





SHORT TAKES

MORE TRIALS TO ESTABLISH EFFICACY ON KIDS

From Page 1

According to a release from Bharat Biotech, Dr Balram Bhargava, secretary, department of health research, and Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, said he was “delighted to note that Covaxin, developed by ICMR and BBIL, has demonstrated an overall efficacy of 77.8 per cent in India’s largest Covid Phase 3 clinical trial thus far.”

Bharat Biotech is currently undertaking additional trials for Covaxin to establish the safety of the vaccine and its efficacy in children between two and 18 years of age.

“A clinical trial to determine the safety and immunogenicity of a booster dose is also in process,” the company said.

It added that research was on to study variants of concern and to assess their suitability for follow up booster doses.

Covaxin, the company said, had received emergency use authorisations in India and 15 countries including Brazil, the Philippines, Iran and Mexico and its EUAs were under process in 50 other countries.

FIRST COMPLAINT BURIED: JOURNALIST

From Page 1

According to Mediapart journalist Yann Philippin, who filed a series of reports on the deal, said a first complaint was “buried” in 2019 by a former PNF chief.

“The judicial investigation was finally opened following the revelations of the investigation #RafalePapers of @mediapart and a new complaint from @Asso.Sherpa. A 1st complaint was buried in 2019 by the former PNF boss, Eliane Houlette,” he tweeted.

In April, Mediapart, citing an investigation by the country’s anti-corruption agency, reported that Dassault Aviation had paid about one million Euros to an Indian middleman.

Dassault Aviation has rejected the allegations of corruption, saying no violations were reported in the frame of the contract.

The Congress accused the government of massive irregularities in the deal, alleging that it was procuring each aircraft at a cost of over ₹1,670 crore as against ₹526 crore finalised by the UPA government during the negotiations for the MMRCA. — PTI

Immune boosters are new favourites

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 3

Indians have spent ₹15,000 crore on immunity boosters, vitamins and supplements during the Covid-19 pandemic yet patients whose condition was severe and critical had no use of these products.

Immune boosters is a broad term and is used for a variety of components and extracts from plants, powdered supplements and juices that are used in those who have a diagnosed deficiency.

There were recommendations on public platforms, which led to high consumption of zinc, B-complex, vitamin D and

other so-called immune building products.

All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) data of 2020 and 2021 before and during the first and second wave shows that vitamin D capsules purchased over the counter were valued at ₹33.7 crore. B-complex and others saw a 600 per cent rise in sales.

AIOCD members across the country have reported no stocks within 10 days of renewals as the demand was at an all-time high during the first and second wave.

Dr A.N. Mallechwari, head of the department of nutrition and dietetics at

Gleneagle Global Hospitals, said, “In our experience in treating Covid-19 patients at the hospital level, it was noted that some immune boosters contained too much zinc, which increased the levels in the body with regular meals. Too much of these unverified ingredients and minerals and protein supplements have led to accumulation of fats and heavy metals in the body causing other health issues.”

Those who are immune-compromised with diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, undergoing treatment for cancers and other long

term-illness are prescribed supplements and immunity boosters for the deficiency in their body.

While these are identified cases there are many not aware of the underlying conditions.

Nutritionist Ali Mohammed said, “Those who have availed of B-complex, vitamin D and zinc supplements with guidance from experts have benefited. It was noticed on those who were treated at home, pro-inflammatory cytokines, improving respiratory functions and preventing hypercoagulation were possible with the help of B and D vitamins.”

COUPLE TRIES TO END LIFE, 1 DEAD

**Kamareddy:** A couple allegedly attempted suicide in Ailapur village of Lingampet mandal on Friday night. Police said a 17-year-old girl and Raju, 23, of the same village were in a relationship which was opposed by their families. The girl succumbed while undergoing treatment on Saturday. The condition of Raju is critical.

● **THE GIRL** succumbed while undergoing treatment on Saturday. The condition of Raju is critical.

Krishna issue politicised: Cong.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 3

AICC spokesperson Dasoju Sravan censured Chief Ministers K. Chandrashekar Rao and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for trying to inflame people’s emotions on the Krishna water issue for political and financial gains. Alleging that the CMs were colluding and misleading people on the important issue of water sharing, he appealed to the people not to get swayed by the “cheap gimmicks” ahead of the Huzurabad bypoll. The Congress leader also questioned the inaction and silence of

TRS leaders over AP’s “water loot” over the past two years, while speaking with the media conference in Hyderabad on Saturday.

The Congress leader said that since Rao assumed power not even one irrigation project had been completed on Krishna river in the undivided Mahbubnagar district.

All the projects would have been completed fully, thus changing the picture of drought-stricken south Telangana and ensuring the maximum utilisation of Krishna water, he said.

INFLATION | RATES Public discussion on hike in diesel price is avoided to keep focus off state’s taxation

RTC feels pinch of rising fuel prices, but keeps mum

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 3

One of the largest consumers of diesel in the state, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has been feeling the pinch of rising diesel prices, but its officials are reluctant to even acknowledge that rising diesel price, which crossed ₹97 a litre, has become a burden on the corporation.

The RTC consumes on an average, when its full operations are on, as much as 5.43 lakh litres of high speed diesel everyday with its 10,460 buses covering an average of 5.15 km per litre of fuel.

The RTC which spent ₹66.60 per litre of diesel in the middle of March 2019, saw only a

● **ANY TALK** about rising diesel prices in TS by the RTC could well attract criticism from opposition parties that have already asked the state to reduce taxes on fuel.

● **THE RTC** which spent ₹66.60 per litre of diesel in the middle of March 2019, saw only a marginal increase in its fuel bill by the end of 2019 spending ₹68.13 per litre of the fuel in the middle of December that year. As on Saturday, with diesel price at ₹97.20 a litre in Hyderabad, the fuel bill burden on the corporation has become quite stark, according to official sources.

● **IN FACT**, when some ministers in the Telangana government spoke recently on the rising fuel prices, as did the opposition Congress, some Central ministers responded saying that if the state was worried about the burden on the people, then it could cut the taxes it levied on fuels sold in Telangana state.

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When contacted, RTC off-

icials were circumspect in speaking about how the rising diesel prices were hurting the corporation and were reluctant to answer any question. With the rising fuel prices becoming a political hot button, the RTC, according to sources, has no option but to foot the constantly rising fuel bill and keep silent.

It is learnt that any discus-

Farmer pleads with TRS MLA for protection of land

DC CORRESPONDENT KARIMNAGAR, JULY 3

A farmer fell on the feet of Manakondur MLA Rasamayi Balakishan, pleaded with him to resolve the issue of his land, which has been illegally occupied by land grabbers. The incident took place on Saturday at Thadikal village in Shankarapatnam mandal, which created a sensation in Karimnagar district.

When the MLA reached Thadikal village for the Palle Pragathi programme, farmer Adepu Narasaiah fell on his feet. Narasaiah informed Balakishan that he had purchased around 2.15 acres of land on outskirts of



Farmer Narasaiah falls at the feet of Manakondur MLA Rasamayi Balakishan in Shankarapatnam of Karimnagar on Saturday.

— DC

Mutharam village in Shankarapatnam mandal in

2010. The government had also issued him the new pass book and even sanctioned Rythu Bandhu to him. But a few months ago, some people had threatened him and started cultivating his land, the farmer complained.

He showed all documents pertaining to his lands to the MLA and requested him to take initiative in protecting his land.

Responding immediately, Balakishan assured that he would resolve the issue. He directed revenue officials concerned to deal with the matter and take action against the persons who have encroached on Narasaiah’s land parcel illegally.

Sub-100 cases in city, first time in 2nd Covid-19 wave

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 3

For the first time since the second wave began, the GHMC area recorded fewer than new 100 cases of Covid-19 in a day on Saturday. According to the state health department, the city recorded 98. It was 107 on Friday.

The decline in the number of cases has been gradual in the second wave, and experts say that it is because of the virulent nature of the virus. With high transmissibility of the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2, its decline is expected to be slow.

Experts said the state would continue to see small spikes in the daily Covid-19 cases. This happened on Saturday in Warangal which recorded 44 new cases against 25 on June 27 and 39 Friday.

Dr Yadgiri Rao, senior member of the Indian Medical Association-Telangana, said,

DAILY COVID BULLETIN DATA		
Highest New Cases	Lowest New Cases	
GHMC	98	Adilabad 3
Nalgonda	66	Jogulamba Gadwal, Kamareddy, Nirmal 4
Suryapet	59	Jangaon, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Vikarabad 5
Mancheril	48	Narayanpet, Medak 6
Khammam	48	Nagarkurnool 10

“These sporadic cases and waves will be noted for the next two months. This is the time when the virus will mutate. Which particular mutation becomes virulent or lethal, only time will tell. It is

important for people to take the Covid-19 vaccination and strictly follow Covid appropriate behaviour of wearing masks properly and maintaining physical distancing to safeguard themselves.”



Minorities’ welfare minister Koppula Eshwar, home minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali, Wakf Board chairman Mohammed Saleem distribute cars under the ‘driver-cum-owner’ scheme at Haj House on Saturday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Drivers get subsidised cars under state scheme

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 3

Minister for minorities’ welfare Koppula Eshwar and home minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali on Saturday distributed cars to beneficiaries of the ‘driver-cum-owner’ scheme of the Minorities Finance Corporation.

Eshwar said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had introduced the scheme so that drivers can start owning their taxis.

The subsidy component of the scheme is 60 per cent with the beneficiary paying ₹50,000. He claimed that in the last three years hundreds of driv-

ers have benefited from the scheme.

Mahmood Ali advised the beneficiaries to live carefully and start saving. He asked them to repay bank instalments in time.

Nampally MLA Jafar Hussain Meraj presided over the function.

Secretary of Minorities Welfare Ahmed Nadeem explained the features of different schemes.

MLC Mirza Riyaz ul Hasan Effendi, chairman of Wakf Board Mohammed Saleem, government adviser on minorities affairs A.K. Khan and director of Minorities Welfare Shahnawaz Qasim were present.

TS GOVT SOUGHT VACCINE CENTRE REPEATEDLY

From Page 1

The Telangana government had earlier made repeated requests to the Centre to set up the vaccine testing lab in Hyderabad. Industries minister K.T. Rama Rao requested the Centre on three occasions in this regard. The most recent request was made on June 20. In a letter to Union health minister Harsh Vardhan, Rama Rao said Hyderabad had emerged as the vaccine capital of the world, and companies were sending every batch of vaccines for testing to the national vaccine testing centre in Kasauli leading to loss of 45 days of valuable time.

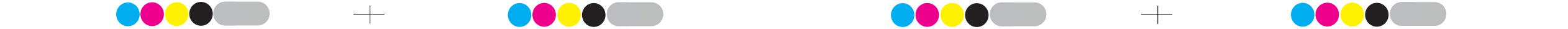
“I assure you that the state government will extend all support for setting up the vaccine centre on a fast track,” Rao said.

TREAT WOMEN WITH RESPECT: CONG. TO COPS

**Hyderabad:** Mahila Congress state leaders demanded stringent action against police officers who allegedly behaved rudely with women activists during a protest on people’s issues. They said that police personnel should follow decorum while arresting women activists, and that women police constables should be posted at such events.

The demand was made at the first meeting of the Mahila Congress state executive committee at Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, chaired by its president Sunita Rao.

A Mahila Congress delegation led by Sunita Rao met Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar and submitted a memorandum on the matter. Congress leaders said that police should treat women properly, including those who go to police stations to lodge a complaint. The delegation also felicitated the police commissioner on the occasion.





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# KTR: Keep areas clean to check infectious ills

Mission Bhagiratha water to Vemulawada by Dasara: Min.

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, JULY 3

People can prevent the spread of infectious diseases by keeping their surroundings clean, said minister K.T. Rama Rao. He directed officials to remove the weeds growing in open lands and debris of houses that had collapsed due to the recent rains.

He was speaking at the Pattana Pragathi programme held in the temple town of Vemulawada in Rajanna Siricilla district on Saturday.

After planting a sapling in the 10th ward, Rama Rao said the people should evaluate development in the last seven years under the TRS government. He assured that ₹20 lakh would be sanctioned for the construction of the women's community building in 10th ward.

