

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 4 JULY 2021



WEATHER

Max: 33.0°C
Min: 24.4°C
RH: 58%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Light to moderate rains.
Max/Min temp: 33/24°C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana
Tithi: Jyeshta Bahula Dasami till
7.56 pm

Star: Ashwini till 9.05 am
Varjyam: 4.36 am to 6.24 am;
7.55 pm to 9.44 pm

Durmuhuram: 5.07 pm to
5.59 pm

Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Zeeqad 22,1441 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.36 am

Zohar: 12.30 pm

Asar: 4.56 pm

Maghrub: 7.00 pm

Isha: 8.17 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.54 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.46 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 1.26 AM

MOONSET TODAY 2.14 PM

COUNTER POINT



Now I can travel to
any country... I took all
companies' vaccines!

SHORT TAKES

Maoists storm
iron ore mine

Raipur: Around 150 armed
Maoists on Saturday
stormed an iron ore site
allooted to a private firm in
Chhattisgarh's south Bastar
district of Narayanpur
where they attacked and
took workers hostage, leaving
one of them dead,
police said. The Maoists
also launched a grenade
attack and opened indiscriminate fire on a police
camp, about 1.5 km from
the iron ore mine site. The
attack lasted four hours.

Brazil SC nod to
Covaxin probe

Rio de Janeiro: A Brazilian Supreme Court justice has authorised a criminal investigation into President Jair Bolsonaro's response to allegations of potential corruption within his Health Ministry involving a vaccine deal. In Friday's decision, Supreme Court Justice Rosa Weber said the investigation is supported by recent testimony in a Senate committee investigating the government's handling of the pandemic.

INSIDE

CITY... PAGE 2
RTC feels pinch of rising
fuel prices

CITY... PAGE 5
Man kills wife, hides it
as covid death

WATER WARS

KCR seeks meet on July 20 with TS concerns

Nullify KRMB meet, says CM

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, JULY 3

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Saturday demanded the cancellation of the tripartite meeting of Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) scheduled to be held on July 9 following the complaint lodged by the Andhra Pradesh government against generation of hydel power by the Telangana state government.

Instead, Rao demanded that the KRMB hold a full-fledged meeting after July

20 and incorporate the issues raised by Telangana state in the agenda of the meeting.

The Chief Minister held a meeting with senior officials at Pragathi Bhavan to take stock of the situation arising out of the ongoing Krishna water row with AP.

The CM stated that the AP government's Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme (RLIS) and Pothiredypadu were 'illegal projects' which Telangana would never accept.

He said RLIS was taken up without any approvals by

concerned agencies and without a single drop of water allocations made.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the Telangana state government would continue hydel power generation at projects over Krishna till water levels permitted and no one including the KRMB had the power to ask the Telangana state government to stop it.

He rejected the existing Krishna water sharing ratio of 66:34 between Telangana state and AP and demanded that it should be done in the ratio of 50:50.

■ Page 2: KCR: AP can use Barrage water in Krishna dist

began in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections under the prime minister's leadership has continued till now and on the basis of the works done by PM Modi and Yogi, the BJP will form government with majority in the Assembly polls next year, Singh said.

The victory march that

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Unvaccinated prone
to Delta: Biden



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Italy dump World No.1
Belgium out of Euros



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part ways



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Rafale: France starts
probe, Cong. for JPC

Rahul 'pawn' of
rival firms: BJP

New Delhi, July 3: A French judge has been appointed to lead a "highly sensitive" judicial investigation into alleged "corruption and favouritism" in the ₹59,000 crore Rafale fighter jet deal with India, French investigative website Mediapart reported.

Following the development, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala on Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to come forward and order a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Rafale deal.

"Corruption in the Rafale deal has come out clearly now. The stand of the Congress and Rahul Gandhi has been vindicated today after the French government has ordered a probe," he told reporters at a press conference. The Mediapart said the probe into the inter-governmental deal signed in 2016 was formally opened on June 14.

"A judicial probe into suspected corruption has been opened in France over the 7.8-billion Euro sale to India in 2016 of 36 Dassault-built Rafale fighter aircraft," the

writing down in a file that "please act accordingly" when a matter is brought before him, Patra said and accused the Congress of spreading lies and misconceptions over the issue. The Congress has become synonymous with spreading lies and misconceptions, he said.

"The way Rahul Gandhi is behaving, it will not be an exaggeration to say that he is being used as a pawn by competing companies. He was lying right from the beginning on the issue. Probably, he is acting as an agent or some member of Gandhi family has been for a competing company," he said. — PTI

Mediapart reported on the latest development on the controversial deal.

The probe was initiated by the National Financial Prosecutors' Office (PNF) following Mediapart's fresh reports in April of

alleged wrongdoings in the deal and a complaint filed by French NGO Sherpa that specialises in financial crime. — PTI

■ Page 5: First complaint buried: Journalist

BJP claims victory in UP
local polls, SP alleges force

2-term MLA is
U'khand CM

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JULY 3

Uttarakhand on Saturday got its third chief minister in less than four months after ruling the BJP's legislature party elected Pushkar Singh Dhami as its leader. He is likely to take oath of office on Sunday in the state where Assembly polls are scheduled early next year.

Mr Dhami succeeded Tirath Singh Rawat, who resigned late Friday night due to a "constitutional crisis." A two-time MLA from Udhampur Singh Nagar's Khatima, Mr Dhami, 45, was associated with the RSS' youth wing, ABVP, during his college days.

Incidentally, Udhampur Singh Nagar is the only district in the poll-bound state which witnessed protests by farmers against the Centre's three land laws. The Terai district shares its border with UP and has a significant Sikh population and is part of Nainital-Udhampur parliamentary seat.

Thanks to all people," he said.

UP BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh too said, "The BJP+ (BJP and its allies) has won 67 out of 75 seats of zila panchayat chairpersons. For these unprecedented results, I thank people of the state." The victory march that

began in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections under the prime minister's leadership has continued till now and on the basis of the works done by PM Modi and Yogi, the BJP will form government with majority in the Assembly polls next year, Singh said.

— PTI

out of total 811 tmc ft (thousand million cubic feet) in the Krishna river allotted to undivided AP, both the states should share 405.5 tmc ft each till Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal delivered its verdict.

The Chief Minister rebuffed AP's claims that they were forced to release surplus water into the sea from Prakasam barrage due to Telangana state taking up hydel power generation upstream.

He rejected the existing Krishna water sharing ratio of 66:34 between Telangana state and AP and demanded that it should be done in the ratio of 50:50.

