In a bid spreading, On Wednesday, he warned that the participants would face dismissal and ordered law enforcement agencies to protect factory managers from the opposition pressure. — AP

Russia's Navalny in coma after alleged poisoning

ian opposition politician ny was in grave, yet stable Alexei Navalny is in a coma and on a ventilator in a hospital intensive care unit after falling ill from suspected poisoning that his allies believe is linked to his political activity. The 44-year-old foe of Russia's President Vladimir Putin felt unwell on a flight back to Moscow from Tomsk, a city in Siberia, and was taken to a hospital after the plane made an emergency landing in Omsk, Navalny's spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said on Twitter. She told the Echo Moskvy radio station he must have consumed something from tea he drank at an airport cafe before boarding the plane early Thursday.

During the flight, Navalny started sweating and asked her to talk to him so that he could "focus on a sound of a voice". He then went to the bathroom and lost consciousness. "Looks like Putin is doing really badly — was handed some data on protest sentiment grow-ing explosively — if he made the decision to poison Navalny," the politician's close ally Vladimir

Milov said in a tweet. Navalny is currently being treated at the Omsk ambulance hospital

Doctors at the hospital remain tight-lipped about his diagnosis. Anatoliy Kalinichenko, deputy chi-ef doctor of the hospital,

condition. Kalinichenko said doctors are considering a variety of diagnosis, including poisoning, but refused to give details, cit-ing a law preventing doctors from disclosing confidential patient information. State news agency Tass reported that police were not considering deliberate poisoning, citing an anonymous source in law enforcement who said "it is not unlikely that he drank or consumed some-

thing yesterday himself". Yarmysh on Twitter bristled at that suggestion: "Of course. It's just the tea was bad. This is what the state propaganda is going to do now — yell that there was no deliberate poisoning, he (did something) accidentally, he (did something) himself." Navalny's doctor Yaroslav Ashikhmin told the independent Meduza outlet that he is trying to arrange his transfer to a clinic in Hanover or Strasbourg, saying that medics in Europe not only can offer better treatment, but also figure out which toxin Navalny was poisoned with. Last year, Navalny was rushed to a hospital from prison where he was serving a sentence following an administrative arrest, with what his team said was suspected poisoning. Do-ctors then said he had a severe allergic attack and

Col. Assimi Goita takes over Mali

20: A colonel in Mali's army says he's now in charge of the West African country, declaring himself chairman of the junta that forced the democratically elected but unpopular president to resign. Col. Assimi Goita, one of the five military officers who announced this week's coup on the state broadcaster ORTM, declared himself chairman of the junta now in power. "By making this intervention (the coup), we have put Mali first," Goita said in a broadcast that showed him meeting with the top officials of government ministries and urging them to resume work Thursday.

"Mali is in a sociopolitical and security crisis," he said. "There is no more room for mistakes." Across Africa and around the world, leaders have strongly condemned this week's coup, calling for

Bamako (Mali), Aug. an immediate return to civilian rule and the release of ex-President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and his prime minister, Boubou Cisse. The two leaders were detained by mutinous soldiers on Tuesday who surrounded the president's private residence in Bamako and fired shots into the air.

Under duress, Keita later announced his resignation on state television, saying he did not want any blood to be shed to keep him in power. Analysts have said there were few signs that political opposition leaders were aware of the coup plot in advance, though they now stand to benefit through an opportunity to serve in the transitional government promised by the junta.

The opposition, known as the M5-RFP, announced it would hold a rally Friday in Bamako.

PEOPLE I CONNECT Communications like letters and diaries used during Spanish flu of 1918 have disappeared

Japan museum portrays pandemic life via daily things

menus. Directions for attending a funeral. A leaflet from a local shrine, announcing the cancellation of summer festivals. These humble, everyday artifacts of life in the pandemic have found a home in the Historical Museum of Urahoro, in Hokkaido, northern Japan, a town of just 4,500 residents that lacks a McDonald's or

movie theatre.

But thanks to the museum's curator, Makoto Mochida, it has a repository of the dross of the moment, stuff that may future generations

what it was like to live in the time of Covid-19 how life was profoundly changed with social distancing and growing fears over the outbreak.

"I am fascinated by how things connect with people," Mochida said. Some people are surprised he's hoarding what appears to be garbage, said Mochida, who has even problems throwing away things at home, too.

"Things furnish an excellent way to accurately archive history," he said. So there are documents that show how children were taught to shift to

online schooling. And instructions, complete with diagrams, on how to make a mask from a handkerchief. Several hundred objects have been collected so far, after a call went out to residents.

In the wake of the last great pandemic — the socalled Spanish flu of 1918-19, which killed more than 50 million people globally —letters and diaries provided insight into daily life. But these days, those analog communications have all but vanished. And their digital ver-

sions, like emails and

social media posts, are all

THERE ARE documents that show how children were taught to shift to online schooling. And instructions, complete with diagrams, on how to make a mask from a handkerchief. Several hundred objects have been collected so far, after a call went out to residents.

but lost in a sea of cyberspace, Mochida said. So it is left to Mochida to curate the flotsam and jetsam of the Coronavirus.

He is planning a big exhibition of his finds next February to follow up on the smaller display now at the museum, located in the Urahoro library, showing how masks have evolved in a short time.

At first, masks were hard to find in Japanese stores. Handmade varieties were primitive, concocted from old shirts and stockings. Then came innovations, like draping masks that allow for eating and drinking, or sheer plastic ones. They eventually became fashion statements, some with fancy embroidery. Cases of Covid-19 have

been growing in Japan, but they have not reached the levels of the hardest hit nations like the US, Brazil and several regions

of Europe. Urahoro has not yet recorded a single case. At first, the community brushed the outbreak off. Then fears began to creep in, especially toward outsiders, and households with adult children working in Tokyo or nearby cities, who could come home to visit.

Then came the adjustments. For the tiny town, takeout — including the local specialty "spa-cut",

topped with a fried meat cutlet, usually pork — has become the rule after restaurants shut to in-person dining.

