

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
KARIMNAGAR | FRIDAY | 25 JUNE 2021

WEATHER

Max: 39.4°C
Min: 23.6°C
RH: 64%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy.
Light rain likely.
Max/Min temp. 31/24°C

Hyundai
ALCAZAR.
6 and 7 seater SUV.



ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana
Tithi: Jyeshtha Bahula Padyami till 9.02 pm
Star: Moola till 6.40 am;
Purvashada till 4.25 am (Saturday)
Varjyam: 5.14 am to 6.40 am;
3.22 pm to 4.49 pm
Durmuhurtam: 8.24 am to 9.16 am; 12.45 pm to 1.37 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon
HIJRI CALENDAR
Zeeqad 13,1442 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.33 am
Zohar: 12.28 pm
Asar: 4.55 pm
Maghrib: 6.59 pm
Isha: 8.16 pm
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.44 AM
SUNSET TODAY 6.53 PM
MOONSET 5.58 AM
MOONRISE 7.44 PM

COUNTER POINT



Crisis is over... no threat to my government for the next 48 hours!

SHORT TAKES

S&P cuts India growth to 9.5%

New Delhi: S&P Global Ratings on Thursday cut India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 9.5 per cent, from 11 per cent earlier, and warned of risk to the outlook from further waves of Covid pandemic. The agency lowered the growth outlook saying that a severe second Covid-19 outbreak in April and May led to lockdowns imposed by states and sharp contraction in economic activity.

India asks Opec to cut oil prices

New Delhi: With domestic retail fuel prices jumping to record high on rising international oil rates, India on Thursday pressed oil cartel OPEC for 'affordable' oil price within a 'reasonable band' and that the producers should phase out production cuts. Petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan in virtual dialogue with OPEC secretary general Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo reiterated concerns over oil prices shooting above \$75 per barrel.

China caused border row: India

New Delhi: India said China's amassing of troops close to the border last year and attempts to alter the status quo disturbed peace and tranquillity in the region. India's comments on the matter came a day after China said its military deployment in the region is a normal "defence arrangement" to respond to actions by the "relevant" country. "It is well recognised that it was the Chinese actions along the LAC that disturbed peace and tranquillity in the border areas," MEA spokesman Arindam Bagchi said.

WORLD | 7

McAfee antivirus founder dead

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle

SPORTS | 8

Ronaldo equals record for most goals

TABLOID

Britney wants her life back



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Project seabird



Defence minister Rajnath Singh arrives at Karwar Naval Base and is received by Vice Admiral R, Hari Kumar, CinC Western Naval Command along with Rear Adm Mahesh Singh, FOK to review the progress of ongoing infra development work through Project Seabird. — PTI

Class XII results must be out by July 31, orders SC

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

The Supreme Court on Thursday said that all the State education boards will finalise their schemes for the evaluation and allocation of marks to be awarded to the students who were to appear in the cancelled Class XII examination within 10 days from today and the results will be positively declared by July 31, 2021.

"We direct all the State Boards to ensure that the Schemes are formulated and notified at the earliest and not later than 10 days from today and also declare the results of internal assessment by 31.07.2021, which is the timeline specified for

THE STATE education boards were directed to formulate the scheme of evaluation of marks for the Class XII students within 10 days

CBSE and ICSE Boards" said a bench comprising Justice A.M.Khanwilka and Justice Dinesh Maheshwari in its order passed today. While giving 10 days time for the finalisation of the scheme for the evaluation of marks for XII standard students, the court clarified that each board is free to formulate its scheme for the allocation of marks as each board is an autonomous and independent body.

"We make it clear that each Board may formulate

its own scheme," the court said in its order passed today.

However, the court further made it clear that it was not endorsing the "correctness and validity of the proposed Schemes, to be so formulated by the concerned Boards."

The correctness and validity of the schemes to be formulated by each board, the court said "will be considered on its own merits, if and when occasion arises."

The court said this in response to a clarification sought by Haryana SEB seeking a declaration that respective Boards are free to formulate their own Schemes being autonomous and independent bodies.

Twitter India MD spared from action

Bengaluru/Ghaziabad, June 24: Twitter India's Head Manish Maheshwari, who was summoned by the Ghaziabad Police in connection with a probe related to the assault of an elderly Muslim man there recently, did not appear before them as the Karnataka High Court restrained police from initiating coercive action against him.

In his interim order, the single bench of Justice G. Narendar said "if the police desire to examine the petitioner (Manish Maheshwari), they may do so by virtual mode."

"If the matter requires consideration, we list it on June 29.

In the meanwhile restraining the respondents from initiating any coercive action against the petitioner," the court maintained.