Since thousands of devotees visit temple town daily, it is the minimum the officials and public representatives along with the residents can do to keep the town clean. Steps are being taken for widening of roads leading to the temple along with improving sanitation and greening the surroundings.

He said 60 per cent of pipe-laying works under Mission Bhagiratha were complete in Vemulawada. The rest would be completed by Dasara and pure drinking water will be supplied by fixing taps to



IT Minister, K.T. Rama Rao addresses the meeting organised on the occasion of pattana pragathi programme in Vemulawada of Rajanna Siricilla district on Saturday. —BY ARRANGEMENT

around 14,000 households in the town. People can take tap connection by paying just ₹1, he added.

The state government sanctioned ₹5 crore for the construction of the market, ₹50 lakh for the construction of Vykuntadham and ₹40 lakh for the establishment of an oxygen plant in the 100-bed hospital in Vemulawada.

Later, the minister held a review meeting in the municipal office with the councilors and issued guidelines about the implementation of Pattana Pragathi in their respective wards.

Interestingly, the vice-chair-

man of the Vemulawada municipality, Madhu Rajendar did not attend the meeting. A TRS leader put it down to internal disputes between ruling party leaders. In the past when Madhu Rajendar tried to quit the party, it was Rama Rao who stopped him, the leader said.

BJP leaders expressed their anger at police officials for arresting them ahead of the visit of the minister, suspecting that they would create problems.

They said that the TRS government is trying to suppress the voice of the Opposition using its political power with the help of the police.

## Jogu plans record saplings on his b'day

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, JULY 3

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) MLA from Adilabad Jogu Ramanna has embarked on a mission of planting more than 3,03,150 lakh saplings in a record time of one hour in a single location on his 58th birthday to enter into the Guinness Book of World Records in the district on Sunday. This is in addition to the 7.6 lakh saplings to be planted at various places on the same day. Ramanna's move is in response to TRS MP Joginapalli Santhosh's 'Green India

Challenge'. Santhosh will attend the event.

The existing record of planting 3,03,150 saplings in one hour is by the team of ministry of agriculture and forestry and general directorate of forestry in Celilkiri village of Corum district in Turkey on November 11, 2019. The forest officials have identified a degenerated forest area near Durganagar Colony on the outskirts of Adilabad town for planting saplings to break the existing record.

Speaking to this newspaper, Ramanna said he was taking up the event to send a strong message to

the people that trees were synonymous to oxygen and people realised this fact with the Covid pandemic only after a large number of people died of lack of oxygen while undergoing treatment.

He said people irrespective of caste, religion and gender would join the 7.6 lakh mass planting of saplings event that would be held in 17 mandals and added that arrangements were made for people to plant trees at their houses, along the roadsides and R&B roads in the district. The planting of trees may go on till Sunday evening.

Ramanna said this exer-

cise was in addition to the planting of 3,03,150 lakh saplings at one place to create a world record. He said the Covid pandemic had changed the perception of the people towards life.

TRS youth leader Jangili Prashanth of Adilabad said hundreds of youths were likely to participate in the event and create records by planting saplings in the identified place and added that many people were inspired by Santhosh's Green India Challenge. Many people came forward to join the event on Ramanna's birthday, he said.

## OFFICIALS TOLD TO ENSURE SANITATION

Warangal: Mahbubabad district additional collector Abhilasha Abhinav directed the authorities, public representatives to supply 6 saplings to each household and ensure they are planted. She along with MLA B. Shankar Naik planted saplings on avenue plantation on Saturday. The MLA said that the sanitation programme in 36 wards of the municipality should be carried out on a war-footing with a focus to ensure sewage water is not stagnant.

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**a) Date & Time of Auction :** 18-08-2021 at 11:00 AM

**b) Place of Auction :** H. No. 16-8-435, Abbanikunta, Warangal.

**c) Reserve Price :** Rs. 36,14,200/-

**d) Amount of Secured Debt :** Rs. 19,48,431/- plus (+) interest and other charges from 01-07-2019.

**e) Name of the Borrower :** Sri Basani Satish Kumar Alias Satish, S/o. Komraiah.

**f) Name of the Mortgagor :** Sri Basani Satish Kumar Alias Satish, S/o. Komraiah.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:**

That the house property bearing H. No. 16-8-435, situated at Abbanikunta, Warangal, having total extent of 216.66 Square Yards or 181.15 Square Meters, under the limits of the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation and within the jurisdiction of Registration Sub-District Warangal Fort and Registration District Warangal Urban, standing in the name of Sri Basani Satish Kumar Alias Satish S/o. Komraiah having the following boundaries:-

**East:** 20 Feet wide road, West: Open plot of Pallapu Komraiah, North: House of Avula Ramesh (H. No. 16-8-434), South: House of Boddu Jagannadham (H. No. 16-8-436).

**Terms and Conditions of the Auction:**

- The property shall be auctioned on "AS IS AND WHERE IS" condition.
- For participation in the auction the intending bidders have to deposit an amount equivalent to 10% (Rs. 3,61,420/-) of the Reserve Price of the property being auctioned as a refundable earnest money deposit before commencement of auction by way of cash or money order or banker's cheque or D.D drawn in favour of The Gayatri Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd., Hanamkonda Branch, payable at Hanamkonda.
- The property shall be sold to the highest bidder. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount on the same day of sale in cash or D.D drawn on a Nationalized Bank and the balance amount to be paid within 15 days from the date of sale.
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- In case of default in what so ever manner by the successful bidder in adhering to the terms and conditions of the sale, the earnest money and other amounts deposited by him/her as the case may be shall be forfeited.
- The purchasers should make their own enquiries regarding any statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc., of the property by themselves before participating in the auction. The bank is not aware of any encumbrance in respect of the said property.
- The authorized officer shall have powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone / cancel the auction without assigning any reasons thereof and also to modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice.
- For inspection of the property and other particulars the intending bidders may contact the Branch Manager - Hanamkonda Branch at phone numbers 850408678 and 833390365 during office hours from 10:30 AM to 6:00 PM on all working days and they are at liberty to make their own assessment / enquiry about the property.
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Place: HANAMKONDA  
Date: 03-07-2021

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## Delay in Nizamsagar project water schedule worries ayacut farmers

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD, JULY 3.

Farmers under the Nizamsagar project ayacut spread in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts are worried as water schedule of Nizamsagar project is not yet prepared.

Usually, irrigation officials prepare the schedule for release of water from the

Nizamsagar project as the kharif season begins, but the officials have not yet declared any plan in this regard.

Around 8 tmc of water is available in Nizamsagar project and farmers started planting paddy under ayacut area. Usually, the District Irrigation Advisory Board (DIAB) meeting will decide the water schedule of projects. But, irrigation officials either conducted the

meeting nor declared the dates for water release.

National farmers federation Telangana state president K. Somasekhara Rao urged the state government to release the water from Nizamsagar project. State government planned to shift water from the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme to Nizamsagar and a trail run was also conducted, he said.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### FOR SALE PROPERTY

#### COMMERCIAL

**BANJARAHILLS 600, 900 yards**  
New Commercial Building, JubileeHills Road no.45, 1,000, Road No.36 1200 yards & Ground Floor 3200 sq ft, Madhapur Main Road kavurihills 900 sq yards & Ground Floor 3000 sq ft, Kondapur main road 1400, Jayabheri 934 NE & Rental Income Properties 5 to 50 cr 9966991449, 9394022449 (W/2122/AT000278)

**COMMERCIAL COMPLEX/ Space for Sale on Main Road, Mehdiapatnam Ring Road near Aramghar, PVR Express Highway, each floor 13500 sq ft, 6 floors plus two cellars for parking, total area 81000 Sft, Suitable for Commercial Rental Income, Hospital, Hotel, Restaurant, School, Colleges, Marriage A/C halls, Car/ Bike Showrooms, etc. Contact: 9000087652. (B/2122/IC00023)**

**✓COMMERCIAL PLOT** in Shadnagar Highway facing, 500 sq.yds, two side roads, LRS full paid & 400 sq.yds. semi-commercial, Three side road, fully developed clear title, spot registration. Best investment purpose. Contact: 9177943563, 9700826085. (S/2122/IC00033)

#### FLATS

**✓A) JUBILEEHILLS** brand new 4 BHK (3050 sq ft) flat, B) Banjarahills near GVK Mall 3 BHK flat (2462 sq ft), C) Madhapur Kakatiyahills brand new 3 BHK flats (1650 & 3000 sq ft), D) Madhapur 1300 sq ft 3 BHK & Gachibowli 1200 sq ft 3 BHK flats immediately for sale. Contact Consultant: 90000-21615. (A/2122/C00184)

**BANJARAHILLS, NEWLY** refurbished location 3 BHK Deluxe flat at Strategic builder near City Centre, 1700 sq ft. Single car parking. Ph:8790253157. (A/2122/IC00016)

**✓3BHK 1589SQ.FEET** North facing Flat with wardrobes, AC, semi-furnished covered car parking 5th Floor Sai Silver Homes Opp Arbor International School Kondapur, Ph:9967954360 (HYMM/2122/C01918)

#### INDEPENDENT HOUSE

**HOUSE FOR Sale** Jawahar Nagar, Chikkadapally, 200 Sqyds; North: 60ft Road; Contact: 7075554661 (HYMM/2122/C02304)

**PRAKASHAM NAGAR** Begumpet-Independent House 175 Square Yards. Opp To Airport 3Floors With 2Side Road, 5200Sft Builtup Area, 300 Meters From Main Road, Good Rental Income, Can Also Be Used For Commercial Purpose. 2.5Cr. Contact: 9949339415 (HYMM/2122/C020182)

**NEAR DIAMOND** point, SBI Colony, Tadbnud, 304 sq.yds, 400 sq.yds & 1640 sq.yds. Plots & Houses available. Brokers excuse. Ph:8309025244, 8790057533, 9618825892. (S/2122/C00601)

**GATED COMMUNITY** villas JubileeHills Whisper valley 400 yards, Aparna Elxir 400 yards, Poulami Aristose 380 yards, 510 yards, Eden Gardens 530 yards, Vessella Meadows 360yards, Gachibowli IVR Hill Ridge 490 yards, Financial District & kokapet surroundings areas, Aditya casa grande, River edge, more villas in Gandipet, koltur. Ph:884872389, 998588511. (W/2122/AT000328)

**KOMPALLY VILLAS, Chabbras Oak Wooded bestie Nuzvid Seeds, in gated community. Built-up area 3076 sq.ft. 4 BHK with lift facility. All modern amenities. Ph:9550155023, 9481260314. (S/2122/IC00037)**

**3BHK FLATS** 1712 Sq.ft. W/Facing 1st& 5th floor undivided share 77 sq.yds. at Padmaranagar, 1610 sq.ft. N/Facing, at W/Marredpally, 1950 sq.ft. N/East facing, Gandhinagar, Independent houses, 152 sq.yds. E/Facing G+2+Pent house, Bowenpally, Cellar+G+2, W/Marredpally, 527 sq.yds. G+1 Building, Sindhi colony,200 sq.yds. Alwal Contact: DPLACE RealEstate, 7396669723, 7396669724, 7396669725. Brokers Excuse. (S/2122/IC00618)

#### LAND

**FROM FINANCIAL** District 60 Kilometres, 29Acres, Agricultural Land, Red Soil, Square Bit, Prime Location, 40Feet Road, Chance Property (Land), Clear Title With Legal Openen. No Brokers. Ph:8374399578, 6303107421. (HYMM/2122/C02074)

#### MULTIPLE

**BEST DEAL** consultancy 536 yards E/F Independent house for sale 590 Dwarakapuri colony Panjagutta and open plot 506 yards NF Dandamudi Enclave near Suttur circle and 1000 yards WF Independent house for sale at Janakpuri colony Karkhana, Secunderabad & 400 yards S/F Independent house for sale at west marredpally, Contact: 9177200441. (S/2122/IC00609)

#### PLOTS

**PREMIUM COMMERCIAL** property at 150 sq.yds huda layout at pillar no. 165 attapur. Contact: 9515843257 (HYMM/2122/C02156)