Before the pandemic, it wasn't even an option. Shoko Maede, who was born in Urahoro and works as a cook at a nursery school, feels she can almost picture people decades from now trying to remember life amid the pandemic. "They may think, 'Oh, so this was the way it was,'" she said, after visiting the museum. "Things do reveal how people think." -AP

More protection for platypus, **urge scientists**

Sydney: Australian scientists have called for the platypus to be listed as a vulnerable species in Victoria state, after research found dwindling numbers of the semi-aquatic mammal because of loss of habitat and a warming climate. Ecologist Joshua Griffiths, who sup-ervised the collection of data that led to the recommenda-

tion by a scientific advisory panel, said the platypus population across the state had likely fallen by about 30% in the last 20 to 30 years. "We have seen major declines in population in Victoria's western re-

gions, localised extinctions and the kind of things that are affecting the platypuses are going to increase in future," Griffiths said. Land-clearing for agriculture, mining and forestry had been the biggest factor in the destruction of habitat over several decades

but last summer's bushfires have greatly compounded the impact. "A lot of that area got burned by the recent bushfires, so the situation could actually be worse than what we think at the moment," he said. The bushfires from September last year until February, killed nearly 3 billion koalas, kangaroos and other animals.

Alaska's salmon **shrinking: Blame**

it on climate

Anchorage, Alaska: Alaska's highly prized salmon — a favorite of seafood lovers the world over — are getting smaller, and climate change is a suspected culprit, a new study reported, documenting a trend that may pose a risk to a valuable fishery, indigenous people and wildlife.

The study, led by University of Alaska at Fairbanks (UAF) scientists, found that four of Alaska's five wild salmon

species have shrunk in average fish size over the past six decades, with stunted growth becoming more pronounced since 2010. Hardest hit is

Alaska's official state fish, the Chinook salmon, also known as king salmon. Chinooks on average are 8 percent smaller than they were before 1990, according to the study, published on Wednesday in the journal Nature Communications. Also shrinking are Alaska's sockeye, coho and chum

salmon, the report said. The findings are based on data from 12.5 million samples collected over six decades. The study confirms first-hand anecdotal accounts from Ala-

skans with generations of salmon tradition, said co-aunor Peter Westley of UAF's College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. "People are walking into their smokehouses and not having to duck anymore," he said. "The fish are just smaller." Warmer seas attributed to climate change and increased competition

among all species of salmon are the likeliest factors. Salmon are maturing in the ocean at earlier ages and returning to fresh water younger and smaller than in the past, the study found. In water-

ways like the Yukon River the "really big whoppers" are no longer seen, Westley said.

POLAND COULD BE CLIMATE NEUTRAL BY '56

Warsaw, Aug. 20: Poland, the only European Union country that has not pledged to be carbon neutral by 2050, could reach that goal by 2056, a study by the state Polish Economic Institute (PEI) showed on

Wednesday. Poland generates almost 80 per cent of electricity from burning coal and the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party has said it needs more time and significant funds to switch to a zero-emissions economy.

That goal also faces a strong opposition from powerful coal mining trade unions, whose leaders deny global warming and have recently blocked a plan to close more mines as part of an industry restructuring. Analysts at the PEI said Poland could achieve climate neutrality by 2056, according to calculations based on the Energy Transition Index of the World Economic Forum and the assumed years of decarbonisation in other EU states.

In a negative scenario, Poland could become climate neutral in 2067, the PEI added.

Poland plans to reduce the share of coal in power production to 56-60 per cent in 2030. It sees gas as a transition fuel that will help it secure stable power supplies before it builds planned offshore wind farms and a nuclear power station.

Flint water crisis: Michigan inks \$600 mn deal

Michigan, Aug 20: Michigan has reached a \$600 million agreement to compensate Flint residents whose health was damaged by lead-tainted drinking water after the city heeded state regulators' advice not to treat it properly, multiple news outlets reported Wednesday. Details will be released later this week, according to reports by The Detroit News, MLive.com and WXYZ-TV.

The offices of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel have been negotiating for more than 18 months with attorneys for thousands of Flint residents who have filed lawsuits against the state.

Ryan Jarvi, a spokesman for Nessel, declined to confirm the reports of a deal Wednesday night.

We and the other parties are bound by a federal court order to maintain confidentiality of detailed settlement and mediation communications until we reach a certain point, Jarvi said.

We have not yet reached the point where we can discuss a potential settlement. The settlement is intended to resolve all legal actions against the state for its role in a disaster that made the impoverished, majority-Black city a nationwide symbol of governmental mismanagement.

A state-appointed emergency manager was in charge in 2014 when Flint switched its water source from the city of Detroit to the Flint River to save

State officials advised the city not to apply cor-

EARTH'S TROPICS EXPANDING POLEWARD

anding poleward and that expansion is driven by human-caused changes to the ocean, according to new research.

The tropics wrap around Earth's middle like a warm, wet belt

This part of the globe gets the most direct sunlight throughout the year and is characterised by high average tempera tures and heavy rainfall. In contrast to the tropics' lush interior, however, this region's edges are hot and parched.

Scientists have noticed for the past 15 years that these arid bands are expanding toward the poles into regions like the Mediterranean, southern Australia and southern Calif-

Interestingly, these dry areas have expanded more in the Southern Hemisphere than the Northern Hemisphere and researchers have struggled to pinpoint exactly what is driving the trend.

A new study in AGU's Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres argues that the failure to agree on an exact mechanism has been, in part, because most researchers have been looking in the wrong place. - *Agencies*

rosion controls to the water, which was contaminated by lead from aging

North Calif. suffocated by wildfires, heat, polluted air

Power outages, pandemic force people to weigh risks of staying in or out

San Francisco, Aug. 20: Northern Californians were confronted with multiple threats as wildfires, unhealthy smoky air, extr-eme heat, the looming possibility of power outages and an ongoing pandemic forced many to weigh the risks of staying indoors or going outside.

Ash sprinkled the ground and smoke from several wildfires cast an eerie glow over much of the San Francisco Bay Area on Wednesday, creating unhealthy air quality and heightening concerns about people most prone to respiratory illnesse

As ozone pollution reached unhealthy levels in some places, the region's air district and public health officials urged people to stay inside with windows and doors shut until the smoke subsided. There was no relief in sight: The forecast for Thursday called for some of the worst air in the world, with the air quality index doubling in the densely populated parts of the Bay Area.

The region's air district extended a "Spare the Air" alert through Sunday, which makes it illegal to burn wood. Smoke can irritate the eyes and airways, causing coughing, a dry scratchy throat and

irritated sinuses. Elevated particulate matter in the air can trigger wheezing in those who suffer from asthma, emphyse-

"I'm feeling lightheaded and I'm a healthy 30-year old. Imagine what it's like if you're an older person or have asthma," said Kyle Laurentine of San Mateo.



Docked boats burn on Lake Berryessa during the LNU Lightning Complex fire in Napa, California on Wednesday. Thousands of people fled their homes in northern California as hundreds of fast-moving wildfires spread across the region, burning houses and leading to the death of a helicopter pilot.