■ Page 2: KCR: AP can use Barrage water in Krishna dist

Hyd to get vax testing
lab in 1 month: Kishan

National Institute of Animal Biotechnology to house centre

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3



Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy on Saturday said the vaccine testing laboratory in Hyderabad would be ready in a month and would commence operations at the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology.

Kishan Reddy said the Centre had sanctioned funds from the PM Cares Fund for setting up the laboratory in the city.

"I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sanctioning funds for setting up a vaccine testing lab in Hyderabad. It is a big step forward towards comprehensive development of the pharma sector in Hyderabad."

"Considering the fact that the city of Hyderabad is home to many big pharma companies, Covid-19 vaccine production companies and R&D institutions, the setting up of a new vaccine testing laboratory in Hyderabad is a big step forward towards the comprehensive development of this sector which will also

boost the production of Covid-19 vaccines," Kishan Reddy.

India currently has two vaccine-testing laboratories—the Central Drug Laboratory at Kasauli and National Institute of Biologicals at Noida.

■ Page 2: TS govt sought vaccine centre repeatedly

BB: Covaxin 65.2%
effective on Delta

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

BHARAT BIOTECH said that its vaccine was 77.8 per cent effective against Covid-19. The company released data from the final Phase-3 clinical trials while evaluating responses against virus variants

reducing hospitalisations, and 63.6 per cent efficient against asymptomatic disease transmission, the company said.

The data from the third phase of the clinical trials by Bharat Biotech was published in the online medrxiv.org website and is yet to be peer reviewed.

The company said the Phase-3 clinical trials was an event driven analysis of 130 symptomatic Covid-19 cases, reported at least two weeks after the second dose, conducted at 25 sites across India.

■ Page 2: More trials to establish efficacy on kids

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SHORT TAKES
**NO DRINKING
WATER IN SOME
PARTS TOMORROW**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

The Water Board will be shutting down drinking water supply on Monday to parts of the city to facilitate work on the main Krishna pipeline. The work involves shifting of the pipeline to allow for the construction of the flyover at Nagole junction.

The affected areas are: Balapur, Maisaram and Barkas, Mekalmandi and Bholakpur; Tarnaka, Lalapet, Boudhanagar, Marredpally, Control Room, Railways, MES, Cantonment, Prakashnagar and Patigadda. Hasmathpet, Ferozguda and Gouthamnagar, Vaishali Nagar, BN Reddy Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, Autonagar and Maruthi Nagar; Mahindra Hills, Elugutti, Ramnathapur, Uppal, Nacharam, Habsiguda, Chilkanagar and Beerappagadda, some parts of Boduppal, Meerpeta and Badanpet.

**PLEA TO APPOINT
HEADMASTERS IN
URDU SCHOOLS**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

The Telangana State Minority Employees Services Association (TS-MESA) has urged the school education department to consider allocating headmaster posts to Urdu medium primary schools.

The government is planning to appoint 5,571 primary headmasters. President TS-MESA M.A. Farooq Ahmed submitted a representation towards considering a similar plan for Urdu medium schools.

Ahmed stated that in the past there was a headmaster (LFL) in most of the primary schools of other language mediums but only a few posts were earmarked for Urdu medium primary schools in Hyderabad. He demanded authorities to allocate at least 25 per cent of posts to Urdu medium schools.

**TS GOVT SOUGHT
VACCINE CENTRE
REPEATEDLY**

From Page 1

The Telangana government had earlier made repeated requests to the Centre to set up the vaccine testing lab in Hyderabad. Industries minister K.T. Rama Rao requested the Centre on three occasions in this regard.

The most recent request was made on June 20. In a letter to Union health minister Harsh Vardhan, Rama Rao said Hyderabad had emerged as the vaccine capital of the world, and companies were sending every batch of vaccines for testing to the national vaccine testing centre in Kasauli leading to loss of 45 days of valuable time.

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

**MORE TRIALS TO
ESTABLISH
EFFICACY ON KIDS**

From Page 1

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

Bharat Biotech is currently undertaking additional trials for Covaxin to establish the safety of the vaccine and its efficacy in children between two and 18 years of age. "A clinical trial to determine the safety and immunogenicity of a booster dose is also in process," the company said, adding that research was on to study variants of concern and to assess their suitability for follow up booster doses.

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

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

Immune boosters are new favourites

Supplements must be taken on doc's advice

WFH holds huge risk of overeating

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

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

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

There were recommendations on public platforms, which led to high consumption of zinc, B-complex, vitamin D and other so-called immune building products.

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

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

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

Those who are immune-compromised with diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, undergoing treatment for cancers and other long term-illness are prescribed supplements and immunity boosters for the deficiency in their body.

While these are identified cases there are many not aware of the underlying conditions. Nutritionist Ali Mohammed said, "Those who have availed of B-complex, vitamin D and

zinc supplements with guidance from experts have benefited. It was noticed on those who were treated at home, pro-inflammatory cytokines, improving respiratory functions and preventing hypercoagulation were possible with the help of B and D vitamins."

Zinc supplements have to be taken after advice from doctors and nutritionists as it plays an important role in differentiating immature T cells and preserving the balance between killer T cells and helper T cells.

Zinc is available in foods like poultry, shellfish, chickpeas, lentils, beans, melon seeds, cashews, peanuts, almonds, cheese, milk, eggs and whole

grains. Recommended dietary allowance of zinc is up to 30 to 80 RDA and if these foods are a part of our diet, excess supplements are not required.

Experts state that immunity boosters are for those who have undergone surgery, trauma, suffering from a debilitating disease or on regular medication for an illness which requires regular follow-ups. For healthy individuals, natural foods build the best immunity.

Experts advise against hoarding, stocking and buying of immunity boosters without advice as most of the vitamins are excreted out of the body while fats and heavy metals lead to other health issues.

Drivers get subsidised cars under state scheme

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3



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

Eshwar said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had introduced the scheme so that drivers can start owning their taxis. The subsidy component of the scheme is 60 per cent with the beneficiary paying ₹50,000. He claimed that in the last three years hundreds of drivers have benefited from the scheme.

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

bank instalments in time.

Nampally MLA Jafar Hussain Meraj presided over the function. Secretary of Minorities Welfare Ahmed Nadeem explained the features of different schemes. MLC Mirza

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

**SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 3**

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

become a burden on the corporation.

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

The RTC which spent ₹66.60 per litre of diesel in the middle of March 2019, saw only a marginal increase in its fuel bill by

the end of 2019 spending ₹68.13 per litre of the fuel in the middle of December that year. As on Saturday, with diesel price at ₹97.20 a litre in Hyderabad, the fuel bill burden on the corporation has become quite stark, according to official sources.