"It is case of petitioner that he has replied to notice to join through virtual mode. The respondent (police) taking

objection to the request has turned around and issued notice under section 41(A) virtually putting him in shoes of accused," it observed.

The Twitter India Managing Director, who lives in Bengaluru in Karnataka, was issued notice by the Ghaziabad Police on June 21 and asked to report at its Loni Border police station at 10.30 am on Thursday to get his statement recorded in the case, officials at Ghaziabad said.

"He (Maheshwari) is not coming today," Ghaziabad Senior Superintendent of Police Amit Pathak said.

Pathak said the Ghaziabad Police has learnt that the Twitter India MD has given a representation in Karnataka High Court in connection with the case and a decision on that is pending.

The Karnataka High Court's interim orders came after 4 pm. — PTI

Modi asks J&K leaders to help in delimitation, polls

Promises full statehood for J&K at 'appropriate time'

RAJNISH SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

In a major initiative, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday reached out to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, saying that he was committed to remove "Dilli ki doori" as well as "Dil ki doori", and also reiterated that he was committed to restoring full statehood to J&K at an "appropriate time".

Mr Modi expressed his views at a marathon meeting of over three hours with 14 top J&K leaders from eight different parties, which included four former CMs — Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mehbooba Mufti, Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah. Home minister Amit Shah and national security adviser Ajit Doval were among those present.

This is the first time top political leaders from J&K held detailed talks with Prime Minister Modi and other Central leaders like Amit Shah since J&K's



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an all-party meeting with various political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir, in Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

special status under Article 370 was abolished in August 2019 and the state was split up into two Union territories of J&K and Ladakh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the ongoing delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir has to happen quickly so that polls can be held to install

an elected government that gives strength to its development trajectory. "Our priority is to strengthen grassroots democracy in J&K. Delimitation has to happen at a quick pace so that polls can happen and J&K gets an elected government that gives strength to J&K's development trajectory," he said.

PRIME MINISTER said the ongoing delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir has to happen quickly so that polls can be held to install an elected government

"I told the leaders of J&K that it is the people, specially the youth who have to provide political leadership to J&K, and ensure their aspirations are duly fulfilled," he said.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, former CM Omar Abdullah said both Modi and Shah pledged they were committed to restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

"The takeaway from the meeting was that the Prime Minister said he wanted to remove 'Dil ki doori' and 'Dilli ki doori', but I as well as other leaders are sure that one meeting is not enough. However, a process has begun," Abdullah said.

Page 2: Trust deficit must be addressed soon: Abdullah

Dalit woman's death: HC orders magisterial probe

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

The Telangana High Court on Thursday directed the judicial first class magistrate of Alair division to inquire into the alleged custodial death of a Dalit woman at the Addagur police station in Rachakonda commissionerate.

The court said the inquiry should be completed in a week and the report furnished in a sealed cover.

A division bench of Justice Ramachander Rao and Justice Vinod Kumar was hearing a petition filed by People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUC), Telangana, represented by its general secretary Jaya Vindyalu seeking a judicial probe

THE DIVISION bench of the HC said the magistrate could order a second post-mortem examination of the body.

into the death of Mariamma, allegedly due to police brutality on June 18. The division bench said the magistrate could order a second post-mortem examination of the body.

Meanwhile, taking strong note of a Dalit woman's death in police custody allegedly due to torture, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has sent a notice to Telangana chief secretary and DGP seeking facts and information about action initiated in the matter.

The commission has also asked the Deputy

Commissioner and Superintendent of Police of Telangana's Bhongir district to submit their action-taken report within a week.

Advocate-general B.S. Prasad informed the court that the guidelines promulgated by the NHRC had been followed in the case and the body of Mariamma was handed over to her daughter.

The constables involved in the alleged lock-up death had been suspended and an inquiry initiated.

The revenue division officer and the assistant commissioner of police of Medchal Malajkiri district were conducting inquiries.

Page 2: HC unhappy no CCTVs in police station

Cases rise as unlock starts

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

Four days after unlocking, there has been a slight increase in the number of people with mild Covid-19 symptoms reporting at city hospitals.

Experts state that these patients appear to have picked up the infection during the relaxation period when the lockdown was in place, and were coming to the hospitals now.

Dr C.R.K. Prasad, a

senior doctor, explained, "Small hospitals have started seeing cases of those who had symptoms on June 20. They have now been tested and identified as Covid-19 positive. With the movement of people without following proper safety protocols there will be spikes of Covid-19 cases noted from time to time."

The GHMC area is seeing ups and downs in cases. Dr Mohan Gupta, senior member of the Indian

Medical Association, said, "There was a slight increase noted in the last two days but overall the number of Covid cases was found to be coming down. These sudden bursts are due to activities like marriages, weekend parties, small gatherings."

