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THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 7 AUGUST 2020

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Max: 32.1°C
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Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky, thundershowers likely. Max/Min temp. 32/23°C

COVID-19
COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+64,680)	(+899)
20,24,502	41,631

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,092)	(+13)
TS: 73,050	589
(+10,328)	(+72)
AP: 1,96,789	1,753

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

1,91,15,415

DEATHS
7,13,893

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari; Dakshinayana

Titthi: Shravana Bahula Chaturthi till 2.07 am (Saturday)

Star: Purnvabhadra till 1.34 pm

Varjyam: 12.14 am to 2 am (Saturday)

Durmuhurtam: 8.33 am to 9.23 am; 12.47 pm to 1.38 pm

Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon

HJRI CALENDAR

Zulhijja 16,1441 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.52 am

Zohar: 12.32 pm

Asar: 4.49 pm

Maghrib: 6.53 pm

Isha: 8.05 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.46 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.57 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 9.28 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 8.53 AM

COUNTER POINT

Not medical reports, we have to check their bank statements before starting treatment!

IN BRIEF

TRS MLA dies of cardiac arrest

Hyderabad: Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy, 57, TRS MLA from Dubbaka in Siddipet district, died of a cardiac arrest after prolonged illness at a private hospital here early of Thursday. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. The four-time MLA, who was Assembly Estimates Committee chairman, played an active role in the separate Telangana movement after he joined the TRS in 2001. A journalist before he joined politics, Ramalinga Reddy was soft-spoken and was known for his simplicity. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao expressed shock over the sudden demise of the MLA.

Full report on Page 3

## Defence ministry pulls out Chinese incursion report

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, AUG. 6

The defence ministry on Thursday pulled down a document from its website which had for the first time officially acknowledged that Chinese troops had “transgressed” in at least three places in Ladakh and that the situation in the area due to “aggression by China” is “sensitive” with the stand-off likely to be “prolonged”.

There was no official word on why the document, which was uploaded on Tuesday, was removed after two days.

This comes when the fourth and fifth round of Corps Commanders talks between India and China seem to have been unable to achieve a breakthrough on further disengagement in Pangong Tso and other friction areas. The government is yet to come out with a formal statement on the outcome of the fifth meeting. China has refused to move its troops out of the Fingers area in Pangong Tso and the Depsang-Daulat Beg Oldi

● **CHINA REFUSED** to move its troops out of the Fingers area in Pangong Tso and the Depsang-Daulat Beg Oldi sector.

The defence ministry document had said that Chinese aggression had been increasing along the Line of Actual Control and more particularly in Galwan Valley since May 5. “The Chinese side transgressed in the areas of Kugrang Nala, Gogra and north bank of Pangong Tso lake on 17-18 May, 2020,” it said.

While engagement and dialogue at the military and diplomatic level is continuing, “the present standoff is likely to be prolonged,” it said. “The situation in Eastern Ladakh arising from unilateral aggression by China continues to be sensitive and requires close monitoring and prompt action based on evolving situation,” it added.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi continued with his attack on Modi government over its handling of

situation with China in Ladakh sector. “Denying China is in our territory and removing documents from websites won’t change the facts,” tweeted Mr Gandhi.

According to sources, China has built up its forces not only in Ladakh but all along the LAC.

Army Chief Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane is on a two day visit to Tezpur-based 4 Corps to review the security situation along the China border in North-East.

The Chinese are occupying the Finger 5 area in the Pangong Tso and are still continuing to hold the ridges in the Finger 4 area. During the initial phase of disengagement, Chinese troops had vacated the banks of the lake in Finger 4 on July 9 and returned to Finger 5. Chinese troops still have to vacate the area between Finger 5 and Finger 8, which India claims is its territory. Satellite images have shown huge build-up by Chinese at Pangong Tso with permanent structures.

## RBI lets people to restructure loans, ends moratorium

FALAKNAAZ SYED | FC MUMBAI, AUG. 6

Even as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) disappointed borrowers by not extending the loan moratorium, it has announced a one-time restructuring of loans taken by individuals, corporates and small businesses.

In his Monetary Policy statement on Thursday, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said, “The disruptions caused by Covid-19 have led to heightened financial stress for borrowers across the board... Accordingly, it has been decided to provide a window to enable lenders to implement a resolution plan with respect to eligible corporate exposures as well as personal loans.”

According to RBI, personal loans mean credit facility extended to individuals, which include consumer credit, education loan, loans given for

creation or enhancement of immovable assets (housing loans) and loans given for investment in financial assets such as shares, debentures.

The resolution of personal loans will be available only to those borrowers who were repaying their loans regularly as on March 1. Eligible borrowers’ accounts will continue to be classified as standard till the date of invocation of resolution under this framework.

The borrowers should choose this option before December 31, 2020 and the resolution must be implemented within 90 days.

“The resolution plans may inter alia include re-scheduling of payments, conversion of any interest accrued, or to be accrued, into another credit facility, or, granting of moratorium, based on an assessment of income of the borrower, subject to a maximum of two years.”

## BJP sarpanch shot, cadre quitting party

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, AUG. 6

The killing of a village head associated with the BJP in southern Kulgam by suspected militants on Thursday triggered a new wave of resignations by party activists across the Kashmir Valley.

Over half a dozen BJP workers took to social media platforms to say they were dissociating from the party. Some even sought forgiveness from the militants. The police said at about 9.30 am militants shot and critically wounded BJP sarpanch Sajad Ahmad Khanday in Vesoo village of Qazigund area in Kulgam.

“He was evacuated to Anantnag’s Government Medical College Hospital, but succumbed,” the police said.

## MANOJ SINHA IS J&K’S NEW LT. GOVERNOR

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR, AUG. 6

The Centre appointed former minister of state for railways Manoj Sinha as Jammu and Kashmir’s new lieutenant-governor, replacing G.C. Murmu.

This is believed to have been done to send a clear signal that it wants to restart the J&K political process.

Mr Sinha reached Srinagar on Thursday by a state plane and is likely to be administered the oath of office on Friday.

Relatives grieve for their loved ones who were killed in a fire at the Shrey Hospital in Ahmedabad, outside the mortuary of the Civil Hospital. — AFP

## 8 Covid patients killed in fire inside Gujarat hospital ICU

Ahmedabad, Aug. 6:

Eight Coronavirus patients died in a fire inside the ICU ward of the privately run Shrey Hospital in Navrangpur, Ahmedabad, at 3 am on Thursday. A hospital para-medical staff member was injured. The ICU is located on the top floor of the four-storey hospital building.

“41 other Covid-19 patients who were in the general ward on the lower floors were rescued and shifted to another hospi-

tal,” said Rajiv Kumar Gupta, an IAS officer.

Shrey Hospital was sealed for investigation, said Gupta, who has been deputed in Ahmedabad as an officer on special duty. Preliminary investigation showed that the fire was caused by a short circuit, he said.

Municipal commissioner Mukesh Kumar said, “We have learned that an electric short circuit led to a blast. The blaze spread in the ward within minutes.” According to Chirag

Patel, an attendant who saved the lives of three elderly patients, there were 11 patients on the fourth floor when the fire broke out.

Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said that another attendant received 25 to 30 per cent burns injuries while trying to save the patients.

Additional commissioner of police R.V. Asari told reporters that Bharat Mahant, a trustee of the hospital, was being questioned. — PTI

### MONEY | MATTERS R&B department starts process to issue notification for tenders

## ₹400 crore sanctioned for Secretariat

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 5

The state government on Thursday sanctioned ₹400 crore for the construction of the Secretariat Complex.

The state Cabinet which met here on Wednesday, had approved the design of the new Secretariat and accorded permission for sanctioning the money to build the complex on the 25.5-acre parcel of land where the old buildings stood.

Following the clearance, the roads and buildings

department commenced the process to issue notification for tenders for the construction.

Sources in the government revealed that administrative sanction will be accorded to commence the construction process in next two or three days.

The proposed six-storey complex will be built on six lakh square feet.

An official said there was some discussion that the main building could have seven floors in the final design, but also noted that six was the favourite number of

● **THERE WAS** some discussion that the main building could have seven floors in the final design, but also noted that six was the favourite number of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao who believes it is lucky for him.

ber of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao who believes it is lucky for him. At a recent meeting with Oscar and Ponni Architects, Chief Minister Rao had wanted them to make the external view

more attractive, and dignified at the same time.

He stressed that it should be convenient to use for officers and staff members.

The Chief Minister had suggested that every floor should have a meeting hall, a waiting hall for visitors and a dining hall.

In view of the suggestions from the Chief Minister, roads and buildings officials met with the architects to brief them on the approved by the Cabinet.