When contacted, RTC officials were circumspect in speaking about how the rising diesel prices were hurting the corporation and

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

were reluctant to answer any question. With the rising fuel prices becoming a political hot button, the RTC, according to sources, has no option but to foot

Stinky stops



Wet and dry dustbins carelessly installed inside the Chaderghat bus stop by the GHMC without considering the trouble it poses to the commuters.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

SBI takes loan repayment first from GHMC kitty in new deal

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

In a major development, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has entered into an agreement hypothecating itself to the State Bank of India (SBI).

Under the arrangement, the corporation will open an escrow account with complete control over its finances. SBI will withdraw its interest and principal amount from the account before the rest is used by the GHMC for its operational and maintenance works.

Escrow is use of a third party capable of holding assets on behalf of two parties, who are in the process of completing a transaction. The assets could be money, funds, stocks, and so on. Thus, an escrow account is a third party account which holds assets until the conclusion

of a specific event or time.

As per agreement entered into by the SBI, the GHMC will repay loans by levying special development charges on citizens. The state government has given counter guarantee to loans being taken by GHMC, releasing G.O. 697 in this regard.

As of now, the corporation has been paying ₹1 crore per day towards interest for loans it has taken for its flagship programmes like Strategic Road Development Plan (SRDP), Comprehensive Road Maintenance Programme (CRMP), Hyderabad Road Development Corporation Limited (HRDCL) has taken up rejuvenation of lakes and development of link roads and infrastructure projects.

The corporation has been paying ₹30 crore interest on loans of ₹4,596 crore. In response to an RTI

filed by city activist M. Srinivas, the civic body has said the government has so far not released any amounts for SRDP, lake developments and link roads. It said that the corporation has spent ₹1,691 crore on SRDP, ₹223 crore for developing link roads and ₹88.47 crore on development of lakes. Since 2014, GHMC has taken ₹3,460 crore loan from SBI, ₹495 crore by raising municipal bonds and ₹140 crore from Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO).

The corporation is already paying 8.65 per cent interest on ₹2,500 crore taken for SRDP and 7.2 per cent interest on ₹1,460 crore taken for CRMP. This apart, it has been repaying 8.90 per cent interest on ₹200 crore, ₹190 crore and ₹100 crore raised through municipal bonds for

KCR: AP CAN USE BARRAGE WATER IN KRISHNA DIST

From Page 1

He suggested that AP utilise the water to meet the needs in Krishna district and save power charges to be incurred for lifting Godavari water from the Pattiseema project.

TS had a large requirement of power for its lift irrigation projects and Mission Bhagiratha. To meet this demand, generating hydel power was necessary to reduce financial burden as well as pollution since hydel power was considered 51 per cent clean energy. The CM said the Centre too was encouraging states to opt for hydel energy and Telangana state was following suit. He added that 40 per cent of hydel power consumption was for lift irrigation needs.

Chandrashekhar Rao said the Telangana state government would go to any extent to protect its justifiable share in the Krishna river. He expressed anger over Bachawat Tribunal failing to deliver a final verdict on Krishna water allocations even though it was constituted 17 years ago.



Members of the Centenary Baptist Church visit patients at a hospital to mark Indian Christian Day, in Hyderabad on Saturday.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

Organisations celebrate Indian Christian Day

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

Indian Christian Day was celebrated by some Christian organisations and churches here on Saturday. This is the first time that this event has been held, which the organisers said would be an annual feature hereafter so that it can bring solidarity in the community.

July 3 has been earmarked as it is believed by Syrian Christians, who

are the first to follow the teachings of St Thomas, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ, as the day he came to India from Jerusalem in 52 AD.

From then on, our churches have come up across India and in Hyderabad it is at Gandhi Nagar.

Organiser of the event, Sterzy Rajan, said, "The day is introduced to bring solidarity amongst Christians. The essence of the day is charity and welfare of people around us."

Public discussion on hike in diesel price is avoided to keep focus off state's taxation

RTC feels pinch of rising fuel prices, but keeps mum

**SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 3**

Bharat Biotech is currently undertaking additional trials for Covaxin to establish the safety of the vaccine and its efficacy in children between two and 18 years of age. "A clinical trial to determine the safety and immunogenicity of a booster dose is also in process," the company said, adding that research was on to study variants of concern and to assess their suitability for follow up booster doses.

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When contacted, RTC officials were circumspect in speaking about how the rising fuel prices became a political hot button, the RTC, according to sources, has no option but to foot

the constantly rising fuel bill and keep silent. It is learnt that any discussion on fuel prices, at least in the public by the RTC, is off the table as the state government too can be accused of not doing anything to bring the prices down by reducing the levies it collects on every litre of diesel sold in the state including a ₹2 per litre as additional tax on the fuel, apart from the 27

Telangana government spoke recently on the rising fuel prices, as did the opposition Congress, some Central ministers responded saying that if the state was worried about the burden on the people, then it could cut the taxes it levied on fuels sold in Telangana state. The TSRTC hiked its fares last on December 16, 2019, when the price of a litre diesel was ₹68.13.

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FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: **TELANGANA:** HYDERABAD: AUTOMOTIVE, HI-TECH CITY, PH: 6309908117, LB NAGAR, NAGOLE, PH: 6309624444, CAR AUTOMOTIVE LLP, JUBILEE HILLS, PH: 7997858880, VIHAAN AUTO VENTURES PVT LTD, SECUNDERABAD, PH: 9738312345, KUKATPALLY, PH: 9394812345 **GACHIBOWLI:** CAR AUTOMOTIVE LLP, PH: 7997858880 **KHAMMAM:** AUTOMOTIVE, PH: 6309908189, **MAHBUBNAGAR:** AUTOMOTIVE, PH: 6309908110 **NALGONDA:** AUTOMOTIVE, PH: 6309908183 **WARANGAL:** MALIK KIA, PH: 9703433333 **ANDHRA PRADESH:** ANANTAPUR: MG BROTHERS, PH: 8333929195 BHIMAVARAM: SIMHA, UNDI ROAD, PH: 8688836544 **GUNTUR:** SIMHA, INDIRA AUTONAGAR, PH: 8688836566 **KADAPA:** HOSHI AUTO, PH: 8688829739 **KAKINADA:** KANTIPUDI KIA, PH: 7799740208 **KURNOOL:** MG BROTHERS, PH: 8500257027 **NELLORE:** HOSHI AUTO, PH: 8688829729 **RAJAHMUNDRY:** KANTIPUDI KIA, LALACHERUVU, PH: 7799740208 **TIRUPATI:** HOSHI AUTO, PH: 8688829739 **VIJAYAWADA:** SIMHA, RAMACHANDRA NAGAR, PH: 8688836501 **VISAKHAPATNAM:** LAKSHMI KIA, BIRLA JUNCTION, PH: 7997815777



SHORT TAKES

TREAT WOMEN WITH RESPECT: CONG. TO COPS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

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

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

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

AID ECONOMIC GROWTH: CS TELLS BANKS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar asked bankers to take proactive measures to increase economic activities in the state, for accelerated growth of the economy.

