

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | WEDNESDAY | 14 JULY 2021

## WEATHER

**Max:** 27.4°C  
**Min:** 21.8°C  
**RH:** 92%  
**Rain:** 21.8 mm

**Forecast:** Cloudy sky.  
Moderate rain. Max/Min temp. 29/22°C

## ASTROGUIDE

**Plava:** Uttarayana  
**Tithi:** Ashada Shuddha Chaviti till 8.01 am  
**Star:** Purva Phalguni till 3.41 am (Thursday)  
**Variyam:** 11.39 am to 1.16 pm  
**Durmuhurtam:** 11.56 am to 12.47 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 12 noon to 1.30 pm  
**HJRI CALENDAR**  
**Zilhajj** 3, 1442 AH  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 4.41 am  
**Zohar:** 12.32 pm  
**Asar:** 4.56 pm  
**Maghrib:** 7.00 pm  
**Isha:** 8.16 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY** 6.54 PM  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW** 5.50 AM  
**MOONRISE TODAY** 9.28 AM  
**MOONSET TODAY** 10.19 PM

## COUNTER POINT



He used to stand up and salute us when we were in the Cabinet!

## SHORT TAKES

**₹35,000cr GST detected in 1 yr**

**New Delhi:** In the year-long crackdown on tax evasion, the GST authorities have unearthed over ₹35,000 crore of tax fraud committed by misuse of input tax credit provision under the GST regime. During the FY2020-21, the CGST zones and the DGGI booked about 8,000 cases involving fake ITC of over ₹35,000 crore, a CBIC statement said. Under this regi-me, at the time of paying tax on output, entities can reduce the tax they have already paid on inputs.

**Deuba becomes Nepal premier**

**Kathmandu:** Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba on Tuesday became Nepal's Prime Minister for the fifth time after the Supreme Court's intervention. President Bidya Devi Bhandari appointed the Opposition leader as the prime minister in accordance with Article 76(5) of the Constitution. This is the fifth time that 75-year-old Deuba is returning to power as the Nepal PM. ■ Full report on Page 5

**S&P keeps India rating unchanged**

**New Delhi:** S&P Global Ratings on Tuesday kept India's sovereign rating unchanged at the lowest investment grade of 'BBB-' for the 14th year in a row, and said the government's ability to execute additional economic reforms that spur investment and create jobs will be crucial for recovery from the current slowdown. S&P projected a 9.5 per cent GDP growth in the current financial year that began in April.

**Monsoon covers entire country**

**New Delhi:** After advancing over Delhi-NCR, the Southwest Monsoon covered the entire country on Tuesday after a delay of five days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The Southwest Monsoon usually covers the entire country on July 8. The earlier normal date for the monsoon to cover the entire country was July 15. Last year, the IMD revised its onset date for several areas.

## WORLD | 5

**Pak schools plan anti-Malala drive**



## SPORTS | 8

**Messi dedicates Copa title to Maradona**

## TABLOID

**Are you a picky eater? It maybe ARFID**



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## Cabinet meet to okays recruitment; clarity on vacancies today TS clears draft annual job plan

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

The Telangana state Cabinet meeting, which started on Tuesday, will be continued to the next day after the meeting failed to arrive at the exact number of vacancies existing in various departments for issuing job notifications. The Cabinet will again meet on Wednesday at 2 pm to discuss and finalise the vacancies. This is for the first time that the Cabinet meeting is being continued to the next day, which is unheard of in any state or Union Cabinet meetings.

The meeting chaired by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao began at 2 pm at Pragathi Bhavan. The Cabinet approved drafting an 'annual recruitment calendar' on the lines of Union Public Service Commission's annual recruitment calendar to fill vacancies arising in various departments every year. The Cabinet felt that this

## Cabinet okays funds for city water supply

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

The state Cabinet which met here on Tuesday for over seven hours put off taking a decision on increasing market value of agriculture, non-agriculture lands, registration charges and stamp duty.

Although the meeting chaired by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao at Pragathi Bhavan discussed in detail about this issue, no decision was taken as the meeting could not arrive at a consensus on the amount of hike to be effected.

The cabinet sub-committee on resource mobilisa-

tion headed by finance minister T. Harish Rao submitted a report to the Cabinet seeking enhancement of market value of properties, registration charges and stamp duty as they were last revised in 2013 in undivided AP.