**BANJARAHILLS 250 yards 300y 600y, JubileeHills navaanirman nagar colony 390 yards South facing KBR park view, 500 East 717 East 1200East 1500West, NandagirinHills Elevated plots 600, 750, 1000, Madhapur kavurihills Commercial 90 yards, jubilee hills Banjarahills independent houses/Residential plots & All Gated Community Villas 10Cr to 50Cr. Ph:9966991449, 9394022449. (W/2122/AT000236)**

**✓RAJENDRANAGAR GHMC** final approved Hi-profile premium gated community villa plots, sizes: 500, 700, 800, 1800, 2200 to 3900 sq.yds. Price 75K- 1 Lakh per sq.yard. Ready to construction, club house with all world class amenities. Serious buyers Contact: 6281658416. (A/2122/C00182)

**PLOT NO:24**, east facing, 505 Sqyds Swamy layout, VUDA approved, Chetalupadda, Bheemili beach road, VSP. cell: 9989665552, 9849586582. (HYMM/2122/C02276)

**OPEN PLOT** For Sale 270Sq.yds, Two Side Roads Aparna Palm Grove, Kompally, Hyderabad Walkable Distance Medchal Highway. Dist:65.000/-Per Sq.yds., Agents Excuse Mobile: 9985138260 (HYMM/2122/C01562)

**MAHINDRAHILLS, DHANALAXMI** Society, 585 Sq.Yds corner Plot with 40ft Road on East and South sides. Ph: 9440710974. (S/2122/IC00026)

**✓NALLAGANDLA HUDDA** Plot 260 sq.yards for sale, Clear title, North Facing Second plot from main road good for development contact: 9000049111 (HYMM/2122/C02180)

**SHAMSHABAD CORNER** plots with three side roads, 480Sq.yards, North facing 60feet road, located in Maxima Estate-2 Near Tondpally check post. Contact: 9701762207/ 9849052859 (HYMM/2122/C02305)

#### MACHINERY

**COPPER WIRE** cobra Machine for Sale, Per Hour 400kgs capacity, 55hp heavy duty machine. Very good running condition. Call: 7893352789. (S/2122/C00617)

**BUY & Sell:** Excavators, Loaders, Tipplers, Dozers, Single & Double Drum Rollers, Boom Placers, Graders, Concrete Pumps, Transit Mixers, Crushers, Hot Mix, Wet Mix & RMC Plants, Piling rigs, Pavers, Gensets and Cranes. Contact: 9848124242 (VJ/21-22-00035) (S/2122/C00612)

#### REAL ESTATE

#### PLOT REQUIRED

**HYDARABAAD: JANAHAARSHA**, ocean prestige, chalapatli estates maheshwaram, Hayathnagar, Ibrahimpatnam plots sale and purchase. cnt:9951516030. (HYMM/2122/C02332)

**PLOT PURCHASE** in Hyderabad: Near Sainikpuri, Yaprul, Indus School, Registration Colony, Sai Krishna, Shaili Garden, Godavari Garden, Golf Enclave, Priyadarshini Enclave, Surabhi Enclave, Army Dental College, Silent Wald, Thumkunta, Country Homes, Celebrity, E.M.E.Society, Shameerpet, Medchal, Oorjitha Projects and near by Contact Cell: 8074203475. (HYMM/2122/C02425)

**PLOTS REQUIRED:** Hayathnagar, Ibrahimpatnam, Abdullahpurmet, Amberpet, Munugur, Turkayagan, Raganagadga, Mangalpally, Torru, Koheda, Batasinganram, Brahmanapally, Injapur, Nadergul, Shamirpet, Pasmamula, Ramdasapally. Ph:966660371 (HYCL/2122/IC0009)

#### REQUIRED

**REQUIRED 200** to 600 Sq. Yards clear title Land for Telangana Cotton Association Building (Preferred in & around 3km from Telangana Secretariat open land) 9849059314 (R/2122/C00007)

#### RENTALS

#### FLATS

**JUBILEE HILLS, Prashasan Nagar, Near 3BHK 1600Sft, 100% Vastu, Panoramic View Designer Interior, 24x7 Water, Car Parking. P h : 9 8 6 6 3 0 8 3 8 9 (HYMM/2122/C01769)**

#### INDEPENDENT HOUSE

**ATTAPUR 3 BHK Independent House** For Rent Ground And First Floor Near Pillar No 195 Pls Contact: 7330883969 (HYMM/2122/C02178)

#### LEASE

#### COMMERCIAL

**PEDDAPALLY, KUNARAM X** road, Rajeev Rahadari, Multi Speciality Hospital, Ground Floor 4500 sq ft, 1st floor 2500 sq ft for lease/ rent with Medical, Lab and Furniture/ Restaurant & Lodge. Cell: 9493103763; 8106891956. (R/2122/C00066)

**GROUND FLOOR** Commercial Shop 2300ft 50'50 approx. facing KPHB Metro Station at KPHB, Kukatpally- Contact 9440492262. (HYMM/2122/C02011)

#### SITUATION VACANT

#### ACADEMIC

**WANTED TEACHERS,** Lecturers Trainers Part Fulltime, Teach from home for all subjects, courses on salary sharing hourly basis.Autocad, revit, webdesigning, all technical engineering computer academic courses wattsup resume Hyderabad (W/2122/AT000325)

**ADVT. SALES & MKTG.** TALKATIVE M/F-INSU Agents/ ML/MS/ Retired/ Home Makers/ Freshers Invited to join Sale of Plots for unlimited Income & Digitified Life. P h : 7 3 8 2 0 9 6 7 5 9 (HYMM/2122/C02222)

#### ARCH & INTERIOR DSNRS

**ARCH.DRAFTSMAN 15YRS** exp. CAD drafting, 3D Rendering, estimations, willing to travel. Own bike and laptop. Hyderabad. 9652844778 e: discd9@gmail.com (W/2122/AT000237)

### MANAGERS

**TEAK PLANTATION** Manager For 100 Acres Teak Plantation in Narsipatnam, Vishakapatnam. Candidate having agriculture, Legal Revenue knowledge. Four wheel driving Hindi & English speaking essential. Best salary, accommodation provided. Contact: 8099999007 (HYMM/2122/C01822)

#### OTHER VACANCIES

**✓WANTED MANAGER with M.Sc (Organic Chemistry) having 13-15yrs of experience for Production, R&D and QC for our plant near Delhi. It is a small scale company and the following are the products. 1.Phenolic Resins 2.Phenolic Resin & Moulding compounds. If you are interested, send me your resume to: t.v.rao13@yahoo.com, P h : 8 0 1 9 4 2 6 3 2 . (HYMM/2122/C02268)**

#### TECHNICAL

**✓WANTED CNC Operators for HAAAS CNC Milling machines for mouldbase industry in Balanagar Hyderabad** ph:9396239332 /zyfix@zyfix.in (HYMM/2122/C02296)

**B.TECH CHEMICAL/MECHANICAL** Engineers having atleast 10 Years Production experience in reputed chemical plants. Shall independently be responsible for propellant production. Candidates experienced in handling explosives preferred. apply Complete Biodata, Expected Salary, Email: jagdajpur@hpehyd.com (W/2122/AT000300)

#### MATRIMONIAL

#### BRIDE WANTED

#### BRAHMIN

**WELL SETTLED 46yrs Telugu Brahmin, 6000 Niyogi, Bharadhwajasa widower with 7yrs son for remarriage alliance required from decent family. Contact: 9849252220/ 9866252220 (HYMM/2122/C02392)**

#### CASTE NO BAR

**✓BHAVASAR KSHATRIYA 45** Years 5"9" BDS practicing Dentist very fair & Cr. Property caste No bar Good looking fair and White Bride below 40 years Wanted. Contact: 9441476268, 9492426415. (S/2122/C00598)

#### HINDU

**LOOKING FOR** an unmarried girl for a Reddy boy, aged 38years, fair, height 5'8MS from USA, Well placed in a Managerial position in an IT firm in Hyderabad. Boy is from a well established and educated family set- tled in Hyderabad. Alliance from a Reddy community girl with similar background. chrl.6879@gmail.com (HYMM/2122/C02338)

**KAPU 36** years B.Tech/ MBA, Born & Brought-up in Hyderabad, well settled affluent family works in own Manufacturing unit. first marriage annulled, caste & language no bar seeks suitable match only serious people, looking with no children Contact with profile and Photo. Contact: 9618740678. (S/2122/IC00035)

#### MUSLIM

**"LOOKING FOR Bride"** 2nd marriage, 1st marriage successfully running alhamdullillah, Groom Looking for Bride, Working woman, well settled family, Groom Age 35, Height 5'9", Weight 85Kg, Occupation: Business. Contact: 8801660909, Genuine Islamic Knowledge then Call me No time pass Please. (HYMM/2122/C01770)

**AYESHA MARRIAGES** Telangana/ Andhra/ Rayalaseema. 28 5'9" MBBS, 30 5'8" Orthopedic, 28 5'6" General Surgery



SHORT TAKES

### 3 OFFICIALS OF SHIPPING FIRM ARRESTED

**BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, JULY 3**

Mumbai Police, probing the sinking of ill-fated barge P305 during the cyclone Tautkae arrested three employees of the shipping firm including its director.

Prasad Ganpat Rane (43), Nitinkumar Singh (32) and Akhileshwar Tiwari (49) of Papa Shipping Pvt Ltd were arrested on Friday. While Mr Rane is a manager, Mr Singh is a director and Tiwari works as a technical superintendent, said police officials of the Yellow Gate police station.

Barge P-305, which housed personnel engaged in maintenance work of an offshore oil drilling platform of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), had sank on May 17 during the cyclone. As many as 261 crew members were onboard when the barge began sinking. While most of them were rescued by the Indian Navy warships INS Kochi and INS Kolkata, 71 died after the barge drowned.

On a complaint filed by Mustafizur Rahman Husain Shaikh, chief engineer of the barge, a case under IPC sections 304 (2) (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) was registered at Yellow Gate police station against its captain Rajeshkumar Ballav (52), who himself died in the tragedy.

### MAOISTS ATTACK IRON ORE MINE IN BASTAR

**DC CORRESPONDENT RAIPUR, JULY 3**

Maoists on Saturday stormed an iron ore site allotted to a private firm in Chhattisgarh's south Bastar district of Narayanpur and attacked the workers engaged in development of a road in the area, leaving a supervisor of the construction company dead, police said.

Around 150 armed Naxals attacked the Aamdei iron ore mine site under Chhote Dangar police station at around 10 in the morning, beating the workers engaged in development of a road in the area and torching the vehicles used for construction works, a senior police officer posted in Bastar said.

They later held hostage over 10 labourers. However, the ultras later released them with a warning not to work in the mines, allotted to Jayaswal Neco Industries Limited. The Naxals also abducted two workers including a supervisor. They beat the supervisor, identified as Pradeep Sheel of Bhillai to death. The rebels however set the other worker free. Later, the Maoists launched a grenade attack and opened indiscriminate fire on the Dangar Hills police camp, nearly 1.5 km from the iron ore mine site, damaging the security camp extensively.

### GOVT TO UNVEIL CYBER SECURITY STRATEGY SOON

**New Delhi, July 3:** The government will release a new cybersecurity strategy this year, National Cyber Security Coordinator Rajesh Pant said at an event organised by Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI).

He said the strategy would holistically cover the entire ecosystem of cyber space in India.

The government is expected to release a new cybersecurity strategy this year, he said speaking at the PAFI event on Friday. "The vision of this strategy is to ensure safe, secure, resilient, vibrant, and trusted cyber space," Pant said.

The new strategy would serve as a guideline to tackle various aspects, be it data as a national resource, building indigenous capabilities or cyber audit. "There are about 80 odd deliverables coming out of this new strategy," the PAFI statement quoted Pant as saying. The theme of the PAFI Dialogue was 'Cyber Security in the New Normal.'

On the national security narrative for the telecom sector, Pant said, "While other nations have created a black-list of companies that cannot operate in the country, India is the only nation to create a white-list of telecom companies that are allowed to operate in India".

## Pandharpur pilgrims head defies ban, held

**BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, JULY 3**

The Pandharpur wari (pilgrimage) is likely to snowball into a controversy this year as the police arrested Bandataty Karadkar, one of the pilgrim heads, for defying the government ban due to Covid pandemic.