In the districts too, Khammam, Nalgonda and Suryapet are a matter of concern as there are slight increases noted every three days after a small decline.

KANIZA GARARI and BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

Telangana state, as on Thursday, had no cases of Covid-19 caused by the Delta plus variant of the Coronavirus, health officials have said.

The assurance came even as Madhya Pradesh on Thursday reported what it said was the first death of a Covid-19 patient who was infected by the Delta plus variant.

Page 2: Variant is extremely infectious

GOVT HOSPITAL CONTRACT STAFF STRIKE FOR PAY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

Government hospital sanitation, paramedical and contract workers of the Telangana Contract Employees and Workers Union protested at the Nampally office demanding equal pay for all.

M. Narasimha, president of the union, said, "The issue of contract employees has not been resolved despite several representations to the government. We want it to be cleared. At the same time, there must not be different pay-scales. We want equal pay for all."

Fatigue, fever common side-effects of vaccine

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

Fatigue and fever were reported in 85 per cent of the people after Covid-19 vaccination, according to data collected by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi.

Senior citizens had fever for two to three days and complaints of fatigue lasted a week. A total of 96,51,844 people in the state have been vaccinated, of which 80,61,298 have

completed the first dose and 15,90,546 have completed the second dose.

The complaints of fever and fatigue were noted in the age-group of 45 years and above. In the younger age-group from 18 to 44 years, these complaints were noted among one in 1,000 vaccinated people.

Pain on the injection site was noted in one in four people in all the age groups. In the age group above 45 years, the pain in the injection sites was pre-

sent for two to three days. Dr Krishna Mohan, general physician, said, "Fever and fatigue are the commonest side-effects as the response of the immune system is building up in the body. If these have persisted for more than three days, it is a concern."

Most of those who were vaccinated have been advised to not take up strenuous physical activity for some time after the vaccination.



SHORT TAKES

TWO LEADERS
OF CPM DIE DUE
TO ILLNESSDC CORRESPONDENT
KOTHAGUDEM, JUNE 24

CPI-Maoist party confirms the death of party Telangana secretary Haribhushan and Indravathi Area Committee member Siddaboina Sarakka in Chattisgarh. Maoist party spokesperson Jagan in a statement said that the Haribhushan, who is suffering with asthma, faced problems after contacting Covid-19. He said that Haribhushan died on June 21 and Sarakka on June 22. The last rites were done amidst people and a memorial meeting was performed on June 22. He said that Haribhushan joined the party in 1991 as a member and worked in various posts in the party.

OFFICIAL: NO
EXTRA MONEY FOR
GAS CYLINDERSDC Correspondent
Khammam, June 24

Bhadradi district civil supplies officer B. Chandra Prakash said that the consumers of LPG need not pay additional amount for placing cylinders to the gas agencies. There are reports that some agencies are demanding more money than the gas price of Rs 848.5. He said that as per the agreement that the agencies should not collect more than the price to supply cylinders within the limits of 30 kilometers. He said that the customers should pay Rs 10 per cylinder if the distance is more than 30 km. He said that the customers should book the gas companies like HPCL, IOC and BPCL online and not rely on the cylinder supply boys.

MAOISTS SHOULD
BE COUNSELLED
BY THEIR KIN: CPDC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, JUNE 24

Family members of Maoists must urge their kin to drop weapons and join the mainstream of society, suggested Ramagundam police commissioner V. Satyanarayana on Thursday.

The top cop visited the house of CPI-Maoist central committee member, Mallojula Venu Gopal Rao and met his mother Maduramma. He urged her to counsel her son to join the mainstream of life and lead a new life.

Speaking on the occasion, Satyanarayana said that the outlawed outfit would not achieve anything with their ideologies and violence. Once they enter the mainstream, they would be duly rehabilitated, he said. The government and the police department are striving hard for the welfare of the people and resolving their problems, he said.

Peddapalli DCP Ravinder, OSD Sharath Chandra Pawar, ACP Saranganani, CI Pradeep Kumar and traffic CI Anil were present on the occasion.

CS: STATE TO
CROSS 1 CRORE
VACCINATIONSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar on Thursday said Telangana state was on the threshold of crossing one crore Covid-19 vaccinations. Ninety-six lakh doses have been given to people so far in the state.

He said the state, in order to optimally use the supplies provided by the Centre, was vaccinating high exposure groups on a priority basis. Twenty-five lakh people falling in these groups have been given their first doses so far. Somesh Kumar was speaking after visiting the Monda Market in Secunderabad to inspect a 'workplace' vaccination centre, and spoke to some of the vendors and encouraged everyone to get their shots. He said a mop-up vaccination drive was now on to vaccinate those who got left from among the high risk groups in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area, with vaccines being given at 100 centres, along with 30 mobile vaccination units doing the rounds.