This apart, the Cabinet approved release of ₹1,200 crore to ensure adequate drinking water supply in the peripheral municipalities of Hyderabad city.

He instructed the officials to initiate measures to prevent scarcity of drinking water in Hyderabad and its surrounding areas.

■ Page 2: Try land pooling in all municipalities: KCR

would be beneficial for job seekers and unemployed youth to know in advance

the vacancy position besides schedule of issuance of job notifica-

tion and conduct of exam and plan their exam preparation accordingly.

The Cabinet directed secretaries of all departments to attend the meeting with full details of existing vacancies in their respective departments on Wednesday. It also directed officials to distribute all existing posts and future vacancies to all districts, zones and multi-zones as per the recently approved new zonal system to implement 95 percent jobs to locals in each district, zone and multi-zone.

The Cabinet also approved 50 per cent reservations for local students in admissions into government residential schools in every Assembly constituency.

The previous recruitment drive in the state came to a halt for over three years, after the government devised a new zonal system for recruitments to ensure 95 per cent reservations for locals in employment and education opportunities.

## Festive frenzy



Devotees take part in Kalyanam festivities at Balkampet Yellamma temple in Hyderabad on Tuesday, ignoring Covid-19 safety protocol. — R. PAVAN

## Gandhis, Prashant Kishor meet over Punjab, LS polls

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

The internal strife in the Punjab Congress intensified as poll strategist Prashant Kishor met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday. The meeting, which lasted for nearly two hours, was also attended by AICC general secretaries K.C. Venugopal and Harish Rawat.

Mr Rawat is the party's in-charge for Punjab and Mr Kishor is also Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's political adviser. The crisis in Punjab was precipitated after the public utterances of disgruntled Congress legislator Navjot Singh Sidhu

against the party's state government and the chief minister.

Sources said the meeting was to assess the position of the Congress in the state as Assembly elections are due early next year. The meeting assumes significance as the Congress is all set to announce a major decision on its Punjab crisis that will pave the way for the coming polls.

Mr Kishor has in the past also given "constructive suggestions" to the Congress leadership. In the 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, he was managing the campaign for the Congress-Samajwadi Party alliance. Insiders claim that the Congress high command

may once again rope him in to "guide" the party. After the Trinamul Congress' victory in West Bengal, where he was assisting Ms Mamata Banerjee, Mr Kishor had publicly said he was looking for a future beyond "his present role".

Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have met Navjot Singh Sidhu separately in recent weeks. After that, Capt. Amarinder Singh met party president Sonia Gandhi earlier this month to resolve the crisis facing the Congress in the state ahead of the Assembly elections. Capt. Amarinder Singh said "internal matters of the party", and that he would follow Mrs Gandhi's decision.

## PM warns people of 3rd Covid wave

### Calls for staying alert, avoiding crowding

VINEETA PANDEY | DC  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

Crowded marketplaces and hill stations may be good for the revival of the economy, but they are also a cause of worry and an invitation for a possible Covid-19 "third wave", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday as he expressed concern over people crowding at hill stations and markets without wearing masks or observing the social distancing norms. He urged all citizens to guard against complacency to prevent a third wave of the coronavirus.

India on Tuesday recorded 32,906 fresh cases of Covid-19 and 2,020 deaths. The big jump in daily fatalities was because Madhya Pradesh revised its Covid-19 death data. MP is the third state after Maharashtra and Bihar to revise its Covid death figures.

"If we remain cautious and take precautions, we will be able to prevent the third wave... there should be no compromise in this," the PM said during an interaction with the chief ministers of the northeastern states on the Covid-19 situation.

The interaction was attended by the chief ministers of Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Megha-

## INDIA'S FIRST COVID PATIENT TESTS POSITIVE

**Thrissur(Kerala), July 13:** A woman medico, who was India's first Covid-19 case, has tested positive again for the virus, health authorities said here on Tuesday. "She is reinfected with Covid-19. Her RT-PCR is positive, antigen is negative. She is asymptomatic," Thrissur DMO Dr K.J. Reena said.

Her samples were tested as she was prepared to go to New Delhi for study purposes. The woman is presently at home and "she is OK," the doctor said. It was on January 30, 2020 that the third year medical student from Wuhan university tested positive for Covid, becoming India's first Covid patient. — PTI

laya, Mizoram, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

The CMs briefed the PM about the progress of vaccination in their states and the steps that are being taken to take vaccines to far-flung areas.