The State government has prohibited the annual palkhi procession on foot for the second consecutive year due to Covid. Despite the government ban, some pilgrim outfits have vowed to continue with the walking tradition of the pilgrimage.

Mr Karadkar, who had started the wari on foot along with this supporters, was detained by Pimpri-Chinchwad police in the wee hours of Saturday.

His arrest led to a tense situation with his supporters staging a sit-in agitation on the spot.

The BJP has reacted strongly on Mr Karadkar's arrest with former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis condemning the act. He tweeted, "Wari is an integral part of Maharashtra's culture and the relation between Vitthal and warkaris is beyond description. The importance of belief and tradition cannot be ignored. What did the government achieve by arresting Bandataty Karadkar? Was there no

solution to avoid it? It's a sheer insult of warkaris. The arrest was totally wrong."

Adhyatmik Aghadi, the BJP's religious front, has threatened the State Government with dire consequences if it does not allow warkaris to undertake their pilgrimage to Pandharpur on foot.

Last year, due to the Covid outbreak, the historic wari (pilgrimage) tradition in Maharashtra was not carried out. This year, in the wake of the second wave of the pandemic, the State Government has ruled out any procession by foot, while permitting only 50 devotees to convey the padukas in a Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) bus towards Pandharpur.

Every year, more than three to four lakh warkaris join in several dindis with the Sant Dnyaneshwar and Sant Tukaram Maharaj palkhis (palanquins) – bearing the 'padukas' or footprints of the renowned saints – that starts from Alandi and Dehu village respectively. There are around 250 registered dindis which follow the palkhis and lakhs of warkaris walk in the wari to converge on the temple town of Pandharpur in Solapur district to take the darshan of Lord Vitthal.

## BSY requests TN CM not to oppose Mekedatu project

**Bengaluru, Jul 3:** Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has written to his Tamil Nadu counterpart M.K. Stalin requesting him not to oppose the Mekedatu balancing reservoir-cum-drinking water project and offered a bilateral meeting between the two states to clear all apprehensions.

Making a fresh bid to resolve the issue around the Mekedatu project, which has been pending for many years, Yediyurappa said the project would immensely benefit both the states and in no way affect the interests of the farming communities of Tamil Nadu.

He wrote, "It would be in the interest of all concerned and to have a better relationship between the state of Karnataka and state of Tamil Nadu, if the Tamil Nadu government in the right spirit would not oppose the implementation of the project."

"In order to address issues, if any, it is suggested that a bilateral meeting could also be held in the presence of concerned officials to clear all apprehensions," Yediyurappa wrote in his missive to Stalin seeking

his cooperation and strengthened relations between the two states.

The Chief Minister reminded Stalin that the water project has been contemplated with an objective to regulate the flow of water to Tamil Nadu as stipulated in the final orders of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) and thereafter modified by the Supreme Court to generate 400 MegaWatt of power.

The project also aimed to additionally utilise 4.75 TMC of water for meeting drinking and domestic water needs of Karnataka including the whole of Bengaluru, "as awarded by the Supreme Court in its judgment dated February 16, 2018".

While Tamil Nadu has filed a Miscellaneous Application before the apex court against the project, Karnataka has sought approval from the Centre for Terms of Reference to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment Studies (EIAS), Yediyurappa pointed out.

The Chief Minister reminded Stalin of various projects planned by Tamil Nadu including two hydropower projects, Sillahalla project and several projects on the main river below Mettur.

He had tested positive for coronavirus at a private hospital last month and was subsequently shifted to the Intensive Care Unit.

His plea for medical bail and bail on merits was listed for hearing in the high court on Friday but could not be taken up due to the paucity of time.

The bench adjourned the hearing to Tuesday and extended his hospital stay till then.

"Till the next hearing, out interim order on his (Swamy's) treatment at the private hospital will continue," the bench said.

Swamy also filed a fresh plea in the High Court on Friday challenging section 43D(5) of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) that imposes stringent restrictions on the grant of bail to those booked under the Act.

- PTI

### TMC PLANS TO TAKE SOLICITOR GENERAL ISSUE TO PRESIDENT

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, JULY 3**

A day after indicting solicitor general Tushar Mehta of meeting Narada sting bribery accused and Saradha chit fund scam suspect, Suwendu Adhikari, and seeking Prime Minister Narendra Modi to sack him from his post, Trinamul Congress is now planning to knock the doors of President Ram Nath Kovind next week and raise the same demand with him as well.

A delegation of TMC MPs, according to party insiders, is expected to visit the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday and submit a petition to Mr Kovind for Mr Mehta's removal as the S-G over his "direct conflict of interest."

Mr Mehta has been representing the CBI and ED in both the high-profile cases in which Mr Adhikari also is allegedly linked to.

The TMC appears to be confident that Mr Mehta met when the Nandigram BJP MLA visited his New Delhi residence on July 1 though Mr Mehta on Friday termed Mr Adhikari's visit "unannounced" and denied of meeting him due to his preoccupation.

Dissatisfied with Mr Mehta's arguments, chief minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee however sought proof from him. He tweeted, "Mr Mehta's efforts to dismiss speculations regarding his clandestine meeting with @SuwenduWB can only be valuable if he makes all CCTV footage public until Mr Adhikari was in his residence. Moreover, was Mr Adhikari present in the SG's residence without prior appointment?"

The TMC MP added, "Reports state that Mr Adhikari entered Hon'ble SG's residence in the presence of a cavalcade of officers and stayed there for nearly 30 minutes. Does that imply that a meeting was indeed due? As the episode gets murkier, one can only hope that the truth shall surface."

#### For a plastic-free world



Disha Volunteer Organisation members during Plastic Waste Awareness campaign to motivate the general public and shopkeepers to use cloth/jute bags on the occasion of International Plastic Bag Free Day in Jammu on Saturday.

- PTI

## Big pressure on Twitter as FB, Google file report

### IT minister pats websites for filing compliance reports

**New Delhi, Jul 3:** IT

Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Saturday lauded major social media platforms such as Google, Facebook and Instagram for publishing their first compliance report on voluntary removal of offensive posts as per new IT rules, terming it a big step towards transparency.

Under the new IT rules, large digital platforms that have over 5 million users are required to publish periodic compliance reports every month, mentioning the details of complaints received and action taken thereon.

"Nice to see significant social media platforms like Google, Facebook and Instagram following the new IT Rules. First compliance report on voluntary removal of offensive posts published by them as per IT Rules is a big step towards transparency," Prasad tweeted.

The publishing of compliance reports by Google, Facebook and Instagram is bound to turn up the heat on Twitter, which has been engaged in a tussle with the Indian govern-

● Under the new IT rules, large digital platforms that have over 5 million users are required to publish periodic compliance reports every month, mentioning the details of complaints.

ment over the new social media rules.

The government has confronted Twitter for deliberate defiance and failure to comply with the country's new IT rules, and not appointing the requisite officers, leading to it losing the 'safe harbour' immunity.

Facebook said it "actioned" over 30 million content pieces across 10 violation categories during May 15-June 15 in the country, as the social media giant brought out its maiden monthly compliance report as mandated by the IT rules.

It actioned content related to spam (25 million), violent and graphic content (2.5 million), adult nudity and sexual activity (1.8 million), and hate speech (311,000).

Other categories under

which content was actioned include bullying and harassment (1,18,000), suicide and self-injury (.589,000), dangerous organisations and individuals: terrorist propaganda (1,06,000) and dangerous organisations and individuals: organised hate (75,000).

Instagram took action against about two million pieces across nine categories during the same period.

'Actioned' content refers to the number of pieces of content (such as posts, photos, videos or comments) where action has been taken for violation of standards. Taking action could include removing a piece of content from Facebook or Instagram or covering photos or videos that may be disturbing to some audiences with a warning.

Google had stated that 27,762 complaints were received by Google and YouTube in April this year from individual users in India over alleged violation of local laws or personal rights, which resulted in removal of 59,350

pieces of content.

Koo, in its report, said it has proactively moderated 54,235 content pieces, while 5,502 posts were reported by its users during June.

Apart from publishing periodic compliance reports every month, the rules also require disclosure on the number of specific communication links or parts of information that the intermediary has removed or disabled access to in pursuance of any proactive monitoring conducted by using automated tools.

According to the IT rules that aim to curb blatant abuse and misuse of platforms, the significant social media intermediaries are required to appoint a chief compliance officer, a nodal officer and a grievance officer and these officials have to be resident in India.

Non-compliance with the IT rules would result in these platforms losing their intermediary status that provides them immunity from liabilities over any third-party data hosted by them.

-PTI

### ‘GRASS EATING TIGER’ SPOTTED IN MP FOREST

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JULY 3**

A tiger never eats grass even when it grows old. The adage has, however, been defied, at least in appearance, by a tiger in the famed Satpura wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh a couple of days ago.

Field director of Satpura Tiger Reserve (STR) L Krishna Murthi spotted a full grown tiger 'eating' green grass in a forest inside the STR on July 1 and shot the video on his mobile phone.

"I have posted the video showing the tiger in STR feasting on the green grass in our FB site", Mr Murthi told this newspaper on Saturday.

He however said that a tiger consuming green grass was not an unusual phenomenon.

"There is a difference between eating for survival and consuming something as medicine. The tigers usually chew grass to suck its juice for digestion purpose and to heal various stomach ailments. It is not that they eat grass for survival", he added.

He said all the carnivorous animals often chew grass to drink its juice for digestion purposes. But, for the wildlife photographers, tiger eating grass is a rare shoot, environmentalist and wildlife photographer, Sanjay Sharma said. Spread over an area of 2,133.307 sq km in Hoshangabad district in MP, STR is home to around 50 tigers and known for its rich biodiversity.

## After Jammu episode, drone attack alert sounded in Punjab

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 3**

The Intelligence Bureau in a specific advisory sent to security agencies in Punjab has cautioned that close on the heels of twin drone attacks on defence installation in Jammu a week ago, a "major attack" involving drones could happen in border areas of Punjab.

Following the intelligence alert, Punjab Police chief Dinkar Gupta chaired a high-level security review meeting two days ago where border districts like Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Gurdaspur and other have been put on high alert.

Patrolling has been intensified by the Border

● The NIA has managed to obtain some CCTV footage of these drones which was being analysed by the experts. It appears that drone crossed over into Pakistan after the incident as the border was 14-km from the defence installations in Jammu.

Security Force along with Punjab Police in the entire 550-km long Indo-Pak border in Punjab. Even in the past there have been instances where drone from Pakistan were used to drop weapons like AK-47, grenades and narcotics in villages close to the border.

Now specific instruc-

tions have been given that any drone should be immediately shot down without any prior warning.

Currently all security forces like Army, BSF and Air Force are closely monitoring security at their installations along the Indo-Pak border.

Sources said a close watch was also being kept in the Rajasthan sector also but admitted that the threat perception was much higher in Punjab and Kashmir region.

The Home Ministry has already handed over the investigations into the drone attack to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Initial investigations have already confirmed the

#### VITAL | STEP Study will help spot possible structural damage

## ASI plans laser scanning of Lord Jagannath’s Ratna Singhasan

**AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, JULY 3**

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will carry out 3D laser scanning of the 'Ratna Singhasan' at Srimandir in Puri during the upcoming Rath Yatra to check for structural damages, if any.

Ratna Singhasan is the sanctum sanctorum of Srimandir which is more famously known as the Jagannath Temple.

According to Sri

Jagannath Temple

Administration (SJTA) sources, the structural damage of the sanctum sanctorum and Jagamohana (the assembly hall) will also be checked by 3D laser scanning so that necessary repairs can be carried out.

The proposed laser imaging will help in getting a clear picture of the structural damage, if any, of the temple. The technology will also help the ASI to properly document the structural and architectural design of the temple

for future use and reference," said a SJTA official.

ASI official Chitta Ranjan Das said laser scanning is safe and it will cause no harm to the ancient structures of the temple. "The technology is effective enough to collect data for the conservation of the monument," said Das.

"The 3D technology is effective enough to collect data on the damage and extent of for the conservation of the monument. Once the damage assessment is done, we will be in

a position to estimate the cost of the required repair work," said the ASI assistant superintendent Mr Das.