R&B officials said that the ongoing demolition of the buildings was almost

completed and clearing of debris will likely be completed by the end of this week.

There was some discussion on the location of places of worship in the new complex.

One suggestion was to give an entrance to the new mosque from the area where the civil supplies department petrol bunk now stands.

This will facilitate non-employees to pray there. No final decision has been taken on the matter yet.

## India adds 10L cases in 20 days; tally rises to 20 lakh

### Reports highest ever caseload of 64,680 in 24 hrs

S. UMAMAHESHWAR | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 6

India became the third country in the world to have the unenviable record of having 20 lakh (two million) Coronavirus infections. The country on Thursday reported 64,680 new Covid-19 cases, the highest ever, taking the total caseload to 20,24,702.

India which crossed 10 lakh mark (one million) on July 17 witnessed the cases doubling in just 20 days — reporting on an average five per cent increase in new cases every day in this period.

The spurt in new infections was seen mainly because of states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar reporting higher numbers. The disease, which was mostly an urban phenomenon in the initial days, has spread to the hinterland after guest

## 1,557 cases recorded outside GHMC area

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 6

The spread of Covid-19 in the rural areas continued with the non-GHMC areas registering 1,557 cases on Wednesday, of the state’s 2,092 cases, according to the health department bulletin of Thursday. On Tuesday, the districts had reported 1,480 cases. The GHMC area had 535 cases.

Thirteen persons died on Wednesday, taking the toll to 589.

A total of 21,346 samples were tested and results of 1,550 are awaited. A senior

workers moved back to their villages or hometowns. India had registered one lakh cases on

government doctor in a district blamed the trend on poor sanitation. “People have only understood that they must wear masks. There is no social distancing. They have no idea about sanitation. The concept of isolation has not been understood at all.”

There are allegations that RMPs are treating patients at home. Oximeter, oxygen cylinders and basic medicines are being supplied to manage patients in Warangal Urban and Karimnagar districts, alleged sources.

May 18, 108 days after the first case was reported on January 30, with a daily average of 925 cases. It

COVID FAST RISING	
1 to 1 lakh	: 108 days
1L to 2 lakh	: 15 days
2 to 4 lakh	: 18 days
4 to 8 lakh	: 22 days
8 to 10 lakh	: 6 days
10 lakh to 20 lakh	: 20 days

took just 15 days for the infections to double to 2,07,082 on June 2, registering an average 7,139 cases or posting an average of 7.13 per cent growth a day.

The cases doubled in another 18 days from two to four lakh on June 20, adding an average 11,111 cases or 5.55 per cent growth each day. The number further increased by 100 per cent to eight lakh cases from the four-lakh figure in 22 days on July 11, showing an average rise of 4.5 per cent a day.

■ **Page 3: Cases doubled globally in 41 days**

## 90% hospitals in Hyd face fire risk

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 6

There are 950 hospitals, small and big, in the GHMC limits. Almost none of them meets even the basic fire safety norms required for a hospital building to keep their patients and staff safe in the event of a fire.

A survey by the authorities, following the October 2019 fire accident in Shine Children’s Hospital, LB Nagar, that saw the death of a four-month old baby and burns to four others in the neonatal ward, revealed that more than 90 per cent of hospitals in the GHMC area fared miserably on fire safety parameters.

The survey followed instructions from the government to ensure all these hospitals meet fire safety requirements.

“Almost every hospital has some deficiency or the other with respect to fire safety,” a government official said. Included in the list of violators are some of the biggest names in the healthcare industry. “You name it, it is there in the violators’ list,” the official added.

The focus on fire safety in hospitals yet again came to the fore with Thursday’s fire accident in a Covid-19 designated hospital in Ahmedabad in which at least eight

SAFETY NORMS FOR HOSPITALS

- **EMERGENCY** lighting in corridors, stairwells indicating escape routes
- **DOORS** leading to outside the building, to ramps, or fire escape stairways
- **4.5 METRES** of space around the building for fire trucks
- **POSITIVE** pressure corridors, stairwells and all vertical shafts
- **FIRE** resistant doors, fire retardant paint on walls
- **AUTOMATIC** sprinkler system

patients in the ICU ward died.

While the National Building Code lays down detailed guidelines for fire prevention, suppression, and rescue in the event of a fire in a hospital, these norms have been practically thrown to the winds in the state and in GHMC limits, a source said. The GHMC follows the NBC code for hospitals as well as GO Ms. No. 168, dated April 7, 2012, with respect to fire safety norms in hospitals.

■ **Page 3: Hospitals built on residential buildings**

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**CENTRAL RAILWAY**

# Flagging off of India's first ever Kisan rail for seamless connectivity among farms, markets & consumers



## Flagging off of Devlali - Danapur Kisan Rail

(Through Video Link)

The programme can be viewed on <http://www.youtube.com/railminindia>

### SALIENT FEATURES

- First ever multi-commodity train will carry fruits like pomegranate, banana, grapes, etc and vegetables like capsicum, cauliflower, drumsticks, cabbage, onion, chillies, etc.
- The train will cater to the requirements of small farmers and small traders for carrying their perishables to distant places.
- The loading and unloading of perishable commodities will be permitted at all enroute stoppages.
- This will initially be once a week service. However based on user experience further modifications can be done.
- Kisan Special Parcel Express Train will have halts at Nasik Road, Manmad, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Burhanpur, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Satna, Katni, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt.Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn. and Buxar.

Flagging off by

**Narendra Singh Tomar**

Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj,  
Government of India

Presided over by

**Piyush Goyal**

Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry,  
Government of India

In the august presence of

**Suresh Angadi**

Minister of State for Railways,  
Government of India

**Raosaheb Danve**

Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food  
and Public Distribution, Government of India

**Devendra Fadnavis**

Leader of Opposition  
Maharashtra Legislative Assembly

**Chhagan Bhujbal**

Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection,  
Government of Maharashtra, Guardian Minister, Nashik

**Venue:** Devlali Railway Station | **Date:** 07.08.2020 | **Time:** 10:30 am



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## IN BRIEF

## UoH to resume PG classes online

**Hyderabad:** The University of Hyderabad on Thursday said it will resume classes in online mode for about 2,000 ongoing post-graduate students from August 20. Since some students are likely to face financial challenges to go online, the UoH will re-purpose the boarding allowance scholarship of ₹1,000 a month into a digital access grant.

## Woman SI rescues techie

**Hyderabad:** A 31-year-old software professional who wanted to end his life, reportedly due to financial problems, was saved by the Uppal police. Early on Thursday, the techie told his colleague Marshal over the phone that he was ending his life by suicide, and cut the call. Marshal called the Alwal police, who alerted the Uppal police. Sub-inspector J. Chandana swiftly traced the location of the techie's number and reached out to him. The techie was referred to a professional counsellor.

## COP, WINNER OF CASH REWARDS, DIES OF COVID

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 6

Bachupally sub-inspector Md Yousuf, 56, succumbed to Covid-19 on Thursday. Yousuf had tested positive on July 21 and was undergoing treatment at a private hospital.

Yousuf was working with the Bachupally police from 2018. He had joined the police as a constable in 1987 at Sangareddy and later worked in Medak. He had received 25 cash rewards for his work.

After testing positive, Yousuf was admitted to a private hospital in Madhapur for two days and shifted to another hospital at Suraram until July 25. He was then admitted to another private hospital at KPHB, where he died.

## HOSPITALS IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

From page 1

One of the biggest violations is the setting up of hospitals in buildings meant for residential purposes which are simply not designed for the purpose. Incidentally, the building housing the Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences at Gachibowli, the latest showpiece of the government's healthcare initiatives and now a Covid-19 designated hospital, was originally built as a residential building.

It was learnt that preparations were on earlier this year to begin taking action after notices were served to the violating hospitals but the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic brought these steps to a halt. Asked what action hospitals violating fire safety norms face, an official said it could mean seizing such buildings and shutting them down. "We will be looking at following up on the earlier notices and taking action on the violators," the official said. Every one of the hospitals violating fire safety measures, it was learnt, did not even apply for a fire no objection certificate after obtaining one initially, mostly during their setting-up phase.

## Online classes under HC lens

## Court questions long classes for lower grades, forcing parents to pay fee

**VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 6

Concerned that excessive use of computers, laptops, smartphones and tabs by children in lower classes for online classes could impact their physical and mental health, the Telangana High Court questioned the government as to how it was allowing corporate schools to hold online classes for hours.

"The state government is informing the court that it is yet to take call on conducting online classes. In reality, several schools are conducting online

classes for hours, even up to the fifth class, and school managements are demanding that parents pay the fee. Unless they pay, the schools don't allow the child to join online classes. How it is happening? Is there no authority to supervise it," a division bench of Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy asked the government.

