

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | MONDAY | 17 AUGUST 2020

WEATHER

Max: 24.2°C
Min: 21.0°C
RH: 93%
Rainfall: 9.7 mm
Forecast: Cloudy sky. Rain or thundershowers likely.
Max/Min temp. 26/21 °C

COVID-19 COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+58,868)	(+945)
26,46,583	51,025
covid19india.org	

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,102)	(+9)
TS: 91,361	693
(+8,012)	(+88)
AP: 2,89,829	2,650

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

2,17,31,123	DEATHS
7,71,033	

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES 213 worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Shravana Bahula Trayodashi till 12.30 pm
Star: Punarvasu till 6.42 am, and then Pushyami
Variyam: 2.22 pm to 3.54 pm
Durmuhurtham: 12.46 pm to 1.36 pm and 3.17 pm to 4.07 pm
Rahukalam: 7.30 pm to 9 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR
Zulhijja 26,1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.56 am
Zohar: 12.30 pm
Asar: 4.46 pm
Magrib: 6.46 pm
Isha: 7.57 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.40 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.59 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 3.56 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 5.26 PM

COUNTER POINT



The retirement time was not good... all our photos have gone into the inside pages!

IN BRIEF

2 J&K districts get 4G internet
Srinagar: High-speed mobile Internet services were restored on a trial basis in one district each in Kashmir and Jammu regions over a year after the facility was suspended, according to an official order on Sunday. The resumption of 4G Internet services came days after the Centre had informed the Supreme Court that a committee was looking into the matter. According to the order issued by the J&K home department, the high-speed mobile data services will be restored in Ganderbal district of Kashmir and Udhampur of Jammu region with immediate effect.

Teenager raped, killed in UP

Lakhimpur Kheri/Lucknow: A 13-year-old girl was raped and strangled to death in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district, police said on Sunday. Two men have been arrested for the crime that took place on Friday. Police dismissed reports that the girl had sustained grievous injuries on her tongue and eyes in the incident, and said the post-mortem stated that the death was due to strangulation after rape. The incident drew strong opposition condemnation, with Congress and SP leaders attacking the Adityanath government over the law and order situation in the state.



WORLD | 8

If elected, will stand with India: Biden



SPORTS | 11

Hamilton wins Spanish Grand Prix

TABLOID

The legend who lead a simple life



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Vol. 83 No. 229 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

BJP controls Facebook in India: Rahul

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 16

The Congress on Sunday accused the BJP and the RSS of spreading "fake news and hatred" through Facebook and using the social media giant to influence voters.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi posted an article by a US media house *Wall Street Journal* which alleged social media manipulation by the BJP.

THE ARTICLE claimed that Facebook looks the other way in cases of hate speech and objectionable content from leaders and workers of the ruling BJP.

The BJP on its part was quick to point out the three-year old Cambridge Analytica data scandal and said the Congress should not point fingers.

Union information technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said: "Losers who cannot influence people even in their own party keep cribbing that the entire world is controlled by the BJP and the RSS. You were caught red-handed in alliance with Cambridge Analytica & Facebook to weaponise data before the elections & now have the gall to question us?"

BJP leader Kapil Mishra

also made the same point. It "seems Congress is blackmailing Facebook to hide some serious crimes..." Cambridge Analytica scam is just the tip of the iceberg of the Congress manipulating opinions and freedom of expression in India," he tweeted.

"The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology would certainly wish to hear from Facebook about these reports & what they propose to do about hate-speech in India," he tweeted.

Chetan Chauhan dies of Coronavirus

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 16

Chetan Chauhan, one of India's best known batsman and Uttar Pradesh minister, died of Covid-19 on Sunday. He is the second UP minister to succumb to the Coronavirus after technical education minister Kamla Rani Varun, 62, on August 2.

The 73-year-old former cricketer was a BJP MLA from Naugawan Sadat and was holding the portfolios of sainik welfare, home guards, PRD and civil security. Chauhan was the legendary Sunil Gavaskar's longest serving opening partner, and made 2,084 runs in 40 Tests but could never score a century.

Though reporting fewer cases in the initial days of

lockdown, Uttar Pradesh has seen a steady increase in the cases of Covid-19 after guest workers returned home. Now the country's largest populous state has fifth largest case-load after Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Meanwhile, India went past the 26-lakh mark with 57,376 cases reported on Sunday. The caseload stands at 26.45 lakh. Of this, 72 per cent or 19.15 lakh patients have recovered, while 6.78 lakh patients are being treated.

The country reported the death of 936 people in the last 24 hours, taking the toll to 51,021. The Covid related death rate is 1.93 per cent in India.

Page 11: Gavaskar pays tribute to batting partner

Page 9: India has dispatched equipment to Mauritius to help contain impact of oil spill

Page 11: Gavaskar pays tribute to batting partner



Authorities opened sluice gates of Hussainsagar on Sunday after water surpassed its full tank level of 513.41 feet.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

Rain throws state out of gear, officials say don't venture out

Three dead; tanks, rivulets overflow, roads inundated; more rain forecast

GHMC officials are unreachable

MADDY DEEKSHIT | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 16

youngsters stranded in floodwaters of a stream in Asifabad district and three youngsters stranded in Musi river in Suryapet district on Sunday.

Many villages were submerged with seasonal streams and rivulets overflowing on the roads and causeways. Major rivers were in spate forcing the water resources department to lift gates to discharge massive amounts of floodwater, resulting in the inundation of low-lying areas.

As many as 87 rain-dampened houses collapsed in Sangareddy. In Nalgonda district, over 50 irrigation tanks are overflowing. Five regulatory gates of the Musi project were lifted to 2.5 feet in view of the heavy inflows, at 11 am.

With the Musi river receiving continuous heavy flow, engineers have cautioned villagers along the river in Suryapet, Penapally, Kethepally, Vemulapally and Maudugulapally mandals to stay alert.

In Suryapet district, road connectivity between Arvelpally and Thungathurthy was disrupted due to overflowing of Rudramma Devi Cheruvu at Velugupalli. Traffic was forced to take alternative routes via Nagaram to reach Thungathurthy.

With the Godavari, Talipera and Kinnerasani in full spate, traffic was affected in between Palvoncha and Bhadrachalam. Earth Locals rescued three

FLOODWATERS REACH TEMPLE IN BHADRADRI

A. RAVINDRA SESU | DC
BHADRACHALAM, AUG. 1

NUMBERS TO DIAL IN EMERGENCY

Call centre:
040-21111111
DRF: 040-29555500
Dial: 100

corporation has not provided the right phone numbers of deputy commissioners and other staff.

The basic objective of the RTI Act is to empower citizens, promote transparency and accountability in working of government agencies, contain corruption, and make democracy work for people in the real sense. It goes without saying that an informed citizen is better equipped to keep the necessary vigil on instruments of governance and make the government more accountable to the governed.

Page 5: GHMC site has wrong phone numbers

caved in creating a large hole on the approach road to the bridge on Kinnerasani River at Pinakapatti Nagar in Burghampahad mandal in the district.

In Mulugu district hundreds of people were evacuated from villages on the banks of river Godavari.

Page 5: 12,000 minor tanks overflow in state

The flooding in the Godavari is the worst in six years. The water level at Bhadrachalam crossed 54 feet and officials on Sunday have sounded a third warning. The local administration has been directed to shift people in low-lying areas in Bhadrachalam and those on river banks to safer places. The water level expected to touch 58 feet by Monday morning.

Following heavy rains, the Godavari river water reached the steps of the Lord Rama temple in Bhadrachalam and Vista Complex, Nityannadana Satram and other areas.

It is the first time since 2014 that 14 lakh cusecs of water is flowing downstream.

Talipera and Sabari, tributaries of the Godavari, are overflowing and about three lakh cusecs of water is joining the Godavari from these two.

Officials have started evacuating people in low-lying villages like Dummuigudem and Charla mandals while those from Sunnambattu village in Dummuigudem were shifted to a flood relief camp.

SPANNER | IN WORKS Heavy rains cut off road connectivity to interior areas; affect Coronavirus tests

Floods likely to worsen Coronavirus cases in state

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 16

provided by the health department in its daily Covid-19 bulletins.

It is natural where ever there are floods, roads are cut off and access to villages is difficult, the tests will be fewer as healthcare personnel cannot reach such habitations, health minister Etala Rajendar told *Deccan Chronicle* on Sunday.

Asked how the government was bracing for a possible influx of Covid-19 patients with possible serious complications because of the flood-induced delays

RAIN-HIT

DISTRICTS WITH HEAVY RAINS SHOW A HUGE DROP IN TESTING

	Aug. 13	Aug. 14	Aug. 15
Jayashankar-Bhupalapalli	13	12	0
Kumrumbheem-Asifabad	17	12	3
Mulugu	12	13	8
Peddapalli	54	40	22
Warangal Rural	54	41	25
Warangal Urban	74	101	70
Mancherial	18	7	9
Bhadradri-Kothagudem	34	36	15

With road access cut off to habitations in several districts, particularly those comprising the former united Warangal, Adilabad, Khammam, and Karimangar with the overflowing of rivulets, streams and tanks, testing for Covid-19 is believed to have been hit in these areas.

The health department's daily Covid-19 bulletins do not provide district-wise daily testing numbers, though the respective district medical and health officers were releasing

daily testing and positive case figures earlier. This practice was ordered stopped by the health department in July.

The sudden loss of access to large numbers of people is also expected to impact the goal of 'early testing' and disease determination that, some doctors fear, could result in Covid-19 infected people being discovered after the disease sets in strongly that would clearly have an effect on their treatment duration and the chances of their survival.

GHMC ignores paid bills, power bills are wrong

On the street

Streetlights down since 3 months in Janakpuri

Streetlights in Janakpuri, Karkhana, behind Pratyausha School are not working for over three months. All mails and calls to the Secunderabad Cantonment Board helpline and messages are not responded to.

The SCB collects taxes even during the Covid-19 pandemic but cannot repair the streetlights. Maybe the authorities will wake up after seeing this complaint in Speak Out as they did regarding other complaints.

Veneysha Kumar
Janakpuri, Karkhana

Is payment of ₹400 for passport cover a must?

I had applied for passport renewal and booked my slot on August 3 and went to Counter A8 (Token No. 75, CSE: PSP21543) at the Passport Seva Kendra at Tolichowki. The officer verified my documents, took my fingerprint and demand an additional ₹450, ₹50 for the SMS alert and ₹400 for the passport cover. I agreed to pay for the SMS alert but not for the passport cover. She showed me the computer desktop and said I had clicked on the option for passport cover, whereas there is no such option in the online passport renewal.

I later booked two slots on August 6 for the passport renewal of my wife (Counter A13, Token N121, CSE: PSP21072) and for my son (Counter A2, Token N119, CSE: PSP21018). This time I did not ask for the SMS alert. But my son and wife were forced to pay ₹450 each. I request the passport officer at PSK Tolichowki whether payment of ₹400 for the passport cover is mandatory.

Mohd Zaheer
Ahmed
Masab Tank

₹300 service fee for renewal of licence too much

The government is collecting ₹300 as service fee and ₹200 for a smart card when one applies for a driver licence renewal. The service fee of ₹300 is equivalent to the licence fee collected, which is not justifiable, considering that persons have to shell out this money every five years. As regards the smart card, nowadays nearly everyone has a smartphone, and the RTA app has a provision to show the same in digital form.

The government is considering to give boost to digital methods but here we are forced to take the plastic card. The authorities must look into this aspect, as it will not only reduce the money collected for the driver licence renewal, but also reduce the dependence on plastic. Those who do not have smartphone can purchase the smart card.

Kumar Shastri
Ajay Enclave,
Moula Ali

Dena Bank withheld my ₹20K for no reason

I took a loan on my LIC policy and the amount was transferred into my Dena Bank account (number 0561xxxx2175), RP Road branch, on June 30. To my surprise, ₹20,000 was withheld by the bank. When I inquired with the bank, I did not get a satisfactory reply. When I asked again, he was very rude. He asked me to write a letter and he would say why the amount was withheld.

I submitted the letter but I did not get any satisfactory reply. He asked me once again to write a letter. I did so on July 17 but it was registered on July 22 (token number DEBW 200 7222 078 857). The complaint was closed on August 14 without any communication from the bank.

I just want to know why my ₹20,000 was withheld and so that I can pursue the matter further. I request Dena Bank to look into the issue. I took the loan to meet my expenses as I have incurred huge losses during the pandemic.

Mohammed Abdul
Jabbar
Ph: 98494 00773



Broken retaining wall turned into garbage dump

A retaining wall was broken to do some work but it has not been reconstructed since.

SCB must provide good asphalt road

I would like to request the Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) on behalf of Tadbund residents to protect us from the mosquito menace, stray dogs and unhygienic conditions in the lane adjacent to the Tadbund mosque. Adding to it, the road is in a horrible condition and no one can walk there when it rains. The authorities never taken the time to check the unlicensed units that are spoiling the road and government premises.

Because of this broken wall, the place has become garbage dump due to which we are fac-

ing problems. After many complaints there is no response from the officials.

Please help in constructing the wall.
Pavan Raghunudri
Secunderabad

No action taken on damaged drainage cover so far

We had complained about a damaged drainage a week back, first with the GHMC and then to the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board. The drainage condition is deteriorating by the day, but there is no response from the authorities.

When contacted on the phone number 155313, we were given contact details of one Damodar, Water Board manager, and Sanyasi Rao, deputy general manager. We shared the pictures of the area on WhatsApp with the officials.

It our humble request



kindly look into this matter on priority. This is the rainy season and this manhole is right in front of our door has caused big hole. If it rains, we will be facing more trouble with water entering the house.

Shaheda Khanam
Hyderabad

Water stagnates at HUDA colony

I am a resident of Road No. 8, HUDA Colony, Rambagh, Attapur, near the gurudwara. Since many years we are facing this issue of drain water stagnating in the area every alternate day.

Whenever drinking water is supplied, or there is a

little rainfall, the area is a total mess. We contributed some money and carried out some precautionary work but it has all gone in vain. I request the authorities to look into this problem.

Niroop Venkatesh
Rambagh, Attapur



Property tax problems

GHMC, I paid in cash after my cheque on property tax bounced

In 2013, I made a cheque payment for property tax (PTIN 1150503071) which bounced due to insufficient funds. I paid by cash within 30 days but as per the GHMC this payment is not reflecting in their system. The GHMC has started levied interest for 'non-payment' from 2014. The property tax history shows I have not cleared my dues and the payment history

shows I have made payment every year:

I have written letters to the GHMC four times since 2016, the last time on February 2020, but my issue remains unresolved. As on 2019-2020, as per the GHMC, I have to pay ₹8,731 with interest. I request the GHMC to correct its records.

P. Stephen Benlrod
Quethbullapur
Ph: 9998316585

Second PTIN allotted, request civic body to delete it at earliest

This grievance pertains to the second PTIN (1129964512) that has been wrongly allotted to my house, Flat 301, SM Royal, House No. 2-31/A/43, Taranagar. My PTIN is 1129964187 and property tax has been paid online up to March 31, 2021. I have represented the issue to the officials thrice since 2018. A writ-

ten representation as advised by officials was made which was acknowledged in the inward section of Circle 21, Chandanagar, West Zone, GHMC on December 19, 2019. I request the GHMC to delete the incorrect PTIN 1129964512.

Dharmendra Kumar
Gaddibukta
Taranagar

Dear Readers, We at Deccan Chronicle request you to kindly send all your complaints, issues, grievances, feedback and suggestions to our government and all its departments by writing to Speak Out, the voice of the people, to our email ID DCSpeakOut@gmail.com – Editor

BSNL landline not working since 20 days, fix it

My landline phone (040-24033454) has not been working since 20 days. I have lodged four complaints lodged from my mobile phone but in vain. For every complaint, a stock reply stating that my complaint was resolved appeared on my mobile. In fact, it has still not been resolved. No lineman came to my house

to repair my phone. It is still faulty. I don't know how many days or months the BSNL will take to restore my phone facility.

S.V.R.K. Mohan
Alakapuri, SRK Puram



Phone issues

Gave up connection, stop billing

I had sent a request to stop billing on my telephone. I have surrendered by FTTH telephone 29772542 in September and got an acknowledgement.

To my utter surprise

every month I am getting telephone bills. I request BSNL to take necessary action and stop billing me unnecessarily.