He was accompanied by secretary, health, S.A.M. Rizvi, Hyderabad collector Sweta Mohanty and other officials.

TSBIE invites forms for
extension of affiliation

Last date for junior colleges to submit applications is June 30

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

The Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) is accepting online applications from managements of private junior colleges for extension of affiliation for the academic year 2021-22. The last date for submitting applications without a late fee is June 30.

The TSBIE will grant permission for auto-renewal of private junior college licences located in buildings shorter than 15 metres and not in mixed occupancy buildings, an official notification on Thursday said.

Colleges located in buildings taller than 15 metres in height will have to produce a no-objection certificate from the State Disaster Response and Fire Services department, for getting affiliation. Payment of affiliation fee will be as per old rates. Colleges will have to submit sanitary certificate, structural soundness certificate and staff details within 90 days or up to September 30.

TS seeks Unesco tag
for Ramappa templeDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

Ministers V. Srinivas Goud and E. Dayakar Rao met with officials from Union culture and tourism ministry and Director General, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in New Delhi on Thursday to seek the Unesco world heritage site status for the Rudreshwara (Ramappa) temple in Warangal district.

The ministers led a delegation of officials to discuss pending sanctions for Telangana state in the culture ministry. The delegation requested the Centre to expedite the restoration works at the Ramappa and Thousands Pillars temple.

ASI officers were requested to take up work on development of sites where monuments and

forts are located, besides proposals for upgradation, refurbishment and renovation of museums in Warangal and Karimnagar.

The delegation requested early disposal of the proposal to shift the Golconda sound and light show to a new panoramic point on the fort. Financial assistance of ₹15 crore was sought from Centre to develop the cultural complex at Mahbubnagar.

After the formation of Telangana state, the Union culture ministry had agreed to provide funds for the Karimnagar Museum and a revised detailed project report was submitted accordingly. The rare antiques and artefacts from Nagarjunasagar Museum will be brought back and displayed in the museums, it was stated.

Variant is extremely infectious

From page 1

As of Thursday morning, the Centre reported some 40-odd cases of infection by the Delta plus variant in the country, with many coming from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala. This variant is believed by scientists to be extremely infectious, taking very brief period of exposure, as little as a few seconds, to jump from person to person.

The mutated version of the Coronavirus has been dubbed as a 'variant of concern' by the Centre.

Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao, speaking with newsmen, said Telangana state had not found any Delta plus variant cases. He said that the state government was

ramping up vaccinations and has included teachers, and anyone over 30 years into the eligible groups of people who can be vaccinated.

The finding of which the Coronavirus is prevalent among those getting infected – on Thursday, the health department said 1,088 fresh Covid-19 cases were discovered in the state – depends on the number of samples the health department sends to the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), one of the labs in the country identified for sequencing the genomes.

Meanwhile, some private hospitals in the city have been admitting Covid-19 patients from Nanded district of Maharashtra, with doctors suspecting that some

engineering students who are in their third or fourth year in the computer science, information technology, electronics engineering, electrical engineering or other allied branches.

Students will need to be nominated by their colleges. Selected students will undergo a preparatory module.

Core instructors of the

course will include IIITH faculty Prof. C.V. Jawahar, Prof. Anoop M. Nambodiri and Prof. Ravi Kiran Sarvadevabhatla. The programme includes online modules with personalised learning experience and equal focus on foundation and practices, discussions with eminent researchers from academics and industry.

JNTU-H exams from July 5

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

The Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (JNTU-H) exams for the fourth year second semester regular and supplementary BTech and BPharm students would be held offline between July 5 and July 14 from 9.45 am to 12.45 pm.

The exams will be held offline for three hours, in place of the earlier two-hour exam duration in

● EXAMS WILL be held offline for three hours, in place of the earlier two-hour exam duration in view of the pandemic.

view of the Covid-19 pandemic. The university has tweaked the question paper pattern. Students will have to write five out of eight questions and there will be no mandatory section in the question paper. Candidates appearing for these exams have been

allotted examination centres based on the preferences sought by the university earlier from the clusters nearest to students' hometowns.

Meanwhile, the university has rescheduled BTech/BPharmacy IV-I semester regular/supplementary exams which were earlier scheduled to be held on March 25 and 27. The postponed exams have now been scheduled to take place on July 1 and July 3.