The bench was hearing PILs filed by the Hyderabad Parents Association and others questioning demand for fee from school managements for allowing online classes. Justice Vijaysen Reddy

expressed anguish over the functioning of Oakridge and Delhi Public Schools, which, according to information, were holding online classes for four to five hours with a 20-minute break.

Justice Reddy asked counsel representing a group of private schools that are holding online classes as to whether drill classes are being held to involve children in physical activity.

Sanjeev Kumar, special counsel to the government, said the state Cabinet had decided on August 5 to hold online and distance education classes. An official

announcement will be made by way of a notification and a government order, he said. It may not be possible to have a uniform time table with regard to the teaching hours.

At this, Chief Justice Chauhan observed: "On the hand, the State says that an official announcement is yet to be out on and on the other all private schools are asking parents to cough up the fee towards online classes. Why can't the government come up with a clear decision, why is it saying 'May be yes or perhaps not'? This is a contradictory statement." The Chief Justice said, "You cannot

have a child from Classes 1 to 5 sit before a screen for four hours continuously, because the attention of the child of such an age group cannot be more than 10 minutes. It will adversely affect the child. Perhaps, we are asking the child to be more disciplined than age permits him. Parents cannot maintain patience for not more than 20 minutes with the child in the house when compared to the teachers, who are patient even after spending five hours with the children."

CBSE counsel sought two weeks time to file its stand. The hearing was adjourned to August 27.

## STATE STUDENT TOPS ADMISSION LIST AT V.I.T.

**HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC**  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 6

Telangana state's Chagari Koushal Kumar Reddy from Sri Chaitanya Junior Kalasala topped the B. Tech admissions list announced by the Vellore Institute of Technology. A total of 1,83,059 students from around the country and 12 countries (West Asia, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, the UK and Singapore) had applied for admission.

VIT Chancellor Dr G. Viswanathan, said that admissions would be on merit, based on the normalised PCM/ PCB marks and JEE/ SAT scores obtained by the candidates. The ranks were declared for admission to 36 B.Tech. and B.Des. programmes offered by VIT at its Vellore, Chennai, AP and Bhopal campuses. Under the GV School Development Programme, Central and state exam toppers would be given total cent fee waiver. Candidates with ranks up to 50 would get 75 per cent tuition fee waiver; those with ranks 51 to 100 50 per cent and candidates in ranks 101 to 1,000 would be given 25 per cent tuition fee waiver.

The district toppers (a boy and a girl) in Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh studying in government schools in rural areas will be given 100 per cent fee waiver and exemption from hostel and mess fees.

Candidates can view their results at the website [www.vit.ac.in](http://www.vit.ac.in).

Students can register for online counselling which will begin on August 10. Rank based counselling would be held in four phases. Admission for other undergraduate and five-year integrated programmes is open.

## TRS MLA S. Ramalinga Reddy dies, former journo fought for statehood

**S.A. ISHAQUI | DC**  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 6

Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy, 57, TRS MLA from Dubbaka in Siddipet district, died of a cardiac arrest after prolonged illness at a private hospital here early of Thursday. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

The four-time MLA, who was Assembly Estimates Committee chairman, played an active role in the separate Telangana movement after he joined the TRS in 2001. A journalist before he joined politics, Ramalinga Reddy was soft-spoken and was known for his simplicity.

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao expressed



Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao pays floral tributes of TRS Dubbaka MLA Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy at Chittapur village, Siddipet district.

shock over the sudden demise of the legislator and went to Chittapur, the native village of Ramalinga Reddy, to offer his condolences to the bereaved family. Rao recalled his association with the

legislator during the Telangana agitation.

TRS working president and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao said he was deeply disturbed by Ramalinga Reddy's death and conveyed his condolences to

the family members.

Finance minister T. Harish Rao said Ramalinga Reddy was a people's man, who played a key role in the statehood movement as a journalist and then as a political leader.

Ministers Singireddy Niranjan Reddy, E. Rajendar, E. Dayakar Rao, T. Srinivas Yadav, A. Indra Karan Reddy, Satyavathi Rathod, Sabitha Indrareddy, Koppula Eswar, V. Srinivas Goud, State Planning Board vice chairman B. Vinod Kumar, MP J. Santosh Kumar and several others expressed condolences.

TRS leaders said that Ramalinga Reddy's death was a big loss to the TRS and the people. The last rites of the MLA were performed at Chittapur.

## KTR asks Centre for vaccine plan

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 5

Industries minister K.T. Rama Rao on Thursday requested Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan to constitute a high-level empowered committee comprising officials from the Centre, key state governments and industry to formulate a strategic plan to expedite the development of a vaccine for Covid-19.

Reminding that the PM-Cares fund had allocated ₹100 crore for indigenous vaccine development, Rama Rao requested the minister to expedite the formulation of guidelines for the release of funds to indigenous vaccine manufacturers. Rama Rao said Hyderabad-based companies were working towards developing the vaccine for Covid-19. "I am proud to inform you that one of these companies is leading these efforts and should soon have its Covid-19 vaccine available in the market," he added.

Stressing the need to decentralise some of the clearances and approvals which do not require very high-level scrutiny at the CDSCO (Central Drugs Control

Organisation). He noted that CDSCO had a zonal office along with a sophisticated drug-testing laboratory headed by a Deputy DCGI rank official in Hyderabad. "We request you to kindly instruct CDSCO to delegate more powers and authority with additional resources, to the zonal office in Hyderabad," Rama Rao said.

Stating that India has one of the most complex regulatory systems in the world for vaccine approvals, Rama Rao suggested that the Centre set up a strict but simple and transparent regulatory regime to fast-track development of vaccines, and help the biotech industry in general. He stressed on the requirement for clear guidelines on the licensing of the Covid-19 vaccine in the country on the lines of FDA and WHO guidelines.

He said, "while two companies lead the vaccine development efforts, there are several other companies joining the race. These efforts need to be expedited while still maintaining regulatory rigour. It is requested that a framework for parallel approvals for clinical trials be developed at the earliest."

## ATM cash loaders missing with ₹1.2cr

**JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. | DC**  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 6

More than ₹1.22 crore, meant for depositing in ATMs of various banks, has gone missing with three persons who were to replenish ATMs going missing.

A cash management company based in Secunderabad with a contract for filling cash into 36 ATMs of various banks, merged its routes following the Covid-19 outbreak and gave custody of the cash to three of its employees, identified as R. Raja Shekhar, Rama Bharat, and Sai Teja Ashwin.

In July, the company found that the trio has not been to work for quite some time, and an audit revealed that ₹1.22,98,000 meant for ATM replenishment went missing.

● **A CASH management company based in Secunderabad with a contract for filling cash into 36 ATMs of various banks, merged its routes following the Covid-19 outbreak and gave custody of the cash to three of its employees, identified as R. Raja Shekhar, Rama Bharat and Sai Teja Ashwin.**

The company then lodged a complaint with the Hyderabad Central Crime Station police. CCS inspector P. Padmanabha Raju said that they are questioning some suspects and as per investigations so far, the cash is reportedly in possession of Raja Shekhar, who is still absconding.

## Etala turns focus to district hospitals

**SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC**  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 6

Health minister Etala Rajendar instructed all collectors to ensure that every Covid-19 patient gets proper treatment and those in home isolation are provided with homecare kits. He was speaking along with Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, to the collectors during a video conference.

Rajendar said the collectors should seek suggestions and advice from the district ministers with respect to extending treatment to Covid-19 patients. They were asked to send proposals for setting up of Covid-19 testing centres, provide details of medical staff vacancies and forward proposals on private hospitals seeking to treat Covid-19 patients. Somesh Kumar stressed the need to test all people coming for Covid-19 tests.

Those who test positive, should be counselled. If

● **RAJENDAR SAID** the collectors should seek suggestions and advice from the district ministers with respect to extending treatment to Covid-19 patients. They were asked to send proposals for setting up of Covid-19 testing centres, provide details of medical staff vacancies and forward proposals on private hospitals seeking to treat Covid-19 patients.

they are to be placed in home quarantine, they must be provided with medical kits provided by the government.

The minister asked collectors to review the availability of oxygen at all government hospitals and other medical care facilities. The officials were asked to send proposals to extend oxygen supply to all beds in the area and district hospitals, as well as those attached to medical colleges.