Pilot crashes, dies fighting fires

Vacaville, Aug. 20: A pilot battling a fire in central California died after his helicopter crashed. Cal Fire said in a statement that a Call When Needed

a wildfire in western Fresno County. The Bell UH-1H helicopter was on a

water dropping mission

on the Hills Fire, about 14 kilometres south of Coalinga. The pilot was the only one on board.

The Fresno Sheriff's office was called shortly after helicopter crashed on 11 am to assist in a search Wednesday while fighting and rescue mission. Crews were battling wildfires in the San Francisco Bay Area and thousands of people were under orders

to evacuate Wednesday as hundreds of wildfires blazed across the state amid a blistering heat wave now in its second week. Gov. Gavin Newsom blamed "this extraordinary weather we're experiencing and all of these lightning strikes" for 367 known fires, including 23 major fires or groups of

fires. He said the state has recorded nearly 11,000 lightning strikes in 72 hours. Police and firefighters went door-to-door before dawn Wednesday in a frantic scramble to warn residents to evacuate as fire encroached on Vacaville, a city of about 100,000 and Sacramento.

HURRICANE **GENEVIEVE LOSES STRENGTH**

Mexico City, Aug. 20: Hurricane Genevieve lost some of its punch as it passed the southern end of Mexico's Baja California Peninsula Thursday, though it is still lashed the tourist region with hurricane-force gusts and heavy rains.

Genevieve had a been a powerful Category 4 nur ricane with winds of 130 mph (215 kph) on Tuesday, but weakened to Category 1 strength as it pushed past the Los Cabos region, the US Hurricane National Center said.

Meanwhile a new tropical depression formed in the Atlantic and it was expected to become a tropical storm that would move near or north of the Leeward Islands, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The center said the hurricane was expected to stay out in the Pacific while moving northwestward along the Baia coast and weakening Thursday and Friday. But it was raking the shore with tropical storm-forces winds and hard rains that carried the potential for dangerous flooding. The center warned that only a slight shift to the east could bring hurricane-

force winds onshore. High surf had already claimed two lives in the area. Police in Cabo San Lucas said a 15-year-girl was trapped by a large wave and an adult tried to save her. — Agencies

Merkel hosts Thunberg for talks on EU's climate goals

Chancellor Angela Merkel hosted Greta Thunberg and other leading Fridays for Future activists in Berlin on Thursday for talks on the EU's climate goals, with the campaigners expected to condemn oolitical inaction

Merkel said Swedish 17year-old Thunberg and her co-campaigners Luisa Neubauer from Germany and Belgium's Anuna De Wever and Adelaide Charlier had requested the meeting and she was "pleased" to welcome them to the chancellery.

The activists warned ahead of the talks that they were dismayed at the lack of progress in fighting climate change despite lofty promises by European governments.
"When it comes to action

we are still in a state of denial. The climate and



From left: Climate activists Luisa Neubauer, Greta Thunberg, Anuna de Wever and Adelaide Charlier attend a news conference following a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin on Thursday.

sis," they wrote in a letter published in Germany's Der Spiegel and Britain's The Guardian on Wednesday. "We will tell Merkel that she must face up to

ecological crisis has never once been treated as a cries consequence of the climate emergency — especially as Germany now holds the presidency of the European Council. Europe has a responsibili-

ty to act. "The meeting comes exactly two years after skipping school to strike outside the Swedish parliament to dramatise the need for action against global warming.

The strike movement has since spread across the world and Merkel has repeatedly expressed ner admiration for the masses young people demonstrating on Fridays for more climate protection. But the activists say nothing concrete has changed. "Effectively, we have lost another two crucial years to political inaction," they wrote, calling on countries to urgently halt all fossil fuel investments. Despite its green reputation abroad, Germany is struggling to meet its own climate targets as the country remains heavily reliant on coal because of its decision to phase out

Dallas factory blaze contained

Aug. 20: A massive daylong fire at a Dallas-area plastics factory Wednesday that sent a dense column of toxic black smoke over North Texas before fire crews could tame it has been contained, fire officials said.

There were no reports of injuries from the midnight Tuesday blaze at the Poly-America complex in Grand Prairie, authorities said. No evacuations were ordered, but people with underlying health conditions were asked to avoid the area.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Grand Prairie offichecking air quality con-ditions, Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement, urg-ing area residents to heed local officials' advisories

and warnings. Fire officials had initial-

Grand Prairie (US), ly thought the fire would burn into Thursday. By 4 p.m. Wednesday, though, city officials posted a statement that the flames had been contained and that the fire was expected to be extinguished Wednesday night.
These are rolls of plas-

tic sneeting, nuge rolls. and they're stacked some Plastic is hard to put out and it's just gonna burn. Firefighters believe the blaze started when a

power line fell about midnight Tuesday near an area where plastic rolls were being stored, causing them to catch fire, Assistant Fire Chief Bill Murphy said.

These are rolls of plastic sheeting, huge rolls, and they're stacked sometimes eight feet high. Plastic is hard to put out and it's just gonna burn,'

Portland protesters set govt building afire

sters in Portland broke out the windows of a county building, government sprayed lighter fluid inside and set a fire in a demonstration that started Tuesday night and ended Wednesday morning with clashes with

police, officials said. The fire the Multnomah Building damaged the county govern-

ment's office of community involvement, where Oregon's first gay marriage took place and where protective gear has been distributed to try to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, said Multnomah County Deborah Kafoury. County

"This is the heart of our County, where people in our community come to get married, get their pass-

ports, and celebrate their cultural traditions and diversity," she said in a statement.

Demonstrations in which fires have been set, objects have been thrown and police have fired "crowd control munitions' have gripped Oregon's biggest city for more than two months following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Participants have repeatedly broken into the offices of a police union headquarters building and last month clashed for weeks with federal agents dispatched to protect a US courthouse targeted by

Portland officers late Tuesday declared a riot outside the county building after demonstrators in a crowd of about 200 start-

protesters.

windows and tossed burning material inside, police said in a statement Wednesday. A subsequent fire in the building trig-gered alarms and the building's sprinkler sys-

The riot declaration allows officers to use crowd control methods such as tear gas or flash

tem, police said.

ed fires in dumpsters, used rocks to smash first floor bang devices. Police said in their statement that in their statement that some unspecified "crowd used to disperse people but that officers did not use tear gas.

Two protesters were arrested and one officer was left with minor injuries in scuffles as police broke up the demonstration, authorities said.