S. Prem Kumar
Airlines Colony, New Bowenpally

Drain and municipal woes

GHMC left behind debris after construction work at Neredmet

We residents of Mathurangar Colony, Road No. 4, Neredmet, would like to bring to the notice of the GHMC that a large quantity of damaged construction material and garbage has been left behind in front of the newly built GHMC community centre as the work is complete.

Syed Ahmed
Neredmet

ter is accumulating, forming a favourable breeding ground for mosquitoes. We sincerely request the GHMC through Speak Out to take action immediately and clean up the area. The GHMC should also inaugurate the community centre as the work is complete.

Syed Ahmed
Neredmet

Garbage dumped by residents at Sriramnagar gives off foul smell

Garbage is being incessantly dumped by residents at Sriramnagar, Yousufguda, and no one takes any care in keeping the place clean. Because of this, the air carries a foul smell.

The garbage is attracting rats, dogs and cats

which scatter the dirt around, and is also causing water to stagnate, where mosquitoes breed. I request the GHMC to immediately remove the garbage.

Syed Shamsuddin
Maghrabi
Hyderabad

Road not fixed after laying pipeline

We are residents of Owaisipura, Masab Tank, near the Chacha Nehru Park. We would like to bring to the kind notice to the authorities that two months ago the road beside Qizra Masjid, Owaisipura, was dug up to lay a pipeline.

The work has been completed but the authorities have not repaved the road. Because of the damaged road, driving vehicles or even walking has become very difficult. I request the authorities concerned to look into the issue and do the needful. I thank Deccan Chronicle for helping us in addressing our grievances.

Syed Ahmed
Owaisipura, Masab Tank
Secunderabad

There is a garbage dump in the Secunderabad AOC area, near the Stop'n'Go bakery, beside the Friends corner shop. People gather there for eating snacks, but feel uncomfortable due to the odour that comes out of the garbage dump.

The garbage is spoiling the cleanliness of the area.

The Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) should look into this and make arrangements for clearing it at the earliest otherwise it will lead to pollution.

Jakka Vijay
Kumar
Jyoti Colony,
Secunderabad

I am writing regarding the electricity department billing customers this month. Normally we get a bill for every 30/31 days but this month we got a bill for July for 41 days. This is an advantage to the electricity department and not to the customer as the slab rate increases the billing rate, thereby fleecing the customer.

The details are as follows: Meter No. 0242-0326; Billing date: July 2 to August 2, Bill 0240, dated August 12; ERO No 010, Sithaphalmandi, Area code 100505.

Sydney Kalangi
North Lalaguda

Electricity dept hands out bill for 41 days

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The details are as follows

Heavy rainfall, Covid-19 pose double trouble

Advocates in financial crisis amid pandemic

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, advocates are facing a lot of difficulties. Advocates depend on court work and we have lost our livelihood and have no income as the physical courts are not functioning. Three months ago, Chief Minister Chandrashekhar Rao announced a Covid-19 relief fund of ₹25 crore for advocates. Out of that, ₹15 crore was released and each advocate got ₹10,000 in May and June. The rest of the money has not been distributed. There is no assistance from the previous grant of ₹100 crores for the Advocates Welfare Fund. Some states have announced loans for advocates and taking welfare measures. The government must take welfare steps for advocates and release financial assistance immediately.

B. Krishna
Advocate

Banks penalising a/c holders over minimum balance

Despite of the ongoing situation, banks are ready to charge their fine for account-holders not maintaining their minimum account balance. A lot of people have lost their job. Few people can meet the minimum account requirements because of low income. Charging of a penalty at this time is an additional burden. The banks should reconsider.

Jerin George
Hyderabad

Plea for financial aid to private school teachers

Due to the pandemic, schools have remained shut. No private school management is in a position to pay salaries to teachers. We have seen reports of teachers working in petty jobs, selling vegetables and fruits on the roadside. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the state government and the Centre to financially help private school teachers.

S.M. Arif Hussain
Musheerabad



Stray cattle pose risk to motorists at Nimboliadda

The stray cattle at Nimboliadda in Kacheguda is posing grave danger to com-

muters. The cattle is always found sitting on the road during the day, when there is traffic. I request the authorities concerned to kindly look into this issue, before a major accident takes place, as this

road leads to the railway station.

Abel James
Kacheguda

Raze encroachments and widen road from Nampally to Bazarghat

Ten years ago, the GHMC served notices for demolition for a building and acquisition of properties for road widening. Ninety per cent of shops and footpaths have been dismantled for road widening from Nampally to Bazarghat road. But at the main spot on the

Nampally crossroads opposite the dargah, some structures are still standing. We request the MLA and the police to instruct the GHMC to remove the encroachments, demolish the dilapidated structure and widen the roads.

Majid Khan
Nampally

Free left turn to Kacheguda rail station is blocked by motorists

At the Tourist Hotel acrossroads near Barkatpura, there is no space left by motorists for those taking the free left turn to proceed to Kacheguda railway station and Chaderghat. Vehicles going towards Lingampally crossroads occupy the lane meant for

the left turn. It is very difficult for those who wants to go to the Kacheguda station. My request made earlier to the traffic police and the local MLA to fix the problem have gone in vain.

B. Ramarao
Nimboliadda,
Kacheguda

Speed-breakers needed at Langer Houz flyover

Speed-breakers are urgently needed on both sides of the road on the Langer Houz flyover. As vehicles descend from the flyover near the Langer Houz dargah, there is

risk of them colliding with vehicles coming from Pension Pura. On the other end, motorists entering the flyover before the Zeeshan Hotel are also facing difficulties due to the

crowding at the spot and traffic on the road. Speed-breakers are needed to control the speed of vehicles.

Dastagir Nawaz
Pension Pura, Langer Houz



Damaged roads at Pragathi Nagar in Kukatpally pose grave danger to motorists.

— P. SURENDRA

Traffic issues

Instal barricade for free traffic flow at Vidyanagar Y-junction

There are always traffic jams at Hindi Mahavidyalaya crossroads and Vidyanagar Y-junction. There is no barricades to demarcate the left turn towards RTC crossroads, and towards Adikmet. Motorists who intend to travel straight occupy every inch of the

road at the signal, blocking those who want to take a left turn. The traffic police personnel are of no help. My complaints to the traffic police and the local MLA to install a barricade at those points have gone in vain.

K. Ramesh
Vidyanagar, Hyderabad

Covid troubles
GHMC, let us strengthen lungs, open the parks

Covid-19 is related to Clungs and the fresh air we breathe in the mornings in gardens and parks is a good source of health. Doing yoga, prayanam, jogging and meditation are best in the morning. I request the GHMC to open gardens and parks in the morning between 5 and 9 am. The public is aware of all precautions to take against Covid-19.

K. Sayani
Hyderabad

Publise Covid care facilities for residents

No government or Secunderabad Cantonment Board team has visited residential colonies like Madhupala Enclave and ICRISAT Colony in Ward 6 of SCB where cases of Covid-19 have been reported. No doctor has screened other residents of these colonies. Most of the patients are in isolation at home. In the absence of government guidelines to residents on to whom to contact in case of Covid-19, people are rushing to private hospitals. The residents are unaware as to were to proceed for testing and hospitalisation if needed. The government must publicise this information.

V. Ravinder Reddy
Madhupala Enclave

Metro work is done, end traffic redirection at RTC crossroads

Traffic at RTC crossroads was re-directed to facilitate construction of the Metro Rail line. The work has since been completed and the Metro Rail line has become operational. For reasons best known to them, the traffic police has not restored status quo, thus putting road-users to a lot of trou-

ble in terms of wasted fuel and time. To go from Indira Park to VST, one has to travel up to BSNL and take a U-turn, which is about 1.5 km. I request the Traffic DCP concerned or the police commissioner to look into this as soon as possible.

K. Gopal Rao
Gagan Mahal Colony

Open SCB roads, KTR tells Rajnath

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 16

Minister K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday wrote to defence minister Rajnath Singh seeking his immediate intervention in the matter of closure of roads in the Secunderabad Cantonment.

"I feel compelled to bring to your kind notice the plight of more than a couple of million citizens living in the north and northeastern parts of Hyderabad on account of frequent road blockades, often without any justifiable reason, by the Local Military Authority (LMA) of the Secunderabad Cantonment."

He requested the defence minister to instruct the LMA not to close roads without following the standard procedure and without having authorisation from the Secunderabad Cantonment Board.

The minister stated that the LMA had, without following protocol, shut down four important roads - Allahabad Gate, Gough Road, Wellington Road and Ordinance Road — for 10 days in July 2020 citing a surge in Covid-19 cases.

Lakhs of commuters from localities like Yaprak, Kowkur, Bolaram and Trimulgherry faced hardships.

"It was illogical to try to stop the spread of the pandemic by closing public roads. Residents were forced to take long detours at a time when public transport is not available. One can also imagine the tremendous tragedies that can occur during medical emergencies if such road blockades are allowed."

Rama Rao wrote.

POINTS RAISED BY MINISTER

- Over 10 lakh citizens are affected on a daily basis.
- Most of these roads lie in a narrow strip of land which extends approximately 10 km in the north-south direction along the Rajiv Rahadari. Closure of these roads would cut-off the northeastern from the arterial road, which is the main access to the rest of the city.
- All roads were open to the public since their inception, some of them more than 100 years old

**KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Undertaking)**

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender Notice No.: KR-CO-SG-TENDER-03-2020 Dt. 17/08/2020
Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer invites E-Tender bids, (Two Packet Open Tender System) from Eligible and Experienced Contractors:

Tender constitutes the following works -

- Supply, Laying, Testing and Commissioning of 24 Fibre Armoured OF Cable, 6-Quad Jelly Filled Cable and 20 Pair Jelled Telecom Cable for KRCL of about 35 Km. in Mid Sections of KRCL route (of 740 Kms) i.e. Roha to Thokur at Tenderers own cost.
- In consideration of above (1), Laying / Blowing / Pulling of Tenderers own 24/48 Fibre Armoured OFC Cable along the 740 Kms. Stretch of KRCL. This 740 Kms. includes Blowing of Tenderer's 24/48 Fibre Cable (not more than 12 mm in dia) in the existing 40 mm DUCT carrying the 24 Fibre OF Cable laid by KRCL in Station areas of about 400 Kms. and the 350 Kms. being executed by Tenderer at his own cost as in (1) above.
- Payment of Way Leave / O&M charges etc., to KRCL by Tenderer towards the maintenance of 740 kms. of Tenderers 24/48 Fibre Armoured OFC by KRCL for 20 years.

Last Date & Time for Submission of Bids : 17/09/2020 up to 16:00 hrs.
Estimated Cost of Work : ₹ 67.86 Crore (Excluding GST).
For further details please visit : www.ireps.gov.in

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
DIRECTORATE OF PURCHASE & STORES
NRB PURCHASE & STORES UNIT (NRBPSU)**

E-TENDER NOTICE

NRBPSU invites ONLINE tenders for the supply of items mentioned below as per the tender notice given in our E-Tender portal <https://tenders.dpsdae.gov.in>. The suppliers need to get enrolled in the E-Tender portal and only online tenders will be accepted. However, EMD in the form of DD, drawn in favour of PAY & ACCOUNTS OFFICER, NRB, MUMBAI should be sent by post to our Mumbai Office, so as to reach us by the tender opening date. No paper quotation will be accepted.

Sr. No. Tender Number Tender Name Last Date of Uploading the tender Opening Date of the tender

Sr. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Revised due date	
1	DPS/NRBPSU/03/N1/272-TPT	Rsw Assembly	06/10/2020	06/10/2020

CORRIGENDUM OF TENDER NO.DPS/NRBPSU/12/N1/230-TPT

The Due Date for ONLINE sub missionning tender is extended as follows:

Sr. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Revised due date	
1	DPS/NRBPSU/12/N1/230-TPT	Bottom End Plugs And Top End Plugs	06/10/2020	06/10/2020

Details of EMD, Pre-Bid Meeting (if applicable) are given on the above portal. Bidders shall ensure that, minutes of pre-bid meeting and / or corrigendum if any uploaded on the E-Tender portal would be viewed / verified for any modification before uploading their offer.

For details on Bid Preparation, please see the user manual in the portal. For technical assistance please contact help desk 020-25315555 or e-mail: support.dpsdae@nextenders.com Website: tenders.dpsdae.gov.in

Part II opening date in the tender will be intimated after evaluation of part-I to only those bidders who have been technically selected. Date of pre-bid meeting if any, is given the tender.

The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.

Regional Director, (NRBPSU)

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Shanti Guaranteed

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* For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read the sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

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LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Zindagi ke saath bhi, Zindagi ke baad bhi.

LIC/Apr/19/2008/ENG

IN BRIEF
Inter e-classes postponed

Hyderabad: Heavy continuous rains in the state played spoilsport for the start of digital classes. The Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education announced that the inauguration of digital classes for intermediate students by education minister Sabitha Indra Reddy was postponed. The board had proposed to start digital classes for intermediate students through Doordarshan and T-SAT from August 17. The next date will be intimated shortly, said and official communication released by the board.

Governor's plea to Red Cross Society

Hyderabad: Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Sunday appealed to Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) units and Red Cross volunteers to participate in the relief and rehabilitation services in the flood-hit areas of the state. Expressing anguish over the heavy rains and flooding in different districts, the Governor said the safety of every citizen is of prime concern. She lauded the rescue and relief operations, including those by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). She appealed to the people to take all necessary measures to avoid any risk.

2 held for selling spurious seeds

Hyderabad: N. Venkanna, 32, and V. Ashok, 32, of Hayathnagar were booked under the Preventive Detention Act by Rachakonda police on Sunday for allegedly selling spurious seeds to farmers in Nalgonda district and lodged at the Cherlapally jail. Venkanna owns a godown at Brahmanapally in Abdullapurmet where spurious seeds suppliers operated from. They were arrested in June.

Woman techie dies by suicide

Hyderabad: A 37-year-old woman techie died by suicide at her flat in Narsangi. She is survived by her husband and her son. Police said she left behind a note saying that she had contracted Covid-19 and that no one should touch her body. According to Narsangi police, the victim, Shilpa Gopi Reddy, 37, a senior software consultant with an MNC, was a resident of an apartment at Alkapuri Township in Narsangi. Her husband found her body at about 9.30 am and called the police. "Prima facie, it appears that the woman was worried about contracting Covid-19. It is not yet clear if she underwent a test, as we could not recover the test results," said Narsangi inspector M. Gangadhar. He said the family had gone to sleep in the same room, and her body was found in another room.

GIRL ALLEGEDLY SET ABLAZE BY PARENTS

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. IDC HYDERABAD, AUG. 16

A 17-year-old girl was allegedly set ablaze by her parents following an argument over her alleged relationship with a boy from another caste in the neighbourhood at Shadnagar. The girl and her mother, who also suffered burns, are battling for life at Osmania General Hospital.

The girl suffered about 90 per cent burns and her mother 50 per cent burns. The incident took place at Mogaligidda in Faroognagar Mandal under Shadnagar police station limits on Saturday evening.

According to Shadnagar inspector A. Sreedhar Kumar, the parents opposed the marriage of the girl as she was a minor.

On Saturday evening, a heated argument took place between the girl and her mother. Her father, who was observing them from another room, picked up a bottle of kerosene and poured it on the girl.

Some kerosene also fell on the mother, who lit a matchstick and threw it on her daughter.

The woman and her daughter were taken to a local hospital for treatment and later shifted to the OGH.

The inspector said that based on the statement given by the victim, a case of attempt to murder has been registered against her parents.

CJ visits Bhagyalakshmi temple



Telangana High Court Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and his wife Rekha Chauhan offer prayers at the Bhagyalakshmi temple, Charminar, on Sunday. — P. SURENDRA

Teachers angry with JNTU hire, fire policy

Appoint teachers for 6 months, univ tells colleges

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 16

Already groping in the dark over issues like terminations and non-payment of salaries, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTUH) has now drawn further flak from the teaching community in the state after it released a circular on Friday.

The latest JNTUH circular allows affiliated colleges to appoint ad-hoc or temporary faculty members for a period of six months. This was a decision taken after receiving requests from colleges to grant permission for recruiting faculty members. Given the situation, JNTUH has asked colleges to ensure that faculty members are retained for at least one academic semester to ensure smooth and effective academic activ-

ity. It further added that several colleges have not provided information about non-availability of faculty members, or appointment of faculty on temporary basis, which are in violation of 'affiliation' regulations in vogue with respect to faculty selections. Colleges have been directed to intimate the University about faculty vacancies in order to avoid complications during the issue of affiliation letters. Faculty appointments that are not cleared by the selection committees constituted with university nominees would be deemed invalid.