**International Institute Of Information Technology, Naya Raipur**  
Plot No. 7, Sector 24, Alal Nagar, Naya Raipur - 493661, Chhattisgarh

**M. Tech. Spot Admission 2020**

Applications are invited for M. Tech. admission spot round in CSE and ECE programs at IIIT-Naya Raipur. For further details kindly visit [www.iiitr.ac.in](http://www.iiitr.ac.in). Vacant seats will be filled through the institute's own online application process, which shall close at 16:00 hours on 13th August, 2020. Vacant seats will be allotted on 14th August, 2020. Registrar

15th Anniversary				
RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA				
On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-				
Sr. No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Description	Qty (Nos./ Sets)	EMD (₹)
1.	142010798 02/09/2020	1) Supply of Sound Insulation Wood Panels To P1 No 33530415	4775 Nos	20,00,000/-
		2) Application of Sound Insulation Wood Panels To P1 No 3353N415	4775 Nos	
		3) Supply of Sound Insulation Wood Panels To P1 No 33530427	1644 Nos	
		4) Application of Sound Insulation Wood Panels To P1 No 3353N427	1644 Nos	
		5) Supply of Sound Insulation Wood Panels To P1 No 33530439	2931 Nos	
		6) Application of Sound Insulation Wood Panels To P1 No 3353N439	2931 Nos	
		7) Sound Insulation wood panels To P1 No 33530014	4575 Nos	
		8) Sound Insulation wood panels To P1 No 33530026	5329 Nos	
		9) Sound Insulation wood panels To P1 No 33530336	9614 Nos	
2.	14201107A 02/09/2020	1) Supply of PVC Flooring Roll To P1 No 33535449	3517 Nos	14,25,180/-
		2) Application of PVC Flooring Roll To P1 No 3353N449	3517 Nos	
		3) PVC Flooring Roll To P1 No 75613438	2431 Nos	
		4) PVC Flooring Roll To P1 No 75980125	31 Nos	
3.	14201083 31/08/2020	1) Aluminium Flexible Ducting To P1 No 33530221	8690 Metre	1,35,280/-
		2) Aluminium Flexible Ducting To P1 No 33530210	408 Metre	
		3) Aluminium Flexible Ducting To P1 No 33530233	854 Metre	
4.	01201127 31/08/2020	Bogie Bolster Assy	830 Nos	20,00,000/-
5.	01201130 02/09/2020	UIC Tapper Roller Bearing	13907 Nos	20,00,000/-
6.	01201141 02/09/2020	TUBES (03 TYPES) 177 Nos, 1230 Nos, 392 Nos	2912 Nos	4,80,480/-
7.	01201139 02/09/2020	Cross Section	692 Nos	5,86,080/-
8.	05201234 31/08/2020	Battery Box Mounting	908 Nos	2,28,020/-
9.	02201122 31/08/2020	60KVA Transformer	23 Nos	20,00,000/-
10.	02201132 07/09/2020	Modular Integrated Pantry Unit for Hot Buffet Coach	989 Set	8,20,170/-
11.	02201137 04/09/2020	9 KVA Transformer	575 Nos	20,00,000/-
12.	02201152 02/09/2020	Wheel Set Earthing Equipment	2950 Set	15,96,410/-
13.	04201024 03/09/2020	Square Tube 45X45X2.3MM	10380 Mtrs	1,68,310/-
14.	05201163A 28/08/2020	Set of Protection Frame & Bracket	376 Sets	3,37,670/-
15.	05201230 07/09/2020	Bracket Assembly	83367 Sets	96,170/-
1. For details and making On-line bids, visit Website <a href="http://ireps.gov.in">http://ireps.gov.in</a> . Drawings/ specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website <a href="http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in">http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in</a> . Class II/b digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at <a href="http://www.cce.gov.in">http://www.cce.gov.in</a> . 2. Tenders will close at 14.25 Hrs. on due date and tender will be opened at 14.30 Hrs. Tenders Sr. No. 1 to 3 will be opened at RCF, Kapurthala and Sr. No. 4 to 15 will be opened at Tilk Bridge, New Delhi. 3. For queries, contact IREPS helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658. Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C12T. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplier made by them. All above mentioned tenders are e-tenders and all tenderers are requested to submit their bids on-line through the IREPS website at <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">http://www.ireps.gov.in</a> . For more details regarding the above mentioned tenders and other supply tenders please visit IREPS website. PCMM				
<b>CORRIGENDUM</b>				
The following amendment is authorized against 1. Tender No. 17201176 for procurement of DESIGN, SUPPLY AND FITMENT OF COMPLETE FURNISHING OF GARIB RATH AC 3-TIER COACHES ON TURNKEY BASIS due on 17.08.2020 instead of 07.08.2020. 2. Tender No. 14201050 for procurement of Supply and Application of Thermal Insulation due date to be read as 13.08.2020 instead of 06.08.2020. PCMM				
T. No. G-122-01/PCMM/051/2020-21				Dated: 06.08.2020

## Covid-19 cases doubled globally in just 41 days

From page 1

Compared to India, the Coronavirus cases have doubled globally in 41 days — from 95 lakh cases on June 26 to 1.9 crore on August 6. The number of Covid-19 patients increased at the rate of 2.43 per cent in this period. On Wednesday, 2,71,325 cases were recorded globally. Of this, India's contribution was 56,626 or 20 per cent.

The spread of infection, however, appears to have slowed down in most parts of the world. The top three countries in terms of case-load — the United States, Brazil and India — are contributing 61 per cent of new cases, while the rest of 210 countries or territories

● **IN THE** first phase when the Covid-19 disease hit China, the death rate was at 41 per cent. The recoveries improved and death rate declined after China imposed a strict lockdown and controlled the spread.

reporting the rest.

The saving grace is the falling death rate. Data available on worldometers.info shows that the death rate is gradually declining in spite of a steady rise in infections.

In the first phase when the Covid-19 disease hit China, the death rate was at 41 per cent. The recoveries improved and death rate declined after China imposed a strict lockdown and controlled the spread.

The global death rate rose to 21 per cent when the Covid-19 pandemic reached the shores of an unprepared Europe. Relatively better understanding of the disease and treatment protocols brought down the death rate to 5.52 per cent. The global recovery rate is over 94 per cent.

As per official numbers, the death rate in India is one of the lowest at 2.09 per cent — occupying 108th place in a list that ranks countries for Coronavirus cases in descending order.

Countries like Yemen, France, the UK, Italy, Belgium, Hungary, the Netherlands, Mexico, which bore brunt of the deadly disease in the initial days had reported over 10 per cent death rate.

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## SHORT TAKES

## SUSHANT CASE: CBI BOOKS FIR AGAINST RHEA, OTHERS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, AUG. 6

The CBI on Thursday registered an FIR against Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty, Indrajit Chakraborty, Sandhya Chakraborty, Showik Chakraborty, Samuel Miranda, Shruti Modi, and others in connection with the death case of Sushant Singh Rajput.

A senior official in the agency said the CBI has booked six accused and others under sections including criminal conspiracy, abetment of suicide, wrongful restraint, wrongful confinement, theft, criminal breach of trust, cheating and criminal intimidation.

The agency sleuths are also in touch with Bihar Police, which was earlier investigating the case, said the official.

The case will be probed by the Special Investigation Team under Superintendent of Police Nupur Prasad and will be supervised by DIG Gagandeep Gambhir and Joint Director Manoj Shashidhar, both are senior IPS officers.

Rajput, 34, was found hanging from the ceiling of his apartment in suburban Bandra in Mumbai on June 14 and since then Mumbai police has been probing the case.

Bihar Police also swung into action following a complaint by Krishna Kishore Singh, 77-year-old father of Rajput, and a resident of Patna.

Patna Police had registered an FIR under IPC sections related to alleged criminal conspiracy, cheating and abetment to suicide among others on the complaint.

## KERALA TO SEE FALL IN CASES BY MID-SEPT: EXPERTS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUG. 6

Kerala's high level expert committee on Covid-19 Control believes that Coronavirus cases are expected to decline in the state by mid September if the state government continues with tough disease control and prevention measures.

Committee chairman Dr B. Ekbal said the state needs to strictly comply with the break-the-chain activities, strict quarantine and reverse quarantine measures to ensure the slide of Covid-19 by next month. The expert panel's statement comes close on the heels of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan directing the state police to contain the increasing cases of Covid-19 within two weeks.

However, experts say that before the slide Kerala Covid-19 cases are expected to peak by the end of this month or early September.

Meanwhile, on Thursday the state recorded highest single day tally of Covid-19 cases with 1,298 and the total cases so far crossed the 30,000 mark.

Of the new cases 1,017 contracted the disease through contact, 170 came from other states, 78 came from abroad and the source of infection of 76 is yet to be ascertained. The highest number of cases were reported in Thiruvananthapuram district with 219 of which 210 through contact, Kozhikode 174, Kasargod - 153, Palakkad - 136, Malappuram - 129.

At present 1.48 lakh people are under surveillance of which 1.36 lakh are under home/institutional quarantine, 11,437 are in hospitals.