Revealed: Gas industry's opposition to climate action

Texas, Aug. 20: When and increasing part of progressive Seattle decid-America's climate chaled last year to wipe out its climate pollution within the decade, the city council vote in favour was unsurprisingly unanimous, and the easiest first step on

that path was clear.
About one-third of the city's climate footprint comes from buildings, in large part from burning "natural" gas for heating and cooking. Gas is a fossil fuel that releases carbon dioxide and far more potent methane into the atmosphere and heats the planet. It is plentiful and cheap, and it's also a huge

lenge. So, a city councilman drafted legislation to stop the problem from growing by banning gas hookups in new buildings. Suddenly, the first step didn't look so easy.

"From there, we just ran into a wall of opposition," said Alec Connon, a campaigner with the climate group 350 Seattle. Local plumbers and pipe

fitters warned of job losses. Realtors complained their clients would still gas fireplaces. Building owners feared utility bills could soar.

wasn't politically tenable, it seemed. But internal records obtained by the Guardian show the measure's defeat and the "wall of opposition" that advocates experienced were part of a sophisticated pushback plan from Seattle's gas supplier, Puget Sound Energy. Seattle's story

unique. In fact, it's repre-

blitz by gas companies and

their allies to beat back cli-

mate action they consider

an existential threat to

their business, according

to emails, meeting agendas

LOCAL PLUMBERS and pipe fitters warned of job losses. Realtors complained their clients would still want gas fireplaces. Building owners feared utility bills could soar. The effort died. The ban wasn't politically tenable, it seemed.

public sentative of a nationwide and records reviewed by the Guardian. The documents show the multibillion-dollar gas industry has built crucial local coalitions and hired high-powered operatives policies – sometimes assisted by money those same cities have paid into gas trade associations. In historically conservative states, the gas indus-

try has convinced legislatures to pass laws prohibiting cities from following in Seattle's footsteps and trying to ban new gas hookups. In the digital world, it has carefully cultivated the fuel's image, paying Instagram influencers to cook with gas stoves. In the media, it has sought to be quoted in important stories in news outlets like *Reuters*, accor-

ding to internal records. In Washington DC, where the industry has strong sup-port from the Trump administration, it has lobbied the federal government on everything from environmental reviews to

appliance standards. The gas utilities are facing an existential threat, and instead of approaching a decarbonising economy as an opportunity to themselves, reinvent they're digging their heels in and going back to the age-old tactics of [the fossil fuel industry]," said Charlie Spatz, a researcher at the Climate Investigations Center.

"These public records show just a fraction of a much larger effort to slow down critical climate solu-

In the Seattle battle, Puget Sound Energy hired a lobbying firm that had previously defeated a proposed tax on sugary drinks.

The firm, ČBĚ Strategic, was asked to "develop an action plan targeted at countering 350.org's efforts" and "stopping local governments" from enacting restrictions on gas, according to a summary document of the work.

— Agencies







HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 21 AUGUST 2020



INDICATO	RS	%
Sensex	38,220.39	-1.02
Nifty 50	11,312.20	-0.84
S&P 500*	3,374.95	0.00
Dollar (₹)	75.03	-0.27
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.19	0.94
Euro (₹)	88.85	0.50
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	52,819 ▼ 1,492	2.82
Brent crude (\$/bbl)	44.75	-0.62
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.000	-0.008
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	d* 0.648	-0.027
* As of 9:30 PM IS	Т	

US jobless claims climb above 1 million

The number of laid-off workers seeking US unemployment benefits rose to 1.1 million last week after two weeks of declines, evidence that many employers are still slashing jobs as the coron-avirus bedevils the US economy. The latest figures, released on Thursday by the Labor

Department, suggest that more than five months after the viral outbreak erupted the economy is still weak, despite recent gains as some businesses reopen.

Fact & fiction: **EPFO** slashes job numbers



Net new enrolments with the EPFO rose to 6.55 lakh in June from 1.72 lakh in May, according to its latest payroll data. Its provisional payroll data last month had shown that net new enrolments stood at 3.18 lakh in May but the figure has now been revised to 1.72.174. Net new enrolments with the EPFO hover around / lakh every month. Latest data shows net new enrolments in April were just 20,164 against 1 lakh stated in July.

Banks sanction ₹1 lakh cr loans to KCC holders

The finance ministry said banks have sanctioned over Rs 1 lakh crore concessional loans to Kisan Credit Card (KCC) holders to help farmers meet financial requirements during the Covid-19 crisis. As on August 17, as many as 1.22 crore KCCs have been sanctioned with the credit limit of Rs 1,02,065 crore, and this will go a long way in reviving the rural economy and accelerating agricultural growth, the ministry said.

HFCs require ₹3.8-4.5 lakh cr for refinancing

Housing finance companies (HFCs) are likely to see a muted portfolio growth and would require Rs 3.8-4.5 lakh crore to meet their refinancing requirements in the current fiscal, says an Icra report. The pandemic effect is expected to lower the housing credit growth to 5-8 per cent in FY21, significantly below the last three years' CAGR of 14 per cent. The share of commercial paper borrowings came down to 4 per cent in FY20.

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Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

■ Uptick in activity may not be as large as believed

Babus fear protracted economic slowdown

SWATI BHAT & MANOJ KUMAR MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, AUG. 20

India is staring at a protracted slowdown as coronavirus cases reach its countryside, with signs of recovery in the rural economy hailed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi "at best a mitigating factor", government officials and analysts said.

The world's No.5 economy reports first-quarter GDP data on August 31 and, according to a Reuters poll, it is likely to have contracted 20 per cent over April-June. It is forecast to shrink 5.1 per cent in the year to March 2021, the weakest since 1979.

Nearly half of the country's 1.38 billion population rely on agriculture to survive, with the sector accounting for 15 per cent of the economic output.

Modi has been citing higher fertiliser demand and sowing of monsoon crops, both key signs of rural activity, to show



there are "green shoots" in the economy.

But four government officials said the uptick in activity may not be as large as believed given a spike in virus cases in rural areas that were initially isolated

from the pandemic.
"The economic situation has in fact worsened since April and May, and we are likely moving towards a longer economic slowdown than earlier expected," said a finance ministry official.

The official pointed to sluggish consumer demand and a slowdown in rural lending as causes for concern.
"The situation on the

economy front is very seri-

ous and the government's hands are tied on the fiscal front," a government adviser with direct knowledge of the budget plans said.

Both declined to be named. A ministry spokesman declined to comment. New virus cases emerging outside major cities, dashing hopes the rural economy will be a buffer against shrinking exports and manufacturing.

"While a recovery in rural activity provides a glimmer of hope, it is at best a mitigating factor," said Rahul Bajoria, a Barclays economist. Bajoria expects India's GDP to have contracted 22.2 per cent in the June

Farmers planted nearly 14 per cent more land between June 1 and July 31 than last year given good monsoon rains, while fertiliser production rose 4.2 per cent in June.