The PM expressed his worry over the growing number of cases in some districts and stressed the

## Modi rejigs top Cabinet panels

**New Delhi, July 13:** Days after a major reshuffle of the Modi ministry, the government reconstituted the powerful cabinet committees, bringing in Union ministers Smriti Irani, Bhupendra Yadav and Sarbananda Sonowal as the new members of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs headed by the Prime Minister.

Union ministers Arjun Munda, Virendra Kumar, Kiren Rijiju and Anurag Thakur have been included in the rejigged Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, according to a notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat last night.

However, there has been no change in the composition of the country's highest decision-making body on security affairs — the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) — and the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

The members of the Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development are: Prime Minister, Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hardeep Singh Puri and Bhupendra Yadav.

The special invitees to the employment committee are Nitin Gadkari, R.C.P. Singh and G. Kishan Reddy. — PTI

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Amit Shah, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and external affairs minister S. Jaishankar.

The two-member Appointments Committee of the Cabinet comprises the Prime Minister and the home minister.

The members of the Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development are: Prime Minister, Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hardeep Singh Puri and Bhupendra Yadav.

The special invitees to the employment committee are Nitin Gadkari, R.C.P. Singh and G. Kishan Reddy. — PTI



Yashpal Sharma

## FORMER INDIA CRICKETER YASHPAL DIES

**New Delhi, July 13:** India's 1983 World Cup hero Yashpal Sharma, who was admired for being a gutsy middle-order batsman at the peak of his prowess, died on Tuesday after suffering a massive cardiac arrest here.

He was 66 and is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

"Yes, Yashpal is no more with us. We just received the information from his family," a former India teammate of Yashpal confirmed.

Yashpal collapsed at home after returning from his morning walk here. He was cremated at the Lodhi Road crematorium with his former teammate Kirti Azad among those in attendance.

In his international career, Yashpal played 37 Tests, scoring 1606 runs, and 42 ODIs in which he made 883.

He also picked up one wicket each in the two formats to his credit.

He was known for his gutsy attitude and his stroke-filled half century in the semifinal against England in the 1983 campaign at the Old Trafford will forever be etched in the public memory.

In his international career, Yashpal played 37 Tests, scoring 1606 runs, and 42 ODIs in which he made 883. He also picked up one wicket each in the two formats to his credit.

## COVID | EFFECT

**Only one in four students pay attention to online classes, claim teachers**

## Teachers red flag students' online behaviour

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

Online classes for the academic year 2021-22 are proving to be a huge challenge for teachers as students turn to be diverted, convinced that they will be promoted and under the impression that the situation is far from improving.

With this mindset, schoolteachers find that in a class of 25 students, only seven are attentive, 15 require to be reminded

that they have to attend the classes and the remaining are not showing any interest.

Online classes for Class 1 to 12 have begun from July in SSC and CBSE schools and in the first month itself, the teachers have encountered several problems.

With CBSE schools charting out an internal tests schedule which will evaluate the performance of children throughout the year, it has been noted that

● DUE TO THE ongoing pandemic, teachers claim that they found no motivation for the students and their focus has shifted from academics to social media.

many are not taking it seriously.

Despite online counselling sessions for students and parents, the response is not as desired. Dr Syed Shafiuddin

Aijaz, a senior educationist, explains, "The students who have to appear in March 2022-23 are convinced that they do not need to prepare for exams as they shall be promoted like their seniors. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we find that there is hardly any motivation for the students and their focus from academics has shifted to social media."

"Many children are mesmerised by what they see on social media and explor-

ing the world of the internet which gives them ideas far from reality," Dr Aijaz said.

Teachers say that they are facing umpteen challenges and often find that parents are not aware of the situation or they are not interested.

Take for example the case of CBSE schools where they had instructions to call on the parents whose children are not responding positively to online classes. Similarly, children

have been taken in separate rooms and counselled online. In one such online session, there were children who revealed their hopelessness in times of Covid 19.

A senior teacher and counsellor, on condition of anonymity, said, "There are bright students who do not require help from teachers, but are not able to communicate online."

■ Page 2: Students believe pandemic will last for 6 yrs

■ Obit, tributes on Page 8



## SHORT TAKES

## LEGAL NOTICE TO Koushik OVER BRIBE ALLEGATION

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13.