The CS was speaking at a review meeting with bankers on Saturday at the BRKR Bhavan and suggested that they organise loan melas, open counters in shopping malls, offer additional interest rebates on sales, simplify loan disbursal process and documentation, introduction of new schemes for extending loans, fast track decision making to uptake consumption.

Kumar said that the government's Covid control measures and vaccination strategy was praised by the reputed scientific journal Lancet recently.

He asked the bankers to extend more loans towards purchase of vehicles, computers, electronic goods and garments in a drive mode to make economy more vibrant.

Earlier the Chief Secretary held discussions with retailers, shopping malls, tourist operators and hospitality sector representatives and sought suggestions for revival of the economy. He asked them to offer more discounts, maintain Covid protocols and hygienic conditions to attract consumers.

'Pseudo secular' KCR is pro-Modi: Revanth

Reconnect with Congress, Revanth tells Muslims

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

Calling Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao pseudo-secular, newly appointed PCC president A. Revanth Reddy appealed to minorities to reconnect with the Congress to defeat communal forces at the national level. Minorities should stop thinking of supporting TRS, which is a secret ally of the BJP, he said.

Revanth Reddy was addressing a meeting with minorities leaders, which was organised by senior Congress leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir here on Saturday. The meeting was held to discuss arrangements for the swearing-in ceremony of Revanth Reddy as the TPCC chief at Gandhi Bhavan on July 7.

Speaking on the occasion, Reddy said that BJP has been polarising elections by accusing that Congress was into appeasement of Muslims. On the other side, Muslims have been supporting regional parties like TRS, who are eventually supporting the BJP at the national level. He said this has caused immense damage to the country's secular fabric.

He said that the Congress never appeared any particular community and it only ensured social justice by giving equal opportunities to all communities without any prejudice.

Citing several instances, Reddy claimed that Chandrashekhar Rao had backed all the anti-minorities' moves of the BJP like the Triple Talaq Bill and not opposing Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizenship (NRC).

He pointed out that in spite of demands of Congress the TRS government did not pass a resolution in the Assembly opposing CAA and NRC. He said Rahul Gandhi has rightly described TRS as B-Team of BJP, both of which are misleading people of Telangana.

Reddy slammed Rao for not honouring his



TPCC president A. Revanth Reddy addresses Muslim leaders at a meeting convened at the residence of former minister Shabbir Ali in Hyderabad. — DC

Will hit back: Ex-Cong. MLAs react to Revanth

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

The 12 TRS MLAs who defected from the Congress criticised TPCC chief A. Revanth Reddy for his call to Congress cadre to "stone and kill" them and promised to take their own measures.

The 12 MLAs, including education minister P. Sabitha Indra Reddy, in joint statement on Saturday said that if Revanth Reddy would pelt stones at them, the TRS cadre would beat him with chappals for not submitting his resignation letter to the Speaker after announcing that he would do so, while joining the Congress from the TD in 2017. They asked why Revanth Reddy continued as TD MLA in the Congress from October 2017 till

September 2018 when the Assembly was dissolved.

They stated that they became TRS MLAs "constitutionally" after the merger of the Congress Legislative Party with the TRSLP.

They alleged that Revanth Reddy bought the TPCC chief post for ₹25 crore by bribing Manickam Tagore, the AICC in-charge for Telangana state.

Later, TRS MLAs Devireddy Sudheer Reddy, Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy and Pilot Rohith Reddy addressed a press conference at Telangana Bhavan to condemn the statement of Revanth Reddy.

Sudheer Reddy termed Revanth Reddy as a "brand ambassador of blackmail politics" and a "thief" who was caught red-handed

in the cash-for-vote case.

He alleged that Revanth Reddy had the habit of misusing the RTI Act to obtain information of others and blackmailing them, thereby making a fortune. "Revanth is running a mafia from his house by employing retired revenue staff whose job is to create litigation on properties owned by others and blackmail them," he alleged.

Sudheer Reddy said that Congress Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in Rajasthan took BSP MLAs into the party. "Will Revanth Reddy pelt stones at Gehlot also," he asked. Several parties merged into the Congress over the years. Would Revanth Reddy pelt stones at the high command for this, Sudheer Reddy asked.

promise of 12 per cent reservation to Muslims despite being in power for seven years. He said that in contrast, the then Congress government fulfilled the promise of giving four per cent Muslim reservation, which benefitted nearly 20 lakh poor Muslims. Stating that Rao had spent mind-boggling amount to ensure his defeat in Kodangal Assembly seat in the 2014

Assembly elections, he said that the people of Telangana, including Muslims, showered their blessings on him by ensuring his victory from Malkajgiri, which is the country's largest Lok Sabha constituency. Shabbir Ali said that Rao was constantly targeting Muslims, their institutions and even places of worship, especially after winning a second term. He said that this was the same sentiment with which he was causing financial distress and not filling up vacancies in Urdu Academy and Minorities Finance Corporation, among several such institutions. There is no Muslim among the 10 vice-chancellors, who were appointed recently. Similarly, no Muslim found a place in the reconstituted Telangana State Public Service Commission, he alleged.

On May 5, 2020, the AP government issued GO No 203 for construction of the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme (RLIS)

to pump 3 tmc ft of water, upgradation of Pothireddypadu head regulator canal system to

draw 80,000 cusecs of water, both from the fore-shore of Srisailam reservoir, and other works in the existing canal system of Galeru-Nagari project to draw another 70,000 cusecs of water from Srisailam. These are highly objectionable and illegal projects and are in violation of the water allocations made by KWDIT-I, Sanjay wrote.

He said Chandrashekhar Rao had not attended the second Apex Council meeting on August 5, 2021, to discuss this matter. "Almost 50 per cent of the RLIS is completed by now, seriously affecting the water rights of Telangana state," he said.

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

My client is helpless inspite of injunction order but retains the right to publish the crimes committed by this Kancherla Family, according to law of the land.

Taking advantage of a civil case Santosh Reddy instigated the opponents who made a daring attempt on the life of the person who is assisting the Mr. P. ANANTHAIAH no arrest in this case FIR No. 317 of 2021 also. Political connections matter.

Date: 04-07-2021

CAUTION NOTICE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

BJP Telangana president Bandi Sanjay urged the Centre to notify the jurisdiction of Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) at the earliest so that the legitimate water rights of Telangana are protected. He alleged that since TS Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao is in cahoots with his AP counterpart Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the Centre should step in to safeguard the interests of the state.