However, paving the way for colleges to appoint faculty members, it said that the university will notify "the selection process based on the number of requests received from the colleges." But, "if

the university is unable to notify about the faculty selections and the colleges are willing to fill any of the faculty vacant positions with eligible candidates, the list shall be intimated to the university," it said.

It further added that if colleges issue appointment letters, then, they have to mention such appointments are 'purely temporary and on ad-hoc basis' and the candidature is valid only after they are approved by a selection panel constituted by the varsity.

These directions have been received unfavourably by the teaching community that argues that it will subject them to the 'hire and fire' policy affecting job security. Telangana State Technical Colleges Employees Association's State President, Dr A Santhosh Kumar said, "The university

did not take any social responsibility when it came to matters like colleges charging webinar fees from the faculty that are already suffering from financial issues due to non-payment of salaries, or in matters like undue termination of teachers during lockdown."

He also contradicted the university's claims that colleges were not providing information about faculty appointments saying if this was the situation, why were affiliations being given to such colleges in the first place.

He further added, "The condition to mention that appointments were being made on an ad-hoc or temporary basis makes it look like teachers are part of the government sector." Teachers are now demanding that JNTUH withdraw the circular immediately.

ONUS ON CMO FOR CORRUPTION IN GOVT: BJP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 16

State Congress president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Sunday announced that the Congress would wage a legal battle against the demolition of two mosques and a temple in the Secretariat by the TRS government. He announced that the Congress would organise protests across the state against the demolition.

He was speaking to mediapersons after chairing a meeting at Indira Bhavan, in Gandhi Bhawan premises, with senior leaders to discuss the demolition of places of worship and preparations for the GHMC elections.

The meeting was attended by Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader Bhatti Vikramarka, working president A. Revanth Reddy, former minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) vice-president Zafar Jaweed, TPCC minorities cell chairman Shaik Abdullah Sohail, Nampally incharge Feroz Khan and others.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had hurt the religious sentiments by ordering the demolition of the three shrines.

Alleging that the Chief Minister had "lied" to the people on the issue, he said two days after the demolition, on July 10, the Chief Minister had issued a statement claiming that some damage was caused to the places of worship when debris of other structures fell on them.

A few days later, the government filed an

affidavit in the High Court stating that all the places of worship had been razed, the TPCC president claimed. He said the Congress would file a criminal complaint against those involved in, and responsible for, the demolition.

He questioned MIM leaders Asaduddin Owaisi and Akbaruddin Owaisi for their silence on the issue. "Owaisi brothers often speak about Babri Masjid which is thousands of kilometres away. But they are supporting KCR on the demolition of two mosques in Hyderabad. Their stand has exposed their true colours," Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

He slammed Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy for his silence. "Kishan Reddy is not talking about the illegal demolition of the temple by

the TRS government although it falls in his own Parliamentary constituency. The incident has exposed that the TRS, MIM and the BJP are allies.

On the GHMC elections, the TPCC chief asked the party cadre to start working on electoral rolls by helping the people enrol their names or correct data in the voters list.

He demanded that the State Election Commission undertake delimitation of wards so that all divisions have almost the same number of voters.

Uttam Kumar Reddy asked the party MPs, MLAs and all those who contested the Assembly elections to take up revamping the party structure in Greater Hyderabad, Warangal and Khammam which would face municipal elections soon.

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The inspector said that based on the statement given by the victim, a case of attempt to murder has been registered against her parents.

A few days later, the government filed an

1,102 fresh Covid-19 cases, 1,930 patients discharged

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 16

Significantly more number of Covid-19 patients were discharged than new cases of the disease that were found in the state on Saturday. Against 1,102 new cases, the number of people who were under treatment and discharged was 1,930, the health department said in its Covid-19 bulletin on Sunday.

The department said the state saw nine more people losing their lives to the

ease, taking the toll to 693, and inching towards the 700 mark.

While 234 new cases were found in the GHMC limits, the next highest number of cases, 101, was reported from Karimnagar; followed by 81 in Ranga Reddy, 70 in Warangal Urban, and 66 in Sangareddy district. Medchal-Malkajgiri district which saw more than 150 cases over the past two days, recorded 63 cases.

The department said there were 22,542 Covid-19 patients who remained as 'active' cases of whom 15,502 were in home isolation.

12th DAY CEREMONY

DOB: 08-08-1946 DOD: 06-08-2020

LATE KUCHUKULLA LAKSHMA REDDY
Gangaram Village, Bijipally Mandal, Nagarkurnool District.
"We live your memories and Grow with your blessings"

Inserted by:
Wife: Kuchukulla Hemalatha, Mother: Kuchukulla Lakshamma
Son: Kuchukulla Suhasan Reddy - Daughter-in-law: Kuchukulla Soumya
Daughter: Deva Sravanti - Son-in-law: Deva Manoj Reddy
Grand Children : Deva Sahasra, Deva Sruthi Reddy,
Kuchukulla Hayan Reddy & Family Members.

Ceremony on 17-08-2020 at Bagh Amberpet, Hyderabad. Ph: 9866535550

9th DAY CEREMONY ON 17-08-2020

DOB: 01-03-1950 D.O.B: 08-08-2020
"Your sweet memories will remain in our hearts forever"

Inserted by:
Sri. SARASAM SHIVA REDDY
Smt. SARASAM LAVANYA REDDY
Grans Son : SARASAM VAMSIDHAR REDDY
Grand Daughter : SARASAM TEJASWINI REDDY
NARAYANGUDA, HYDERABAD

5th Death Anniversary

Yundluri Raj Gopal Singh (IAS Retd)
DOB: 27.9.1939 DOD: 17.8.2015
Your loving presence and support will always be with us.

Inserted by:
Y. Balaji Balaji Singh
Y. Sudhakar Singh
Y. Subna Singh
SR Prefabs Modular Clean Room (P) Ltd.
Ph: 9000114411/9840840581

2nd Death Anniversary

In loving memory of Dr. Shri Gopal Krishna Doma
Retd. Chief Engineer
DOB: 05.03.1933 - DOD: 17.08.2018
Deeply Missed & Loved by DOMA FAMILY
Trivedi and Sai, Mob.: 8686033299

1st Death Anniversary

DOB: 17-08-1934
Promoted to Glory 08-12-2017
You are always with us.
Your testimonies, are alive.
Inserted by:
Husband: Mr Vattiprolu Immanuel & Family Members
Cell No. 9849199683, 9542968094

19th ANNIVERSARY

DOB: 17.08.2001
They say that time is a healer, but as time goes on, we seem to find it just hard to let go of the ones we love.
Today is the day that you went away and for a time. It felt as though our lives had ended too, but your absence has taught us many things and now we face each day with hope and happy memories to help us on our way.

Inserted by :
Sri. KOTHWAL HARI KRISHNA REDDY
Smt. KOTHWAL JAYA LAXMI REDDY
Grand Daughter : KOTHWAL RITHIKA REDDY
Grans Son : KOTHWAL RUTHVIK REDDY

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

4-May-1952 – 16-Aug-2019
"Time flies by, but you remain in our hearts forever."

Inserted by:
Family & Friends

9th DAY CEREMONY ON 17-08-2020

In Loving Memory of Late Smt. Kothwali Lakshmi Garu
D.O.B: 01-03-1950 - D.O.B: 08-08-2020
"Your sweet memories will remain in our hearts forever"

Inserted by:
Sri. & Smt. Kothwali Lakshmi Garu - Jyoti
Sri. & Smt. Kothwali Lakshmi Garu - Preethi
Sri. & Smt. Kothwali Lakshmi Garu - Krithi
Sri. & Smt. Sarasam Shiva Reddy - Lavanya (Daughter & Son in law)
Grand Sons and Grand Daughters
1-3-1960 - 9-8-2020
At our Residence - KJR Complex IDA Bollaram

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY IN LOVING MEMORY OF
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.
Psalm 112:6

DOB: 21.08.1945 D.O.B: 17.08.2019
The gift of God is eternal life through our lord Jesus Christ. Romans 6:23
Inserted by: Wife, Children & Grand Children

HOTEL SRI DURGA BHAVAN Hyderabad

Dr Andolu Balakrishna (age 69 yrs) passed away on Aug 8, 2020.
10th day ceremony is on Monday Aug 17 2020.
Deeply mourned by wife, A Chandrakala, Mother, Daughters and Sons in law, brothers and sisters in law and grand children
RSVP: 9392440051

ANDHRA PRADESH

5 persons stuck in Munneru stream

Vijayawada: Five persons, including three farmers, stuck in the overflowing Munneru stream in Krishna district were rescued by NDRF on Sunday. The stream was in spate following incessant rains and the farmers, who went to their fields, got stuck in the flood-waters near Pallangiri in Nandigama mandal. Revenue officials pressed NDRF into action and they rescued the three using life-boats. The farmers P. Nagaraju, P. Bhanu and T. Syam went to their mango orchards at Pallangiri in the early hours on Sunday. But the Munneru stream started swelling and inundated the farmlands leaving them stranded. They informed their relatives through mobile phones. When the locals went to rescue them, even they were struck in the flood-waters. They immediately informed about their condition to revenue and police officials who further alerted NDRF personnel.

GODAVARI RISING, THIRD FLOOD WARNING ISSUED

VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC
KAKINADA, AUG. 16

The flood levels in Godavari are ringing alarm bells as a third warning was sounded at Bhadrachalam after the waters touched above 55 feet on Sunday.

According to Irrigation officials, by 8 pm on Sunday, around 15.50 lakh cusecs of water was discharged into the sea by lifting 175 gates at Dowleswaram.

Sources state that the government has deployed three NDRF teams to launch rescue operations and people from the district have been cautioned about the floods.

The waters are flowing above six feet at Polavaram project main road following which Patha Polavaram villagers have been asked to shift to safer places. In Devipatnam mandal, where water has levels over 10 feet above the roads, a majority of those staying in Devipatnam and Thoyeeroor villages have moved to safer places. The Ganti Posamma village is inundated and the waters entered Ganti Posamma temple. In Konaseema area, there was river erosion in some villages.

BC Welfare Minister Ch. Srinivasa Venugopalakrishna visited some villages like Kotipalli, Kulla and others in Ramachandrapuram constituency and instructed the officials to take up flood assistance works immediately.

Social Welfare Minister Pinepe Viswaroop cautioned the people about the floods and directed officials to take all necessary disaster management steps.

It is said that the situation is as bad as the 1986 floods, which are the most damaging ones experienced by Godavari district people.

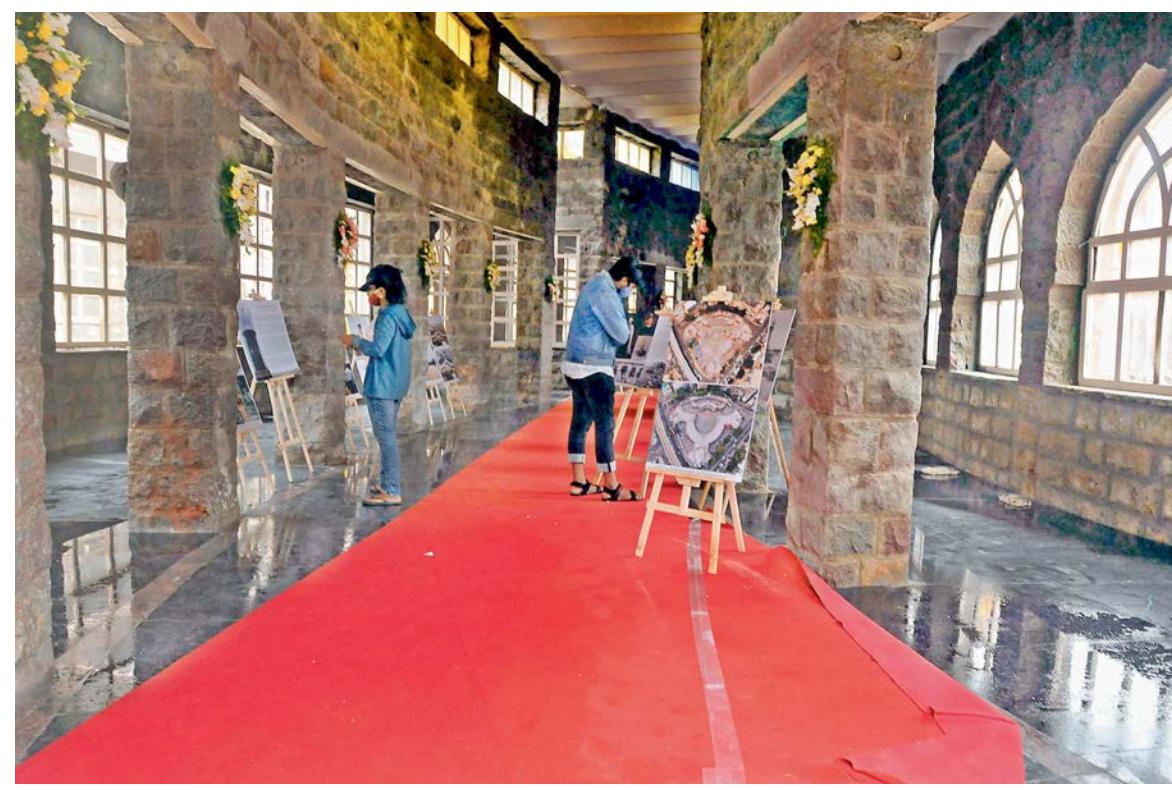
SRISAILAM GETS LITTLE INFLOWS, MORE EXPECTED

D. SIVA RAMI REDDI | DC
KURNOOL, AUG. 16

Despite heavy rains in the upper reaches of Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers, the inflows in Srisailam reservoir are far less when compared to the corresponding period of last year.

As against 197.4617 TMC ft of storage water that prevailed on August 15 if last year, the reservoir has now only 135.9418 TMC ft of water. There is a gap of 61.5199 TMC ft of water causing concern among farmers, who are dependent on Srisailam waters. An irrigation officer said they were expecting a good flood flow in the next two weeks as rainfall was more than the normal average for August in the upper reaches of Krishna River. He said it was similarly high in Tungabhadra basin. He was optimistic that Tungabhadra River would carry more water into Srisailam in the next couple of weeks. So far the inflows from Tungabhadra are not satisfactory. Only the Handri River contributed nearly 40 TMC ft of water due to flash floods.

This June saw the district having an average rainfall of 148.8 mm and for July it has received 260.7mm against the normal rainfall of 117.2mm while up to August 14, the district has registered 80.1mm. In the previous year, the district had registered only 60.9mm for June, 73.8mm for July and 142mm for August.



Days after the state government reopened the Moazzam Jahi market after completing restoration works, water has started seeping through the roof.
— P. SURENDRA

As Covid refuses to end, couples decide to say yes

**SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC**
HYDERABAD, AUG. 16

With no signs of Covid-19 vaccine anywhere in sight, those who had earlier postponed their weddings due to the pandemic are now entering wedlock.

Earlier, many families had postponed scheduled weddings due to fear of Coronavirus and restrictions on the number of invitees for weddings. However, with no signs of improvement in the pandemic situation and the auspices "Sravana Masam" ending on Tuesday, couples have now decided to say "yes" to their wedlock. More so because there are no auspicious dates available for weddings till December.

Supriya and Lalith Kumar celebrated their wedding with a few invitees at Sai Baba temple in the city while following all Covid-19 protocols. "Since she is the only daughter of my parents, we wanted to make it a big event by inviting all our relatives and friends. But the virus has shown no signs of abating. As such, we have gone ahead with the wedding," said Rishi Kumar Malkam, brother of the bride. Sravanam started on July 21 and will end this Tuesday. The season is considered very favourable for weddings.

MA&UD principal secretary Arvind Kumar, who claimed to adopt the structure replied, "There have been non-stop incessant rains for the last few days and I guess curing for some of the parts is still not 100%. Will take it up with the team to ensure these are attended to immediately once there's a dry spell (sic)."