"Even as the momentum coming from the agriculture sector...is a positive, we believe this may not sustain due to surplus labour concerns, along with an increasing proportion of active Covid-19 said Upasna cases, Bhardwaj, economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Icra believes pent-up demand contributed to some improvement in manufacturing in June and July, and that it may not continue in August due to lockdowns.

"Flattening of India's virus curve is critical for a pickup in production. Once the economy unlocks fully, we expect exports to lead to recovery and domestic demand to lag," said Kapil Gupta, chief economist, Edelweiss. —Reuters

Think-tank to advise Maha govt on economy

Pune, Aug. 20: A group of economists and scientists, who recently held a meeting with Maharashtra chief minister on how to revive the economy hit by Covid-19, will submit a detailed action plan for accelerating the state's growth.

They would provide inputs on what can be done to revive growth in the short, mid and long terms, eminent

scientist Dr Raghunath Mashelkar, who is the president of Pune International Centre (PIC), a think-

tank, told PTI on Wednesday. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and deputy CM Ajit Pawar had a detailed virtual meeting on Tuesday with economist Vijay Kelkar, HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh, former diplomats Vijay Gokhale and

Gautam Bambawale, Mashelkar and other members of the PIC.

As PIC has members with diverse expertise, it had come up with some policy papers on agriculture, industries, education and other issues during the last year's state Assembly elections. In January, those papers were shared with the CM, who liked them, Mashelkar said.

Axis Bank to hire gig workers for one-yr jobs

New Delhi, Aug. 20: Axis Bank has plans to employ nearly 1,000 people under its new hiring initiative 'Gig-a-Opportunities', a model devised to attract skilled talent that can work with the bank remotely, from anywhere in the country, according to a

company official.
This hiring model has two working patterns, first is full-time permanent job and the second is based on the duration of a project.
"Our idea is that Gig

would be large (regular) jobs. We wanted to make it as effective as a normal job would have been for anyone both in terms of being content with the job or what people learn from their jobs... Over the next one year, we will add 800-1,000 people working through this model and that is the minimum I am saying, Rajesh Dahiya, executive director (corporate centre), Axis Bank, said. Earlier, the mindset was that for working, you have to come to the office, but now this work from home concept has changed it. He said the bank will look for good talent, including young

country.
'Gig-a-Opportunities'
will have full-time permanent jobs and also project-specific with a fixed term that last eight months or a year, he said. —*PTI*

people, experienced mid

level professionals and

women, from across the

Rising steel prices hit export sectors

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, AUG. 20

Rising steel prices have hit the exports of valueadded products and made them less competitive in the international market. Along with increasing iron ore exports, curbs on import of steel from China, Vietnam and South Korea are also pushing up domestic steel prices.
"In the backdrop of

restrictions on imports from China, Vietnam and South Korea, Indian steel makers have raised the prices across different product categories, making the raw material cost for user industries skyhigh and leaving the engineering exporters noncompetitive in the inter-national market," says Engineering Export Pro-

motion Council of India. The export of valueadded products, including automobile components, industrial machinery has been down in the past few months. Higher steel prices will further affect the competitiveness of Indian value-added products, it said.

Pig iron and steel prices had gone up by Rs 3,000 per tonne in the local market in July. Further, hot rolled coil prices have moved up by Rs 700-750 per tonne on an average, cold-rolled coil prices by Rs 500-550 per tonne, steel pellets by Rs 300-350 per tonne and iron ore fines and lumps by Rs 200-250 per tonne.

"Iron ore exports have been increasingly happening of late. Though they started exporting



when the demand was low in the domestic market, it is being continued even when demand is picking up. The lower import of steel from the international market is also making the steel producers hike the prices,' said Mahesh Desai, chairman, EEPC India.

According to him, international prices of some of the categories used by Indian steel product manufacturers are lesser than the domestic prices.

But, the government had imposed anti-dump-ing duty on imports of certain types of steel products from China, Vietnam and South Korea for five years. Duties ranging from \$13.07 per tonne to \$173.1 per tonne have been levied on imports of flat rolled product of steel, plated or coated with alloy of aluminium and zinc from these three countries.

MSMEs are not in a situation to use advance authorization scheme to import steel at higher duties.

"In such a scenario, the dependence of India's engineering industry on the domestic steel market is only expected to increase in the coming months," said Desai.

Property

insurance

buck trend

The increase in premium

rates and higher demand

helped property insurance

premiums grow by 36 per

cent between April and

July despite the overall de-

growth in general insur-

The gross direct premi-

um collected under proper-

ty insurance has grown by

36.3 per cent since the

beginning of the fiscal to

Rs 9125 crore against Rs

6695 crore in the same peri-

od of previous fiscal.

Property insurance has

bucked the general trend

in other segments, which

have either de-grown or

grown in low single digits

The growth in gross

property premium is

premia

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, AUG. 20

post-lock-down

ance premiums.

Pharma, med tech not sure of govt targets

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, AUG. 20

The government expects bulk drug and medical device parks to attract cumulative investment of about Rs 77.900 crore and generation of about ,55,000 employment. The industry, however, finds it very ambitious.

The government had announced schemes for development of three bulk drug parks and four medical device parks. Apart from increasing central assistance for development of common infrastructure facilities in the parks, the government will also extend production-linked incentive (PLI) to manufacturers of bulk drugs and medical devices in these parks.

"Government will provide an incentive at the rate of 5 per cent on incremental sales for a period of five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs 3.420 crore, minister of chemicals and fertilisers D. V. Sadananda Gowda said at

According to him, bulk drug and medical device parks are expected to attract cumulative invest-

ment of about Rs 77,900 crore and can generate ment. For the medical device sector alone, investment could be to the tune of Rs 40,000

opportunities. However, the industry is not quite convinced about the government estimate. "This is the assumption of the government. We will have to wait and watch. They assume that companies will leave China and come here. But that might not happen immediately. Even among domestic companies we have not seen a huge interest to invest thousands of crores," said G.S.K. Velu, chairman and MD of Trivitron Healthcare.

crore with generation of

1,40,000 new employment

According to pharma veteran S. V. Veeramani, some states like Haryana, Gujarat and Telangana have evinced interest in setting up the parks. "Pharma companies might be interested in establishing API manufacturing plants. But whether, they will bring in around Rs 38,000 crore of investment has to be seen." he said.

Gmail service restored after global outage

New Delhi, Aug. 20: Gmail service, which suffered a global outage for hours on Thursday, has according to Google.