## Rain havoc in Mumbai



A landslide took place at Pedder Road area of Mumbai after consistent rainfall on Thursday. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray took stock of the state's preparedness in the wake of the heavy rains and asked authorities to remain alert. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Thackeray and assured all possible support. — Rajesh Jadhav

## India snubs China for remarks on J&amp;K

Urges Beijing not to interfere in India's internal affairs

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC  
NEW DELHI, AUG. 6

Hours after China raised the Kashmir issue at the 15-member UN Security Council at the behest of its all-weather friend Pakistan, India on Thursday said it rejected China's interference in India's internal affairs, adding that China's attempt once again "met with little support from the international community". New Delhi also "urged" Beijing "to draw the proper conclusions from such infructuous attempts".

This is the second time in two days India criticised China for its comments and actions on the Kashmir issue.

Making no secret of the close collaboration between China and Pakistan, Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi tweeted Wednesday night that this was the third time in the past year that it was raised at the UN, thanking China "especially", saying Pakistan "welcomed" the meet.

The Chinese move in

## ‘India committed to its objective’

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, AUG. 6

India on Thursday said it 'expects' China to work 'sincerely' with it for 'complete disengagement and de-escalation' at the line of actual control (LAC) in the Ladakh sector to ensure 'full restoration of peace and tranquillity' in the border areas.

This comes amid reports of a stalemate in the Sino-Indian military de-escalation in the Pangong Tso lake region due to the reported reluctance of Chinese PLA troops to pull back.

Ministry of external affairs (MEA) spokesperson, Anurag Srivastava, said, "As I have conveyed earlier, the special representatives of India and

collaboration with Pakistan was obviously planned at the UN on the first anniversary of India's revoking

China had a telephone conversation on July 5 where they discussed the situation in the border areas. They had agreed that early and complete disengagement of the troops along the line of actual control and de-escalation from India-China border areas in accordance with the bilateral agreement and protocols and full restoration of peace and tranquillity was essential for the smooth overall development of bilateral relations."

Making India's position clear, Srivastava added "India remains committed to this objective. We also expect that the Chinese side will work with us sincerely for complete disengagement and de-escalation."

Article 370, that granted special status to the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state.

China first began

raising the Kashmir issue last year at the UNSC for informal deliberations soon after India revoked Article 370.

On Thursday, the external affairs ministry said: "We have noted China initiated a discussion in the UN Security Council on issues pertaining to the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This was not the first time China has sought to raise a subject that is solely an internal matter of India. As on such occasions, this attempt too met with little support from the international community. We firmly reject China's interference in our internal affairs and urge it to draw proper conclusions from such infructuous attempts."

India had on Wednesday too snubbed China, asking it to refrain from interference in India's internal affairs, hours after Beijing termed the revoking of Article 370 a year ago by New Delhi as "illegal and invalid".

India added that China had no locus standi on the issue.

## PUTIN LIKELY TO VISIT INDIA IN OCT.

New Delhi, Aug. 6: Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to visit India in October this year for the Annual Bilateral Summit between the two countries, New Delhi said on Thursday. India said "regional and international issues of interest" are being discussed in exchanges between the two countries.

## TV ACTOR SAMEER SHARMA ENDS LIFE BY SUICIDE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, AUG. 6

Television actor Sameer Sharma allegedly committed suicide at his home in suburban Malad. The 44-year-old was

found hanging from a ceiling fan in the kitchen of his flat at Neha building in Chincholi Bunder locality in Malad (West) on Wednesday night. Sharma has worked

in popular serials like 'Yeh Rishta Hai Pyar Ke', 'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi', 'Kahani Ghar-Ghar Ki'.

"We have not found any suicide note at the spot. It

seems to be a suicide case. It is suspected that he hanged himself two days back. We have sent the body for an autopsy," said a senior inspector of Malad police station.

## THANKS GIVING SERVICE

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Timothy 4:7



**Rev. BENNETT RAJ ATTIGARI**  
S/o Late Rev. Joseph Attigari  
DOB: 28-01-1962 DOD: 03-08-2020  
We miss you every moment in our life.  
Thanks Giving Memorial Service today (07-08-2020) at 11 a.m. at C.S.I. Wesley Church, Musheerabad.  
Please treat this as personal invitation.  
With grief: Wife Mary Dorcas Bennett Raj  
Sons: Joe (Richie) & Jason (Ricky) Attigari

## IN LOVING MEMORY

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."



**RICHARD JUDE CLARKE**  
DOB: 10-08-1964 DOD: 05-08-2020  
Inserted by:  
WIFE, SONS & LOVED ONES  
(S/2021/D00402)

## OBITUARY



DOB: 06.08.1942 DOD: 29.07.2020  
**Smt. VATSALA DAMODAR (Retd. HM)**  
(W/o. Late. Sri. K. Damodar  
Addl. Director Of School Edn. Retd.)  
With profound grief we inform you the sad and sudden demise of our beloved mother on 29th July wednesday.  
Deeply mourned by family members  
S.K. Sudharani - K. Sasidhar  
K. Shobha Rani - B. Shashiker  
K. Murali (USA) - Dr. R. Sunitha (USA)  
K. Suprabha Rani - K.V. Sathyanarayana  
K. Sucharitha Rani - G. Nagaraj  
Grand Daughters, Grandsons, And  
The Kashaobina & Srinath Family

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith. II Tim 4:7



DOB: 28/01/1962 DOD: 03/08/2020  
**Rev. ATTIGARI BENNETT RAJ**  
Presbyter-in-charge  
Thanksgiving Service today at 11.30 am at CSI WESLEY CHURCH, Musheerabad  
Inserted by:  
Presbyter, Deacon, Pastorate Committee Members & Congregation Members

## 12th ANNIVERSARY



**Smt. NIRMAL SHARMA**  
W/o: Late Sri Vishwa Sharma  
DOB: 07-08-2008  
"You will always be remembered May your soul rest in peace".  
RAJIV SHARMA 8885533340  
GAUTAM SHARMA 9849005878  
AND FAMILY MEMBERS  
JAGSON PACKAGING | JACKO MACHINE TOOLS

## 30th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever, PS 23:6



**Late Mr. MANGA PADMA RAO**  
Enslavement  
DOB: 07-08-1990  
...and parents are the pride of their children.  
Pro. 17:6  
Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS  
(S/2021/D00395)

## 25th ANNIVERSARY



**JUSTICE IMMANENI PANDURANGA RAO**  
DOB: 21-04-1933, DOD: 07-08-1995  
25 years have gone by...  
We still miss you every day and recount all the wonderful memories you have given us.  
You were the epitome of honesty, integrity, kindness & friendship. You were the embodiment of a dignified human being. We feel blessed that you were a part of our lives.  
FAMILY & FRIENDS - 98480 52210

## 11th DAY CEREMONY



**KOTHAPALLY BALAMANI**  
Expired on 28-07-2020  
May her soul rest in peace  
Inserted by:  
Telukunta Prabhakar and Family

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith. II Tim 4:7



DOB: 28/01/1962 DOD: 03/08/2020  
**Rev. ATTIGARI BENNETT RAJ**  
Presbyter-in-charge  
Memorial & Thanksgiving Service today at 11.30 am at CSI WESLEY CHURCH, Musheerabad  
Inserted by:  
Mrs. Soundarya Thilaka Joseph (Mother-in-law)  
K.J. Anil Kumar, K.J. Prashanth Kumar,  
K.J. Francis Martin Son & their Families  
(Brother-in-laws), (M) : 8328413520

## In Loving memory of



**Dr. ANIL BARAN RAI**  
Your sweet memories will remain in our hearts forever and ever.  
Inserted by Family

## OBITUARY



**AVULA RAMESH CHANDER**  
Retired Manager, Andhra Bank  
Born on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1949  
Passed away on Thursday 06.08.2020 due to cardiac arrest in Hyderabad. Cremation at Purana Pul Shamshan Ghat on Friday 07.08.2020 at 9.00 am.  
Inserted by: AVULA FAMILY.

## SHRADHANJALI

You will always remain in our hearts forever. MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE.