Besides, a private farm has been given the contract of around ₹1.5 crore for the illumination of Srimandir.

"We have conducted a primary survey of Srimandir for the illumination work and identified various places for faced illumination," said Santosh Kumar, an employee with the private farm.





DECCAN  
Chronicle

4 JULY 2021



Shailaja Khanna

Off the beaten track

## What kept the maestros going during pandemic

Four regions, four musicians, four questions, four perspectives — yet a common thread of positivity and introspection running through them all. Regardless of their ages (Abhishek Raghuram is in his 30s, while Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty is touching 70), all the musicians have made the best of the pandemic, taken the restrictions imposed on them in their stride, dealing with the huge changes in their world with grace. One is left struck and impressed by their spirit of philosophical acceptance.

## BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM THE PANDEMIC

It is not to take life for granted. That was the message that this writer walked away with after interacting with the four musicians. But for each individual, the lens through which they viewed their experience and reached this conclusion was different. If it was friendship for one, it was the body and its changing dynamics for another, and nature's wisdom and the spirit of humanity that binds us for the remaining interviewees. As Pt Ajoy Chakrabarty, vocal maestro from Kolkata, reflected: "For me, foremost, is the realisation of how ephemeral life is. So many great musicians have been snatched before their time. I have to admit, the amount of time I spent at home has been a huge blessing; it's something I have never done before. Also, there is increased awareness of the need to help others, preserve Nature, respect others."

"Foremost, the pandemic has taught [me]", Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar, dhrupad maestro from Delhi, "about how precious good health, hygiene and, indeed, life is". "My first reaction to the pandemic was that it's a very useful and wonderful time to spend with your Art. But, gradually I realised how important it is to have interaction with others, to have that human touch. Not through the screen but from a body reaction," Wasifuddin said. "In one way, it is absolutely right that you do your art for yourself, but it is very important to get the audience feedback spontaneously, rather than only reading the applause on the screen," he explained.

Pt Yogesh Samsi, the famous tabla maestro from Mumbai, warned: "It's high time we realise we have to respect Nature, respect what we have got in terms of resources on this planet and learn to look after it, to respect and value it. The amount of abuse Mother Earth has gone through due to the onslaught by humanity — be it social, economic, political or through technology. It has led to such an imbalance that probably it has led to a situation where Mother Earth is trying to heal itself. Across the globe, we have all been taught a huge lesson."

Vidwan Abhishek Raghuram, the Carnatic vocalist who happens to be based out of Chennai, offered, "The pandemic has brought in all of us a strong reassertion of the faith that humanity comes together in support of each other, for the larger cause, when the need arises. I also feel the pandemic has taught us to pick our real needs from what we have assumed them to be so far, almost irrationally!"

## MOST PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY

Riyaaz and retrospection emerged as common themes. "My music. I spent 10-12 hours on my music, something I have never been able to do," was Chakrabarty's reply. It coincided with Wasifuddin Dagar's view and he said: "Definitely, doing my own riyaz, and what I had never done before, teaching online. Also learning to handle these modern gadgets of communication, like laptops and mobiles; I am still learning." For Samsi, "it was having all the time in the world to think of my music — almost like a rewind of my life. All the aspects I had difficulty in doing earlier, reviewing all I had learnt from *abbaji* (Ustad Alla Rakha Khan) these last few decades. Then pondering on it — *chintan*, *mannan karna*, *aur riyaz karna*. *Ape khud ki sadhana*, be it yoga or meditation... I got to give a lot of time to myself, something that I had never done in the last 25 years, due to my professional travels". Abhishek Raghuram, too, spent a lot of time introspecting into his art and his career trajectory. "With the changed routines, I have a lot more opportunity to retrospect clearly and deeply to my journey so far and my course ahead. This, I feel, has been very beneficial to me as an artiste," Raghuram said.

## THINGS MOST MISSED DURING THE PANDEMIC

This time, the answers were very varied. Ajoy Chakrabarty "really felt bereft at the loss of so many good friends from the world of the arts". "Great musicians from the Hindustani and Carnatic music world have left us," he lamented. Wasifuddin Dagar was more situated in the present. He missed "live concerts, panel discussions, normal human interaction other than with my family, travelling and, most of all, driving! "It's therapy for me," he added, referring to this hobby. Yogesh Samsi longed for "getting together with my students, teaching sessions, and meeting with intellectuals; *satsang* with like-minded people". Abhishek Raghuram rued the loss of "the ability to meet and interact with co-artists, friends and the larger family".

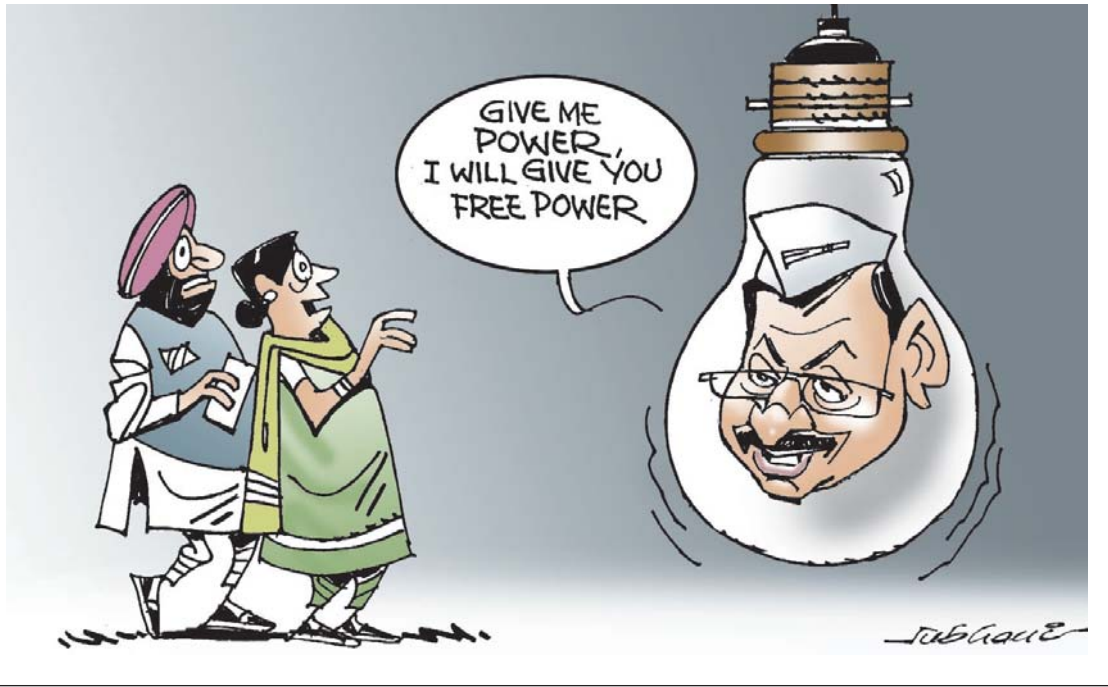
## DO YOU BELIEVE THE MUSIC WORLD WILL RETURN TO WHAT IT WAS?

No investment in the new normal, for these musicians, who were almost unanimous in rejecting the much-tooted idea. All four artistes replied to this question in the affirmative, although Ajoy Chakrabarty qualified his response with conditions. He said, "Yes, though there will be changes; for one, I think the online stage will remain for good. Teaching online will remain too, though as far as I am concerned, I had always taught online, in fact have been doing so for the last 11 years, so that's not been new for me." Wasifuddin Dagar sounded more emphatic. He said, "I am an optimist, what has become the 'new normal' will again be replaced by the old 'normal', *Insha Allah*, but don't quite know when. I pray, soon!" Yogesh Samsi felt "the process will be slower, but eventually concerts will happen". "We need to be patient, and not try to hurry things up," he said. "In fact, my faith is that it will resume in a fashion larger and stronger than before. The world is as anxious as we are about the gap the pandemic has brought upon us," was Raghuram's confident observation.

**Bonus responses:** Lockdown or no, did the masters stoop to perform domestic chores? Wasifuddin shared candidly that the chore he has most hated doing was tidying his room! Abhishek endearingly said every chore he has had to do has been a pleasure, which he will miss once he again has less time!

Shailaja Khanna writes on music, musicians and matters of music

Subhani



## Break the Chinese puzzle by studying CPC's game



Manish Tewari

State of the Union

This July, I complete a four-decade-long association with the Indian National Congress (INC) founded in 1885. An involvement that commenced when I joined the National Students Union of India (NSU) way back in 1981.

As a grassroots political activist, the philosophy, structure and organisation of other political parties has always been an area of academic interest for me. A curiosity that got further buoyed when I was elected president of the International Students Union (IUS) in the early 1990s. The IUS was then a Prague-based syndical organisation of 155 student organisations across 112 countries and territories. One political party that I have continuously studied and observed is the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The current commentary is about this distinctive organisation that lies at the heart of an emerging system of global dominance. The Communist Party of China (CPC) celebrated a hundred years of its existence on the 1st of July. Ironically, all empirical evidence puts its foundation date as July 23, 1921. July 1 was arbitrarily chosen by party apparatchiks when they were hunkering down in the grottoes of Yan'an in 1941.

The CPC was born during what the Chinese call the century of humiliation 1839-1949. China was back then an impoverished and a pastoral society dominated by imperialist powers through ignominious treaty arrangements.

A clandestine get-together of a handful of people took place in the French concession of Shanghai at 106 Rue Wanz. One of the attendees was Mao Zedong who remained a leading light of this fledgling party for over 54 years. In addition to him,

two foreign commissars from the Communist International, a Soviet sponsored structure created for the global spread of Communism, were also present.

These furtive conversations were the precursor to the formal launch of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC). A century later not only does it control China with an iron fist, hitherto considered ungovernable for centuries together, but moreover, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union on the 26th of December, 1991, it is the only political system that presents a successful alternative politico-economic model to the Western neo-liberal democratic order.

In the early 1920s, all kinds of congregations and individuals called themselves Communists in China. It was a fashionable nom de guerre. This new outfit was bedraggled and thinly resourced. They had no arsenal worth the name. Even in their wildest imagination no keen observer of China back then could have prophesied that this motley collection of virtual nobodies would ignite a successful Communist insurgency that then spread across the countryside like a wildfire consuming everything in its path.

In a short span of 28 years, this human dynamo not only vanquished a Nationalist Army of more than four million strong kitted out by the Allied forces to fight the Japanese during World War-II but established and consolidated a Communist state in 1949 that no one believed would survive more than a few years.

For the longest time, the CPC and the Red Army was led by Mao Zedong who, ironically, had never intellectually devoured Marxism. He was tempered in the fury of the May 4, 1919, struggle. A movement

triggered by the pronouncement of Western powers to transfer Chinese colonial territory in the possession of Germany to Japan post World War I. That effort stimulated both anti-Western nationalism as well as a Chinese desire to reclaim the glory of its yesteryears — a la Middle Kingdom syndrome. It also established a distinctive ideological basis that fused Chinese nationalism with Marxism.

The skill of the CPC and the reason for its longevity has been its ability to navigate the winds of change with nimbleness, without giving up on its core ideological values. Over a century, it has morphed from being a revolutionary army to a party of governance surviving the vicissitudes of not only domestic turmoil but also international intrigue coupled with the idiosyncratic impulses of its own leadership.

Two of those whisms were the Great Leap Forward from 1958 to 1962 and the Cultural Revolution from 1966 to 1976. The former resulted in the deaths of over 20 million people mainly due to starvation. The latter was a vicious socio-political housecleaning predicated upon the purging the vestiges of capitalist and traditional elements from the mainstream of China's thought leadership. Mobs of pupils and Red Guards assaulted people wearing "bourgeois clothes" on the thoroughfares, "imperialist" signage were desecrated, and intellectuals and party officials were either murdered or driven to suicide. Over two million lost their lives as a consequence of these deprivations.

Mao Zedong's ruinous tenure ended with his demise in 1976 leaving China in a state of econom-

ic morass and social stratification. However, despite the misery and pain Mao had heaped on the Chinese people, the hold of the CPC on the country remained intact. It did not get undermined even after the Tiananmen Square massacre of protesting students in 1989 that convulsed Chinese society to its very being. The point being that it is not only fear, terror and intimidation that binds the Chinese society to the CPC. The impulses are much more profound and include rigorous ideological indoctrination coupled with a village to national capital structure that functions like a well-oiled machine.