MA&UD principal secretary Arvind Kumar, who claimed to adopt the structure replied, "There have been non-stop incessant rains for the last few days and I guess curing for some of the parts is still not 100%. Will take it up with the team to ensure these are attended to immediately once there's a dry spell (sic)."

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DECCAN Chronicle

17 AUGUST 2020

Bhushan ruling: Court in contempt of justice

The Supreme Court of India is perfectly justified when it says the judiciary is considered "the last hope when a citizen fails to get justice anywhere" but its decision to punish one who doubted its ability to deliver justice is problematic. The court's observation on its own role in the democratic scheme of things came on Friday along with its finding that lawyer and activist Prashant Bhushan is guilty of criminal contempt of the court for his two tweets that were critical of it.

One of Mr Bhushan's tweets suggested that access to justice was denied during lockdown, and he seemingly attributed the reason to the Chief Justice of India (CJI). In another tweet, he held the Supreme Court, and the last four CJIs in particular, responsible for "the weakening of democracy" in India in the last six years. Those who wonder why a lawyer should hold the judiciary responsible for the denial of access to justice and weakening of democracy may find their answers in the 108-page judgment itself. "The Indian judiciary is not only one of pillars on which the Indian democracy stands but is the central pillar," insists the judgment. Is it not then fair that a citizen, who feels the structure of democracy is weakened, holds the institution which arrogates to itself the role of the central pillar, responsible? Isn't he entitled to hold the view that the CJIs, as masters of the roster, have a role in it? The court does not share the view, obviously.

One must stand with the court when it says "the Supreme Court is a protector of the fundamental rights of the citizens, as also is endowed with a duty to keep the other pillars of democracy i.e. the executive and the legislature, within the constitutional bounds". But has it come to the aid of the people and protected their fundamental rights when it was warranted the most is the moot question. Some of the recent events are not particularly encouraging. We have the SC putting off for months together the hearing on the habeas corpus petitions, a constitutional guarantee against the State's unauthorised usurpation of people's liberties, moved by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It initially refused to act when its intervention was sought to bring relief to the millions of guest workers who were forced to trek home following a governmentmissive. It is yet to hear petitions against the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, which many fear undermined the very idea of India. The highest court shocked many when it put preconditions to hear the students of a university who sought protection from governmental action. It will be a far-fetched claim if someone says such acts added to the dignity of the court and strengthened the people's belief in the system; the contrary could very well be the truth. Believers in democracy could air their desperation publicly; little purpose will be served by shooting the messengers.

Dhoni made winning a habit

Mahendra Singh Dhoni is a sui generis. Coming as he did from a town in the hinterland and his first job as a railway ticket examiner, his background seemed all wrong and he was run out without scoring on his international debut. As he evolved from a gawky youth with long hair into a suave national icon he also transformed Indian cricket — on the field with his instinctive dynamism and in the selection committee room where he backed the men he saw as match winners.

Leading a bunch of young players, he stunned the world in the T20 World Cup in a format that was thought to be unsuitable for the laid-back temperament of Indian cricketers. Like Kapil's Devils did in the 1983 World Cup final at Lord's, Dhoni's young guns had shown an ability to seize the moment. Indian cricket was a financial powerhouse by then but with few trophies in its cupboard. Dhoni changed that by bringing in his winning ways, leading from the front as one of the best finishers in the game and the safest catcher and alert stumper.

Soaking up the pressures while retaining an essential calmness to bring out the best of sporting skill sets was Dhoni's forte. He became the only captain in the world to win across formats — T20 World Cup in 2007, World Cup in 2011 and Champions Trophy in 2013 after having first led India to the top rung of the Test ladder of merit, besides three IPLs for his favourite Chennai Super Kings and two Champions League titles.

In handling success with equanimity, Dhoni has become an inspirational national figure with a special place in his heart for men of the armed forces, who see him as an apolitical figure endowed with the ideal fighting spirit. He kept up the element of surprise in timing his retirement announcement, lacing it with the Armed Forces' 24-hour clock — 1929 hours — in perhaps a hint of what he may like to do as a mentor. Close to 40, he gives up a young man's international game while leaving Indian cricket in better shape.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

K. SUDHAKAR
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256
Vijayawada: No C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234
Visakhapatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/255234; Fax: 0891-2755285
Rajahmundry: Venagiri, Dhwalewaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208
Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904
Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2220433
Nellore: Survey No.527/2, Burrapur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemmudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580
Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-2254747/48/50/51; Advt. Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325
Bengaluru: 5th Floor, BMTC Commercial Complex, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095 Ph: 080-43460500; Fax: 080-22960552
Cochin: Vivekananda Road, Rammagaz, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255
Kochi: No.3-B, 3rd Floor of DD TRADE TOWER, Kaloor-Kadavathara Road, Ernakulam, Ph: 0484-4039408
Thiruvananthapuram: St Joseph's Press, TC 15/1040, Cotton Hill, Thycaud (PO), Thiruvananthapuram 695 014
Kozhikode: Door No 6/1002 E, First Floor of City Mall, Opp. YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode - 673 001, Fax : 0495 4019 018
Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

Gautam Moorthy

August 9, 2020, will go down as a red-letter day in India's history. While the world and India, too, remained largely immobilised owing to the ubiquitous Chinese virus, the defence minister, Rajnath Singh, announced what is arguably the most historic reform ever undertaken by India's ministry of defence (MoD). It put out a list of 101 major war fighting equipment, platforms and systems whose imports are to be progressively terminated from December 2020 to December 2025. There is supposedly yet another "negative import" list due. This left observers hard put to count the systems/platforms left out for future import.

A quick glance at the list indicates that 69 systems/platforms have the cut-off date of December 2020, 11 with December 2021, four with December 2022, eight with December 2023, eight with December 2024 and one with December 2025. A cursory look at the timelines would indicate to the astute observer that these have been drawn up keeping in mind the indigenised content already incorporated into the system.

With this announcement closing the tap on imports, India's ranking as the second largest defence importer in the world next only to Saudi Arabia will certainly drop much to the relief of its government and citizens. Besides saving precious foreign exchange, it will also indicate to the world that India is no longer punching below its weight.

While all this is music to the ears of most Indians as it would boost manufacturing, employment and trade, thereby giving a fillip to the economy, how this would be operationalised is the question that needs to be addressed.

There is a lot of apprehension that has been expressed in the media. Some commentators have stated that this is nothing but new wine in old bottles being as it is a reiteration of the Defence Procurement Procedure 2016 (DPP-2016). However, if one examines that document in some detail, it is seen that this is simply not the case, but a logical conclusion of that policy four years down the line.

In the foreword prefacing that document, the then defence minis-

ter, late Manohar Parrikar, very presciently forecasted this conclusion. He had written, "Hence, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) is determined to treat DPP 2016 as a dynamic and an evolving document and is committed to making improvements based on emerging data and anecdotal evidence, to realise the vision of 'Make in India' in the defence sector." It is evident that this import embargo list is neither a reiteration of that policy nor something completely new, but simply a consequence consistent with that policy.

The other apprehension is that India's military-industrial complex has not matured enough to be standing on its own feet and delivering the goods. This too is fallacious as a number of platforms/systems that are now being manufactured in India is a testimony to the level of expertise achieved. This has taken place either through tie-ups with firms abroad (the strategic partnership model) or through the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) route.

Going forward, how this embargo would be operationalised is the question rightly asked. First,

India's defence industry complex, tightly controlled by the government, represented by 41 ordnance factories and nine defence PSUs have now to compete with the private sector and can no longer bank on the Armed Forces to bail them out with orders whose pricing in many cases is exorbitant.

Second, within the private sector, there is a humongous scope for medium and small scale industries to rise to the occasion by ramping up capacities and building up a huge defence industry base to cater for ancillaries, sub-systems and components that would be required if India is going solo and not relying on government imports.

This leads us to the third important factor, which is that the private sector and the corporatised Ordnance Factory Board along with the defence PSUs are free to sign MoUs with original equipment manufacturers abroad to also import critical ancillaries, sub-systems and components for manufacture within India with transfer of technology and with proportionate offsets. This single significant step frees the government from getting involved in complex negotiations

Subhani



LETTERS

I-DAY MEMORIES

As an octogenarian, I vividly remember listening to Jawaharlal Nehru on radio as he said, "At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom." The midnight speech, which gave a sense of what achieving freedom is like, was electrifying. It is very nostalgic to read about our freedom struggle stalwarts. The write-up of Aziz Pasha about Maqdoom Mohiuddin is very touching as one of my close relative was associated with his movement. Thank you for bringing out such inspiring memories of our warriors of the freedom struggle.

Dhiraj Dangoria
Hyderabad

DHONI, THE GREATEST

M.S. Dhoni had all the best qualities. He is dedicated, honest and a legend in the cricket world. His simplicity on the field and outside is incomparable. I wish him a successful, healthy and long life. We will miss him in every match.

Farkhunda Ali Khan
Hyderabad

M.S. Dhoni's retirement from ODI has astonished all of us. He has again proved his simplicity as always by announcing his retirement on Instagram. Watching his journey from a small town to the cricket world and coming out as one of the most astute leaders was truly remarkable. The nation cherishes you MSD.

Malik Mohammed Faisal
Hyderabad

Drug makers directed to restore old prices

NEW DELHI, AUG. 16 In a determined bid to push down prices, the Union Government today directed the drug manufacturers who have raised the price level to restore the level prevailing on May 15, the day immediately before the commencement of the Drug Prices Control Order.

to the manufacturers who revised the prices of drugs on August one. The Petroleum and Chemicals ministry said sternly that the "higher prices should not be enforced."

Did Prime Minister Modi renege on some commitments given to President Xi in Wuhan and Mamallapuram, is it about distance from the US, accepting China's new hedonistic world order or all of them?

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

with foreign firms and being compelled to adhere to stringent policies and rules laid down in the government financial regulations and the DPP (Defence Procurement Procedure 2020). All such manufacturers will also be free to export their products making India a net exporter of defence products.

The requirement to drastically reduce imports has long been felt but it needed a strong political dispensation and the will to carry it out. The road ahead is not going to be smooth but this single significant step taken by the government to wean itself away from imports in this crucial domain needs to be applauded. That it was in the making since 2016 is known. However, it appears to have been pushed through now because of the combination of a slackening economy, the deleterious effect of Covid-19 and, above all, by China's transgressions in Eastern Ladakh. How this will play out remains to be seen.

Lt. Gen. Gautam Moorthy (Retd) is a former member of the Armed Forces Tribunal and a former director-general of ordnance services

MoD embargoes: Private sector has to play a key role



Gautam Moorthy

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SHORT TAKES

PAWAR FAMILY HOLDS MEET TO PACIFY PARTH

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, AUG. 16

As Pawar family is trying to pacify disgruntled Parth Pawar, son of Deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, the Opposition BJP took advantage of the situation and termed Parth, a mature leader. According to reports, a meeting was held in Baramati at Shrinivas Pawar's bungalow to speak to Parth regarding Sharad Pawar's public reprimand. Few days ago, NCP chief Sharad Pawar had openly called Parth 'immature' and said that he gives absolutely no importance to his grand-nephew's demand for a CBI probe in Sushant Singh Rajput's death case.

The meeting in Baramati was attended by father Ajit Pawar, mother Sunetra Pawar, Uncle Shrinivas Pawar and Aunty Sharmila Pawar on Saturday night.

On August 13, Parth had gone to meet NCP chief Sharad Pawar at the latter's residence Silver Oak in South Mumbai. However, he could not meet the NCP chief but had over two-hour long discussion with paternal aunt Supriya Sule.

According to the media reports, Sharad Pawar was scheduled to go to Baramati on Sunday but cancelled the visit after a telephonic conversation with Ajit Pawar, who was in Baramati, and returned back to Mumbai from Pune.

Meanwhile, BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member Narayan Rane said, "Parth is above 18 years and is mature enough. There must be a reason why he demanded a CBI probe in Rajput's death case."

PVT OPERATORS FREE TO CHOOSE HALT STATIONS

New Delhi, Aug. 16: Private operators who will be handed over 150 trains to ply on 109 routes by the Railways will have the freedom to choose halt stations of the trains they operate, documents released by the national transporter have shown.

However, the private operators have to submit in advance to the Railways the list of such intermediate stations on the trains' paths where they are proposing halts.

The private operators also have to provide the time in and time out at the intermediate railway stations, which shall form part of the train operation plan. This has to be submitted in advance and will be in place for at least a year; after which it can be revised, a draft of the Concession Agreement has said. "The Concessionaire shall have the flexibility in deciding the stops/ halts in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Concession Agreement," the Railways has said in reply to a query by one of the private players who attended the pre-application meetings.

The Railways has also said the number of such halts of the private trains will not be more than the number of existing halts of the fastest train of the Railways operating in that route.

KAEFEL KHAN'S DETENTION EXTENDED

Lucknow, Aug. 16: The Uttar Pradesh government has extended by three months the detention of physician Kafeel Khan under the National Security Act for his alleged provocative speech during the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests.

Khan was arrested in January for delivering the speech at Aligarh Muslim University on December 10, 2019. It is the second time his detention under the stringent law has been extended by another three months, this time beyond August 13.

Under the National Security Act (NSA), people can be detained without a charge for up to 12 months if authorities are satisfied that they are threat to the national security or law and order.

In an order dated August 4, 2020, the UP Home Department said the NSA was invoked against Khan on February 13, 2020, on the orders of the Aligarh District Magistrate. "The matter was then sent to the advisory council, which in its report, said there are 'enough reasons' to keep Khan in jail following which orders were given on May 6, 2020, to extend his detention under the NSA by three months, that is till August 13, 2020," the order said.

New normal

Devotees stand in a queue outside Mata Vaishno Devi cave in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. The shrine along with other religious places across the Union Territory reopened for devotees on Sunday after remaining closed for almost five months due to the Covid-19 outbreak. — PTI

Raj Bhavan under surveillance of Mamata, alleges Dhankhar

He also claimed that Maoism is now returning with support of state actors

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, AUG. 16

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday alleged that Raj Bhavan is under the surveillance of the Mamata Banerjee government. He also observed the return of Maoism in the state.

"The Raj Bhavan is under surveillance. This should not happen. It undermines the sanctity of the Raj Bhavan. I will do everything to protect its sanctity. How can an office of the Constitution be under surveillance? I will take legal steps once our inquiry is over. Public servants should not get into political mode.

Nobody is above the law," the Governor told the media at an event to mark former prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's second death anniversary in Raj Bhavan.

Dhankhar claimed, "Important documents, which should not go out of Raj Bhavan without my sanction, are getting leaked outside. Documents are procured. I have initiated a very serious probe into it. Those, who have done this, have to pay a heavy price. On 14 August, a document was electronically shared using an app from here. That document came back to me from the highest authority of the govern-

● DHANKAR SAYS, important documents, which should not go out of Raj Bhavan without his sanction, are getting leaked outside.

● HE ALSO expressed his strong displeasure over the Chief Minister's absence at the 'at home' function at Raj Bhavan on Saturday.

ment."

Dhankhar noted, "The dangerous ado of Maoism is now getting visible with the support of state actors. West Bengal needs peace, tranquility and law and order."

His latest salvo came

hours after he expressed his strong displeasure over the Chief Minister's absence at the 'at home' function at Raj Bhavan on Saturday.

Dhankhar tweeted, "Absence of CM and officials @MamataOfficial on occasion of Independence Day celebration at Raj Bhavan has like many startled and stunned me. We need to rise to occasion as respect to freedom fighters who gave their all to secure us for freedom and democracy. I am at loss of words (sic)."

Sharing a picture of the empty chair, he said, "The vacant seat meant for CM @MamataOfficial at celebration of Independence

Day at Raj Bhavan speaks volumes — has created unwholesome situation that is not in sync with rich culture and ethos of WB. There is just no rationale for this unbecoming stance. CM and executive @MamataOfficial set bad precedent by not attending. Another painful instance of distancing from Constitution (sic)."

On Saturday morning, Mamata Banerjee visited Raj Bhavan and greeted Jagdeep Dhankhar on the occasion of the Independence Day in what appeared to be a "cordial meeting" after hoisting the National Flag on Red Road.

GPR TO BE USED TO LOCATE BODIES IN IDUKKI**Bengaluru riots take caste turn**

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, AUG. 16

The Bengaluru riots, during which the house of Pulikeshinagar MLA Akhanda Srinivas Murthy was burnt down and two police stations were attacked, has taken caste turn, with the BJP trying to portray the riots as an attack on Dalits.