Stating this in a letter to Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Sanjay on

Saturday pointed out that the Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal (KWDT-I) had awarded 811 tmc ft (thousand million cubic feet) of water in the Krishna to undivided Andhra Pradesh. The award of the KWDT-II (Brijesh Kumar Tribunal) in 2010 has not been published as the matter is in the Supreme Court.

He said the Centre had not mandated the jurisdiction of the Krishna and Godavari management boards, set up under the Reorganisation Act.

After bifurcation, AP and TS worked out a temporary arrangement to share the 811 tmc ft water, The TS government led

by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had failed to protect the interests of the state, agreeing to use 299 tmc ft, against 512 tmc ft by AP.

"This is not correct, because 68.5 per cent of the catchment area of the Krishna basin lies within Telangana state. Telangana state should get 555 tmc ft (68.5 per cent of 811 tmc ft) as its due share," Sanjay wrote.

He said Chandrashekhar Rao had not attended the second Apex Council meeting on August 5, 2021, to discuss this matter. "Almost 50 per cent of the RLIS is completed by now, seriously affecting the water rights of Telangana state," he said.

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assisting the Mr. P. ANANTHAIAH no arrest in this case FIR No. 317 of 2021 also. Political connections matter.

Date: 04-07-2021

Sd/- Syed Aale Mohammed Quadri

B.Com, MBA., LL.B. Advocate

(Shabbir Pasha)

Off : Flat No 301, H.NO 10-5-23, Axis Bank Building, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-28. Ph: 040-23226191 Mob : +91-9701278655

Krishna issue politicised: Cong.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

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

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

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

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Farmer pleads with TRS MLA for protection of land

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, JULY 3

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

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

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

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

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

Mutharam village in Shankarapatnam mandal in

Farmer Narasaiah falls at the feet of Manakondur MLA

Rasamayi Balakishan in Shankarapatnam of Karimnagar on Saturday. — DC

Shankarapatnam of Karimnagar on Saturday. — DC

Mutharam village in Shankarapatnam mandal in

Farmer Narasaiah falls at the feet of Manakondur MLA

Rasamayi Balakishan in Shankarapatnam of Karimnagar on Saturday. — DC

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Farmer Narasaiah falls at the feet of Manakondur MLA

Rasamayi Balakishan in Shankarapatnam of Karimnagar on Saturday. — DC

Mutharam village in Shankarapatnam mandal in

IN BRIEF

POLICE RAID
HOTEL, RESCUE
9 WOMENDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

The Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Hyderabad police raided a hotel at Somajiguda and rescued nine women who had been forced into commercial sex work, and arrested two customers on Friday.

The main organiser is absconding. Police sent the accused to judicial custody and the women to an observation home. AHTU sub-inspectors Madhu and Balaraju and their team in coordination with the Punjagutta police conducted the raid. Police booked a case and further investigation is underway.

MAN KILLS WIFE,
TRIES TO PASS IT
OFF AS COVID-19DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

Rachakonda police arrested an autorickshaw driver who killed his wife and tried to escape by stating that she had succumbed to Covid-19.

The accused, Ramavath Vijay of Vanasthalipuram, smothered his wife Kavitha to death on June 18, suspecting her fidelity. He then took her body to his native village in Nalgonda district to perform the last rites. He told the family members that Covid had claimed her life.

Suspecting foul play, Kavitha's mother Dhanavati Buji lodged a complaint with the Vanasthalipuram police six days after the burial, on June 24. Acting swiftly on the complaint, the police exhumed the body and arranged an on-the-spot autopsy. Upon being interrogated,

"The accused got his wife tested for Covid-19 and it came negative. Seven days later, he killed her," said Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh M. Bhagwat. He appreciated inspector K. Murali Mohan and his team for the swift action which ensured that the accused was put behind bars.

FIRST COMPLAINT
BURIED:
JOURNALIST

From Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

— PTI

7 MINOR GIRLS
RESCUED FROM
CITY COMPANYDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

Seven children were rescued from child labour under Operation Muskan by the Rachakonda police raided a company, Laxmi Frostesem in Sahibnagar, Vanasthalipuram and rescued seven minor girls belonging to the ST communities who were working there. The girls had been employed to clean empty bottles.

The children have been accommodated at Don Bosco School, Hayatnagar, police said.

Based on a complaint from labour department officials, police booked a case and arrested three persons.

The raid was carried out by Vanasthalipuram Operation Muskaan-VII Team and Anti Human Trafficking Team.

Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh M. Bhagwat asked people to inform them of child labour on Childline 1098, Dial 100 or on WhatsApp 9490617111.

HC tells state to file suit for Lothkunta land title

Court gives time, suspends single judge order for 4 weeks

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

The Telangana High Court on Friday directed the government to approach the civil court and file a civil suit for claiming title and possession of 40-acre parcel of land in Survey No.s 1 and 2 of Lothkunta of Malkajgiri mandal.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy was dealing with an appeal filed by the government which had challenged the orders issued by a single judge bench of the High Court.

The single judge had concluded that the land was in the patta category and its possession has to be given to Shanta Sriram Constructions Pvt Ltd immediately. The single judge directed the government to pay costs of ₹1 lakh to the construction company.

GANG EXTORTS
MONEY FROM
POLITICAL
LEADERS, HELDDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

A gang of extortionists who tried to blackmail and extort money from political leaders were arrested by the Bhongir Special Operations Team police on Saturday. The accused include Sandepalli Kranthi Kumar and his brother Simhadri and one Sangi Jashwanth. Investigation revealed that the accused tried to extort from political leaders like Beeria Ailaiah and Poreddi Srinivas from Yadadri Bhongir district, who enjoy a flourishing real estate business.

In the case of Ailaiah, the accused had prior information regarding some raids by I-T sleuths. On June 26 and 27 they called Ailaiah through a stolen mobile, pretended to be gangster Khaleel and demanded ₹5 crore, failing which he would be killed.

In the case of Srinivas, the accused sent a message introducing himself as a woman named Vasumathi from Khammam. Srinivas fell for the trick and started chatting with the accused. The accused took screen shots of the chat and stared blackmailing Srinivas. "They said that Vasumathi's husband had come to know of the conversation and was going to file a police complaint. They demanded ₹10 lakh to hush up the matter," said Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh M. Bhagwat.

IN THE CASE OF Srinivas, the accused sent a message introducing himself as a woman named Vasumathi from Khammam. Srinivas fell for the trick and started chatting with the accused.

STRICT | RULES

State govt cracks down on illegal sale of pups

Online pup sellers on radar

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

In order to curb illegal breeding and marketing of pups, Arvind Kumar, municipal administration and urban development principal secretary, instructed Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) officials and director, animal husbandry, to shut down units which do not comply with the TS Animal Welfare Board (AWB) requirements.