The CPC moved seamlessly from Mao's tyranny to the model of totalitarian capitalism institutionalised by Deng Xiaoping and his successors that held the field for close to three-and-a-half decades from 1979 to 2012. One of the essential attributes of those years was the cultivated reticence of both the Chinese state and the CPC as it put its shoulder to the wheel of internal consolidation. It once again morphed into an aggressive wolf warrior mode as Xi Jinping took centre stage in 2012.

The beauty of these transitions does not lie in the abrupt U-turns that the CPC took but the fact that they were able to carry the Chinese nation along with them during all these transfigurations.

That is wherein lies the challenge for Indian policymakers as they seek to understand Chinese motivations and behaviour in the 21st century. Till the time they do not understand the functioning of the CPC they will never be able to discern the minds and methods of the Chinese leadership. For, unlike India and other democracies around the world, where political parties and governance systems are distinct, in the case of China, it is a merged mass of dissimulating narratives.

The author is a lawyer, Member of Parliament and former Union information and broadcasting minister. The views expressed are personal. Twitter handle @manishtewari.

**It is not only fear that binds the Chinese society to the CPC. The impulses include rigorous ideological indoctrination coupled with a village to national capital structure that runs smoothly.**

## LETTERS

## CUT FUEL PRICES

In Hyderabad, petrol is now selling at ₹103.05 per litre and a domestic gas cylinder costs ₹887 with a meagre subsidy of ₹41. All over the world, fuel charges have hit rock bottom due to decrease in demand and abundant supply but in India why is it going up? Government talks about one nation one tax with GST but exempts it in the case of petrol and diesel. This double standards of the Centre and state governments must end. Fuel is essential for common people but the governments are taxing it over 150 per cent as if it is a luxury good.

T. Kaillash Ditya  
Hyderabad

## VACCINATION

The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) and the Central government must do a thorough study before the Covid vaccine is administered to pregnant women as there is another life which is dependent on it (*Covid vaccine for pregnant women now, DC, July 3*). The price of the vaccine must also come within the reach of have-nots and those below poverty line.

Garlapaty Sitharamaih  
Hyderabad

The Covid-19 pandemic is making life miserable for one and all. It is difficult to know who will fall victim to it. Celebrities and VIPs were able to manage after taking expensive medication. The poor and the middle class people are not so lucky if they are infected. The new variants are more dangerous as a treatment procedure for it is yet to be found. Hence, opening educational institutions, malls and other places of public gathering should be postponed till normalcy is restored.

V. Vijayakumar  
Hyderabad

Due to the decrease in Covid-19 cases, one must not be under the impression the pandemic has come to an end. We have already seen the effects of negligence when the second wave hit the country and many experts suggesting a third wave is underway. State governments must take the responsibility to spread awareness. Self-control is important. It is also our responsibility to save ourselves.

T.V.S. Suchitra  
Khammam

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

50 YEARS AGO IN  
DECCAN  
Chronicle

## 'Refugee influx is bound to affect economic progress'

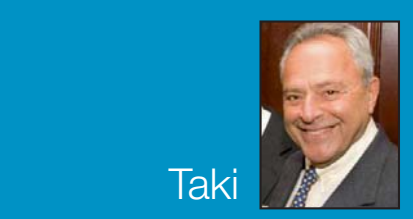
LUCKNOW, July 3

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, said here today that the mass upsurge in Bangla Desh had proved that no country could be ruled bayonets.

There was no democracy in Pakistan and the military government there had no link with the common man.

The upsurge was not an isolated incident: in the past there was some turmoil in Baluchistan and elsewhere.

By arrangement with the Spectator



Taki

## The art of sports commentary is really dying now

Wimbledon is here at last, after its absence in 2020. What struck me watching the French Open on television a couple of weeks before was just how much rubbish I had to listen to if I kept the sound on. There are now too many matches broadcast, which means more and more commentators are spouting off about the game in the middle of rallies. I don't know why viewers don't raise hell with the networks about these non-stop blabbermouths who interrupt our viewing. We've become a nation of sheep, accepting everything so-called experts throw at us.

Televised sport needs commentators only before and after the event. Although the Wimbledon lot spout off a lot less than the French Open blabbermouths, I think back fondly to the impeccable Dan Maskell, whose "Oh my word" was as far as he went after witnessing an extraordinary shot. After Maskell came the great South African doubles expert Frew McMillan, who handles the microphone as deftly

as he handled his racquet while winning the Wimbledon doubles title numerous times. Frew was a buddy of mine during our playing days and he's one of the few nowadays who allow the viewer to enjoy the action without being told non-stop what they are watching.

The televised sporting event that allows the viewer to make up their mind no longer exists. There is an epidemic of excess on the part of the speakers, sorry, commentators, that is just a way of giving themselves a bit more gravitas. They explain the obvious — that is to say what we have just seen, and then some. Television's primary mission seems to be to show us something, then to verbalise what we've just seen to death. Never mind, perhaps it's only me who likes to watch tennis without someone explaining to me what I'm watching.

My nerves were tried and fried by watching the French Open recently, where the rallies can be very long, and the blabbermouths very, very wordy.

The latter are mostly adulatory towards the players, as it's normal for them to be. But when Serena Williams or Novak Djokovic are on the court they really surpass themselves. After losing an important point during a match in Paris, the Serb bounced the ball 23 times before serving. Usually, he bounces it 13 times. If that's not gamesmanship my name is Coco Chanel. Again, perhaps it's only me, but American female commentators' voices, some high-pitched and shrill, particularly get on my nerves. Not Chrissie Evert's, however. Chrissie was beautifully behaved on court and always looked pretty and feminine while winning. She and John McEnroe should be the only Americans employed by the European TV networks though Mac is no longer what he was. He was very good when he started broadcasting and told it like it was. But now he's joined the rest in being more of a cheerleader than a critic.

One of those American females commenting in Paris remarked how

empowering it was to watch a woman taking control of her body. What was that again? If we're going to have this kind of psychobabble while commenting on a tennis match, I think I'll start watching wrestling, the pro-kind that involves masked bad guys and screaming women in the audience. If we follow the American way, we'll soon be using the F-word to express sincerity and enthusiasm, not to mention conviction. But let's get back to the game of tennis.

The reason tennis was once referred to as an elite game (played only by country club types) is easy to explain. Wooden rackets and animal-gut strings made it among the most difficult games to master, if not the most difficult. If one failed to make contact with the ball in the racket's sweet spot — a diameter of about eight inches — the ball flew out or didn't go anywhere. If one didn't step into the ball's path and take it on the rise, the return just died. If one didn't meet the ball sideways, ditto.

All of the above are now no-nos. Strings grip and slingshot the ball;

graphite, titanium and all sorts of rocket material-made rackets have turned everyone into a champ. Open-stance forehands, swing volleys, and from-the-baseline drop-shot attempts are now obligatory.

I remember an article about the fastest server in the game, Pancho Gonzales, serving close to 113 mph. Today a 15-year-old's second serve tops that speed. See what I mean about tennis being a different sport than the one I grew up competing in? Touch and guile were equal to power, so don't compare the greats of today with those of yesteryear. Rod Laver, Lew Hoad and Roy Emerson were as good if not better than today's great troika, and they didn't have the entourage — no dermatologists, cosmetologists, electrolysis, masseurs, coaches, trainers, dieticians, strategists and cheerleaders.

Enjoy Wimbledon with or without the sound and take it from Taki — tennis is a totally different game now.



## SHORT TAKES

## 38 KILLED, 51 HURT IN RAIN-TRIGGERED NEPAL LANDSLIDES

**Kathmandu, July 3:** Flash floods and landslides triggered by torrential rains across Nepal have left at least 38 people dead, including seven children, and wounded over 50 others in the last 20 days, the Home Ministry said on Saturday.

The ministry said 51 people sustained injuries and 24 people, including three children, have gone missing in the incidents of floods and landslides in different parts of the country. Similarly, 1,250 people have been evacuated from different parts of the country that were hit by the natural disaster, it said.

A total of 790 houses have been inundated, 519 homes, 90 cowsheds and 19 bridges were destroyed due to the floods and landslides, it said.

## MIGRATION FROM BELARUS LEADS TO CRISIS IN LITHUANIA

**Helsinki (Finland):** Lithuania has declared a state of emergency due to an influx of migrants in the last few days from neighbouring Belarus, as tensions between the European Union and Belarus escalate.

Lithuania's Interior Minister Agle Bilotaite said late Friday that the decision, proposed by the State Border Guard Service, was necessary not because of an increased threat to the country of 2.8 million people but to put a more robust system into place to handle migrants coming in.

It's very important to have a legal system and instruments ... to be able to swiftly make decisions in response to arising challenges, Bilotaite said during a government meeting Friday evening, according to the Baltic News Service.

## SYRIAN GOVT SHELLING KILLS 8, MOSTLY CHILDREN

**Beirut:** Artillery fire from government-controlled territory and airstrikes on Saturday killed at least eight civilians in Syria's last rebel enclave, most of them children, and destroyed a civil defence center and a water station, rescue workers and a war monitor said.

The shelling in Idlib, a village in southern Idlib province, hit the home of Subhi al-Assi, killing him, his wife and three of his children in their sleep, according to the rescue service known as the White Helmets and Idlib's health directorate. Al-Assi was an administrator in a local health center.

Shelling also struck the home of a volunteer for the White Helmets, also known as the Syria Civil Defence, killing his two children.

The volunteer, Omar al-Omar, and his wife were wounded, according to the White Helmets. In a nearby village, another child was killed and four others from the same family were wounded, according to the White Helmets.

## MAJOR SWEDISH SUPERMARKET HIT BY CYBERATTACK

**Stockholm:** One of Sweden's biggest supermarket chains said on Saturday it had to temporarily close around 800 stores nationwide after a cyber attack blocked access to its checkouts.

"One of our subcontractors was hit by a digital attack, and that's why our checkouts aren't working any more," Coop Sweden, which accounts for around 20 per cent of the sector, said in a statement.

"We regret the situation and will do all we can to reopen swiftly," the cooperative added.

Coop Sweden did not name the subcontractor or reveal the hacking method used against it beginning on Friday evening.

But the Swedish subsidiary of the Visma software group said the problem was linked to a major cyber attack on US IT company Kaseya on Friday.

Kaseya has urged customers to shut down servers running its VSA platform after dozens were hit with ransomware attacks.

A wave of ransomware attacks has struck worldwide recently, especially in the United States.

Ransomware attacks typically involve locking away data in systems using encryption, making companies pay to regain access.

## Over 300 Taliban fighters killed

## Afghan forces intensify predawn air strikes, Taliban rejects claims

**Kabul, July 3:** Hundreds of Taliban fighters were killed in fierce battles with government forces across several provinces of Afghanistan, officials said Saturday, as Washington announced it would finish withdrawing its troops from the country by the end of August.

Washington's announcement came after all US and Nato troops vacated their main Bagram Air Base, from where the coalition forces led operations for two decades against the Taliban and their Al-Qaeda allies.

Over the past 24 hours, more than 300 Taliban fighters were killed in fighting with government forces, the Ministry of Defence said on Saturday.

Scores were killed in air strikes, including a pre-dawn assault on Saturday, in the southern province of Helmand, where the insurgents and government troops have regularly clashed. There have been fears that Afghan forces would struggle without the air support that the United States has provided.

"In recent days, the Afghan air force has intensified its air strikes against the Taliban hideouts and the insurgents have suffered casualties," Attaullah Afghan, a member of Helmand provincial council, said.

The Taliban rejected the government's claims.

Both sides often exaggerate each other's casualties and their claims are diffi-

cult to independently verify. But since May 1 when the US military began its final withdrawal of about 2,500 troops, the two warring sides have clashed fiercely across the rugged countryside as peace talks between them have faltered.

As a result, the Taliban have seized dozens of districts in blistering assaults targeting government forces. The insurgents have encircled almost all major cities across the country, and on Saturday claimed seizing seven more districts in the northeastern province of Badakhshan.