Some users faced issues with Gmail like being unable to log in, add attachments and receive messages since morning. On Thursday morning, GSuite status dashboard—which provides performance information on various Google services-said the company was investigating reports of an issue with Gmail. When contacted, a Google spokesperson con-

firmed that the problem has now been resolved. In its latest update, Google said: "...We apologise for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience and continued support. System reliability is a top priority at Google. We are making continuous improvements to make our systems better". The firm provided multiple updates, stating it is investigating the issue and that there was a disruption in sending emails, Meet recording and creating files in Drive,

among others.

SELECT MIDCAPS JUMP AS ECONOMY UNLOCKS RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

Unlock themes and undervalued stocks are emerging as big gainers in the broader market rally super-large-cap stocks are showing signs of fatigue after touching five-month highs in the

last one-month period. Uniock theme gainers included stocks from tourism & hospitality, entertainment, aviation, consumer retail and power utilities, among others.

Big gainers included Indian Hotels, EIH Hotel, Interglobe Aviation, Spiceiet. Future Retail. Avenue

Supermarts, Shoppers Stop, Jubilant Foodworks, GMR Infra and Inox Leisure, among others.

Some midcap stocks are also seeing value buying after languishing as their business prospects are improving and rose sharply on Thursday like NHPC (12.17 per cent), auto parts maker Varroc Engineering (17.75 per cent), water treatment specialist Va Tech Wabag (15.90 per cent) and Ashok

Levland (2.89 per cent). The Nifty Midcap-50 has moved up 9.73 per cent in the last one- month while the Midcap-100 has moved up by 9.53 per cent.

SHARP GAINS IN UNLOCK THEMES

company	Aug. 20	July 20
Indian Hotels	102.55	81.65
EIH Hotel	88	60.2
Interglobe Aviation	1,199.30	971.35
Spicejet	51.55	48.75
Future Retail	127.75	110.75
Avenue Supermarts	2,286.35	2,018.95
Shoppers Stop	172.70	157.35
Jubilant Foodworks	1,965.60	1,751.35
Inox Leisure	307.80	227.5
Tata Power	61.50	49.05

Source: FC Research, BSE

CV-makers stare at ₹6K-cr net loss

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, AUG. 20

Commercial vehicle (CV) makers will face a six-fold increase in net loss to Rs 6.000 crore this fiscal due to a 30 per cent decline in sales volume on an already weak base.

Tata Motors, Ashok Leyland, Mahindra and and Mahindra Commercial Vehicles together accounted for about 90 per cent of industry volumes in fiscal 2020. The net loss, combined

comfortable cash buffers, ratings agency Crisil said in a report on Thursday.

suppliers, could result in sizeable negative cash flows and thus ballooning debt, says a research note. "While this may constrain credit metrics in the current fiscal, credit profiles of manufacturers will be supported by strong balance sheets and

CV-makers were already hit by new overloading

norms and a slowing econwith a stretch in working capital owing to support extended to dealers and omy when the Covid-19 pandemic arrived, and sales volume had fallen 29 per cent in fiscal 2020. In the first quarter of his fiscal, volume

plunged another 85 per cent because of the pandemic-driven lockdown.

The resultant sharp slowdown in industrial activity has hard-braked sales of medium & heavy commercial vehicles which account for twothirds of industry rev-

mainly due to the hike in premium rates by insurance companies this year. In the beginning of the calendar year, reinsurer General Insurance Corporation (GIC-Re) had

due to the pandemic.

increased its reinsurance rates for select occupancies and later for all the occupancies it was reinsuring. "GIC-Re had been asking the general insurers to follow risk-based pricing as the premiums were lower than the burn rate derived by the Insurance Information Bureau. IIB has been collecting the data of claims and premiums for the past few years," said R few years," said R Chandrasekaran, former secretary general of General Insurance Council.

Since the de-tariffing in 2007-08, general insurers have been charging lower premium rates in order to grab business. This competition among the insurers had led to unviable rates. However, after GIC Re hiked the reinsurance rates, the premium rates

too have gone up.
Further, post lock-down, several incidents of fire mishaps were reported from different parts of the country as and when the factories were opened. This has increased the demand for property insurance, Chandrasekaran.

GOVT PLANS FURTHER STAKE SALE IN IRCTC

New Delhi, Aug. 20: The government is planning to sell part of its stake in Indian Railway Catering Tourism Corp (IRCTC) in the current fiscal, and has invited bids from merchant bankers for managing the sale

"The GoI intends to disinvest a part of the paid up equity capital of IRCTC out of its share-holding through 'Offer for Sale (OFS) method of shares by promoters through the stock through exchanges' Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Rules and Regulations, Dipam said while inviting Request for Proposal.

Gold is new currency as paper currencies lose value gold is "you have massive

RANJEETHA PAKIAM

Gold will extend its record-setting rally on "massive currency debasement" and expectations for further stimulus, according to SkyBridge Capital, an alternative investment firm, which recently added exposure to the metal after exiting in 2011.

'When you think of curdebasement the question is, what is the dollar going to weaken against, and when you look around the globe, it's hard to be excited about alternative currencies," said Troy Gayeski, cochief investment officer and senior portfolio manager, listing the euro, yuan and emerging-market currencies. "So, gold is obvi**NATURAL ALTERNATIVE CURRENCY** Gold seen rising amid 'massive currency debasement'

■ Spot gold (R1) ■ Bloomberg dollar spot index (L1) 1260 — **图** 1240— *를* 1220 -1180 🌮 1160 -Jul

ously a natural alternative currency.' precious metal surged to a record well above \$2,000 an ounce earlier this month--although prices have stumbled since then---as central banks, including the

unleashed vast stimulus to

- 1900 를 - 1800 를 -1800-1700-1600- 1500 support economies hurt by the coronavirus pandemic. That's spurred bets that paper currencies will

> and has forecast more Gold is "fairly rich ver-

lose their value as money

supply jumps. Goldman

Sachs Group Inc calls gold

the currency of last resort

sus oil or other real commodities, but it hasn't appreciated nearly as much as money-supply growth since its previous peak in September of 2011," Gayeski said in an interview. "It wouldn't surprise us if by the end of next year, it's around the \$2,100-to-\$2,200 range. Spot gold hit an all-time

high of \$2,075.47 on August 7 as the dollar weakened and real interest rates fell well below zero. On Thursday it was at \$1,930 an ounce, up 27 per cent this year. Prices eased midweek after minutes from the Fed showed it edging away from a step that would underscore a commitment to an extended period of ultra-loose

policy.
Ultimately, the driver for

ticularly in the US," Gayeski said. SkyBridge, which manages \$7.35 billion, has

currency debasement, par-

about 3 per cent exposure to gold, with the majority of positions taken in the past two months. The fund-of-funds manager's primary exposures are to US cash-flow-generative strategies backed by tangible assets, including residential mortgage-backed securities