● SPECIAL TEAM investigating the riots has approached the cyber-crime police for digital analysis of the crime scene.

Sensing danger, the Congress quickly distanced itself from the SDPI (Social Democratic Party of India) and alleged that the violence was instigated by BJP activists to put the blame on the Congress.

However, Zameer Ahamed Khan's earlier action had drawn flak from some of Congress leaders.

Zameer had visited the houses of the three persons killed in police firing and distributed ₹5 lakh each.

He had also said that the violence was instigated by miscreants, while all those killed were "innocent".

The BJP was quick to seize on the issue and pointed out that Zameer and the Congress had links with the attackers but were calling them innocent.

Some of the Congress leaders requested Siddaramaiah to advise Zameer not to identify himself with the attackers, as it would substantiate the BJP's claim that it was a fight between Muslims and Dalits.

While the Congress despatched a fact-finding committee headed by former deputy chief minister Dr G. Parameshwar, who himself is a Dalit, the BJP has constituted another fact-finding committee headed by former minister Aravind Limbavali, who belongs to the Bovi community from which Srinivas Murthy hails.

BJP leaders B.L. Santhosh, Deputy Chief Minister Ashwathnarayana, ministers C.T. Ravi, B.C. Patil and others came down heavily on Congress for supporting the minority community blindly, who were attacking Dalits in the state.

While the National Security Act (NSA), people can be detained without a charge for up to 12 months if authorities are satisfied that they are threat to the national security or law and order.

In an order dated August 4, 2020, the UP Home Department said the NSA was invoked against Khan on February 13, 2020, on the orders of the Aligarh District Magistrate. "The matter was then sent to the advisory council, which in its report, said there are 'enough reasons' to keep Khan in jail following which orders were given on May 6, 2020, to extend his detention under the NSA by three months, that is till August 13, 2020," the order said.

On Saturday evening, former minister B.Z. Zameer Ahamed Khan led a group of Muslim clerics to the house of Srinivas Murthy to send a message that it was not a fight between Muslims and Dalits at Kadugondanahalli and Devara-

Bhuj (Guj), Aug. 16: Four Pakistani boats were seized by the Border Security Force on Sunday from 'Harami Nallah' creek along the India-Pakistan border in Gujarat's Kutch district, the force said.

A Pakistani fisherman, identified as Alla Bachao Siddique (25), from Sindh province of Pakistan was apprehended, while others managed to escape, it said.

A patrolling team of the BSF's Bhuj unit observed movement of four to five Pakistani men on boats near the 'Harami Nallah' in Kutch region, at around 6 am, it said. "The Pakistani fishermen were attempting to enter into Indian territory by taking the advantage of rough sea state. The alert patrol party of Border Security Force (BSF) intercepted the Pakistani intruders

the moment they tried to enter into Indian territory, while the intruders also saw the BSF patrol and jumped into the water," the BSF said in a statement.

"The BSF patrol team chased them and apprehended one Pakistani fisherman and seized four fishing boats. Rest of the fishermen managed to escape into Pakistani territory by taking advantage of slushy and marshy terrain of the area," it said.

All four seized boats were searched and nothing suspicious was recovered from them, the border guard force said.

In view of the incident, the BSF launched a thorough search operation of the area which was underway in the evening as well, and nothing suspicious was recovered thus far, it added. — PTI

"We have requested for a GPR from Chennai. We hope it will reach here by Tuesday. Currently 12 people are missing," he said.

A massive mound of earth and slush, triggered by heavy rains, flattened a row of 20 one-room row houses made of tin and asbestos sheets, at Pettimudi in Rajamala on August 7. — PTI

the helpline development project is being carried out in collaboration with the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh.

"The launch date of the helpline has not been finalised yet. It will be launched in north India first and steadily expanded to the rest of the country," she said. The decision comes amid a rise in the number of complaints of emotional and mental abuse received by the com-

said the helpline development project is being carried out in collaboration with the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh.

mission over the last few months.

According to NCW data, it received 2,320 complaints related to mental harassment and emotional abuse from April, days after the lockdown was imposed in the country, till now.

In contrast, it received 1,550 such complaints between December 2019 and March 2020.

Elaborating on the issue, Sharma said mental tension increased during the lockdown. "Both men and women faced mental health problems during the lockdown. Women were working from home and doing all the (household) work and then they were not able to reach out to their parents even if they were getting mentally harassed. In normal circumstances, they were able to reach out to their family and friends and talk to them but (during lockdown) they were locked inside the house. So yes, mental tension increased during the lockdown," she said.

Sharma said the NCW worked 24/7 during the

lockdown to help women. "During the lockdown, we worked 24/7 because we knew women were not able to reach out to any other agency or their relatives and families," she said.

"We launched a WhatsApp number because we knew women were not able to go to the police station, reach us by post and many women do not even know how to send an email. Since the launch of the WhatsApp number, the number of complaints has increased manifold," she said. — PTI

Over 1L Covid cases recorded every two days

SANJAY KAW | DC NEW DELHI, AUG. 16

MONSOON SESSION TO SEE COVID-PROOF MEASURES

New Delhi, Aug. 16: Hectic preparations are underway for the Monsoon Session of Parliament with several first-time measures in view of the Covid-19 pandemic such as staggered sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and use of both chambers and galleries to accommodate members while following physical distancing norms, officials said.

The Monsoon Session is likely to begin in the last week of August or early September. According to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, members of the Upper House will be seated in both chambers and galleries during the session.

This is the first time in the history of Indian Parliament since 1952 that such an arrangement will be in place, where 60 members will be seated in the chamber and 51 in the galleries of Rajya Sabha and the remaining 132 in the chamber of Lok Sabha. Similar seating arrangements are being worked out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat as well.

For the first time, large display screens and consoles for participation from galleries, ultraviolet germicidal irradiation, special cables between the two Houses and polycarbonate separators will be in place.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at a meeting on July 17, after detailed examination of various options for holding the session, decided on using the chambers and galleries of both the Houses. — PTI

states and Union territories have exceeded the 50 per cent mark. About a dozen states or UTs have exceeded the national recovery rate. The gap between the recovered patients and active Covid-19 cases has increased further and crossed 11 lakhs, at 1,184,814 on Sunday.

The improvement in the recovery rate is now 71.91 per cent after 18.91 lakh people were discharged across the country. Of these, over 53,000 patients were discharged in the past 24 hours.

The country saw a record of highest single-day recoveries on Saturday, after 57,381 Covid-19 patients were cured. To further build on this achievement, 32

RAJNATH SINGH APPROVES PLAN OF NCC FOR MAJOR EXPANSION SCHEME

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 16

Defence minister Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) for a major expansion scheme to meet the aspirations of youth in all the border and coastal districts.

As per the plan a total of one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted in the NCC. One-third of the cadets would be girl cadets.

More than 1,000 schools and colleges have been identified in border and coastal districts where NCC will be introduced.

The proposals of the

Army will provide training and administrative support to the NCC units located in the border areas, Navy shall provide support to NCC units in the coastal areas and similarly Air Force will provide support to the NCC units located close to the Air Force stations.

Women | SAFETY

Move comes amid rise in number of complaints of mental abuse

NCW mulls launch of 24/7 helpline

New Delhi, Aug. 16: The National Commission for Women is planning to launch a 24/7 helpline in view of the rising number of mental harassment complaints since the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

The helpline will be launched in north India first and steadily expanded to the rest of the country, it will be extended to other parts of the country," she said. The decision comes amid a rise in the number of complaints of emotional and mental abuse received by the com-

SHORT TAKES
PRO-DEMOCRACY
STIR DRAWS BIG
BANGKOK CROWD

Bangkok, Aug. 16: An anti-government protest in Thailand drew more than 10,000 people on Sunday, police said, the largest political demonstration the kingdom has seen in years as a pro-democracy movement gathers steam.

Student-led groups have held near-daily protests across the country for the past month to denounce Premier Prayut Chan-O-Cha — a former army chief who led a 2014 coup — and his military-aligned administration.

By Sunday evening the protesters — who are demanding major democratic reforms — had taken over the busy intersection around Bangkok's Democracy Monument, which was built to mark the 1932 revolution that ended royal absolutism.

Police closed off surrounding main roads to stop incoming traffic, and an official at Bangkok's Metropolitan Police Bureau said the crowd size had grown to 10,000 by 6 pm (1100 GMT). "Down with the dictatorship," the students chanted, many holding signs critical of the administration. Others held pigeon-shaped cutouts representing peace.

The gathering at Democracy Monument is the largest the kingdom has seen since Prayut staged a putsch in 2014.

Partly inspired by the Hong Kong democracy movement, the protesters claim to be leaderless and have relied mostly on social media campaigns to draw support across the country.

S. KOREA ACCUSES PASTOR AS COVID CASES SURGE

Seoul, Aug. 16: South Korea accused a conservative pastor on Sunday of violating self-isolation rules and obstructing contact tracing at a church where 240 infections have fuelled the country's worst outbreak in over five months. The focus on the Sarang Jeil Church, led by Rev. Jun Kwang-hoon, revived bad memories of the country's biggest outbreak, among followers of a secretive Christian sect back in February.

South Korea on Sunday reported 279 new cases, more than double the 103 reported on Friday, with most of the new infections found in and around Seoul.

Aside from the infections linked to the church, there were also smaller clusters, including some 30 cases linked to a Starbucks outlet in the city of Paju, north of Seoul.

The surge in Covid-19 cases prompted authorities on Sunday to reimpose tighter social distancing curbs in the Seoul metropolitan area.

The health ministry said it had filed a complaint against Jun, an outspoken government critic, for violating self-isolation rules by participating in a rally on Saturday, and for "obstructing" a medical investigation into the outbreak by failing to provide a full list of church members for testing and tracing.

YALE'S COVID SALIVA TEST GETS FDA APPROVAL

New Haven, Connecticut, Aug. 16: The US Food and Drug Administration on Saturday granted emergency use authorization to Yale School of Public Health's saliva test to detect Covid-19, after a trial on National Basketball Association players and staff.

SalivaDirect, the fifth saliva test approved by the FDA for the disease, requires no swab or collection device and uses spit from people suspected of having the coronavirus, the agency said bit.ly/3fZyX30.

FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn called the test "ground-breaking" in its efficiency and in being unaffected by crucial component shortages.

SalivaDirect is seen as a cheap, simpler and less invasive testing method that requires no extraction of nucleic acid and can use several readily available reagents.

The NBA has used the test in a program involving asymptomatic players, coaches and staff from various teams, after partnering with Yale in June, the school said bit.ly/3iO1Ymf in a separate statement.

"We simplified the test so that it only costs a couple of dollars for reagents, and we expect that labs will only charge about \$10 per sample," Nathan Grubaugh, assistant professor at Yale School of Public Health, said.

One of the goals of the research team was to eliminate the need for expensive saliva collection tubes.

Protests rage in Belarus



A woman takes pictures of anti-Lukashenko posters at the pedestal of a monument during an opposition demonstration in central Minsk on Sunday. The Belarusian strongman, who has ruled his ex-Soviet country with an iron grip since 1994, is under increasing pressure from the streets and abroad over his claim to have won re-election on August 9, with 80 percent of the vote.

— AFP

Telephone service starts between UAE and Israel

Dubai, Aug. 16: Telephone service between the United Arab Emirates and Israel began working on Sunday as the two countries opened diplomatic ties, part of a deal brokered by the US that required Israel to halt its contentious plan to annex West Bank land sought by the Palestinians for a future state.

Associated Press journalists in Jerusalem and Dubai were able to call each other from both landline and cellular phones registered to Israel's country code +972 from around 1:15 pm.

Over an hour later, Emirati officials acknowledged that Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan had called his Israeli counterpart Gabi Ashkenazi. Israeli Communications Minister Yoaz Handel issued a statement "congratulating the United Arab Emirates on removing the blocks."

"Many economic opportunities will open now, and these trust-building steps are an important step toward advancing states' interests," Handel said. Also on Sunday, Israeli news websites that had previously been blocked by UAE authorities, like the Times of Israel, the Jerusalem Post and YNet, could be accessed without using means to bypass internet filtering in the Emirates.

In the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula, a recorded message in Arabic and English would typically play prior to Sunday saying calls to +972 numbers could not be connected.

The advent of internet calling allowed people to get around the ban, though these too were often interrupted. — AP

Israel shuts down Gaza fishing zone

Jerusalem, Aug. 16: Israel closed the Gaza Strip's offshore fishing zone on Sunday following a night of cross-border fighting with Palestinian militants, the most intense escalation of hostilities in recent months.

Palestinian militants in Gaza fired two rockets into southern Israel after Israeli airstrikes targeted sites belonging to the territory's militant Hamas rulers.

The military said the Iron Dome aerial defense system intercepted the two rockets that militants in Gaza launched at southern Israel. But police said rocket fallout caused damage to a house in the town of Sderot, and paramedics treated a 58-

year-old man for minor wounds from the exploding glass.

The Israeli army said the strikes were a response to explosive balloons launched by Hamas-affiliated group over the border, and attempts by Palestinian protesters to throw explosives at the Israel-Gaza perimeter fence and soldiers stationed along it.

Dozens of Palestinians took part in the protests. The military said the protesters "burned tires, hurled explosive devices and grenades towards the security fence and attempted to approach it."

The Gaza health ministry said Israeli gunfire at protesters wounded two Palestinians. — AP

Cyber | Crime

Investigation was launched by Canada and the federal police

Toronto, Aug. 16: Tens of thousands of user accounts for online government services in Canada were recently hacked during cyber attacks, authorities said on Saturday.

The attacks targeted the GCKey service, used by some 30 federal departments and Canada Revenue Agency accounts, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat explained in a press release.

The passwords and user names of 9,041 GCKey account holders "were acquired fraudulently and used to try and access gov-



In this file photo a picture shows binary code reflected from a computer screen in a woman's eye. — AFP

ernment services," the authorities said.

All affected accounts have been cancelled.

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ities said, adding that access to these accounts has been suspended to protect taxpayer information.

An investigation was launched by the government and the federal police to determine whether there were any breaches of privacy and whether infor-

Voting rules revive fights over 'ballot harvesting'

Las Vegas, Aug. 16: As President Donald Trump's reelection campaign challenged Nevada's new voting law in court, the president and Republicans argued the rules would facilitate fraud and illegal voting. Chief among their criticisms was a provision allowing "ballot harvesting."

The Nevada lawsuit highlighted a practice that has long fueled Republicans' suspicions about mail-in voting.

Although widely practiced and rarely found to be abused, the rule permitting a third party to collect and return multiple ballots remains a source of partisan dispute. Those fights are likely to continue up to Election Day as states adjust their laws for the pandemic. One of the few recent instances of fraud related to ballot collection happened in North

Carolina in 2018, resulting in a congressional election being overturned.

More than half of states allow a third party to collect ballots. And political groups and campaigns from both parties have run ballot-collection programs aimed at boosting turnout and ensuring voters who are older, homebound, disabled, or live far from U.S. postal service, which is warning states of potentially "significant" delays.

"State ballots must be postmarked to be considered valid and only the USPS has lawful postmarking status. Therefore UPS, FedEx and other private parties cannot technically be involved in shipping ballots," UPS said.

Republican President Donald Trump on Thursday said he opposed providing funds for the struggling Postal Service for mail voting. — Agencies

UPS, FEDEX WARN THEY CANNOT CARRY BALLOTS

Los Angeles, Aug. 16: United Parcel Service (UPS) and FedEx (FDX.N) on Friday shot down social media calls that they step in to deliver mail-in ballots from the US Postal Service, which is warning states of potentially "significant" delays.

"State ballots must be postmarked to be considered valid and only the USPS has lawful postmarking status. Therefore UPS, FedEx and other private parties cannot technically be involved in shipping ballots," UPS said.

Republican President Donald Trump on Thursday said he opposed providing funds for the struggling Postal Service for mail voting. — Agencies

If elected, will stand with India against threats it faces: Biden

Prez candidate to will work on expanding two-way trade between India, US

Newsweek apologises for Op-ed questioning Harris

New York, Aug. 16:

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden asserted that if elected, his administration will stand with India in confronting the threats it faces and called for strengthening the "bond" between India and the US.