He instructed the IT department to book cases on those illegally selling pups online. He

asked officials to ensure the registration of pet dogs are done by August 15, and sought a report. Kumar asked officials to raise awareness through social media platforms pertaining to the illegal sale of dogs online. "It was ascertained that almost all dog breeders are operating illegally without obtaining a certificate of registration from the Animal Welfare Board and without obtaining trade licence from the GHMC," he said.

The units were not only flouting rules but also putting the lives of animals at risk. By per-

GHMC WAS directed to get in touch with the director, animal husbandry, the commissioner and director of municipal administration and the commissioners of Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda police and issue notices to dog breeders asking them to obtain registration from AWB within 4 weeks.

mitting these breeders to operate and linking them with pet shops, the GHMC was indirectly allowing them to operate illegally, Kumar said.

KIMS DOCS REPAIR
COVID DAMAGE TO
SMALL INTESTINEDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 3

The division bench suspended the order giving possession to the construction firm for four weeks. The bench made it clear that protection granted to the government should not be construed as an observation on the merits of the suit that the appellants propose to institute.

The division bench said that the trial court shall be at liberty to pass appropriate orders on the stay application that may be filed by the state government along with plain, uninfluenced by the order passed by it.

In 2016, Shanta Sriram Constructions had approached the High Court challenging the orders issued by revenue courts that the documents placed by the private parties claiming the land was registered in their name in 1955, were fabricated.

Shanta Sriram's submission was that there are only two survey numbers in the Lothkunta village revenue records, which consists of around 59 acres. Its claim was that the land belongs to Lateefunnisa Begum, that she had sold the land to Seth Kishanram Gowli under a registered sale deed in 1955 and that the purchaser's name was mutated in revenue record as patellar and possessor.

After that a portion of the 5 acres and 10 gunta of that land was acquired under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894

and an award was passed in 1985 in favour of Seth Kishanram Gowli. The company also contended that a small extent of land was acquired by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board and an award was passed in favour of Seth Kishanram, according to the construction firm.

His legal heirs made an agreement to develop the land with Shanta Sriram Constructions, the firm said.

The Secunderabad Cantonment Board sanctioned a layout on 04.07.2008 for 40 acres and that they had paid ₹53.25 lakh towards development charges, the firm said.

In 2013, the tahsildar of Trimulgherry mandal issued notice alleging that Shantha Sriram had encroached on 40 acres of government land falling under GLR Sy.No.243.

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INFORMATION BULLETIN FOR ADMISSIONS 2021

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Panjabh Raj Engineering Department
e-Procurement Notice Date 02.07.2021
NIT No.R0/PRED/RR/95-99/2021-22
No. of work (05): Name of the works: Formation of Roads, Contm. of Skill Development Centre & Youth Building works in Rangareddy and Vikarabad Districts. Total Est. Cost: Re 4440.00 Lakhs. Tenders can download the tender schedules from 06.07.2021 onwards and last date: 14.07.2021. All further details can be seen on the net at e-procurement market place i.e. www.tender.telangana.gov.in
SD/- Regional Officer, PRED, Ranga Reddy

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan, J.L. Nehru Marg, (Old Minto Road) New Delhi-110002.
Subject: Registration of Consumer Organisations with TRAI
Applications are invited from the consumer organisations working for the interest of consumers for registration with TRAI under "Registration of Consumer Organisations Regulations 2013" dated 21.02.2013 in selected states. The detailed information is available on TRAI website at <https://www.trai.gov.in/consumer-info/telecom/consumers-groups>. Interested Organisations may send their applications along with requisite documents to the Joint Advisor (CA). The last date for receipt of application form is 03-09-2021. dadv 06218/11/0001/2122

LEASING OF PARCEL VAN
E-Tender Notice No.: C-LMG-26 of 2021
E-tenders are invited by undersigned from valid registered leaseholders in Category 'A' of Originating Railway Division/Zone or Destination Railway Division/Zone for leasing of 23 tone Parcel Van on round trip basis for 05 (five) years for transportation of parcels, between stations and by the train given below in the Table A on payment of lump sum rates for transportation of their parcels.
TABLE - A

Sl. No.	Train No.	VP Lease Round trip circuit	No. of days in a week	Number of parcel vans available for lease	Reserve Price per 23 tone VP on one round trip
1	02514/13 (12514/13)	Guwahati-Secunderabad Jn.-Guwahati	Weekly (From Guwahati on Thursday and From Secunderabad Jn. on Saturday)	1	₹ 2,88,472/-

Ernest Money : ₹ 4,00,00/-; Cost of Tender document (Non refundable) : ₹ 2,100/-; Last date & time for submission of tender : 04-08-2021 upto 15:00 hrs. through online; Date & time for opening of tender : 05-08-2021 at 11:00 hrs. through online; Tender document available sale/download on website : From 07-07-2021 to 04-08-2021 upto 15:00 hrs.; For eligibility criteria and salient feature please visit www.irps.gov.in.

Mr. Divyanshu Singh, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Luming

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1. Applications for admission are to be submitted online only at www.iiseradmission.in
2. Instructions for filling the application form and other relevant details are available on the website.
3. Applicants must carefully go through the FAQ section on the website before filling up the form.
4. A non-refundable application fee of Rs. 2000 (Rs. 1000 for SC/ST & Pwd candidates) is applicable.

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Portal opens on	SCB	KVPY	JEE (Advanced)
1st July 2021	1st July 2021	To be announced later	
Last date for online applications	31st July 2021	31st July 2021	To be announced later
IISER Aptitude test	17th Sept. 2021		

All inquiries must be addressed to: Chairperson, Joint Admission Committee 2021
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DECCAN Chronicle

4 JULY 2021



Shailaja Khanna

Off the beaten track

What kept the maestros going during pandemic

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

BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM THE PANDEMIC

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

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

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

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

MOST PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY

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

THINGS MOST MISSED DURING THE PANDEMIC

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

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

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

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

Shailaja Khanna writes on music, musicians and matters of music

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

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

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

The televised sporting event that allows the viewer to make up their mind no longer exists. There is an epidemic of excess on the part of the speakers, sorry, commentators, that is just a way of giving themselves a bit more gravitas. They explain the obvious — that is to say what we have just seen, and then some. Television's primary mission seems to be to show us something, then to verbalise what we've just seen to death. Never mind, perhaps it's only me who likes to watch tennis with out someone explaining to me what I'm watching.