AICC general secretary and Telangana state Congress in-charge Manickam Tagore has sent legal notice to former Congress leader Padi Koushik Reddy of Huzurabad assembly constituency over an allegation of bribe-taking, of ₹50crore, against him for the recent appointment of A Revanth Reddy as TPCC president.

R. Aravindan, Madurai-based advocate, issued legal notice to Koushik Reddy on behalf of Manickam Tagore on Tuesday.

The advocate said Koushik Reddy should tender an unconditional apology to Manickam Tagore within a week. "The baseless and malicious allegation of Koushik Reddy damaged my client's reputation," the advocate said.

Sources said a ₹1 crore defamation suit will be filed against Koushik Reddy for making the allegation of bribe-taking against Manickam Tagore.

## WHY BORROW FROM GOVT, ASK KTR FOR MONEY: REVANTH

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

TPCC president Revanth Reddy has urged Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao to not borrow funds from government agencies, and said he could instead get crores as loan with nominal interest from municipal minister K.T. Rama Rao and Rajya Sabha member Joginapally Santosh Kumar.

The Kalvuntla family has amassed huge wealth after it came to power in Telangana, he alleged.

Revanth Reddy met former MP Konda Vishveshwar Reddy at his residence on Tuesday. The two discussed various issues of Telangana including unemployment and Krishna waters.

Speaking to the media, the TPCC chief said the CM is trying to get loans for developmental activities in the state. Instead, the CM should talk to KTR and Santosh Kumar for mobilization of funds. The two are experts in fund-raising and could offer thousands of crores as loan at 10 paise interest," he ridiculed.

Reddy said richest state Telangana became debt-ridden under the rule of KCR in the last seven years. "Konda Vishveshwar Reddy had always thought for the integrated development of Telangana and the Congress welcomes him to join the party at any time," he said.

Vishveshwar Reddy said he fought hard to make Revanth Reddy the TPCC president. "I will join the Congress party at an appropriate time and participate in the protest on the unemployment issue," he said.

"In realization of the dreams of the Telangana people, I will support any individual or organisation," he said.

## Kamala Nehru Polytechnic for Women "not closing down"

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

Even as a denial has come on reports of closure of the Kamala Nehru Polytechnic for Women in the city, members of the pro-CPI All India Students' Federation (AISF) on Tuesday registered their protest over such a move. The college is run by the Exhibition Society, which holds the annual All India Industrial Exhibition in its sprawling campus in Nampally area.

When contacted, Aditya Margam from the Society

told Deccan Chronicle: "We are not shutting down the college. The college is being upgraded to an engineering college. The state government has decided that there is no need to provide teachers to any private engineering college. We are not enrolling new students for some courses. We are not shutting down."

Student organisations pointed out that the college played a significant role in equipping many students in the Commonwealth countries as technical professionals since its inaugura-

tion in 1964 when technical education was restricted to men only. "The state government should work hard to protect the college, which is one of the leading technical women's colleges in India," AISF member Shankar said. Those who say Beti Bachao, Beti Padoos are failing to allocate funds and develop the college, he alleged.

Shankar said the AISF sought development of Kamala Nehru Women's Polytechnic College. He requested the government that the "decision to close the college" be withdrawn.

icials to explore the option of 'land pooling' in all municipalities to develop layouts.

The Cabinet also discussed the prevailing corona situation in the state. The medical and health department official team, which toured seven districts, where Covid cases are comparatively higher, to assess the ground situation, submitted a report to the state government.

The team explained the measures being taken to curtail 'third wave' in the state.

● **WHILE REVIEWING** the implementation of Palle and Pattana Pragathi programmes, the Chief Minister directed all ministers to achieve 100 per cent target of constructing 'Vaikuntadhamams' (crematoriums) in all districts within a month.

within a month. He said no town or village should exist without a crematorium in any district after a month. The Cabinet instructed off-

## TRS aspirants line up for Huzurabad ticket

No indications from the EC about the schedule for bypoll

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

The Election Commission is yet to take a call on when to hold the Huzurabad Assembly bypoll but the list of aspirants vying for party ticket to contest the poll in the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) is getting longer.

Though a month has passed since former minister Etala Rajender submitted his resignation from Huzurabad Assembly seat on June 12 which was immediately approved by Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy on the same day, there are no indications from the Election Commission till date about the issuance of schedule for byelection.

With Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Telangana state former president L. Ramana joining the TRS on July 12 and Congress leader

Kaushik Reddy likely to join the ruling party on July 16, ticket aspirants are on their toes as they both are considered to be the strong contenders for TRS ticket for Huzurabad.