**VADAPALLI VISHALA**  
DOB: 12-02-1946 DOD: 25-07-2020  
Inserted by:  
VADAPALLI FAMILY

## 13th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



**Mr. KADASI PRATHAP MANOHAR** 8.5c (Ag.)  
Joint Director of Agri (Retd.)  
S/o Late Mr. Yesudas  
DOB: 06.06.1938 DOD: 07.08.2007  
There is not a moment when you are not in our thoughts.  
Inserted by:  
Wife: Joan Sharada  
Sons: Shashi Kiran & Udaya Pavan  
Daughter-in-law: Rajitha Grace.  
Grand Daughters: Sujitha & Shamitha  
9866099993, 9949036208

## THANKS GIVING SERVICE

"I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever," Psalms 23:6



**Rev. BENNETT RAJ ATTIGARI**  
S/o Late Rev. Joseph Attigari  
DOB: 28-01-1962 DOD: 03-08-2020  
Bennett you will remain alive in our hearts forever.  
Inserted by: Anna - Jaya Raj Attigari, Vadina - Vinoda Jayaraj Attigari, Daughters & Sons-in-law

## SHRADHANJALI



**Shri S. SRINIVASAN (VASU)**  
(62 Years)  
Passed away on 29-07-2020  
Deeply mourned by:  
FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRINEDS  
Ph: 9000080241 / 984912184  
(S/2021/D00400)

## WE MISS YOU CHINNA THATHA



**Rev. BENNETT RAJ ATTIGARI**  
S/o Late Rev. Joseph Attigari  
Your blessings will be always with us.  
LOVE YOU THATHA  
FAITH KEREN MACHERLA, (USA)  
HOPE SARAH MACHERLA, (USA)  
JAYDEN SUSHANTH, POLIMATI, (USA)

## OBITUARY

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." 2 Tim 4:7



**MRS. NANCY PRAHLAD**  
W/o. Late P.Franklin Prahlad  
& Eldest D/o Late Mrs&Mr. Kolluri V.Daniel  
Sr.Member of Methodist Telugu Church, Chapel road, Hyd.  
DOB: 04-10-1937 DOD: 05-08-2020  
Burial was held on 06-08-2020 at Narayanguda, Hyderabad.  
Inserted By: Sons, Daughters-in-law, Grand children & Great Grand children.  
Contact: 9032164924, 9949959417.

## IN FOND MEMORY



**YERRAMSETTY BABJI (S.C.Rly)**  
D.O.B: 01-02-1953 D.O.D: 07-08-2012  
You gave us wings to fly and taught us to stay strong. Missing you everyday!  
Yerramsetty Family

## EK TUHI NIRANKAR



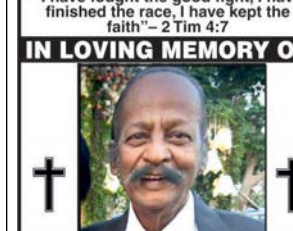
**Sri. ANIL GIR**  
DOB: 25-06-1956 DOD: 26-07-2020  
"The greatest gift of God to you is this beautiful body, but consider it as a trust by God and nothing belongs to you"  
13 th day is Today : 07-08-2020, Friday  
Venue: H.No.12-1-4771/1 Sitarambagh Near Dattatreya Temple Hyd-06  
Inserted by : Spouse,  
Sons and Daughter in Laws

## SHRADDHANJALI



**Smt. GOWRA ROJA GARU**  
DOB: 25.08.1958 DOD: 06.08.2020  
Smt. Gowra Roja - an unassuming, contented & an epitome of love.  
Husband : Gowra Lakshmi Prasad  
Daughters & Sons-in-law : Swathi & Srinivas, Chaitra & Kamalesh, Grand Sons, Grand Daughter, Gowra, Soma and Smiles Family Members.

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF



**DR. JOHN JAYA KUMAR LUKE**  
DOB: 08-07-1938 DOD: 05-08-2020  
"May His Soul Rest in Peace, our heartfelt condolences to beloved family"  
Fondly remembered by  
Methodist Members Welfare Association, Hyderabad

## OBITUARY

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you" Phil:1.3.



**MRS. NANCY PRAHLAD**  
Eldest D/o Late Mrs&Mr. Kolluri V.Daniel  
S/o Late Rev. Joseph Attigari  
DOB: 04-10-1937 DOD: 05-08-2020  
Burial was held on 06-08-2020 at Narayanguda, Hyderabad.  
Mourned By:  
Sisters: Jeeva Joshua; Indira Benjamin;  
Brothers: Dr. John Kolluri (SA)  
Dr. Ben Joe Kolluri (USA)  
and Peter Kolluri (USA)

## WAR OF WORDS Shivraj: MP deserves GI tag for aromatic rice

## MP, Punjab fight over Basmati

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC  
BHOPAL, AUG. 6:

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday slammed his Punjab counterpart Capt. Amrinder Singh for mounting pressure on the Centre to deny geographical indication (GI) tagging of basmati of MP, describing it unfair.

Chouhan said there was no basis for opposition to GI tagging of basmati of MP by Punjab Chief Minister since the state has 'written recorded history since 1908' for production of the variant of aromatic rice in 13 districts.

"Government of Madhya Pradesh strongly condemns the letter written by the Punjab Chief Minister to PMO (Prime Minister's Office) regarding allotment of GI tagging of basmati rice of 13 districts of the state", a tweet by chief minister's office (CMO) read.

Chouhan's office here ran a series of tweets justifying the state's demand for GI tagging of basmati rice grown in 13 districts of MP in the wake of Singh shooting a letter to the PMO on Wednesday demanding not to allow MP's basmati to get GI tag. In his letter, Singh argued that GI tagging to MP's basmati would not only be detrimental to

the interest of Punjab and other states who have already been awarded GI tag for their variant of the aromatic rice, but may also have an adverse impact on the export of basmati by India.

The Punjab Chief Minister said India exports basmati to the tune of ₹33,000 crore every year and any dilution in registration of Indian basmati may give advantage to Pakistan (which also produces basmati) in the international market in terms of characteristic and quality parameters.

The MP government, however, dismissed the concern expressed by Singh, saying that GI tagging to the state's bas-

mati would "provide stability to basmati prices in the international markets and boost our export".

"Madhya Pradesh has recorded history since 1908 of basmati production in 13 districts. Records of supplying seeds to farmers in MP in 1944 is recorded in the records of the Scindia state", a tweet by CMO here said.

The state government further said that the Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad, has recorded production of basmati since the last 25 years and added that exporters from both Punjab and Haryana have been procuring the rice variant from MP.



## IN BRIEF

**Rajapaksas  
all set for  
landslide win**

**Colombo:** Sri Lanka's strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa was poised to stage a political comeback on Thursday as his party took an early lead and was set for a landslide victory in the twice-postponed general elections, according to results announced so far. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first world leaders to congratulate Rajapaksa on the outcome of the elections and said the two sides will work together to further advance all areas of bilateral cooperation and to take their special ties to ever newer heights.

"Thank you PM @narendramodi for your congratulatory phone call. With the strong support of the people of #SriLanka, I look forward to working with you closely to further enhance the long-standing cooperation between our two countries. Sri Lanka & India are friends & relations," Rajapaksa tweeted. The SLPP has polled more votes than its rivals, scoring over 60 per cent of the total votes in the 16 seats officially declared so far from the South, dominated by the Sinhala majority community. The party won 13 out of 16 seats. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in a tweet described the results as a "great victory" for the ruling party. Rajapaksa's party is expected to win control of the 225-member assembly by a comfortable margin, according to analysts. In Galle district, the SLPP won seven out of nine seats on offer while in the neighbouring Matara district they won six out of seven seats on offer. The nearest rival is the new party formed by former presidential candidate Sajith Premadasa who has relegated his mother party, the United National Party (UNP), of former premier Ranil Wickremesinghe to the fourth place even below the Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna. The SJB has won only three seats from both districts.

# Don's FB post of kids immune to Covid-19 deleted

**Houston, Aug. 6:** Social media giant Facebook, for the first time, has removed a post from US President Donald Trump in which he claimed that children were "almost immune" to Covid-19, saying it violated its policy against spreading "misinformation" about the Coronavirus. The post in question was a video clip of a Trump interview on Fox News Channel uploaded by the Trump campaign on Wednesday.

The US President claims in the clip that children are "almost immune" to Covid-19. While much remains unknown about the Coronavirus, children can contract Covid-19 and are believed to be able to spread it to others, even without symptoms.

"This video includes false claims that a group of people is immune from Covid-19 which is a violation of our policies around harmful Covid misinformation," Andy Stone, a Facebook policy spokesperson said in a statement.

A link to the post now diverts to a page that says, "This Content Isn't Available Right Now." It is the first time that Facebook has removed a post from Trump entirely, rather than labelling it, as it has done in the past, making it a rare instance in which it has been willing to censor the president.

In June, Facebook removed ads that the Trump campaign posted that featured a symbol Nazis used to classify political prisoners during World War II. Twitter also removed a link to the same video clip, which the official Trump Twitter account

## Test travellers from 'risk areas': Germany

**Berlin, Aug. 6:** Germany will require people arriving from countries deemed high risk, such as the United States, to take Coronavirus tests starting this weekend, the health minister said Thursday, as the country recorded its highest daily tally of new infections in three months. German officials have voiced alarm over a steady upward creep in the number of new infections over recent weeks.