Presidential elections in the US will be held on November 3, 2020, and 77-year-old Biden is challenging incumbent Republican President Donald Trump in the

president. Newsweek has apologized for an op-ed that questioned Sen. Kamala Harris' US citizenship and her eligibility to be Joe Biden's running mate, a false and racist conspiracy theory which President Donald Trump has not dismissed.

"This op-ed is being used by some as a tool to perpetuate racism and xenophobia. We apologize," read Newsweek's editor's note on Friday, which replaced the magazine's earlier detailed defense of the op-ed.

"We entirely failed to anticipate the ways in which the essay would be interpreted, distorted and

weaponised," read the apology, signed by Josh Hammer, opinion editor, and Nancy Cooper, global editor in chief.

But they ended the note by saying that the op-ed would remain on the site, with their note attached.

The op-ed was written by John Eastman, a conservative attorney who argues that the US Constitution doesn't grant birthright citizenship.

Eastman sowed doubt about Harris' eligibility based on her parents' immigration status.

Harris' mother was born in India and her father was born in Jamaica.

Newsweek earlier defended the piece, arguing

that Eastman "was focusing on a long-standing, somewhat arcane legal debate" about the 14th Amendment and not trying to "ignite a racist conspiracy theory around Kamala Harris' candidacy."

"The theory is false, Harris, who was tapped by Joe Biden to serve as his running mate on the Democratic ticket, was born in Oakland, California, and is eligible for both the vice-presidency and presidency under the constitutional requirements.

The question is not even considered complex, according to constitutional lawyers. — AP

Americans at senior levels, which of course includes the top of the heap, our dear friend (Kamala Harris) who will be the first Indian American vice president in the history of the United States of America," Biden said.

Early this week, Biden scripted history by selecting Harris, 55, as his running mate.

But I know it's hard. I heart goes out to all those of you who have been the targets in a rise in hate crimes, and the crackdown of legal immigration, including sudden and harmful actions on H-1B visas. That for decades have made America stronger and brought our nation's closer," Biden said.

"For your sacrifices, and your family's courage, you became pillars of our community and the frontlines of this pandemic. In this reckoning of systemic racism, you're making a real promise that America is a place where people of all races and religions can live together in peace," he said.

"But I know it's hard. I heart goes out to all those of you who have been the targets in a rise in hate crimes, and the crackdown of legal immigration, including sudden and harmful actions on H-1B visas. That for decades have made America stronger and brought our nation's closer," Biden said.

On this day, let us continue to deepen the bond that endures between our nation's and our people," Biden said.

He said that he will work on expanding two-way trade between the two nations and take on big global challenges like climate change and global health security.

If elected, the

democratic candidate said, he will work to strengthen the democracies where diversity is a mutual strength.

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SHORT TAKES

ARIANE ROCKET PUTS TELECOM SATELLITES

Paris, Aug. 16: A rocket that blasted off from French Guiana successfully placed two communications satellites into orbit on Saturday, launch firm Arianespace said.

The Ariane 5 rocket took off from Kourou, the European Space Agency's space centre in the South American territory, the company said in a statement.

Two satellites on board — belonging to the intergovernmental provider Intelsat and Japan's Broadcasting Satellite System Corporation — were later successfully placed into orbit, Arianespace said.

A servicing vehicle that will dock with other satellites in orbit was also deployed, it added.

The launch — the first for Arianespace since activities at Kourou were halted in March due to the Coronavirus — had originally been scheduled for July 28 but was delayed to allow for more "technical inspections".

Another delay followed due to "the unexpected behaviour of one sensor" for a liquid hydrogen tank.

ITALY GARBAGE DIPS WITH CURBS BUT PLASTICS RISE

Rome, Aug. 16: Italy produced 10 per cent less garbage during its Coronavirus lockdown, but environmentalists warn that increased reliance on disposable masks and packaging is imperiling efforts to curb single-use plastics that end up in oceans and seas.

Italian researchers estimate that during the peak months of Italy's lockdown in March and April, urban waste production fell by 5,000,000 tons. That decrease is enabling dumps in Italy — where trash collection in major cities has often become a hot-button political issue — to absorb the 3,00,000 tons of extra waste from protective masks and gloves estimated to be used this year, according to the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research.

"Substantially, the figures will balance each other by the end of this year," Valeria Frittelloni, the institute's head of waste management and circular economy, told The Associated Press. But the pandemic dealt a blow to efforts to move away from single-use plastics in many places where they were just beginning to become mainstream. UN, Greenpeace, Italy's Marevivo environmental organization and other such groups are warning that continued reliance on single-use plastics will pose longer-term risks to the environment.

GREENLAND ICE HAS SHRUNK BEYOND RETURN

Greenland, Aug. 16: Greenland's ice sheet may have shrunk past the point of return, with the ice likely to melt away no matter how quickly the world reduces climate-warming emissions, new research suggests.

Scientists studied data on 234 glaciers across the Arctic territory spanning 34 years through 2018 and found that annual snowfall was no longer enough to replenish glaciers of the snow and ice being lost to summertime melting.

That melting is already causing global seas to rise about a millimeter on average per year. If all of Greenland's ice goes, the water released would push sea levels up by an average of 6 meters — enough to swamp many coastal cities around the world. This process, however, would take decades.

"Greenland is going to be the canary in the coal mine, and the canary is already pretty much dead at this point," said glaciologist Ian Howat at Ohio State University. He and his colleagues published the study Thursday in the *Nature Communications Earth & Environment* journal.

The Arctic has been warming at least twice as fast as the rest of the world for the last 30 years, an observation referred to as Arctic amplification. The polar sea ice hit its lowest extent for July in 40 years.

The Arctic thaw has brought more water to the region, opening up routes for shipping traffic, as well as increased interest in extracting fossil fuels and other natural resources. Greenland is strategically important for the US military and its ballistic missile early warning system, as the shortest route from Europe to North America goes via the Arctic island.

'Massive poisonous shock': Scientists fear lasting impact

Wildlife at risk include the seagrasses blanketing sand in the shallow waters

Nairobi, Aug. 16: Some corals have lived for centuries at the fringes of Mauritius. Now smothered for days in heavy fuel oil spilled from a wrecked Japanese tanker nearby, parts of those reefs may be in trouble.

The full impact of the toxic spill is still unfolding, scientists say. As the Indian Ocean island's residents scramble to mop up the oil slicks and clumps, they are seeing dead eels and fish floating in the water, as fuel-soaked seabirds limp onto shore.

Satellite images also show the 1,000 tonnes of spilled oil spreading northward along the coastline from the spill site in the turquoise waters of Blue Bay Marine Park. The damage, scientists say, could impact Mauritius and its tourism-dependent economy for decades.

"This oil spill occurred in one of, if not the most, sensitive areas in Mauritius," oceanographer and environmental engineer Vassen Kauppaymutthoo said by telephone from the island, where he was surveying the disaster. "We are talking of decades to recover from this damage, and some of it may never recover."

The wildlife at risk include the seagrasses blanketing sand in the shallow waters, clownfish darting around coral reefs, mangrove trees corralling the coastline with their tangled root systems, and the critically endangered Pink Pigeon, endemic to the island.

Giant tortoises slow-walk through a nature reserve on the nearby islet, Ile-aux-Aigrettes, where there is also a scientific research station. Altogether, Blue Bay Marine park counts 38 types of coral and 78 species of fish.

The spill brings "a massive poisonous shock to the system," said Adam Molina, an environmental scientist from Mauritius who lectures at Keele University in Britain. — Agencies



Picture taken near Blue Bay Marine Park, shows the vessel MV Wakashio, belonging to a Japanese company but Panamanian-flagged, that ran aground near Blue Bay Marine Park off the coast of south-east Mauritius. (R) Workers collect leaked oil at the beach in Riviere des Creoles.

— AFP

India sends 30 tonnes of equipment to Mauritius

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 16

In response to a request by Indian Ocean nation Mauritius for assistance in dealing with the environmental crisis due to oil spill on its south-eastern coast caused by a Japanese merchant vessel that struck a coral reef and ran aground there last month spilling about 1,000 tonnes of fuel, India on Sunday said it has

deployed to Mauritius to extend necessary technical and operational assistance at the site, New Delhi added. India has extremely close ties with Mauritius. New Delhi said the "urgent assistance reflects the close bonds of friendship between India and Mauritius and India's abiding commitment to assist the people of Mauritius in need".

According to international news agency reports, the Japanese merchant vessel MV Wakashio struck a coral reef off Mauritius on July 25, spilling about 1,000 tonnes of fuel oil and endangering corals.

SHIP THAT OOZED OIL OFF IN COAST SPLITS INTO TWO

Tokyo, Aug. 16: A Japanese bulk carrier that ran aground on a reef in Mauritius last month threatening a marine ecological disaster around the Indian Ocean island has broken apart, authorities said on Saturday.

The condition of the MV Wakashio was worsening early on Saturday and it split by the afternoon, the Mauritius National Crisis Committee said.

"At around 4.30pm, a major detachment of the vessel's forward section was observed," it said in a statement. "On the basis of the experts' advice, the towing plan is being implemented." — Agencies

Symbol of threat as Brandenburg dries

THE STATE has the third most lakes in Germany relative to its size, but is the second most arid, according to the German Weather Agency.

The state has the third most lakes in Germany relative to its size, but is the second most arid, according to the German Weather Agency.

After the drought years of 2018 and 2019, Kaiser said the lake will likely lose a massive amount of water in 2020 for the third year running.

"This is a bad sign! You could put it more starkly: It is a horror story for the region's water landscape," he said.

While scientists agree that the main problems facing Brandenburg's lakes are linked to climate change, human influence also plays a role.

Reeds, which clean the lake and act as a place for fish to spawn, have been exposed by low water and are often trampled by people heading to beaches, Kaiser said.

— Agencies

Seddiner lake, in the state of Brandenburg, south-west of Berlin, has sunk 60 cm annually on average over the past few years, with local geographer Knut Kaiser calling it the beginning of the end for the region's lakes.

"You could say that Seddiner is a symbol of a situation, or to put it more dramatically, it has become a portent for climate change here in Brandenburg," Kaiser, from the German Research Centre for Geosciences, said.

Spanning 218 hectares, it is fed from groundwater leaving it at the mercy of rainfall and human water usage. At a high point in 2013, the lake was full enough to flow naturally into a smaller neighbouring lake. In 2020, piers along the water's edge stand high and dry.

— Agencies

Los Angeles, Aug. 16: Firefighters scrambled to protect thousands of homes from a wildfire racing through brush-covered mountains north of Los Angeles on Friday that caused hundreds of evacuations and burned 21 structures.

The blaze, dubbed the Lake Fire, swelled to over 17,000 acres (6,880 hectares), forcing up to 1,500 people from their houses after erupting on Wednesday afternoon in the Angeles National Forest.

Triple digit temperatures and single digit humidity fanned flames on Friday evening, and little let-up was expected over the weekend with an excessive heat warning in effect across Southern California.

"We saw extreme fire conditions," Los Angeles County Fire Department spokesman Frank Garrido said of the operation in steep canyons aided by firefighting helicopters.

The cause of the blaze was under investigation but human activity is likely to blame, said US Forest

Service spokesman Andrew Mitchell.

No casualties were reported but the blaze threatened 5,420 homes and other structures in communities about 40 miles (65 km) north of downtown Los Angeles where residents have been told to prepare for possible evacuations over the weekend, Garrido said.

Triple digit temperatures and single digit humidity fanned flames on Friday evening, and little let-up was expected over the weekend with an excessive heat warning in effect across Southern California.

Across the United States, fires have been less ferocious so far in 2020, burning around 1.4 million fewer acres than in the same period of 2019.

— AFP

"In my darkest moments, I see a really horrible future for Homo sapiens because we are an animal, and when we extend our borders things will happen to us," said Birgitta Evengard, a researcher in clinical microbiology at Umea University in Sweden.

"Our biggest enemy is our own ignorance," she added. "Nature is full of microorganisms." Think of permafrost, a climate change time bomb spread across Russia, Canada and Alaska that contains three

times the carbon that has been emitted since the start of industrialisation.

Even if humanity manages to cap global warming at under two degrees Celsius, the cornerstone goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement, the permafrost area will decrease by a quarter by 2100, according to the UN's climate science panel, the IPCC.

"That's how thawing can spread these microorganisms into present day environments." There are already examples of ancient, long-frozen bugs coming to life.

Vladimir Romanovsky, a professor of geophysics at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

As ground thaws, once-frozen soil particles, organic material and microorganisms that had been locked away for millennia are carried toward the surface by water flows, he explained.

"Microorganisms can survive in frozen space for a long, long time," said

Air pollution in China falls 10.8% due to lockdown

Shanghai, Aug. 16: China saw average concentrations of lung-damaging airborne particles known as PM2.5 fall by 10.8% from January to July as industry slowed because of the Coronavirus, data showed on Friday, though levels were still well above WHO recommendations.

Average PM2.5 stood at 33 micrograms per cubic metre over the seven months, according to data collected from monitoring stations in more than 300 cities, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment said.

China's national standard is 35 micrograms, though the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends levels of no more than 10.

PM2.5 is caused by the burning of fossil fuels and other industrial processes and is associated with a range of health problems, including respiratory disease and cancer. The environment ministry said the improvement in air quality throughout the country in February and March was "incomparable" after the government imposed lockdowns to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, which cut industrial activity and traffic.

But environmental groups have warned that China might turn a blind eye to industrial polluters and rely on energy-intensive processes to try to reverse the economic impact of the pandemic in the second half of the year. "There was a temporary pollution increase in April but it quickly went down in May," said Li Shuo, senior energy and climate analyst with Greenpeace. "We need to see if July represents the beginning of a larger trend."

In July, average PM2.5 levels fell 5%, but some regions saw a rebound. The capital, Beijing, saw average PM2.5 rise 10.8% to 41 micrograms. The smog-prone Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region as a whole jumped 5.9% to 36 micrograms.

"Industrial outputs are coming back to pre-Covid levels," said Li.

"Sometimes air quality would correspond with that, sometimes not. Weather and other conditions play a role here too."

— Agencies

NYC releases policy to fight climate crisis

New York, Aug. 16: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on Friday released proposed regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to implement the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

The proposed regulation will be published in the state register on Aug. 19 and mandates a 40% reduction of methane and other harmful gases by 2030 and an 85% reduction by 2050, according to a statement.

The regulation also requires the state to achieve a carbon-free electricity system by 2040, the department said in a statement.

California wildfire burns 21 structures, forces 1,500 to evacuate their houses

Firefighters fight climbing flames

Apui, Brazil, Aug. 16: For a moment, the Brazilian firefighters dressed in yellow flame-retardant jackets with white balaclavas covering their mouths to protect from the smoke, worked to control the larger blaze by pushing the new flames with a water cannon towards it.

Under the supervision of fire fighters from Brazil's environment agency Ibama, a farmer in this remote part of the Amazon had set alight underground along part of his land, a last-ditch attempt to divert a major fire approaching his home by starving fuel from the encroaching flames.

But fire is unpredictable, especially here in the Amazon where different vegetation burns at different rates during the long dry months of the annual "fire season." Wind and heat can quickly change the pattern of a blaze.

Even rainfall from months ago can make a difference. Ten firefighters, dressed in yellow flame-retardant jackets with white balaclavas covering their mouths to protect from the smoke, worked to control the larger blaze by pushing the new flames with a water cannon towards it.

There is little else to be done. The fire, filling up the horizon, is too big to put out with the little equipment and the small team that Ibama has in Apui, a sawmill town of around 20,000 people on a rough dirt patch of the Trans-Amazonian highway in the eastern corner of Brazil's giant Amazonas state.

Two journalists accompanied the firefighters, sweating from the flames and wearing gas masks against the smoke, as the heat rose through their boots.

— Agencies

Global warming is emerging as a driver of infectious disease like malaria, dengue to Zika

Climate change could expose new epidemics

Paris, Aug. 16: Long-dormant viruses brought back to life, the resurgence of deadly and disfiguring smallpox; a dengue or zika "season" in Europe.

These could be disaster movie storylines, but they are also serious and increasingly plausible scenarios of epidemics unleashed by global warming, scientists say.

Climate change — already wreaking havoc with one degree Celsius of warming — is also emerging as a driver of infectious disease, whether by expanding the footprint of malaria- and dengue-carrying mosquitoes, or defrosting prehistoric pathogens from the Siberian permafrost.