Best wishes



Telangana state INTUC general secretary Y. Naganna Goud is seen with South Central Railway Deputy General Manager Muthyala Naidu in Hyderabad on Thursday. Goud has been nominated as the member of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee (ZURCC) of the Railway Zonal Consultative Committee for Telangana state, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

—BY ARRANGEMENT

KCR, OFFICIALS
TO HOLD
CONFERENCE

From page 1

The CM will hold a conference with his ministers, collectors and additional collectors of all districts on June 26 at Pragathi Bhavan and list out his priorities during his upcoming district tours.

Later, the CM will participate in the concluding ceremony of the year-long birth centenary celebrations of late former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao being held on behalf of the state government, on June 28 at P.V. Narasimha Rao Marg (formerly Necklace Road) in Hyderabad. He will then embark on district tours.

BJP sets up team for
Huzurabad byelectionDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

Gearing up for campaigning in Huzurabad, the BJP on Thursday appointed a jumbo mandal-wise team in order to strengthen its cadre and named mandal in-charges.

Nizamabad MP D. Arvind has been made in-charge for Jammi-kunta town, M. Dharma Rao for Jammikunta Rural, Dubbak MLA M. Raghunandhan Rao for Huzurabad town, Revuri Prakash Redy for Huzurabad Rural, Chada Suresh Reddy for Ellandhakunta and Kuna Srisaillam Goud for Kamalapur and Enugu

Ravinder Reddy for Veenavanka.

Gujjula Premender Reddy has been named as coordinator for all in-charges.

Four days back, former MP A.P. Jithender Reddy was named poll in-charge for Huzurabad with A. Chandrasekhar and Yendala Lakshminarayana as associate in-charges. Jithender Reddy had

worked in a similar capacity during the Dubbak bypoll, which saw the party making history by unseating the ruling party nominee.

Raghunandan Rao and Arvind will attack the government with aggressiveness and urge vot-

ers to back Etala Rajendar. Prakash Reddy is a senior leader from Warangal while Dharma Rao is also well known in Huzurabad.

Chada Suresh is a former MP from Hanamkonda, in which Huzurabad was included before delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies. He is well-known in Huzurabad.

The party's back-end teams are gathering feedback from the people about Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and Etala Rajendar's work.

The teams send daily reports to the state leadership to draft plans for the bypoll campaign.

CM plans second leg of
district tours from July 1DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

The TRS on Thursday held the Congress and the BJP responsible for illegal irrigation projects coming up in Andhra Pradesh on the Krishna river.

Speaking to media persons here, roads and buildings minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy and TRS MLAs Guvvala Balaraju and Marri Janardhan Reddy alleged that the Congress governments in undivided AP had looted the Krishna river water share of Telangana region. The BJP government at the Centre had remained a silent spectator despite the TS government lodging several complaints with the Centre over the past two years, while AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was taking up illegal projects on the river. They stated that TRS government would go to any extent to stop AP's illegal projects on the Krishna. They accused

● THE BJP government at the Centre had remained a silent spectator despite the TS government lodging several complaints with the Centre over the past two years, while AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was taking up illegal projects on the river.

● PRASHANTH REDDY said if this is not stopped, Hyderabad will not get drinking water from the Krishna river and irrigation will be hit in Nalgonda, Mahbubnagar and Khammam districts.

the AP CM of hatching a conspiracy to divert 7.7 tmc ft (thousand million cubic feet) of water daily to AP through Pothreddypadu and the Rayalaseema lift irrigation scheme on the Krishna river.

Prashanth Reddy said if this is not stopped, Hyderabad will not get drinking water from the Krishna river and irrigation will be hit in Nalgonda, Mahbubnagar and Khammam districts. The minister reiterated that while the late Chief Minister Y.S. Rajashekar Reddy was a "thief" for stealing "Telangana water", his son and AP CM Jagan Mohan Reddy

was a "big thief" who was stealing more water through his illegal projects on Krishna.

MLA Balaraju said there was nothing wrong in calling Jagan Mohan Reddy a "big thief" as he had already spent 16 months in jail. He said the Telangana Congress leaders had welcomed "water looting by Seemandhra rulers" in undivided AP to protect their posts.

TRS leaders questioned the inaction of the Telangana BJP leaders in bringing pressure on the Centre to stop AP's illegal projects and protecting the interests of Telangana state.

Abdullah: Trust deficit
must be addressed soon

From Page 1

The Central leadership wants to hold Assembly polls immediately after the delimitation commission submits its report, but senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad urged the Prime Minister to restore full statehood before conducting the polls, Mr Abdullah said.

He said that his father, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, said during the meeting that there was an urgent need to rebuild trust in J&K.

"The trust deficit among the people of Jammu and Kashmir needs to be addressed to immediately by the Centre, and for that the process of restoration of complete statehood is necessary," he said.