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

One of those American females commentating in Paris remarked how

the latter are mostly adulatory towards the players, as it's normal for them to be. But when Serena Williams or Novak Djokovic are on the court they really surpass themselves. After losing an important point during a match in Paris, the Serb bounced the ball 23 times before serving. Usually, he bounces it 13 times. If that's not gamesmanship my name is Coco Chanel.

Again, perhaps it's only me, but American female commentators' voices, some high-pitched and shrill, particularly get on my nerves. Not Chrissie Evert's, however. Chrissie was beautifully behaved on court and always looked pretty and feminine while winning. She and John McEnroe should be the only Americans employed by the European TV networks though Mac is no longer what he was. He was very good when he started broadcasting and told it like it was. But now he's joined the rest in being more of a cheerleader than a critic.

My nerves were tried and fried by watching the French Open recently,

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

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

All of the above are now no-nos.

String grip and slingshot the ball;

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

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

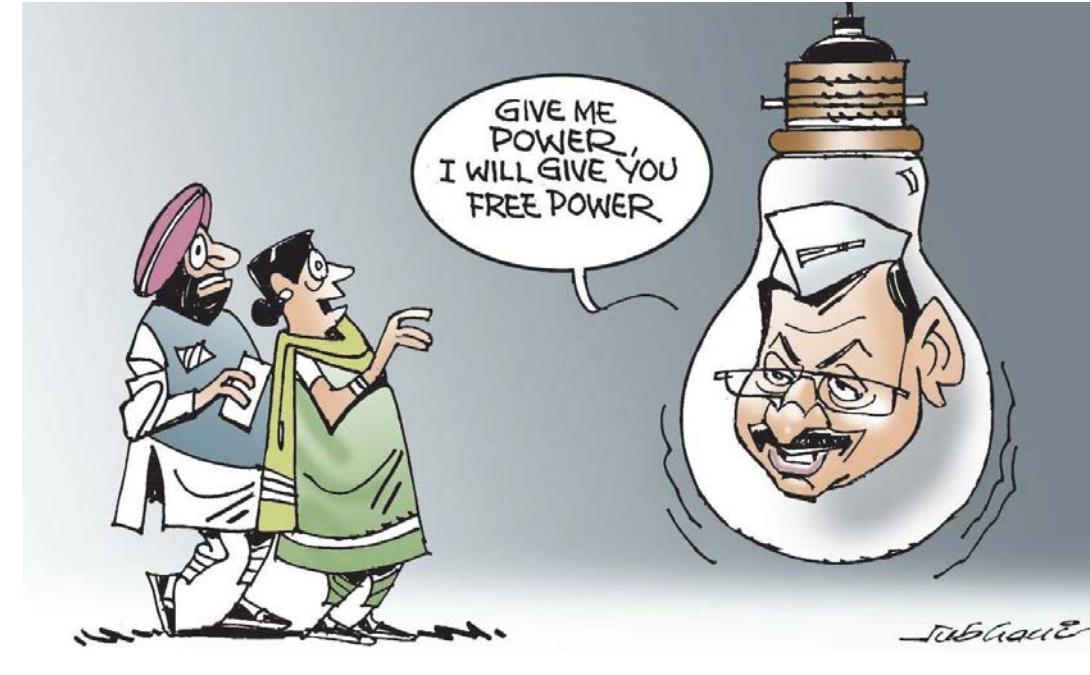
Enjoy Wimbledon with or without the sound and take it from Taki — tennis is a totally different game now.

By arrangement with the Spectator

Taki

The art of sports commentary is really dying now

Subhani



LETTERS

CUT FUEL PRICES

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

T. Kailash Ditya
Hyderabad

VACCINATION

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

Garlapati Sitharamaih
Hyderabad

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

V.Vijayakumar
Hyderabad

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

T.V.S. Suchitra
Khammam

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

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

'Refugee influx is bound to affect economic progress'

LUCKNOW, July 3

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

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

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



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TMC PLANS TO TAKE SOLICITOR GENERAL ISSUE TO PRESIDENT

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KOLKATA, JULY 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Patrolling has been intensified by the Border</

SHORT TAKES

38 KILLED, 51 HURT IN RAIN-TRIGGERED NEPAL LANDSLIDES

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

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

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

Migration from Belarus leads to crisis in Lithuania

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

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

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

Syrian govt shelling kills 8, mostly children

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

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

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

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

Major Swedish supermarket hit by cyberattack

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Over 300 Taliban fighters killed**Afghan forces intensify predawn air strikes, Taliban rejects claims**

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

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

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

The Taliban rejected the government's claims.

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

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

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

The Taliban rejected the government's claims.

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

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

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

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

It has great military and symbolic significance.

"For many Afghans, Bagram is remembered as

Unvaccinated vulnerable to Delta: Biden**Delta variant is dangerous: W.H.O. chief**

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

New US cases of Coronavirus jumped by 10 per cent in the past week as the highly contagious Delta variant spreads, especially where vaccination rates are low.

"I am concerned that people who have not gotten vaccinated have the capacity to catch the variant and spread the variant to other people who haven't been vaccinated," Biden said on Friday.

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

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

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

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

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

"It is feared that we are on the way to a fifth wave throughout the country," Rouhani told a meeting of Iran's anti-virus taskforce, warning the public to be careful as "the Delta variant" had entered the country from the south and southeast.

Based on their pure convictions or how they understand the evidence and science." — Agencies

Iran fears 'fifth wave' of Delta variant

Tehran, July 3: President Hassan Rouhani expressed fears on Saturday that Iran will be hit by a new wave of Covid-19 due to an outbreak of the Delta variant in the Middle East's hardest-hit country.

"It is feared that we are on the way to a fifth wave throughout the country," Rouhani told a meeting of Iran's anti-virus taskforce, warning the public to be careful as "the Delta variant" had entered the country from the south and southeast.

Based on their pure convictions or how they understand the evidence and science." — Agencies

Italian health staff dare vax obligation

Rome, July 3: Three hundred healthcare workers in Italy have lodged a legal challenge against the requirement that they get vaccinated against coronavirus, according to media reports on Saturday.

The case, brought by professionals through northern Italy, will be heard on July 14.

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

"We force people to take a risk under threat of no longer being allowed to

exercise their profession," he added.

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

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

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

— AFP



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

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

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

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

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

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

Atami saw rainfall of 313 millimetres in just 48 hours to Saturday – higher than the average monthly total for July of 242.5 millimetres, according to NHK.

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

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

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

landslide.

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

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

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

— AFP

Nepal gears for polls despite uncertainty

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

At the recommendation of Prime Minister K. P.

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

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

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

billion Nepalese Rupees for holding the elections.

The Kathmandu Post reported.

The ministry said it approved the budget for the commission to procure election materials and election management.