As ground thaws, once-frozen soil particles, organic material and microorganisms that had been locked away for millennia are carried toward the surface by water flows, he explained.

"That's how thawing can spread these microorganisms into present day environments." There are already examples of ancient, long-frozen bugs coming to life.

— AFP



Representational image — AP

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	37,877.34
Nifty 50	11,178.40
S&P 500*	3,372.85
Dollar (₹)	74.90
Pound Sterling (₹)	97.87
Euro (₹)	88.43
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	53,691 ▲730
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	44.80
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.965
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.709
* As of Friday/Saturday	

Zimbabwe annual inflation soars to 837%

Annual inflation in Zimbabwe accelerated to 837.53 per cent in July, the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency said on Saturday in a Twitter post. The year-on-year rate for June was 737.3 per cent. The monthly rate was 35.53 per cent, up from 31.7 per cent in June. The southern African nation is struggling with food and fuel shortages and a local currency that has imploded since being re-introduced last year after a decade-long hiatus.

Chandra: Steel demand to dip significantly



Steel demand is expected to decline significantly in 2020-21. Most of the steel producing regions are expected to witness a decline in crude steel output due to production cuts amidst ongoing lockdowns. The global economic growth is expected to see a contraction of over 3 per cent in 2020, Tata Steel chairman N. Chandrasekaran said in Tata Steel's annual report, terming the slump as the "worst contraction" since the 1930s.

Strict safety rules for construction machinery soon

To ensure greater safety on highways, the government has proposed stricter norms that include features like machine-mounted audible travel alarms, non-metallic fuel tank and wider operator visibility for construction equipment machinery. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has come out with a draft notification for construction equipment vehicles that addresses issues of safety requirements.

Peak power demand declines further to 5.65%

The slump in peak power demand has widened to 5.65 per cent in the first fortnight of August from a 2.61 per cent drop recorded in July, by the power ministry data. Peak power demand met was at 167.49 GW in the first half of Aug., down by 5.65 per cent from 177.52 GW recorded in Aug. last year. Peak power demand met was recorded at 170.54 GW in July this year, down 2.61 per cent from 175.12 GW a year ago.

Printed & Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. #563/9/D&9/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Kompa, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: T. Venkatram Reddy, RNI Reg. No. APENG/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

MFs change tack, take to value investing Funds book profit on top performers

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

MUMBAI, AUG. 16

Profit booking in stocks that had given high return from March 2020 lows and value investing in the large-caps and mid-caps where the upside potential is still intact were evident in mutual funds top picks and sell in July 2020. Thus, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys and Mindtree became the top picks while Reliance Industries, HDFC, Maruti Suzuki and Mahindra & Mahindra were top sell based on their stock market performance.

Primary market offerings also attracted mutual funds' interest as they bought shares of Rossari Biotech and Yes Bank.

Mutual funds' top 10 buys in value terms in July, as per data compiled by Prime Database, included TCS, PI Industries, Infosys, ICICI Bank, Balkrishna Industries, Rossari Biotech, Yes Bank, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, ACC and Nestle India.

Page Industries, Mindtree, UPL, Petronet LNG, Cipla, Ashok Leyland, Indiamart Intermesh, Voltas, State Bank of India and Ultratech Cement were the other top picks of the mutual funds in value terms, according to Prime Database.

Top companies where mutual funds sold shares in value terms in July included RIL, HDFC, Bajaj Finance, Eicher Motors, Axis Bank, Vedanta, Avenue Supermarkets, Bajaj



Auto, Vodafone Idea, Hindalco Industries and IndusInd Bank.

The combined top holdings of the mutual funds at the close of July in terms of market value were HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, Infosys, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, HDFC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, TCS, Axis Bank and ITC.

Syngene International and

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Auto, V

SHORT TAKES

Hyderabad FC tie up with Dortmund

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 16

German football giants Borussia Dortmund (BVB) and Indian Super League Club Hyderabad FC (HFC) have announced a historic two-year club partnership with an option to extend for additional years with an extended scope until 2025. The partnership brings in good news for football supporters in India, as it shows a long-term commitment of one of the biggest German football brands to the Indian football ecosystem.

With this agreement HFC will become the Official Club Partner of BVB in India. A first for such a cooperation for HFC and the fourth one for BVB with their currently ongoing club partnerships with Thai Premier League Club Buriram United, Australia's NPL Club Marconi FC and Iwate Grulla Morioka in Japan. The grand launch of this historic partnership will take place during BVB's Virtual Asia Tour on Thursday and will be streamed live on Hyderabad FC's social media channels.



Syeda Falak

Karateka Falak is IICCB ambassador

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 16

Hyderabad karateka Syeda Falak has been named brand ambassador for the newly launched Indian Islamic Chamber Of Commerce and Bureau (IICCB) which aims to provide support to businesses and entrepreneurs with resources, mentorship, networking and finance.

IICCB is headquartered in Bangalore with chapters in multiple states across India and in countries like USA, UK, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Canada. K. M. Noorul Amin from Bangalore is the founder and patron of the organisation. Falak said she was thrilled to be a brand ambassador for IICCB and was keen to fulfill her roles and responsibilities.

Cyclist Triyasha tests Covid +ve

New Delhi: Cyclist Triyasha Paul has tested positive for Covid-19 after arriving here for the national camp and she is currently in isolation, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Sunday. "Cyclist Triyasha Paul, who is a part of the national cycling camp which is scheduled to start at Indira Gandhi National Stadium, has tested Covid-19 positive," SAI said in a release.

"Triyasha arrived at the camp on August 12 and was given SAI's mandatory Covid-19 test upon arrival," the statement read.

As many as 11 athletes, four coaches, and 16 support staff had reached the camp at the Indira Gandhi National Stadium early this month and they had returned Covid-19 negative in the tests. They are currently under quarantine. — PTI

BANGLADESH WANT SHAKIB TO RETURN

Dhaka: Bangladesh want star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan to make an instant return to international cricket in a series against Sri Lanka when his anti-corruption ban ends in October, the national board president said.

Shakib was banned for two years in 2019 for failing to report an approach by a match-fixing syndicate but one year was suspended, meaning the 33-year-old could be available from October 29.

Sri Lanka host a three-Test tour by Bangladesh later this year, with the first Test slated for October 24.

The national team will work with Shakib — once one of the world's top rated all-rounders but plagued by disciplinary problems — to make him match fit. Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan said. "We will take care of him from now on. One of our physios will work one-to-one with him," Hassan told reporters. — AFP



Lyon players celebrate their win over Manchester City at the end of the UEFA Champions League quarterfinal at the Jose Alvalade Stadium in Lisbon on Saturday. Lyon won 3-1. — AFP

Lyon kings storm City

English biggies bite dust in Champions League



Raheem Sterling of Manchester City reacts to his team's defeat in the Champions League quarterfinal against Lyon at the Jose Alvalade stadium in Lisbon. — AFP

KLOPP VOTED MANAGER OF THE SEASON

London, Aug. 16: Jurgen Klopp has been named Premier League manager of the season after guiding the club to their first league title in three decades.

The 53-year-old German beat Chelsea's Frank Lampard, Leicester City's Brendan Rodgers, who Klopp replaced at Liverpool in 2015, and Sheffield United's Chris Wilder.

Liverpool coasted to the title, they narrowly lost out to Manchester City in the previous campaign.

They garnered 99 points, winning 32 of their 38 league games, to finish 18 points clear of second-placed and former champions Manchester City.

Klopp — who coached Liverpool to the Champions League trophy in the 2018-19 season — also picked up the League Manager's Association manager of the year award last month.

The Premier League award — Liverpool defender Trent Alexander-Arnold won the young player gong on Friday — is a cumulation of votes from the public combined with those of a panel of specialist football experts.

— AFP

RAIN RUINS ENG-PAK TEST ON 4TH DAY

Southampton, Aug. 16: Only 10.2 overs were possible before play was abandoned on another frustrating day in the second Test as Pakistan's chances of a series-tying win further dwindled on Sunday.

Pakistan added 13 runs to scramble to 236 all out in their first innings, and had reduced England to 7-1 before the latest bout of rain arrived at the Rose Bowl halfway through the first session of the fourth day.

The players were taken off and never re-emerged, with play abandoned at tea because it would have taken up to three hours to get the field fit for play and the outfield even longer as it was extremely wet.

It left England trailing by 229 runs with one day remaining.

The tourists had England's batsmen exactly where they wanted them before the rain came, with Shaheen Afridi removing Rory Burns for a duck off the fourth ball of the innings and both Zak Crawley (5) and Dom Sibley (2) struggling to deal with a swinging and seaming ball.

Only five overs have been possible in England's innings so far, but they were encouraging ones for Pakistan.

— AP

Back on track



Telangana Sports Minister V. Srinivas Goud (fourth from left) poses with badminton players including N. Sikki Reddy, Sai Praneeth and Kidambi Srikanth at the Pullela Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad after visiting the place post sanitisation after Sikki and physiotherapist Kiran George had tested positive for Covid-19 last week. Sikki and Kiran subsequently tested negative in the second round of tests on Saturday.

Hamilton edges Max in Spain

Montmeló (Spain), Aug. 16: Lewis Hamilton had no problems with his tyres this time as he coasted to victory at the Spanish Grand Prix on Sunday, extending his championship lead to 37 points and clinching an 88th career victory to move within three of Michael Schumacher's Formula One record.

The talk before the race was whether Mercedes' tyres would be vulnerable in the searing summer heat of Spain, after experiencing problems in the last two races at Silverstone. But there were no such issues as Hamilton finished a sizeable 24 seconds ahead of

Max Verstappen — who has eight podiums in the past nine races stretching back to last season.

"I was just in a daze out there. I felt really good. I didn't even know it was the last lap I was so zoned in," a jubilant Hamilton said, adding, "It was a surprise because we had that problem with the tires last weekend, but we seem to have understood it."

Valtteri Bottas placed third to fall six points behind second-place Verstappen in the standings. The winding 4.7-kilometre Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, with its combination of slow and fast corners, is one of the hardest for

overtaking. After narrowly securing a record-extending 92nd career pole position, Hamilton made a strong start on the long straight to the first corner. But Bottas overtook Verstappen and the Racing Point of Lance Stroll — who jumped from fifth to third with a fine move on Bottas' right flank.

It was another miserable day for struggling Ferrari, with Sebastian Vettel seventh and Charles Leclerc abandoning after his engine cut out on track.

He crawled into the pits but the mechanics seemed at a loss to figure out what was wrong and his race was over on lap 41. Had he stayed out on track, he would likely have been lapped by Hamilton just as Vettel was.

Hamilton set the pace with a confident start. While he and Verstappen swapped fastest lap times, Bottas was stuck behind Stroll for four laps.

It was Verstappen — and not Hamilton or Bottas — who was complaining about his rear tyres at this point and by lap 20 of 66 he said there was "nothing left" in them.

Hamilton and Bottas pitied for new tyres on the next lap. But a blip attaching the rear lift cost Hamilton two seconds and he emerged about four seconds clear. — AP

CHETAN | CHAUHAN DEAD

Sunny tribute to batting partner

BY SUNIL GAVASKAR

"Aaja, aaja, gale mil, after all we are in the mandatory overs of life" was the usual greeting of my opening partner Chetan Chauhan whenever we met over the last two or three years.

The meetings were invariably at his beloved Ferozeshah Kotla ground where he was in charge of the pitch preparation. As we hugged I would say to him that "no, we must have another century partnership" and he would laugh and then say "arrre baba you are the century maker, not me".

Talking of centuries, I firmly believe that I was responsible for him missing out on two occasions, both in Australia in the 1980-81 series Down under. In the second Test in Adelaide he was on 97 when my teammates pulled me out of my chair in front of the TV and dragged me to the players balcony saying I must get there to cheer my partner.

I was a bit superstitious about watching from the players enclosure as then the batsmen would get out and so would always watch on the dressing room TV.

Once the landmark was reached, then I would rush to the players balcony and join in the cheers. However, here I was in the Adelaide balcony when Dennis Lillee came in to bowl and would you believe Chetan was caught behind first ball. I was livid and told the players off for having got me to the balcony.

The second occasion that

I believe I was responsible for Chetan missing a hundred was when I lost my head after being abused by the Australians as I was leaving the pitch after a terrible decision. Trying to drag Chetan off the field with me must have disrupted his concentration and he was again out short of a century a little later.

There's one thing that few players of my generation and the one immediately after that don't know is his contribution in getting tax exemptions for them.

Both of us first met up with the late Shri R. Venkataaraman, who was the Finance minister of the country then and requested him to consider a tax exemption for fees received for playing for India. Shri Venkatramanji was most considerate and in a notification he passed a ruling that gave us 75 per cent standard deduction for a Test match fee than an exemption on 50 per cent of the tour fees which we received before leaving for a tour.

The cherry on the cake though was the total exemption on the One-day match fees of ₹750 which we received those days.

Chetan had a wicked sense of humour too. His favourite song as we walked out to face some of the most hostile bowlers in the game was "muskura ladle muskura".

Now that my partner is no more how can I 'muskura'? May your soul have everlasting peace, partner. — PTI



Aditya Mehta (front left), Aditya Mishra (front right), national taekwondo medalist Mahi Baldev (back left) and Sanath Swaroop (back right) cycle their way from Hyderabad to Shimoga to support para athletes.

Athletes pedal for para power

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, AUG. 16

A group of cyclists from the city took part in the annual cycling expedition organised by Aditya Mehta Foundation (AMF) to create awareness and garner support for Indian para athletes.

Ahead of Independence Day they rode from Hyderabad to Shimoga in Karnataka, covering a distance of 625 kilometres over five days.

Generally a grand event, this year's expedition was a low key affair undertaken with necessary safety precautions due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The team of four cyclists was led by Aditya Mehta

and accompanied by senior IPS officer Aditya Mishra, chairman, Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI). Other team members included Krishnan Vadi (founder, Hyderabad Bicycling Club) and Sanath Swaroop, a volunteer associated with club for six years.

National taekwondo medalist Mahi Baldev served as the youngest support volunteer and participated in the ride at a few places in the expedition along with team manager of AMF cum physiotherapist Asha Sheikh. Fifteen-year-old Mahi is the only fighter from Telangana who is part of the Sports Authority of India Training Centre in Kerala.

TVEZA HAS TOUGH ROUND BUT MAKES BRITISH OPEN

North Berwick (Scotland), Aug. 16: Tvesa Malik endured a tough day at the Renaissance Club, carding a seven-over-78 in the third round to lie at the 69th spot at the Ladies Scottish Open here. However, the Indian golfer had something to cheer about as before the day was out, she received the news of her getting a spot into the Women's British Open next week.

This makes it the first time that three Indian women will figure in a Major. Aditi Ashok and Diiksha Dagar are already in the field for the Women's British Open.

Tvesa, the only one of the three Indians in the field to make the cut this week, had just one birdie against five bogeys and two doubles in typical Links conditions where straying from the fairway extracted severe punishment.

Her birdie on Par-4 fourth was the lone bright spot, as she dropped bogeys on third, eighth, ninth, 11th and 15th. The doubles came on Par-3 12th and par-5 16th.

In the second round, the 23-year-old had a quadruple bogey but rallied from there to make the cut. — PTI

SHORT TAKES

Awards panel set to meet today

New Delhi: The 12-member committee constituted by the sports ministry to select this year's National Sports Awards will meet here on August 17 and 18 to handpick the winners. The meeting will be held at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) headquarters here.

Former India cricketer Virender Sehwag, hockey stalwart Sardar Singh, Paralympic silver-medallist Deepa Malik, former table tennis player Monalisa Baruah Mehta, boxer Venkatesan Devarajan as well as journalists Alok Sinha and Neeru Bhata will be a part of the panel headed by retired Supreme Court Justice, Mukundakam Sharma.