Top US envoy to Kabul, Ross Wilson, lashed out at the insurgents. "The Taliban is using violent

propaganda and hate speech to intimidate, threaten & attack Afghans on social media," Wilson said on Twitter on Saturday. "Violence and terror cannot create peace." The Pentagon pressed on with its withdrawal to end America's longest war.

On Friday, all US and Nato troops left Bagram Air Base, signalling that the military involvement for coalition forces was finally nearing its end.

Over the years, the minority north of Kabul has been visited by hundreds of thousands of US and Nato service members and contractors.

It has great military and symbolic significance.

"For many Afghans, Bagram is remembered as

the hub for more than one foreign intervention, as it was the main air base for the Soviets throughout their occupation of the country as well," said Andrew Watkins, an Afghanistan expert at the International Crisis Group.

"Not only has it been the entry point of most foreign troops that have passed through the country since 2001, it has been home to many of the in-country air assets that have lent the Afghan security forces such a vital advantage on the battlefield." The exit of foreign troops from Bagram has further fuelled concerns the country might slide into new civil war, as in the 1990s after the Soviets left.

— *AFP*

## Unvaccinated vulnerable to Delta: Biden

## DELTA VARIANT IS DANGEROUS: W.H.O. CHIEF

**Washington, July 2:** Joe Biden has warned that although America has Covid-19 "on the run" the latest variant is of particular concern among those who remain unvaccinated — as the president's goal of 70 per cent of US adults receiving at least one shot of vaccine by the Fourth of July holiday was set to fall short.

New US cases of Coronavirus jumped by 10 per cent in the past week as the highly contagious Delta variant spreads, especially where vaccination rates are low. "I am concerned that people who have not gotten vaccinated have the capacity to catch the variant and spread the variant to other people who haven't been vaccinated," Biden said on Friday.

"I'm not concerned there's going to be a major outbreak ... another epidemic nationwide. But I am concerned lives will be lost," he added.

Celebrating strong data on jobs on Friday, Biden said: "Our economy is on the move, and we have Covid-19 on the run."

But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) director, Rochelle Walensky, said areas with low vaccination rates were becoming hotspots for new infections, even while the situation in the country as a whole was improving.

Nearly 25% of new US infections have been linked to the "hyper-transmissible" Delta variant, first identified in India, up from 6% in June. As of 1 July, 66.8% of US adults have received at least one dose of vaccine. A total of 54.6% of all Americans have received one or more shot.

"We're very, very close to that [government] goal," said Iwan Barankay, a professor of business economics and public policy at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

But he added: "We need to aim for higher than 70% to get us to herd immunity. We have to think clearly about who [has] not gotten vaccinated yet and understand why ... we have to think about the people who are just vehemently opposed,

## Italian health staff dare vax obligation

**Rome, July 3:** Three hundred healthcare workers in Italy have lodged a legal challenge against the requirement that they get vaccinated against coronavirus, according to media reports on Saturday. The case, brought by professionals throughout northern Italy, will be heard on July 14.

"This isn't a battle by anti-vaxxers but a democratic battle," constitutional lawyer Daniele Granara, who helped build up the case, was cited as saying in the *Giornale di Brescia* newspaper.

"We force people to take a risk under threat of no longer being allowed to exercise their profession," he added.

Granara is also defending dozens of caregivers who have been suspended from work for refusing to be vaccinated.

Italy passed a law in April obliging anyone working in public or private social health positions, including in pharmacies and doctors' offices, to get vaccinated against Covid-19 or be suspended without pay, unless their employer can reassign them to a less sensitive position.

After the elderly and vulnerable, caregivers including teachers were the first to be vaccinated in Italy.



A handout photograph taken and released by the Ukrainian Defence ministry press-service shows the Ukrainian female soldiers wearing heels while taking part in the the military parade rehearsal in Kyiv. — *AFP*



A general view shows mud and debris at the scene of a landslide following days of heavy rain in Atami in Shizuoka Prefecture on Saturday. — *AFP*

## 2 dead, 20 missing after homes swept away in Japan landslide

**Tokyo, July 3:** Two people died and around 20 others remained missing on Saturday after a huge landslide at a resort town in central Japan swept away homes following days of heavy rain, officials said.

Television footage showed a torrent of mud obliterating buildings as it crashed down a hillside in Atami, southwest of Tokyo, sending people fleeing as it buried part of a road.

"I heard a horrible sound and saw a mudslide flowing downwards as rescuers were urging people to evacuate. So I ran to higher ground," the head

of a temple near the disaster told public broadcaster NHK.

"When I returned, houses and cars that were in front of the temple were gone."

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said emergency services and the military had launched rescue and evacuation missions, warning that more downpours were forecast.

"There is a possibility of heavy rain due to the rain front, so we still need to be alert at the maximum level," he said at an emergency disaster meeting.

Atami saw rainfall of 313 millimetres in just 48 hours to Saturday—high-

er than the average monthly total for July of 242.5 millimetres, according to NHK.

Two women discovered by the coastguard at a port without showing vital signs were later confirmed dead, the municipal government of Atami said.

"Because of the heavy rain, the ground loosened and the mudslide occurred ... it picked up speed and swept away houses together with people," Shizuoka Governor Heita Kawakatsu told reporters.

He said "around 20" people were still missing after being swept away by the

landslide.

The disaster began at around 10.30am at a river near the city, which is around 90km from Tokyo and is famous as a hot spring resort.

A video posted on TikTok from the scene showed a huge slurry of mud and debris sliding slowly down a steep road and nearly engulfing a white car, which drove away before a faster and more violent torrent arrived.

In other clips on social media, the landslide was seen toppling electricity poles, with large areas left inundated by several waves of earth. — *AFP*

## Nepal gears for polls despite uncertainty

**sKathmandu, July 3:** Nepal's election commission is preparing for the mid-term elections in November despite the uncertainty over polls due to the pending petitions in the Supreme Court against the dissolution of the House of Representatives, according reports.

At the recommendation of Prime Minister K. P.

Sharma Oli, President Bidya Devi Bhandari dissolved the lower house for the second time in five months on May 22 and announced snap elections on November 12 and November 19.

Prime Minister Oli is currently heading a minority government after losing a trust vote in the 275-member House.

The constitutionality of the President's move is being heard at the Supreme Court, raising the question if the elections would be held on set dates. But the Election Commission of Nepal said that it would start to procure materials required for holding the polls next week after the Finance Ministry approved 7.72

Nepalese Rupees billion for holding the elections, The Kathmandu Post reported.

The ministry said it approved the budget for the commission to procure election materials and election management. This budget, however, does not cover the expenses for security arrangements for the polls. — *PTI*

## BREAKING | POINT

## Choice of footwear leads to accusations that women soldiers being sexualised

## Ukrainian women march in heels, spark row

**Kiev, July 3:** Ukrainian authorities found themselves buried in controversy on Friday after official pictures showed women soldiers practising for a parade in heels.

Ukraine is preparing to stage a military parade next month to mark 30 years of independence following the Soviet Union's breakup, and the defence ministry released photographs of fatigue-clad women soldiers marching in mid-heel black pumps. Today, for the first time, training takes place in heeled shoes," cadet Ivanna Medvid was quoted as saying by the defence ministry's information site Armiainform.

"It is slightly harder

than in army boots but we are trying," Ms Medvid added in comments released on Thursday.

The choice of footwear sparked a torrent of criticism on social media and in parliament, and led to accusations that women soldiers had been sexualised.

"The story of a parade in heels is a real disgrace," commentator Vitaly Portnikov said on Facebook, arguing that

some Ukrainian officials had a "medieval" mindset.

Another commentator, Maria Shapranova, accused the defence ministry of "sexism and misogyny." "High heels is a mockery of women imposed by the beauty industry," she fumed.

Several Ukrainian lawmakers close to Ukraine's former president Petro Poroshenko showed up in parliament with pairs of shoes and encouraged the defence minister to wear high heels to the parade.

"It is hard to imagine a more idiotic, harmful idea," said Inna Sovsun, a member of the Golos party, pointing to health risks.

She also said that

Ukraine's women soldiers — like men — were risking their lives and "do not deserve to be mocked".

Ukraine has been battling Russian-backed separatists in the country's industrial east, in a conflict that has killed more than 13,000 people since 2014. Olena Kondratyuk, deputy speaker of the legislature said authorities should publicly apologise for "humiliating" women and conduct an enquiry.

Ms Kondratyuk said that more than 13,500 women had fought in the current conflict.

More than 31,000 women now serve in the Ukrainian armed forces, including more than 4,000 of whom are officers. — *AFP*



## SHORT TAKES

## Smith may skip T20 World Cup

**Melbourne:** Recuperating from an elbow injury, star Australia batsman Steve Smith says Test cricket remains his top priority and he is ready to skip the T20 World Cup to be in the best shape for the Ashes series against England. The 32-year-old had withdrawn from the ongoing white-ball tour of the West Indies due to the elbow injury. "There's still a bit of time between now and (the World Cup), and I'm tracking okay at the moment — it's slow, but I'm going okay," Smith told *cricket.com.au* on Friday. The T20 World Cup was shifted from India due to the Covid-19 pandemic and will be held in the United Arab Emirates and Oman from October 17 to November 14, while the Ashes is schedule to begin on December 8 in Brisbane. — *PTI*

## Spinners keep India in the hunt

**Worcester:** India spinners took wickets at regular intervals to nullify a promising start by England as the tourists bundled out the hosts for 219 in the rain-curtailed third and final Women's ODI on Saturday. Looking for a consolation win, India invited England to bat under overcast conditions after the contest became a 47-overs per side affair but as has been the case in the series, the hosts largely remained untroubled. They were placed comfortably at 110 for two but their strategy to attack Indian spinners resulted in wickets falling in clutches with a middle-order collapse. Indian enjoyed early success when Shikha Pandey trapped opener Tammy Beaumont. **Brief scores:** England Women 219 in 47 overs (Nat Sciver 49, Heather Knight 46; Deepti Sharma 3/43) vs India.

## 2 Windies women collapse on field

**Antigua:** Two West Indies women cricketers — Chinelle Henry and Chedean Nation — collapsed briefly on the field in two separate incidents during the second T20 International against Pakistan here and taken to hospital where they were "stable", according to reports. Both the incidents happened during Pakistan's run chase, which also saw rain interruptions on Friday. ("Seam bowler" Chinelle Henry and (batter) Chedean Nation were taken to hospital for medical attention. Both Henry and Nation are conscious and stable at hospital and are being assessed," CWI said in a statement. West Indies brought on two substitutes and the game continued, with the home side eventually declared winners by seven runs on Duckworth-Lewis-Stern after another interruption. — *PTI*

## Ollie cleared, will play India series

**London:** England pacer Ollie Robinson was on Saturday cleared to play cricket again immediately after being deemed to have served his suspension following an investigation into his discriminatory tweets, thus making him eligible for selection for the five-Test series against India. "As regards the three matches which are the subject of immediate suspension, the Panel has taken into account the suspension imposed by the England Team from the second Test against New Zealand, together with two of the Vitality Blast T20 matches from which Robinson voluntarily withdrew himself from selection for Sussex CCC due to the impact of these proceedings. Robinson is therefore free to play cricket immediately," the ECB said in a statement. — *AFP*

## Verstappen takes pole in Austria

**Spielberg:** Relentless Max Verstappen clinched his third straight pole position with a commanding drive for Red Bull at the Austrian Grand Prix on Saturday, while Lewis Hamilton could only manage fourth place for flagging Mercedes. Lando Norris almost caught Verstappen placing just 0.05 seconds behind him. Max leads Hamilton 5-2 in poles this season and the pressure is on Hamilton now. — *AP*

## ITALIAN MARBLE

Rock-solid Azzurri prove too hard to crack for World No.1 Belgium

<b>Italy</b>	<b>2</b>
(Nicolò Barella 31, Lorenzo Insigne 44)	
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>1</b>
(Romelu Lukaku 45+2-p)	

**Munich, July 3:** A stunning strike by Lorenzo Insigne fired Italy into the semi-finals of Euro 2020 on Friday as a 2-1 win over Belgium sent them through to a last-four meeting with Spain.

Nicolò Barella struck the opening goal of the quarter-final in Munich before Insigne curled in Italy's second in an action-packed first half.