The national disease control centre, the Robert Koch Institute, said 1,045 cases were recorded on Wednesday — the first time since May 7 that it has counted more than 1,000 new cases in a day.

Daily figures can be volatile or distorted by delays in reporting, and

the number is still far short of the peak of more than 6,000 reached in early April.

"What we are seeing is a lot of small outbreaks," Health Minister Jens Spahn told reporters. "People are getting infected at family parties, at their place of work or at community facilities." On top of that, school holidays — the dates of which are staggered across Germany's 16 states — are ending in some regions, increasing concerns that vacationers could bring home the virus. Last Saturday, the government started offering free tests for people returning to the country, a move that Spahn said likely contributed to the increase in recorded cases. — AP

@TeamTrump shared earlier on Wednesday.

Links to the tweet now point Twitter users to a message that the tweet violated Twitter's rules and is no longer available. The Trump campaign accused Facebook of "flagrant bias". "The President was stating a fact that children are less susceptible to the Coronavirus," Courtney Parella, the campaign's deputy national press secretary, said in an emailed statement.

A US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study involving 2,500 children published in April

found that about one in five infected children were hospitalised versus one in three adults; three children died. Two months ago, Facebook faced a backlash both inside and outside the company for not taking any action against Trump's May 29 comment, posted on Facebook and Instagram, in which he said about Minneapolis protests and civil unrest in the wake of George Floyd's killing by police: "Any difficulty and we will assume control but, when the looting starts, the shooting starts. Thank you!" — PTI

# Lebanon officials shift blast blame as Macron calls for serious reforms

**Beirut, Aug. 6:** Lebanese officials targeted in the investigation of the massive blast that tore through Beirut sought to shift blame for the presence of explosives at the city's port, and the visiting French president warned Thursday that without serious reforms the country would "continue to sink".

The blast Tuesday, which appeared to have been caused by an accidental fire that ignited a warehouse full of ammonium nitrate at the city's port, ripped across the Lebanese capital, killing at least 135 people, injuring more than 5,000 and causing widespread destruction.

It also may have accelerated the country's Coronavirus outbreak, as thousands flooded into hospitals in the wake of the blast. Tens of thousands have been forced to move in with relatives and friends after their homes were damaged, further raising the risks of exposure.

French President Emmanuel Macron visited Thursday amid widespread pledges of international aid. But Lebanon, which was already mired in a severe economic crisis, faces a daunting challenge in rebuilding.

It's unclear how much support the international community will offer the notoriously corrupt and dysfunctional government. Macron, who viewed the devastated port and was to meet with senior Lebanese officials, said the visit is "an opportunity to have a frank and challenging dialogue with the Lebanese political powers and institutions".

He said France will work to coordinate aid. Losses from the blast are estimated to be between \$10 billion and \$15 billion, Beirut Governor Marwan Abboud told Saudi-owned TV station *Al-Hadath*, adding that nearly 300,000 people are homeless. — AP



Volunteers clean the rubble and broken glass from the streets in Beirut on Thursday in the aftermath of a massive explosion in the Lebanese capital. — AFP

## Explosion likely an attack: Trump

**Washington, Aug. 6:** President Donald Trump on Wednesday continued to suggest that the massive explosion that killed at least 135 people in Lebanon might have been a deliberate attack, even as officials in Lebanon and his own defence chief said it's believed to have been an accident. "Whatever happened, it's terrible, but they don't really know what it is," Trump insisted. "Nobody knows yet."

Investigators probing the deadly blast that ripped across Beirut on Tuesday are focused on possible negligence in the storage of tons of ammonium nitrate, a highly explosive fertilizer, in a waterfront warehouse. The Lebanese government ordered the house arrest of several

port officials. On Tuesday, Trump called the explosion a "terrible attack" and said American generals told him it was likely caused by a bomb.

"They seem to think it was an attack," Trump said. "It was a bomb of some kind, yes." Defence Secretary Mark Esper contradicted the president Wednesday, saying most people believe the explosion "was an accident, as reported". But later in the day, Trump insisted nobody knows for sure. "How can you say accident if somebody left some terrible explosive-type devices and things around perhaps — perhaps it was that. Perhaps it was an attack," Trump told reporters during a White House briefing. — AP

## OZ PLEDGES \$1.4MN FOR BEIRUT RELIEF

**Beirut, Aug. 6:** The Australian government has pledged an initial 2 million Australian dollars (\$1.4 million) to the relief effort in Lebanon following the deadly blast that ripped across the capital Beirut on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison told reporters Thursday that the aid will be provided to the World Food Programme and to the Red Cross for food, medical care and essential items. He says his country is considering another round of support.

Morrison says some Australian Embassy personnel were injured but "they are safe and accounted for and we wish them a speedy recovery".

He also thanked the US Embassy officials in Beirut for their support. — AP

# FINANCIAL Chronicle

HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 7 AUGUST 2020

## quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,025.45	0.96
Nifty 50	11,200.15	0.89
S&P 500*	3,326.43	-0.04
Dollar (₹)	74.92	0.04
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.64	-0.81
Euro (₹)	88.78	-0.35
Gold (10gm) (₹)	55,850.752	1.36
Brent crude (\$/bbl)	45.60	0.43
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.862	0.035
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.515	-0.028

\* As of 10:30 PM IST

## IDBI Bank in deal to sell 27% stake in insurance JV

IDBI Bank on Thursday said it has entered into a share purchase agreement (SPA) with the other two joint venture partners in IDBI Federal Life Insurance Company (IFLIC), to divest 27 per cent of its stake for ₹595.30 crore. In June, the private sector lender had informed about the stake sale-purchase proposal among the three JV partners. Currently, LIC-promoted IDBI Bank holds 48 per cent in IFLIC.

# RBI expects higher inflation, negative economic growth

■ Pauses rate cuts for now; maintains accommodative monetary stance

**FALAKNAAZ SYED**

MUMBAI, AUG. 6

Belying expectations, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India on Thursday kept rates unchanged on Thursday owing to uncertainty around inflation despite signs of growth faltering further. The MPC voted to maintain an accommodative stance, thus opening up possibilities for more rate cuts.

"While economic activity had started to recover from the lows of April-May, a surge in recent infections have forced re-clamping of lockdowns in several cities and states to 'level-off' various high-frequency indicators," RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said in his monetary policy address.

The MPC expects headline inflation to remain elevated in Q2FY21 and sees it easing in the second half of the financial year. For 2021, the real GDP growth is expected to be negative.

It refrained from providing growth-inflation forecasts while sticking to the direction based guidance.

"Real GDP growth in the first half of the year is estimated to remain in the contraction zone. For the year 2020-21 as a whole, real GDP growth is also estimated to be negative," Das said.

He said that the RBI will do whatever is required to revive the economy in the wake of the pandemic.

All the six members of the MPC voted for a status quo in rates.

**RESERVE BANK OF INDIA**

**Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Review**

**Highlights**

- Policy rate unchanged at 4%, reverse repo at 3.35%
- Loans against gold enhanced to 90% of the value from current 75% to mitigate COVID-19 impact on households
- To continue with the accommodative stance to revive growth
- Supporting economic recovery assumes primacy in conduct of monetary policy in uncertain global environment
- Sees upside risk to inflation, projects moderation in Oct-Mar
- GDP growth to be negative in current fiscal
- Stressed MSME borrowers eligible for loan restructuring if their accounts were classified standard
- Allows lenders to provide window to restructure loans of corporate, individual borrowers to ease COVID-19 impact
- A new resolution window for corporate and personal loans to be framed
- To put in place safeguards for opening of current accounts and overdraft accounts for customers availing credit facilities from multiple banks
- Priority Sector Lending (PSL) to include startups
- Increased limits for renewable energy, including solar power, and small and marginal farmers and 'Weaker Sections' under PSL
- To allow a pilot scheme for small value payments in offline mode while safeguarding interest of users, liability protection
- Proposes Online Dispute Resolution for digital payments
- Rs 5,000 crore additional liquidity facility to be provided by the National Housing Bank to boost liquidity in housing sector
- Rs 5,000 crore liquidity support to NABARD to aid agri sector
- Economic activity had started to recover, but surge in infection has forced imposition of lockdowns
- Monetary Policy Committee conscious of primary mandate to achieve inflation target of 4% within a band of +/- 2%

## Start-ups get RBI's priority tag

**SANGEETHA G**

CHENNAI, AUG. 6

In a major boost to start-ups, now their loans will come under priority sector lending. RBI will also look into regional disparities in priority sector lending (PSL).

The PSL guidelines were last reviewed in April 2015. In these five years, the country has seen a lot of activity in the start-up space. Acknowledging the potential of start-ups

in boosting the economy, RBI has broadened the scope of PSL to include start-ups.