On the delimitation commission, Mr Abdullah said the central leadership was told that the exercise in itself was defeating the very purpose with which the BJP-led government had carried out the exercise of abrogation of special status on August 5, 2019.

"On one hand the central leadership claimed the decision in August 2019 was taken for a complete merger of Jammu and Kashmir with the Union of India, and on the other Jammu and Kashmir is treated differently by bringing in separate delimitation commissions for Assam and us.

"If the delimitation commission for Assam was withheld and Assembly elections held there, then why not for Jammu and Kashmir? Isn't this defeating the very purpose of the central leadership?" he asked.

The former CM said even the Central leadership was of the view that the government could not be run by bureaucrats and a political government needed to take charge. Said Mr Abdullah: "Our party president has made

● ON THE delimitation commission, Mr Abdullah said the central leadership was told that the exercise in itself was defeating the very purpose with which the BJP-led government had carried out the exercise of abrogation of special status on August 5, 2019.

● SENIOR CONGRESS leader Ghulam Nabi Azad told reporters he put forward various points on behalf of his party at the meeting, including restoration of complete statehood, followed by elections.

it clear that as and when an invite for the (delimitation) commission meeting will come, we will take consider it."

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad told reporters he put forward various points on behalf of his party at the meeting, including restoration of complete statehood, followed by elections. "I have also asked for a rehabilitation process for Kashmir Pandits, release of political prisoners, and domicile rules whereby the Centre guarantees jobs for the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Mr Azad told reporters.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti told reporters the meeting went off well and she complimented the Prime Minister for initiating back-channel talks with Pakistan that led to the ceasefire agreement at the Line of Control and decrease in infiltration levels.

"I have requested the Prime Minister that, if need be, we could talk to Pakistan once again for further boosting the peace process," she said.

On the abrogation of Article 370, Ms Mufti said

her party would continue to fight for its restoration. "After all, the special status has not been given to us by Pakistan. It was given to us by late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar (Vallabhbhai) Patel. We will continue to fight for restoration of the special status through legal and constitutional means," she said.

While stressing on his commitment to granting full statehood once again to J&K PM Modi sought "co-operation and assistance" from the senior State leaders urging them to help in the delimitation process which will help in redrawing new Assembly constituencies to hold elections. Assembly elections in J&K will be held only after the delimitation exercise can be completed. Sources said most J&K leaders at the meeting expressed their willingness in assisting the Election Commission and local administration to help complete the delimitation process at the earliest.

Top government sources said most participants at the meeting agreed on the need to further strengthen the democratic process, and the holding of the District Development Council elections was just the beginning.

"Our priority is to strengthen grassroots democracy in J&K. Delimitation has to happen at a quick pace so that polls can happen and J&K gets an elected government that gives strength to J&K's development trajectory," Mr Modi said in a tweet after the meeting.

Sources said the Centre also agreed to setting up a committee to review the cases of all political prisoners irrespective of whether they have been released or were still in detention. The committee is likely to be headed by lieutenant-governor Manoj Sinha.

SHORT TAKES

GGH, INDUR SET TO TREAT BLACK FUNGUS: DOCS

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, JUNE 24

Team of doctors of Government General Hospital in Nizamabad successfully performed a rare surgery for Black fungus patient on Thursday. A woman who was recovered from Covid-19 had infected with the Black fungus and was admitted to GGH on June 20. ENT, dental doctors performed the rare surgery for woman in Black fungus ward.

Speaking to newsmen on Thursday, Government General Hospital superintendent, Prathima Raj said that the condition of the patient is stable. The victim was infected from Covid-19 in April and got treatment in an ICU ventilator ward, later the woman was infected with the Black fungus and was admitted in the hospital, she said.

She appreciated the team of doctors for successfully conducting rare and risky surgery. Superintendent also thanked minister V. Prashanth Reddy, director of medical education, collector C.Narayana Reddy for supporting the medical fraternity in the hospital.

Prathima Raj said that 27 surgeries have been conducted in Black fungus ward so far. Advanced medical equipment is available in GGH to handle the Black fungus cases, she said.

JEEVAN DECRIES ILLEGAL SALE OF KHADI BOARD LAND

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, JUNE 24

Senior Congress leader and MLC T. Jeevan Reddy on Thursday opposed the illegal handing over of government land belonging to Pudur Khadi Board at throwaway prices to TRS leaders.

Congress leaders, led by Choppadandi Assembly segment in-charge, Medipally Satyam, organised a 'chalo Pudur' programme and protested at Pudur Khadi Board centre in Metpally mandal.