Speculation is rife in the TRS circles that BJP leader E. Peddi Reddy would join the TRS any time as he is upset with party leadership for taking Etala Rajender in BJP without consulting him and for fielding Etala in the bypoll as BJP candidate.

Peddi Reddy joined the BJP from the TDP in 2019 with hope to contest from Huzurabad seat in 2023 Assembly polls. But all his hopes were dashed after Etala joined the BJP from the TRS in June. Peddi Reddy, when he was with the TDP, lost the ticket to Congress's Padi Kaushik Reddy in 2018 Assembly polls due to the Congress-TDP alliance.

With Etala's entry into

● **SPECULATION IS** rife in the TRS circles that BJP leader E. Peddi Reddy would join the TRS any time as he is upset with party leadership for taking Etala Rajender in BJP without consulting him and for fielding Etala in the bypoll as BJP candidate.

● **FORMER MP AND TS** Planning Board vice chairman B. Vinod Kumar name is also doing the rounds.

the BJP, Peddi Reddy sees no chance of him getting a ticket even in 2023 Assembly polls and reportedly offering to join the TRS if he is given ticket to contest Huzurabad bypoll.

The other aspirants in TRS include V Sarojini Devi, wife of TRS senior leader and Rajya Sabha member Captain V Laxmikantha Rao,

known to be the close aide of party president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

Former MP and TS Planning Board vice chairman B. Vinod Kumar name is also doing the rounds.

Telangana BC Commission former member Vakulabharanam Krishna Mohan and TRS student wing president Gellu Srinivas are also making efforts to secure tickets, it is learnt.

Former minister and TDP leader Muddasani Damodar Reddy's son M Kashyap Reddy recently joined the TRS from the TDP hoping for the party ticket. He contested against Etala from TDP in 2014 but lost.

Damodar Reddy's brother, M Purushottam Reddy, a retired IAS officer and vice chairman of Vemulawada Temple Development Authority, is also said to be in the race.

## TS slowly stops power generation on Krishna

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

The Telangana state government which remained adamant on generation of hydel power at projects over Krishna river despite repeated complaints by the Andhra Pradesh government to the Centre and Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) since June last week, has now been stopping power generation at projects one after the other on its own.

The Telangana government's decision in June last week to generate hydel power at all projects over Krishna up to 100 per cent of installed capacity triggered a water war between Telangana and AP. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy dashed off letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi twice requesting him to take steps to stop Telangana from producing hydel power

● **Y.S. JAGAN** Mohan Reddy dashed off letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi twice requesting him to take steps to stop Telangana from producing hydel power on the ground that water levels in dams were fast depleting, pushing AP into irrigation and drinking water crisis.

on the ground that water levels in dams were fast depleting, pushing AP into irrigation and drinking water crisis. This apart, the AP government had lodged several complaints with KRMB against the Telangana government. However, the Telangana government ignored all these complaints and continued hydel power generation from June 29.

But on July 10, the Telangana government stopped power generation at

Nagarjunasagar dam and continued in Srisailem and Pulichintala dams. On Tuesday, it stopped power generation at Pulichintala dam also. It is likely to stop hydel power generation at Srisailem in a day or two. Though the state government is citing no reasons for stopping power generation on its own and maintaining complete silence on the issue, it is widely believed that it is forced to stop generation due to lower water levels in dams and no fresh inflows into the reservoirs. The current levels in dams were insufficient to take up power generation.

The KRMB is planning to hold a full body meeting on July 24 to resolve the Krishna water row between AP and Telangana but going by current developments, the Telangana government will stop power generation completely at all projects much before the meeting.

## STUDENTS BELIEVE PANDEMIC WILL LAST FOR 6 YEARS

From Page 1

These students complained about how they find it difficult to study in the prevailing conditions. Some of them believe that it will last for the

next six years while others believe that it will not be over at all. These thoughts have got them confused and they are not sure if they must continue to put their efforts into studies."

These confusing thoughts got many educationists alarmed and the heads of different schools find that there is a need for students to take internal exams seriously.

## Tiger kills calf, chases panicked villagers

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, JULY 13

Villagers were panicked after watching the incident of a tiger killing a calf near the agricultural fields near Sulugupalli village in Bejjur mandal of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district on Sunday.