As per PSL norms, RBI mandates banks to lend a certain portion of their funds to specified sectors like agriculture, micro, small and medium enterprises, export credit, education, housing, social infrastructure, renewable energy, etc.

Further, RBI has also increased the PSL limits for renewable energy.

As part of reviewing the PSL guidelines, an incentive framework is also being put in place for banks to address the regional disparities in the flow of priority sector credit. While higher weightage will be assigned for incremental priority sector credit in the identified districts having lower credit flow, a lower weightage would be assigned in identified districts where the credit flow is higher.

## Positive Pay, offline card payment soon

**SANGEETHA G**

CHENNAI, AUG. 6

Enhancing the security of cheque payments, RBI will introduce Positive Pay for all cheques of ₹50,000 and above.

As for digital payments, RBI also wants offline payments through cards, mobile wallets and devices to become possible for remote areas with low internet connectivity.

In order to check increasing cheque frauds, RBI has decided to introduce a mechanism of Positive Pay for all cheques of value ₹50,000 and above, RBI said.

This measure will cover approximately 20 per cent of all cheques issued in the country in volume terms and 80 per cent of cheques in terms of value.

RBI also wants to make offline payment through cards, wallets and mobile devices possible. "There has been considerable growth in digital payments using mobile phones, cards, wallets, etc. Lack of internet connectivity or low speed of internet, especially in remote areas, is a major impediment in adoption of digital payments," the central bank said in its statement.

# Gold can get you 90% of its value as loan

**SANGEETHA G.**

CHENNAI, AUG. 6

In order to provide higher liquidity to households and small businesses, RBI has increased the Loan-To-Value (LTV) ratio of gold loans offered by banks from 75 per cent to 90 per cent. However, the higher LTV will not be available for non-banking finance companies.

As per the current guidelines, gold loans sanctioned by banks for non-agricultural purposes should not exceed 75 per cent of the value of gold ornaments and jewellery.

"With a view to mitigating the impact of Covid-19 on households, it has been decided to increase the permissible loan to value ratio (LTV) for such loans to 90 per cent. This relaxation shall be available till March 31, 2021," said RBI.

Higher LTV will put more money in the hands of the customer for the same volume of gold pledged. Gold prices have appreciated more than 40 per cent since the beginning of the year. Due to the price appreciation, the loan amount has naturally increased by 40 per cent even at an LTV of 75 per cent. Once the LTV is increased to 90 per cent, this will increase the loan amount by another 15 per cent. This will solve the liquidity issues of small scale business persons and traders, who account for the largest chunk of the customer base, as well as individuals to a great extent.

The new LTV will be available for a window of eight months. Fresh loans issued post March 31, 2021 will come under 75 per cent LTV.

## BYJU'S ACQUIRES CHILDREN-FOCUSED CODING START-UP FIRM FOR \$300M

**SANGEETHA G**

CHENNAI, AUG. 6

Byju's has acquired Mumbai-based ed-tech start-up, WhiteHat Jr for \$300 million. With the National Education Policy pushing for skills such as coding, this will provide Byju's a major boost.

Founded in November 2018, WhiteHat Jr specializes in coding. With coding fast emerging as a key skill for the future, this

integration will help Byju's to further expand its offerings. This partnership is timely with the government pushing skills such as coding from early classes with the New Education Policy 2020, Byju's said in a release.

WhiteHat Jr has presence in India and the US. It had recently announced plans to expand to other global markets like Canada, UK, Australia and New Zealand.



# TIGHT ROPE WALK

## BCCI sets strict guidelines for IPL teams

New Delhi, Aug. 6: Eight different hotels for the eight participating teams, two mandatory negative Covid-19 test reports before flying to the UAE and punishment for any breach of the bio-secure protocol are part of the BCCI's SOP for the IPL that was handed over to the franchisees on Wednesday.

The document, accessed states that every franchisee's medical team should obtain the "medical and travel history of all players and support staff" since March 1 this year.

"All Indian players and team support staff must undergo two Covid-19 PCR tests, 24 hours apart, in the week before assembling in the franchisees' city of choice," it states.

"This will help reduce the risk of cross infection within the group before flying to the UAE."

"Breach of any Bio-Secure Environment protocols by players and team support staff will be punishable under the IPL Code of Conduct Rules."

Anyone testing positive for Covid-19 will be quarantined and after completion of a 14-day period, the individual will have to undergo two Covid-19 tests, 24 hours apart.

— PTI



Royal Challengers Bangalore's captain Virat Kohli (left) looks on during a training session in this file photo.

## PAKISTAN GRAB INITIATIVE

Manchester, Aug. 6: Shan Masood joined a select group of Pakistan batsmen to have scored hundreds in three successive Test innings as his excellent century led the tourists to 326 all out against England on the second day of the series opener at Old Trafford.

Left-handed opener Masood batted for nearly

eight hours in largely bowler-friendly conditions for a Test-best 156. He received excellent support from Shadab Khan (45) in a sixth-wicket stand of 105 that turned the tide.

— PTI

**Brief scores:** Pakistan 326 in 109.3 overs (B. Azam 69, Shan Masood 150, S. Khan 45, S. Board 3/54, J. Archer 3/59) vs England.

— PTI

## BOARDS OF OZ, INDIA TO MEET ON WORLD CUP

New Delhi, Aug. 6: The heads of Board of Control for Cricket in India and Cricket Australia will be connecting virtually to discuss the hosting of two T20 World Cups in the next two years when the ICC's all-powerful board meets on Friday.

The decision will also be impacted by the stand of the two boards on the next ICC chairman, the nomination process of which is yet to be announced.

It is expected that BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah along with CA's Earl Eddings and Nick Hockley will reach a consensus on the hosting of 2021 and 2022 editions.

It is expected that Cricket Australia will like to host the T20 World Cup in October 2021 as it had already started preparations and wouldn't like to wait for two years but the BCCI also doesn't want to forego its right to host the tournament in 2021.

## Stage set for Champions League knockouts

Turin (Italy), Aug. 6: Maurizio Sarri believes his future is safe at Juventus regardless of whether the team overturns a 0-1 deficit to Lyon in the Champions League on Friday.

The game at Allianz Stadium will be held without fans due to the pandemic. It was postponed from March. The winner will advance to the single-elimination quarters in Lisbon. — AP

**LIVE ON TV: Champions League Round of 16, second leg:** Juventus vs Lyon from 12.30 am (Saturday) on Sony TEN 2; Manchester City vs Real Madrid from 12.30 am (Saturday) on Sony TEN 1.

## Errani rallies for win at Palermo

Palermo, Aug. 6: Former French Open finalist Sara Errani showed signs of reviving her clay-court prowess by rallying past Kristina Pliskova 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 Wednesday to reach the Palermo Ladies Open quarterfinals.

It was the second consecutive three-set win for Errani, who received a wild-card entry for the first tour-level tournament — for men or women — following a five-month break due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Errani will next face rising French player Fiona Ferro, who beat eighth-seeded Ekaterina Alexandrova 7-5, 6-2.

Also, qualifier Aliaksandra Sasnovich eased past Jasmine Paolini 6-0, 6-2 for her fifth win in

five days; and 19-year-old Italian wild-card entry Elisabetta Cocciaretto eliminated sixth-seeded Donna Vekic in straight sets 6-2, 6-4.

Players and officials for the tournament are being tested every four days for Covid-19 and one player who tested positive withdrew over the weekend. New protocols include fewer ball kids, a limited number of fans and no post-match handshakes between opponents.

Errani, who lost the 2012 French Open final to Maria Sharapova, had struggled to regain her form after serving a two-month ban in 2017 due to an anti-doping violation. Her ranking is down from a career-high of No.5 in 2013 to No.169.

— AP

## LAKERS, LeBRON STRUCK DOWN HARD BY THUNDER

Miami, Aug. 6: Having clinched a Western Conference top seed in the NBA playoffs, the Los Angeles Lakers began experimenting for the post-season Wednesday and found they still have some work to do.

In their first game since taking the top spot, the Lakers were routed 105-86 by Oklahoma City, never leading for the first time all season.

Chris Paul scored a game-high 21 points and Italian forward Danilo Gallinari added 19 as the Thunder, 42-25, stayed one game behind Utah for fourth in the West.

Three-time NBA champion LeBron James led the Lakers with 19 points and 11 rebounds in 30 minutes on the court while Anthony Davis had nine points, eight rebounds and five assists.

Everyone on the Lakers' roster played as the purple and gold looked to the playoffs by testing combinations and talent to see who might work well together when needed later in the Orlando bubble, where games resumed last week after a four-month Covid-19 hiatus.

— AFP

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