Participating in the programme, Jeevan Reddy said that no one had the right to sell the land that belonged to a trust. He slammed TRS government for handing over 57 guntas belonging to the Board to its leaders for Rs 1.25 crore, when its present market value was around Rs. 12 crore.

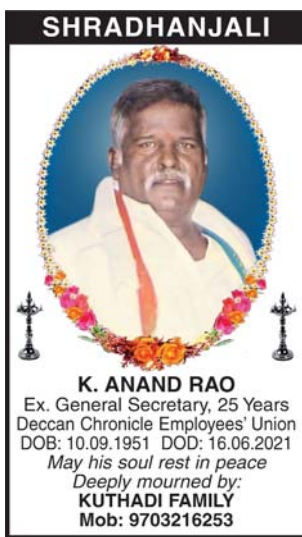
He alleged that TRS MLAs, K. Vidyasagar Rao and Sunke Ravi Shankar and Khadi Board secretary Eppanapally Sambaiha had colluded and sold the land to Kodimiyala MPP Menneni Swarna Latha and her husband Raja Narasinga Rao for ₹1.25 crore.

Instead of renovating the board and constructing a textile park for providing livelihood avenues to families of Padmashali community, selling valuable is unbecoming of the government, he said.

Minister for Industries and khadi, K.T.Rama Rao rather than protecting such boards and organisations, was selling their lands to his followers illegally. He appealed to the people to vehemently oppose the move.

He demanded the state government to suspend the sale deed immediately and establish a textile park along with handloom industry in the lands belonging to Pudur Khadi Board.

● **SENIOR CONGRESS** leader and MLC T. Jeevan Reddy alleged that TRS MLAs, K. Vidyasagar Rao and Sunke Ravi Shankar and Khadi Board secretary Eppanapally Sambaiha had colluded and sold the land to Kodimiyala MPP Menneni Swarna Latha and her husband Raja Narasinga Rao for ₹1.25 crore.



Vaccine drive for teachers ahead of schools reopening

Teachers' organisations are not supporting the govt decision

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, JUNE 24

Vaccination for teachers commenced in the district ahead of the proposed July 1 reopening of schools. Many teacher organisations are not extending full support to the government's decision of reopening schools.

Forty teachers working in private and government schools-21 in Khammam and 19 in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district- have died of Covid-19 in the first and

second waves. Another 104 teachers tested positive in Khammam and 67 in Bhadradi district. This has made the teachers reluctant to attend school.

Telangana School Teachers Federation state president Devarakonda Saidulu said that doctors were talking about the threat of the third wave from the delta plus virus, which is said to be fast spreading. "The government should consider all options and take a decision on opening

schools", he said.

In this connection, teachers led by MLC A. Narasimha Reddy asked the government to vaccinate all teachers immediately. He said that the vaccine will check the virus spread.

The government accepted the demand and decided to administer vaccines to the teachers. There are 18,900 teachers in the two districts and the medical and health department opened special counters in mandal headquarters and asked them to get vaccines.

The teachers were asked to attend the schools from June 25 and oversee sanitisation of classrooms first. The government released half the school grants for the purpose.

Panchayat Raj Teachers Union district president Motukuri Madhu said that the classes will be opened in a phased manner and Classes 8, 9 and 10 should be started first.

He said that the parents should be persuaded to send their kids to school.

SAFETY OF WOMEN TOP PRIORITY: MIN.

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, JUNE 24

The TRS government is giving importance to protection of women and the women helpline 181 was a part of this concern, said welfare minister, Koppula Eshwar after laying the foundation stone for the construction of a Sakhi centre at a cost of Rs. 45 lakh in Peddapalli on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, Eshwar said that the state government is taking several steps to provide a fresh lease of life to aggrieved women who are battling disappointment, depression, domestic violence and harassment. Establishing Sakhi centres in various districts was part of this endeavour.

The government is not only giving moral support but also helping them to become physically and mentally strong.

They are providing hope to every depressed woman and also those pushed into flesh trade and those who are shunned by the society for being HIV positive.

Through Sakhi centres, the government is providing legal services to women in need of such support besides offering self-employment training programmes.

The minister urged people to inform Swadhar Home representatives if they come across such deprived women. Officials stated that they received about 424 cases in the previous year and of them 261 cases were successfully resolved by way of counselling. ZP chairman Putta Madhu, MLA Dasari Manohar Reddy, State food corporation member Anand, Chairman of Libraries department Raghuvver Singh, RDO Shankar Kumar, district welfare officer Lakshmi Rajam, SC welfare officer Nagalyshwar and Tahsildar Srinivas were present along with others.

Farmers gear up



A farmer ploughs his field at Gopalpur village in Karimnagar on Thursday.