This budget, however, does not cover the expenses for security arrangements for the polls.

— PTI

Choice of footwear leads to accusations that women soldiers being sexualised**Ukrainian women march in heels, spark row**

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

Ukraine is preparing to stage a military parade next month to mark 30 years of independence following the Soviet Union's breakup, and the defence ministry released photographs of fatigued-clad women soldiers marching in mid-heel black pumps.

Today, for the first time, training takes place in heeled shoes," cadet Ivanna Medvid was quoted as saying by the defence ministry's information site ArmiaInform.

It is slightly harder

some Ukrainian officials had a "medieval" mindset.

Another commentator, Maria Sharapova, accused the defence ministry of "sexism and misogyny."

"High heels is a mockery of women imposed by the beauty industry," she fumed.

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

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

She also said that

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

Ukraine has been battling Russian-backed separatists in the country's industrial east, in a conflict that has killed more than 13,000 people since 2014.

Olena Kondratyuk, deputy speaker of the legislature said authorities should publicly apologise for "humiliating" women and conduct an enquiry.

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

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

— AFP



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

SHORT TAKES

Smith may skip T20 World Cup

Melbourne: Recuperating from an elbow injury, star Australia batsman Steve Smith says Test cricket remains his top priority and he is ready to skip the T20

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

Spinners keep India in the hunt

Worcester: India spinners took wickets at regular intervals to nullify a promising start by England as the tourists bundled out the hosts for 219 in the rain-curtailed third and final

Women's ODI on Saturday.

Looking for a consolation win,

India invited England to bat under overcast conditions after the contest became a 47-overs per side affair but as has been the case in the series, the hosts largely remained untroubled.

They were placed comfortably at 110 for two but their strategy to attack Indian spinners resulted in wickets falling in clutches with a middle-order collapse.

India enjoyed early success when Shikha Pandey trapped opener Tammy Beaumont.

Brief scores: England Women 219 in 47 overs (Nat Sciver 49, Heather Knight 46; Deepthi Sharma 3/43) vs India.

2 Windies women collapse on field

Antigua: Two West Indies women cricketers – Chinelle Henry and Chedean Nation – collapsed briefly on the field in two separate incidents during the second T20 International against Pakistan here and taken to hospital where they were "stable", according to reports.

Both the incidents happened during Pakistan's run chase, which also saw rain interruptions on Friday. ("Seam bowler") Chinelle Henry and (batter) Chedean Nation were taken to hospital for medical attention.

Both Henry and Nation are conscious and stable at hospital and are being assessed," CWI said in a statement. West Indies brought on two substitutes and the game continued, with the home side eventually declared

winners by seven runs on Duckworth-Lewis-Stern after another interruption. — PTI

Ollie cleared, will play India series

London: England pacer Ollie Robinson was on Saturday cleared to play cricket again immediately after being deemed to have served his suspension following an investigation into his discriminatory tweets, thus making him eligible for selection for the five-Test series against India. "As regards the three matches which are the subject of immediate suspension, the Panel has taken into account the suspension imposed by the England

Team from the second Test against New Zealand, together with two of the Vitality Blast T20 matches from which Robinson voluntarily withdrew

himself from selection for Sussex CCC due to the impact of these proceedings. Robinson is therefore free to play cricket immediately," the ECB said in a statement. — AFP

Verstappen takes pole in Austria

Spielberg: Relentless Max Verstappen clinched his third straight pole position with a commanding drive for Red Bull at the Austrian Grand Prix on Saturday, while Lewis Hamilton could only manage fourth place for flagging Mercedes. Lando Norris almost caught

Verstappen placing just 0.05 seconds behind him. Max leads Hamilton 5-2 in poles this season and the pressure is on Hamilton now. — AP

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ITALIAN MARBLE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Manchester City playmaker showed why the medical staff worked

around the clock to get him fit by regularly causing Italy problems, but Romelu Lukaku twice was denied by Gianluigi Donnarumma.

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

"We tried everything to win that match.

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



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

SPINAZZOLA INJURED

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

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

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

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

— AFP

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

The Danes have now

Danish the menace as minnows stun Czechs

Denmark	2
(Thomas Delaney 5, Kasper Dolberg 42)	
Czech	1
(Patrik Schick 49)	

their last three matches after starting the tournament with two defeats, the first amid shocking circumstances when Christian Eriksen suffered a cardiac arrest on the pitch.

Three weeks on, they are dreaming of a repeat of 1992 when Denmark won

the European Championship despite not even qualifying.

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

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

Ranji back after a year break

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

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

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

The coveted Ranji

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

The Vijay Hazare Trophy final will take place on March 26, 2022.

"The BCCI is confident of hosting the domestic season with health and safety of players and all people involved being paramount," the statement further read.

The BCCI will conduct

Vino Mankad Trophy and U-19 Challengers Trophy in between September to November.

— PTI

The Ranji Trophy will

Federer glides into Last 16



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

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

The maverick that is

Kyrgios did not have the best of starts as he had left his shoes in the locker room.

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

THE RESULTS

Men's singles: Third round:

Roger Federer (SUI x6) bt Cameron Norrie (GBR) 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4; Alexander Zverev (GER x4) bt Taylor Fritz (USA x3) 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4); Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN x16) bt Nick Kyrgios (AUS) 2-6, 6-1 (retired); Lorenzo Sonego (ITA x20) bt James Duckworth (AUS) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Women's singles: Third round:

Coco Gauff (USA x20) bt Kaja Juvan (SLO) 6-3, 6-3; Angelique Kerber (GER x25) bt Aliaksandra Sasnovich (BLR) 2-6, 6-0, 6-1; Barbara Krejčíková (CZE x14) bt Anastasija Sevastova (LAT) 7-6 (7/1), 3-6, 7-5.

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

SAINT-BETHANIE BOW OUT

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

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

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

COPA AMERICA

10-man Brazil ward off Chile

Rio De Janeiro, July 3:

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

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

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

Chile couldn't capitalise on the man advantage, nor

matter how hard they tried.

Eduardo Vargas thought he'd grabbed the equalizer

in the 62nd with a close-range shot, but VAR confirmed the offside call was correct.

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



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

RESULTS

Brazil

(Lucas Paquetá 46)

Chile

0

Peru

(Gianluca Lapadula 21, 40, Yoshimar Yotún 80)

Paraguay

(Gustavo Gómez 11, Junior Alonso 54, Gabriel Ávalos 90)

(Peru won 4-3 in shoot-out)

PERU MOVE INTO SEMIS

Peru beat Paraguay 4-3 on penalties to punch their ticket to the Copa America semi-finals after the teams played to a 3-3 draw after an action-packed 90 minutes.