Besides, the committee will also have representation from the Sports Ministry, including Sports Authority of India Director General Sandip Pradhan, Joint Secretary (Sports Development) L. S. Singh and Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) CEO Rajesh Rajagopalan. — PTI

Halep takes title at Prague Open

Prague: Top seed Simona Halep won the Prague Open, the second post-lockdown WTA event, after beating Belgium's Elise Mertens in straight sets on Sunday. Romania's Halep, the 28-year-old reigning Wimbledon champion and world number two, beat the 23rd-ranked Mertens 6-2, 7-5 in an hour and 33 minutes. It was her 21st career WTA title, making her the fifth most successful active player behind Serena and Venus Williams, Kim Clijsters and Petra Kvitova. Mertens took a 2-0 lead in the first set but Halep then won seven games in a row to win that set and start the second on a high, extending her lead to 4-2. Leaning on her superb backhand, Mertens put Halep under pressure with her aggressive display, coming back for a 5-4 lead. But that was it from the 24-year-old Belgian as Halep won the next three games to seal the victory. "Even the first set was not easy, she's a great opponent and it's always tough to play against her because she's fast," Halep told the public broadcaster Czech Television after the match. — AFP

Brady storms into Lexington final

Lexington: Jennifer Brady reached the first WTA final of her career by using a power-based game to beat 16-year-old Coco Gauff 6-2, 6-4 at the Top Seed Open, the first tennis tournament in the U.S. since the start of the pandemic. Brady, a 25-year-old based in Florida, will face Jil Teichmann, a 23-year-old left-hander from Switzerland, in Sunday's title match. Neither finalist has dropped a set at the hard-court tuneup for the U.S. Open, which starts Aug. 31 in New York. Brady has ceded a total of just 17 games through four matches and was broken only once by Gauff. In their match, Brady hit eight aces and won 22 of 26 first-serve points. "If I'm able to serve well, I'm able to start the point aggressively, start in my favor, looking for forehands and be in control of the point from the very first shot," Brady said. Gauff eliminated the No.2 and No.8 seeds earlier in the tournament. — AP

STAGE SET FOR NBA PLAY OFFS IN ORLANDO

Miami: An NBA season unlike any other shifts into high gear on Monday with the start of the playoffs in the league's quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida. Antetokounmpo's Bucks arrived at the bubble virtually assured of the top seed in the Eastern Conference and own the best record in the league as they head into a first-round meeting with the Orlando Magic. — AFP

Live on TV: Boston Celtics vs Philadelphia 76ers from 4 am (Tuesday) on Sony Six; Los Angeles Clippers vs Dallas Mavericks from 6.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Six.

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20

Printed and Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Vailabai Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3. RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Aditya Sinha

THERE'S ONLY ONE 7

Fans, teammates want BCCI to retire Dhoni's jersey number

New Delhi, Aug. 16: Players and fans Sunday urged India's cricket board to retire Mahendra Singh Dhoni's number seven jersey in a tribute to the two-time World Cup winning captain.

Dhoni, 39, called time on his 16-year-old international career Saturday with a cryptic message on his Instagram post that read "From 19.29hrs consider me as retired". The Board of Control for Cricket in India confirmed the news in a statement, saying: "The boy from Ranchi, who made his One-Day International debut in the year 2004, changed the face of Indian cricket with his calm demeanour, sharp understanding of the game and astute leadership qualities."

Dhoni's legions of fans including 7.8 million Twitter followers and former teammate Dinesh Karthik said they did not want to see 7 on the back of any other Indian cricketer's jersey. "I hope the @bcci retire the #7 jersey in white ball cricket Good luck with your second innings in life, I'm sure you'll have a lot of surprises for us there too," Karthik, a wicketkeeper-batsman, tweeted.

Former batsman Mohammad Kaif agreed, writing on Twitter: "Can't imagine any one else wearing a Number 7 India jersey again."

There is no provision to retire jerseys in cricket, unlike in football.

But the BCCI officially retired batting great Sachin Tendulkar's number 10 shirt a few years after his retirement.

Dhoni, a flamboyant wicketkeeper-batsman who led India to win the inaugural Twenty20 World Cup in 2007 and lifted the 50-over showpiece event in 2011, was born on July 7.

He is a self-confessed fan of Portuguese football megastar Cristiano Ronaldo, who also wears a famous number seven jersey.

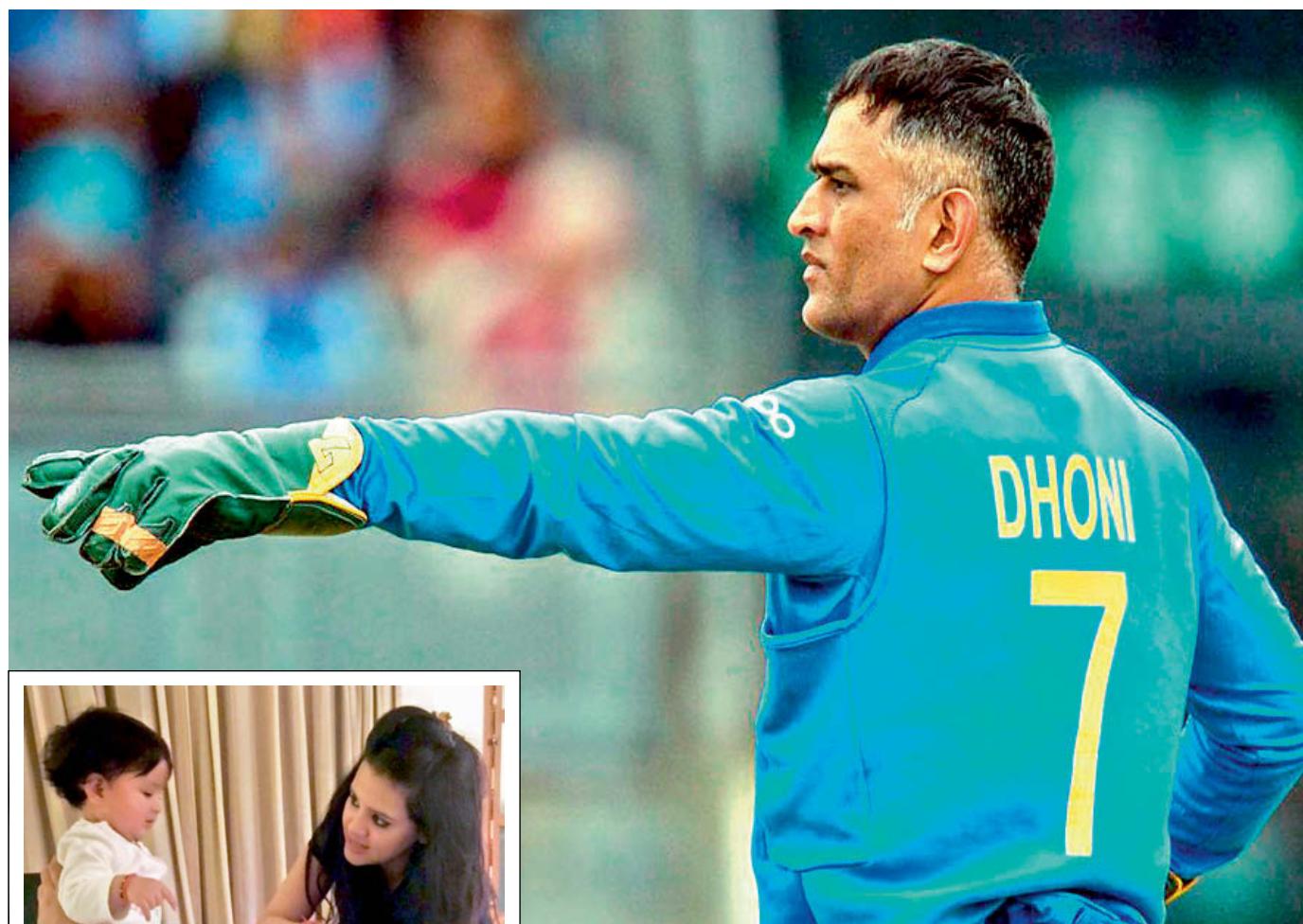
"@BCCI should retire 'Jersey Number 7' as a Tribute to Legend MS Dhoni," a fan wrote on Twitter.

Dhoni, dubbed 'Captain Cool' because of his unflappable style, will continue to lead his team Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League starting in the United Arab Emirates next month.

The Indian women's team's ODI captain Mithali Raj also congratulated him.

"The man who immortalised jersey no.7, whose sharp mind and a cool head earned him the tag of #CaptionCool, the man who fulfilled billion Indian dreams by two World Cup trophies and who bid adieu in his inimitable style. Congratulations #MS Dhoni on an outstanding career," she tweeted.

— PTI



Former Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni in this file photo.



WARNE WANTS MAHI TO PLAY THE HUNDRED

Melbourne, Aug. 16: Retirement from international cricket done, Australian spin legend Shane Warne now wants Mahendra Singh Dhoni to get on with the game and consider being part of his team London Spirit in next year's The Hundred tournament.

Two-time World Cup-winning former India captain Dhoni retired on Saturday, putting endless speculation about his future to rest.

Spinner Warne said he should give serious consideration The Hundred now.

"I just wonder if I could get him down to the London Spirit next year for The Hundred. I might put out a call to see if he wants to play at Lord's. I'll find the money, MS!" Warne told Skysports.

The Hundred' is a 100-balls-per-side tournament of the England and Wales Cricket Board which was scheduled to be launched in June this year but had to be postponed to next year due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic.

— PTI

Proud of you, says Sakshi

New Delhi, Aug. 16: For someone who has the reputation of keeping his emotions in check, Mahendra Singh Dhoni must have held his tears back when he decided to quit international cricket, felt his wife Sakshi while lauding the legend's phenomenal accomplishments.

Sakshi, in a social media post which she shared both on Instagram and Twitter along with a picture of the former India skipper, congratulated Dhoni on his career.

"You should be proud of what you have achieved. Congratulations on giving your best to the game. I am proud of your accomplishments and the person you are!" wrote Sakshi.

"I am sure you must have held those tears to say goodbye to your passion. Wishing you health, happiness and wonderful things ahead," she posted.

Called 'Captain Cool' for his calm demeanour and exceptional leadership qualities, Dhoni has etched his name as one of world cricket's greats.

Sakshi ended her post with American poet Maya Angelou's quote, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

— PTI

MS all-time great: ICC

Dubai, Aug. 16: Tributes continue to pour in for Mahendra Singh Dhoni with the game's governing body ICC saying that the former India skipper "inspired a whole generation and will be sorely missed".

The 39-year-old is the only captain to have won all ICC trophies — T20 World Cup in 2007, ODI World Cup in 2011 and the Champions Trophy in 2013. "MS Dhoni is one of the all-time greats of the game. The image of his

winning shot at the Wankhede Stadium in the 2011 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup final is etched in the memory of cricket lovers around the world," said ICC Chief Executive Manu Sawhney.

— PTI

"announced" on an important day turned out to be without fanfare, a trait he is known for. He played his cricket with a certain proclivity based on hunches inclining towards unpredictability, never seen before in the history of the game in India. No wonder his boss and former president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India called him an "instinctive cricketer."

An incident recounted to me by former Bombay (Mumbai) skipper Milind Rege in 2009 will put MS's psyche in perspective. Rege was in charge of the Brabourne Stadium, the venue of India's third and final Test against Sri Lanka. A few days before the match, Rege asked MS if he would like to take a look at the pitch which was being prepared.

Just the way he had announced his retirement from Test cricket through a press release, mid-series while in Australia, MSD was

"You can give us whatever pitch you want, it's fine by me. We will play on it," was his polite reply as he continued practicing with the team. India ended up winning the Test by an innings and 24 runs against the team to the top of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test rankings.

MS's penchant for doing things his way made him unique from others, as a player and captain. Whether it was honouring a senior colleague — inviting former skipper Sourav Ganguly to lead the team in the field for the final time against Australia in 2008 — or not picking up VVS Laxman's call in 2012 regarding VVS's retirement, the acts had the MS stamp all over them. When Zaheer Khan's hamstring gave way during the

2011 Lord's Test match, MS pulled off his gloves to bowl seamers to drive home the point that Khan wasn't match fit when the match began.

That MS would retire was a given considering the ICC Twenty20 (T20) world Cup was moved ahead a month ago. Though he never made a statement, his desire to wear the number 7 jersey for India must have been his last wish before he called it a day. Many believe that his body wasn't that of the MS they knew while playing the shortest and most testing formats of the game and he should have called it quits after India's loss to New Zealand in the 2019 ICC World Cup. Continuing or retiring from the game is a personal decision taken by

player himself even whatever the writing on the wall may be.

If Sunil Gavaskar was post-partition India's first cricketing superstar, MS can well be called the country's first cricket rockstar. From sporting long locks during his early days to wearing a military logo on his gloves during the ICC World Cup, 2019, he loved making statements. While Gavaskar created symphonies that would have made Beethoven proud, MS took fans through the purple haze of a Jimi Hendrix experience, signing each gig with a unique stamp.

The colour yellow will now replace the blue as MS embarks to play his 13th season of the Indian Premier League (IPL). This would have been one where he would give his all

to try and make the team for the ICCT20 World Cup which now stands postponed.

Pushing 40, MS's energies will be now be directed towards pleasing his (and his IPL team's) fans. One is bound to see a refreshed MS leading his band of faithfuls with a complete sense of freedom.

After leading his country to three ICC championships (including two World Cup wins) and the number one spot in ICC Test rankings, there's not much MS would have wanted to prove as a player and captain. His retirement will, thankfully, end the debate concerning his future and may start another one. The future of Indian cricket (short-format games) in AD — 'After Dhoni.'

Words fall short a lot of times in life and I think this is one of those moments. All I can say is that you will always be that guy who sat in the last seat of the bus. We have shared a great camaraderie, friendship, understanding because we have always played for the same roles, same goals, which was to make the team win. I have said it before, I will say it again, you will always be my captain.

— VIRAT KOHLI

One of the most influential man in the history of Indian cricket. His impact in and around cricket was massive. Will surely miss him in blue but we have him in yellow. See you on 19th (Sept.) at the toss.

— ROHIT SHARMA

In any list of cricket's greatest, not greats but the greatest, you have to include this man. This man is second to none. And coming from where he did he changed cricket for all times to come. And his beauty is he did it in all formats. I salute you Lieutenant Colonel M. S. Dhoni.

— RAVI SHASTRI

Congrats @msdhoni on a brilliant international career. I loved and enjoyed every contest we had as players and now I still have to find ways to stop you winning games against the @DelhiCapitals. Look forward to saying it in person in a few weeks time.

— RICKY PONTING

Welcome to the retirement club, MSD! What a magical career!

— KEVIN PIETERSEN

Congrats @msdhoni on a fantastic career, he is one of the coolest guys I've played against on the park.

— DAVID WARNER



Former Indian cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni (left) poses for a photograph with Indian wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik after their 2019 World Cup semifinal loss against New Zealand.

DHONI THE WORDSMITH

I thought I should throw the ball to someone who really wants to do well in international cricket.

— ON HANDING JOGINDER SHARMA THE LAST OVER IN 2007 T20 WC FINAL'

God helps those who help themselves. I said God is not coming to save us.

— JOKED LATER ABOUT THE DRESSING ROOM TALK BEFORE THAT TOUGH CHASE AGAINST SRI LANKA IN 2011 WC FINAL, WHICH HE FINISHED WITH A SIX.

You die, you die. You don't see which is the better way to die.

— AFTER HAVING BAD AWAY SERIES' AGAINST ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA

A actually...Virat used a knife. He stabbed Shikhar, who just recovered out of that then we pushed him to bat. These are all stories...maybe Warner Bros or somebody should pick up this and make a nice a movie out of it.

— ON THE CONTROVERSY REVOLVING AROUND VIRAT KOHLI AND SHIKHAR DHAWAN

Dhoni's retirement style sets a precedence



Hemant Kenkre
Silly Point

In many ways August 15th, India's Independence Day, may have heralded a new nomenclature to the 'eras of cricket' in the new normal of today. The words BC and AD can now be known as 'Before Coronavirus' and 'After Dhoni' in Indian cricket's parlance.

"Thanks a lot for ur love and support throughout. From 19.29 hrs consider me as Retired." With these words on his Instagram handle, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (MS) walked into the sunset of international

cricket. It was not a lengthy post swooning with words but a simple statement of saying it was all over from international cricket for the man from Ranchi. One who had taken the job of a ticket checker in the Indian Railways which would enable him to play cricket at a national level. And play cricket he did, with aplomb and a style never seen before.

Just the way he had announced his retirement from Test cricket through a press release, mid-series while in Australia, MSD was

an announcement' on an important day turned out to be without fanfare, a trait he is known for. He played his cricket with a certain proclivity based on hunches inclining towards unpredictability, never seen before in the history of the game in India. No wonder his boss and former president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India called him an "instinctive cricketer."

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