While the latest round of fiscal stimulus talks haven't yet yielded a deal, the Fed has already swelled its balance sheet by about \$2.8 trillion this year, with Goldman cautioning that US policy is triggering —Bloomberg

TAKES SHORT

Hyderabad FC partner Dortmund

Hyderabad: German football giants Borussia Dortmund (BVB) and Indian Super League Club Hyderabad FC (HFC) on Thursday launched a new twoyear club partnership with an option to extend for additional years with an extended scope until 2025

BVB, which is renowned for its success and specialisation in nurturing and developing young players will focus on building and supporting HFC on its academy structure as well as guiding HFC's coaches on coaching education. The partnership will also include BVB's expertise in technology to drive innovation; enhance connectivity between the clubs, and positively grow and expand its fan

In addition to providing excellent brand visibility and raising each of the club's profile among football fans around the sub-continent, the partnership is particularly good news for football supporters in India.

Two tennis players

go into guarantine

New York: Two players within the US Open bubble have been dropped from the ATP and WTA Western and Southern Open and sent into quarantine after contact with a Covid-19 positive individual. The players have not experienced any Covid-19 symptoms but after input from the US Open medical team and in consultation with the New York City Department of Health, they were removed from the Western and Southern Open and sent into quarantine The tournament, usually in Cincinnati, was moved to New York this year to serve as a tuneup for the US Open.

No Bryan brothers at the US Open

New York: Bob and Mike Bryan were not on the entry list released for men's doubles at the U.S. Open on Wednesday, possibly signaling the end of the 42-year-old American twins' record-breaking careers. The Bryans won five of their 16 Grand Slam doubles titles together in New York, most recently in 2014. Mike also won the 2018 U.S. Open with Jack Sock when Bob was recovering from hip surgery.

Three-time U.S. Open champi on Kim Clijsters received a wildcard entry in doubles to go along with the one she got for singles as she makes her Grand

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Kings XI Punjab team pose for a photograph inside a flight during their travel on Friday.

Teams dash to Dubai

IPL sides head to UAE to play Covid-hit 13th edition

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR I CHENNAI, AUG. 20

As IPL teams start descending on Dubai for the much-awaited 13th edition of the league, the Bio-Secure Environment protocols have come into effect. While Rajasthan Royals, Kings XI Punjab and Kolkata Knight Riders were the first teams to leave for the UAE on Thursday, Chennai Super Kings will land in Dubai on Friday evening. CSK have booked an entire wing of Taj Dubai

Around 55 members, including players, net bowlers, support staff, franchise officials, marketing and social media team will leave Chennai by a chartered flight on Friday. "All our Indian players, except Harbhajan Singh, will be on the flight. Harbhajan will join the team later in Dubai. Shardul Thakur and Ravindra Jadeja who missed the camp have reached Chennai," CEO of Chennai Super Kings, K.S. Viswanathan.

Foreign players who are not part of the Caribbean Premier League and England-Australia ODI series are on their way to join the bubble.

Viswanathan said the team will start their training session only after the mandatory six-day quarantine period. "During this phase, players and officials are not allowed to step out of the room. All their meals will be served in the room. They will be tested on Day 1, 3 and 6. All players have been briefed on safety proto-

cols," he said.
"The biggest challenge as a franchise is to bring the players into a bio-bub-



Family members of Kings XI Punjab's Karun Nair gave the batsman a farewell with a special message to win the IPL trophy this year.

IPL teams have begun packing their bags and leaving for the United Arab **Emirates. Rajasthan Royals, Kings XI Punjab and Kolkata Knight Riders were** the first to depart on Thursday while Chennai Super Kings will land in Dubai on Friday to tune up for the tournament.

evervone organising it. It's been a huge challenge, but it's a worthy exercise. As a franchise, we will leave no stones unturned in our bid to provide players a safe environment," added Viswanathan.

Three-time champions Chennai Super Kings will be training at the Cricket Internation Ccouncil's Academy, locat-

ble. We had a camp in Chennai for our Indian players and we had to test dense to the ICC head-quarters in the heart of Dubai Sports City.

MASK EARNS MONEY **FOR CSK**

The most sought after branding spot on an IPL team jersey is the chest logo which is given to the prime sponsors. However, in the run-up to the tournament, teams could earn some money through a different avenue. In Covid-19 times, face masks will a prominent branding area.

Eng vs Pak's 3rd Test to start early

Southampton, Aug. 20: changes at future series played in England."

will be able to make up for lost time due to bad

changes at future series played in England."

England leads the series 1-0 after winning the first weather in the upcoming final Test in Southampton by starting a day's play 30 minutes earlier.

The newly adopted flexible approach to starting times was announced Thursday, a day before the start of the test, after the second match of the series was blighted by rain and bad light and ended in a draw.

Captains and coaches of both teams have agreed to the changes, with the England and Wales Cricket Board saying "further consideration will be given to applying these

test in Manchester.

Cricket faced accusations of being stuck in its ways during the second test at the Rose Bowl, when each day's play was affected by inclement weather. The Tests are being played in empty stadiums for this series because of Covid-19 restrictions, so there were no concerns about spectators getting to the venues on time. For a 10.30 a.m. start, 98 overs can be bowled in the day and the morning session would

Chennai Super Kings have already roped in a sponsor for their yellow masks. "Players won't be using it on match days though, Viswanathan.

SUSPENDED DOCTOR

Meanwhile, CSK team Madhu doctor Thottappillil, who was suspended by the franchise following his tweet on the Indo-China border clash, is back and will accompany the squad to Dubai. He had tendered an unconditional apology after the controversial post was termed "inappro-

priate" by the franchise.
"His suspension is over. His role is crucial, especially in the bio-bubble environment,'

Live on TV

last two-and-a-half hours.

THIRD TEST England vs Pakistan

from 3.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL Sevilla vs Inter Milan

from 12.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

NBA PLAYOFFS

Philadelphia 76ers vs **Boston Celtics from 4** am (Saturday); Dallas Mavericks vs Los **Angeles Clippers from** 6.30 am (Saturday). All matches on Sony Six, HD

NATIONAL AWARDS

Ministry to raise prize rewards

New Delhi, Aug. 20: The Sports Ministry is planning a massive hike in the National Sports Awards, a proposal which, once approved, will lead to Khel Ratna awardees getting ₹25 lakh while leaving the Arjuna winners richer by ₹15 lakh.