Belgium grabbed a lifeline just before the break when Romelu Lukaku converted a penalty, but Roberto Martinez's side ultimately fell short against a disciplined Italian defence.

"We scored two and we could have scored more," said Italy coach Roberto Mancini.

"I think the victory is fully deserved. Spain are next but the more you go forward the most difficult it becomes."

While Italy face Spain at Wembley on Tuesday, defeat means more European Championship quarter-final heartbreak for Belgium, who exited at the same stage in 2016 after defeat by Wales.

Belgium sorely missed their captain Eden Hazard, ruled out by a hamstring injury, even as Kevin De Bruyne won his race to shake off an ankle injury.

The Manchester City playmaker showed why the medical staff worked around the clock to get him fit by regularly causing Italy problems, but Romelu Lukaku twice was denied by Gianluigi Donnarumma.

"It was a miracle that I played, because there was definitely damage to my ankle," said De Bruyne.

"We tried everything to win that match.

"Getting eliminated is always a disappointment. Too bad I couldn't do more."



Italian players celebrate after defeating Belgium 2-1 in the Euro quarterfinal on Friday.

— Twitter

## SPINAZZOLA INJURED

Italy's win came at a cost, with left-back Leonardo Spinazzola out of the tournament with a leg injury.

"Leonardo had a great European championship. Now whoever replaces him will do the same," said Italy defender Leonardo Bonucci.

Italy had the ball in the net on 13 minutes when Bonucci chested it past Thibaut Courtois from a free-kick, but the goal was disallowed by VAR for an offside against captain Giorgio Chiellini.

Marco Verratti and Youri Tielemans both earned yellow cards for midfield tussles involving the pair. Verratti was booked for holding Tielemans in a tackle, while the Belgian picked up a yellow card moments later.

## Danish the menace as minnows stun Czechs

**Baku, July 3:** Denmark's fairytale run at Euro 2020 will continue into the semi-finals after they beat the Czech Republic 2-1 in Baku on Saturday to move into a last-four meeting with England or Ukraine at Wembley.

First-half goals from Thomas Delaney and Kasper Dolberg were enough to see Kasper Hjulmand's men through despite a second-half rally from the Czechs inspired by Patrik Schick's fifth goal of the tournament.

The Danes have now scored 10 goals in winning

## Denmark 2

(Thomas Delaney 5, Kasper Dolberg 42)

## Czech 1

(Patrik Schick 49)

European Championship despite not even qualifying.

Celebrations started within five minutes as Delaney was left completely unmarked to head home Jens Stryger Larsen's corner. Tomas Vaclik then had to deny Mikkel Damsgaard to prevent the Danes doubling their lead in a blistering start.

Denmark were always a threat on the break, though, and Vaclik had to stand up to parry another powerful drive by Damsgaard.

## SHAW SHOULD TAKE PLACE OF PUJARA: HOGG

**Sydney, July 3:** Former Australia spinner Brad Hogg feels young Prithvi Shaw is more suited for the number three spot in Test cricket and is the top candidate to step in place of Cheteshwar Pujara if India think of replacing the veteran India batsman in the series against England. "If anyone was going to replace Pujara it would be Prithvi Shaw. Feel he is more suited there than opening. Has a lot of talent and long future. He is not in the tour group but a wild card choice," Hogg tweeted.

Shaw is part of the national squad for the limited-overs series against Sri Lanka. — *PTI*

## Ranji back after a year break

**New Delhi, July 3:** The BCCI will conduct all its domestic tournaments across age-groups with the coveted Ranji Trophy, starting on November 16, being the marquee event among the 2127 matches scheduled for 2021-22 season.

Last season, the BCCI couldn't conduct any age-group tournament and was forced to cancel the Ranji Trophy due to Covid-19 pandemic.

However, a full-fledged domestic season will take place this year with Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 to begin from October 20 and the National One-Day Championship for Vijay Hazare Trophy being scheduled from February 23 next year.

"The season will com-

DOMESTIC CALENDAR	
Syed Mushtaq Ali T20	October 20 to November 12
Ranji Trophy 2021	November 16 to February 19
Vijay Hazare 2021	February 23 to March 26
Women's one-day	September 21 to October 22
Women's Challenger	October 27 to October 31
Women's T20	March 19 to April 11

mence on September 21, 2021, with the Senior Women's One Day League and will be followed by the Senior Women's One Day Challenger Trophy, which will take place from October 27, 2021," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a media release.

The final of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy will be played on November 12 this year. The coveted Ranji

Trophy will be played in a three-month window from November 16, 2021 to February 19, 2022.

The Vijay Hazare Trophy final will take place on March 26, 2022. "The BCCI is confident of hosting the domestic season with health and safety of players and all people involved being paramount," the statement further read.

The Ranji Trophy will

be played with two Elite groups comprising nine teams each and the C group and Plate will have 10 teams each.

It is expected that the top five teams as per points from the Elite groups will make it to the quarterfinals while two from group C and topper of Plate group completing the last eight line-up.

In case of Vijay Hazare Trophy, the groupings will remain same while Mushtaq Ali T20 will have five groups with two groups of seven teams and three groups of eight teams each respectively.

The BCCI will conduct Vinoo Mankad Trophy and U-19 Challengers Trophy in between September to November. — *PTI*

## Federer glides into Last 16

**London, July 3:** Roger Federer moved into the fourth round of a Grand Slam tournament for the 69th time on Saturday, overcoming a raucous home crowd and the last British man in the draw Cameron Norrie in the draw Cameron Norrie in an entertaining 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 win at Wimbledon.

Federer kept his dream alive of a record-extending ninth singles title.

Federer said this Wimbledon held special significance for him.

"I hope there is a little bit more left in me as this one is special for it is the last slam before I hit the big 40," said Federer, the third oldest man to reach the Last 16 in the Open era.

Zverev ended big-serving Taylor Fritz's impressive campaign — 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) — given he exited the French Open in a wheelchair due to a knee injury. The match of the day on the men's side was

Coco Gauff of the US celebrates after defeating Kaja Juvan of Slovenia in the third round on Saturday. — *AP*

a damp squib as fiery Aussie entertainer Nick Kyrgios retired with an abdominal injury tied at one set all with stylish Canadian 16th seed Felix Auger-Aliassime.

The maverick that is Kyrgios did not have the

best of starts as he had left his shoes in the locker room.

Coco Gauff and Angelique Kerber will meet in the last 16 after the American teenager breezed past Slovenian Kaja Juvan while the

## THE RESULTS

**Men's singles: Third round:** Roger Federer (SUI x6) bt Cameron Norrie (GBR) 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4; Alexander Zverev (GER x4) bt Taylor Fritz (USA x31) 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4); Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN x16) bt Nick Kyrgios (AUS) 2-6, 6-1 (retired); Lorenzo Sonego (ITA x23) bt James Duckworth (AUS) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

**Women singles: Third round:** Coco Gauff (USA x20) bt Kaja Juvan (SLO) 6-3, 6-3; Angelique Kerber (GER x25) bt Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR) 2-6, 6-0, 6-1; Barbora Krejickova (CZE x14) bt Anastasija Sevastova (LAT) 7-6 (7/1), 3-6, 7-5.

German had a tough three-setter against Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus.

Gauff is not the only teenager making her mark at Wimbledon this year. Britain's Canada-born 18-year-old Emma

Raducanu, who moved with her Romanian father and Chinese mother to England aged two, produced a brilliant display to beat the experienced Sorana Cirstea of Romania 6-3, 7-5.

## SANIA-BETHANIE BOW OUT

Indian star Sania Mirza and her American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands on Saturday bowed out of the women's doubles event at the Wimbledon Championships following a straight-set defeat.

Mirza, who has returned to grass court Grand Slam after three years, and Mattek-Sands lost 4-6 3-6 to the Russian pair of Elena Vesnina and Veronika Kudermetova in one hour and 28 minutes.

Mirza is still alive in the tournament as she will play in the mixed doubles second round with compatriot Rohan Bopanna.

— *Agencies*

## COPA | AMERICA

## 10-man Brazil ward off Chile

**Rio De Janeiro, July 3:** Lucas Paqueta's second-half strike was enough for defending champions Brazil to hold off determined Chile 1-0 on Friday and book a Copa America semi-final showdown with Peru.

Second-half substitute Paqueta made an instant impact, finding a gap in Chile's defense and firing into the back of the net in the 47th minute to put Brazil up 1-0.

Less than two minutes later, however, Brazil were reduced to 10 men when Gabriel Jesus's reckless high kick caught Eugenio Mena in the face and drew a straight red card.

Chile couldn't capitalise on the man advantage, no matter they how hard they tried.

Eduardo Vargas thought he'd grabbed the equalizer in the 62nd with a close-range shot, but VAR confirmed the offside call was correct.

In the 69th, Mena's cross from the left found Ben Brereton, whose looping header had Brazilian goalkeeper Ederson wrong-footed but caromed off the crossbar.

## RESULTS

<b>Brazil</b> (Lucas Paqueta 46)	<b>1</b>
<b>Chile</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Peru</b> (Gianluca Lapadula 21, 40, Yoshimar Yotún 80)	<b>3</b>
<b>Paraguay</b> (Gustavo Gómez 11, Júnior Alonso 54, Gabriel Avalos 90)	<b>3</b>

## PERU MOVE INTO SEMIS

Peru beat Paraguay 4-3 on penalties to punch their ticket to the Copa America semi-finals after the teams played to a 3-3 draw after an action-packed 90 minutes. Miguel Trauco scored the decisive penalty for Peru in a shoot-out that echoed the drama match with two shots over the crossbar and three saves.

Peruvian keeper Pedro Gallese set the stage for Trauco with his diving save of Alberto Espinola's attempt.

Paraguay captain Gustavo Gomez had opened the scoring in the 11th minute, but Gianluca Lapadula scored in the 21st and 40th to give Peru the lead.

— *AFP*

Brazil's Luis Paqueta (left) and Neymar celebrate after defeating Chile in the Copa America quarterfinal in Rio De Janeiro on Saturday.

— Twitter

## SPECIAL FLIGHT | TO TOKYO

## Team India to leave on July 14

**NEHA SURANA | DC CHENNAI, JULY 3**

Indian Olympic Association secretary Rajeev Mehta on Saturday said the first batch of the country's Olympic contingent will leave for Tokyo in an Air India chartered flight on July 14.

Mehta confirmed that they will undergo a four-day quarantine upon arrival in Japan. "As many as 115 athletes and some officials will leave on July 14. After the quarantine, we can move around in Tokyo," said Mehta during an online felicitation ceremony organised by Chennai-based Sunshine Senior Secondary School and Youthlink Foundation.

Mehta expects a minimum of 10 medals from Indian athletes in Tokyo.

## SHARATH LOOKS TO PULL OFF SURPRISE

Indian table tennis star Achanta Sharath Kamal said the Tokyo Olympics will spread the much-needed positivity across the world when the sporting spectacle begins on July 23

amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It is quite a difficult situation for all of us. There is uncertainty and a lot of negativity. I think sport is something which can bring out positivity and it is one of the most important reasons why the Olympics should happen. It's really good that they haven't cancelled the Olympics," said Sharath.

Along with the TT veteran, a host of Olympic-bound athletes such as G. Sathiyam, C.A. Bhavani Devi, Dutee Chand, Varun Thakkar, K.C. Ganapathy and Sajjan Prakash were also honoured.

Sharath, who will be competing in his fourth Games, has set his sights on surprising a few top-ranked players in Tokyo.

"There are a lot of good players out there to beat. But one team whom the world wants to defeat is China. Table tennis is completely dominated by them. Hopefully, this time I will be able to surprise a few top-seeded players. And, for that we have been training quite hard," he said.



Tokyo Olympics bound Handball Federation of India president Arishanapally Jagannathan Rao (centre) poses alongside athletes and coaches at the Olympic selfie point set up at the Gachibowli Athletics Stadium. The selfie point was installed as per the guidelines issued by the Union Sports Ministry and Sports Authority of India which launched the 'Cheer for India' campaign ahead of the Olympics to be held from July 23 to August 8. Also seen are Sports Authority of Telangana State coaches Nanda Gokul Yadav, Sudhakar, Chari and Srinivas.