— YELABAKA RADHAKRISHNA

Officials gear up to plant 37L saplings

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAMAREDDY, JUNE 24

The district administration has decided to plant 37.86 lakh saplings in 7th phase of Telanganaku Haritha Haram programme, scheduled to begin on July 1. Targets set for 26 government departments and agencies to plant the saplings from July 1 to 10. District rural development and forest departments will coordinate to success the Telanganaku Haritha Haram programme.

District rural development officer, chief executive officer of zilla parishad will take responsibility to plant the saplings in all government offices in Kamareddy districts. For the plantation programme, the arrangements are being made before July 1. Aiming to handover 6 saplings for each household, the officials are preparing the plantation programme.

Reviewing the Telanganaku Haritha Haram programme on Thursday, district collector A.Sharath directed district and mandal level officers to achieve the targets. He said that saplings are available in nurseries and digging of holes for saplings should be completed before July 1. Second round of review meeting will be conducted on June 28 on THH, he added.

District forest officer Nikhita said that saplings should be taken up nearest nurseries to the villages and municipal towns. She explained the plantation and protection methods of saplings to the officials. Plantation and protection are equally important in the Telanganaku Haritha Haram programme, she said.

FIVE WOMEN HELD FOR THEFT, 60K RECOVERED

DC CORRESPONDENT
KOTHAGUDEM, JUNE 24

Five women burglars were taken into custody by three town police on Thursday. Jewelry worth ₹60,000 was recovered from the gang.

It is known that the women, who went to a jewelry shop, slowly started to hid the jewelry while talking with the salesmen in the shop. Later, they left the shop.

In the mean time shop owner found some jewelry missing.

He lodged a complaint after noticing women stealing the jewelry in the closed circuit camera CCTV.

The three town police took them into custody and they handed over the jewelry to the shop owner.

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People of Huzurabad are with TRS, says Gangula

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, JUNE 24

There is a huge support for the TRS from the people of Huzurabad constituency. People are so confident that development will be possible only when the TRS is in power that villages are voluntarily rallying behind the party, said BC welfare minister Gangula Kamalakara on Thursday.

Bornapally villagers, along with representatives of several people's organisations of 12, 14 and 24 wards, met the

● **BORNAPALLY VILLAGERS**, along with representatives of several people's organisations met the minister at his camp office and assured the minister that they would be with TRS.

minister at his camp office and assured him that they would be with TRS.

They pointed out that former minister Etala Rajendar had neglected wards and villages because of which there

was development activity in several wards in Huzurabad municipal limits. They urged the minister to construct a community hall along with a Peddamma besides resolving local issues.

Kamalakar assured all help and also told them that he would take their notice of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

All those who met the minister assured to work for the party and ensure TRS candidate's win in the upcoming Huzurabad by-election.

Etala tells people to be wary of TRS leaders

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, JUNE 24

The amount people are getting through various pensions and schemes sanctioned by the government belongs to the people and not something that is given by the Chief Minister from his house, said Etala Rajendar on Thursday.

Speaking at a meeting in Huzurabad, Rajendar alleged that TRS leaders were threatening people that they would stop issuing pensions, deny them double bedroom houses and benefits of schemes if they do not vote for TRS. He urged people to be cautious.

Rajendar said that he served as a responsible MLA and minister for the betterment of Huzurabad constituency people for the past 18 years. He reminded them that he had ensured that they received pension and housing plots when the Congress was in power. He asked them not to wilt under TRS pressure.

Taking advantage of the people's innocence, TRS leaders were deceiving them. He said money given to the people in the form of pensions and schemes is public money collected in the form of taxes, he said.

He said that all those who triumphed in local body elections under Huzurabad and Jammikunta municipal



BJP party men and followers of Etala Rajendar felicitating him during the meeting held here at Huzurabad in Karimnagar district on Thursday.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

● **TAKING ADVANTAGE** of the people's innocence, TRS leaders were deceiving them. Etala said money given to the people in the form of pensions and schemes is public money collected in the form of taxes.

limits was because of his hard work and people's trust in him and not because of any other TRS leader. He said the party leaders were opportunist who used him whenever they wanted but did not question the TRS leadership when he was suspended

from the party. People are watching every move of TRS party and its leaders and they will teach them a befitting lesson in the Huzurabad by-elections, he said.

Dubbaka MLA Raghunandan, former MP Jithendar Reddy, former minister Chandrasekhar, former MLA Dharma Rao, BJP state general secretary Premender Reddy, district president G. Krishna Reddy, Huzurabad municipal vice-chairman Swapna, former MPP's Latha and Bhagya Lakshmi were present on the occasion.

(Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Govt. of India)
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Executive Director (I/c)