Currently, the Khel Ratna comes with a cash prize of ₹7.5 lakh, while the Arjuna awardees get ₹5 lakh.

It has been learnt that the ministry is busy giving final touches to the propos-al after which Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju will make a formal announcement by August 29 — the National Sports Day when the annual honours are given away every year.

"The prize money of National Sports Awards is set to be increased significantly. A proposal in this regard has already been made. The minister actively pushed for it after athletes complained that the prize money of sports awards is too less," a Sports Ministry source said.

"The proposal is still under consideration and if accepted by the government, the new cash rewards will be given from this year itself," the source added.

However, when contacted Sports Secretary Ravi Mittal, said he was not aware of any such development. "I am not aware. I don't know anything," Mittal said when reached for a comment.

The prize money for Dhyanchand and Dronacharya awards will also be increased from ₹5 lakh to ₹15 lakh.

According to the proposal, the cash reward for the regular Dronacharya award, which is currently the same as the one for lifetime achievement, is set to be increased to ₹10 lakh.

If implemented before August 29, the government will have to shell out a hefty amount as an unprecedented 62 have been recommended by the Sports Ministry's selection committee for this year's National Sports Awards.

MAINTAIN THE PRIDE OF SPORTS AWARDS: SUSHIL

New Delhi, Aug. 20: Double Olympic medallist wrestler Sushil Kumar on Thursday indicated that the selection committee runs the risk of lowering the dignity of the annual national sports awards by making too many recommendations.

An unprecedented five Khel Ratna and 29 Arjuna award recommendations have been made to the sports minister by the selection panel, raising eyebrows. He said it is necessary to, instead, "maintain the pride" attached with these awards.

'I congratulate the ones who have been nominated but I feel people should work towards maintaining the dignity of these national sports awards. This is not even an Olympic year. I myself is an athlete, so I am happy for all, but we must maintain the pride attached with these awards," Sushil said. -PTI

Gnabry nets brace, Bayern make final

Lisbon, Aug. 20: Serge Gnabry struck a first-half Lewandowski also scored as a ruthless Bayern Munich taught Lyon a harsh lesson in their Champions League semiin Lisbon Wednesday, winning 3-0 to set up a final against Paris Saint-Germain.

Gnabry had blasted Bayern into an 18thminute lead in stunning style, and the Germany winger scored again just after the half-hour mark. Gnabry has now scored

nine in nine appearances in this season's competition. Lewandowski's inevita-ble goal, his 55th of the season, came two minutes from time. Bayern as a team have 42 goals in 10 Champions League out-

SEVILLA FACE INTER

What is the point of the Europa League? If Inter wins Friday's final, it would be a milestone in its bid to dethrone Juventus in Italy and re-establish itself as a Champions League heavyweight. But Sevilla has a special affection for a competition it's won five times. — Agencies

PM lauds Dhoni, terms him an illustration of new India

Minister Narendra Modi has described Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the embodiment of a new India where family name does not make one's destiny in a letter to the enigmatic former captain, who retired from international cricket last week.

A thankful Dhoni shared the letter on his *Twitter* page on Thursday, his first social media post since the "consider me retired" note on *Instagram* that stunned the cricket fraternity on Saturday. "You have been one of the

important illustrations of the spirit of new India, where family name does not make young people's des-tiny but they make their own names and their own destinies," wrote the PM in his letter to the two-time World Cup winner. "Where we come from

does not matter as long as we know where we are headed — this is the spirit that you have exuded and inspired many youngsters with," he said.
Dhoni, who is also an

Colonel in the Territorial Army, thanked the PM for appreciation. "An Soldier and Sportsperson what they crave for is appreciation, that their hard work and sacrifice is getting noticed and appreciated by every-

Honorary

"Where we come from does not matter as long as we know where we are headed this is the spirit that you have exuded and inspired many youngsters with," **Prime Minister Modi** wrote to Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

one.thanks PM @narendramodi for your apprecia-tion and good wishes," he

In the lengthy note to the celebrated cricketer, the PM also lauded the calm demeanour with which Dhoni led the Indian team.

'No matter what hairstyle you sported, your calm head remained the same in victory or defeat, which is very important for every youth,"

Calling him one of the greatest captains and one of the best wicketkeepers the game has seen, Modi said, "Your dependability in tough situations and your style of finishing matches, particularly the 2011 World Cup final will forever be etched in the public memo-

your impact is as a phenom-"Rising from humble

beginnings in a small town,

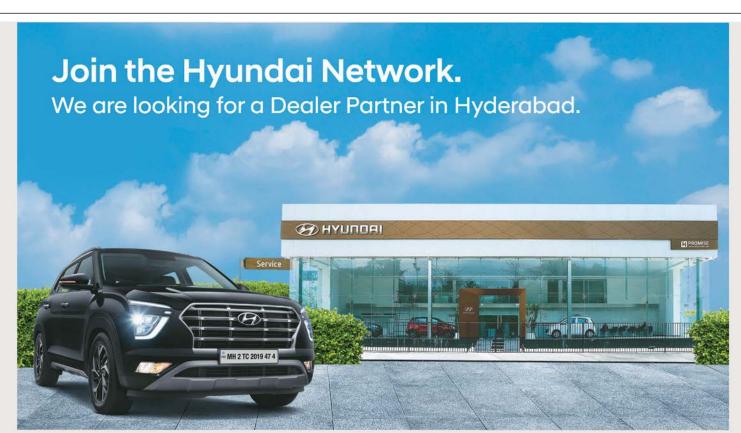
ry for generations. 'The correct way to assess

scene, made a name for yourself and most importantly, made India proud," Modi wrote.

The PM said Dhoni's rise gives inspiration to youngsters who "like you haven't been to cushy schools or colleges, neither do they belong to illustrious families but they have the talent to distinguish themselves at the highest level."

'Many of your memorable on-field moments exemplify a particular generation of Indians, This generation of Indians does not hesitate to take risks and back each other's abilities in even the toughest of situations — seen in the way you took risks many times backing little known youngsters to deliver in high pressure sit-uations. The 2007 World Cup final is a perfect example of this spirit," he noted.

Modi said Dhoni also displayed how to balance professional and personal priorities to perfection. remember seeing a picture of you playing with your cute daughter (Ziva) even as everyone around you was celebrating a victory in a particular tournament," he said, referring to the 2018 IPL when a picture of Dhoni playing with Ziva, while his Chennai Super Kings teammates celebrated the title triumph, went viral. — PTI



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Lieutenant