Many farmers are not going to the fields because of tiger movement. Field-level animal takers are also facing threat to from tigers in Kagaznagar division.

Tigers are coming close to

● **TIGERS ARE** coming close to agricultural fields in Penchikapet, Bejjur, Dahegam, Sirpur (T) and Kagaznagar in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district. The tiger came out of the bushes and jumped on the cattle while they were grazing in the Peddasiddapur forest area and killed a calf.

● **FOREST RANGE** officer Dayakar of Bejjur has confirmed the incident of a tiger killing a calf. The forest staff had visited the place the next day. Three days ago, a tiger killed Avinash, 17, on the outskirts of Pippardol village in Jhari taluk in Yavathmal district borders in Maharashtra.

agricultural fields in Penchikapet, Bejjur, Dahegam, Sirpur (T) and Kagaznagar in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district. The tiger came out of the bushes and jumped on the cattle while they were graz-

ing in the Peddasiddapur forest area and killed a calf. Nagam Yashwanth, owner of the calf, said there was every possibility of tigers' attack on people. "They are hiding in the bushes and people could

not identify them due to green cover." The three cattle grazers ran to safety and informed the matter to the villagers.

Villagers approached the spot, made sounds to chase away the tiger, which, in

turn, attempted to attack them. Forest range officer Dayakar of Bejjur has confirmed the incident of a tiger killing a calf.

The forest staff had visited the place the next day. Three days ago, a tiger killed Avinash, 17, on the outskirts of Pippardol village in Jhari taluk in Yavathmal district borders in Maharashtra.

Forest officials of Maharashtra caught the tiger that killed the youngster and shifted to the Amaravati tiger reserve on Monday.

## Covid cases on rise in Khammam as norms ignored

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

Khammam district, for the second day in a row, reported more Covid-19 positive cases than Hyderabad. There has been a sudden spike of cases from July 11 onwards in the district which reported only 32 cases Sunday, but increased to 82 cases on Monday and 84 cases on Tuesday.

The week from July 7 to 13 recorded a total of 464 cases. Despite high cases in

Khammam, there are no micro-containment zones in the district.

The reasons for Khammam seeing a spike are said to be its proximity to Andhra Pradesh border, constant travel of people between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and transport of industries, agriculture produces and fisheries to Rajahmundry district.

A senior doctor in the government district hospital in Khammam explained, "Being a border

district, there are some problems being noted in administration and also laxity in strictly implementing the Covid-19 protocols.

Cross-border travel is going on unchecked on a daily basis. The capacity of the district hospital is 380 beds out of which 180 beds are still occupied with active Covid-19 cases."

There are sporadic spikes also being reported from Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Ranga Reddy, Warangal

Urban and Bhadrachalam districts. In Karimnagar district, there has been a call for increased testing in public health centres.

Experts state that in the first and second waves, after the decline, it was noted that there were sporadic spikes but they were not taken seriously. These spikes must be monitored as the virulent strain of the virus emerges from these spikes.

Dr Yadgiri Rao, senior

member of Indian Medical Association in Telangana, says, "There is a spike in cases in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Telangana shares borders with Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh and cross-border travel will lead to an increase in the cases in districts bordering these states. Controlling them in the districts is very important now to check on the variants and avoid escalation."

## 1,000-yr-old Jain sculptures found

PULI SHARATH KUMAR | DC  
SIDDIPET, JULY 13

Two Jain images of historical importance were found during the clearance of the debris on a low profile hillock called Nagapur Enegunta located on the outskirts of Kondapochamma village here in Jagdevpur mandal of Siddipet district on Tuesday.

Upon receiving the information given by Ahobilam Karunakar, Samaleti Mahesh and Kanoju Kiran, the members of Kotta Telangana Charitra Brindam, led by Ramoji Hargopal, Dr E. Siva Nagireddy, Archaeologist and CEO of Pleach India Foundation rushed to the spot and observed the images.

The images were unearthed at a distance of eight km from Kondapochamma reservoir.

They said that one sculpture belongs to the 24th Tirthankara Vardhamana Mahavira and the other is a Jain Chaumukh representing the four Jains Tirthankara Adinatha, Neminatha, Parswanatha and Mahavira carved on white granite stone.

The Mahavira sculpture is about 4.5 ft in height seen seated in Dhyanamudra is devoid of head and the Chaumukh image which measured about 1.5 ft sq in width and 2.5 ft in height is observed broken at the bottom.

"These two sculptures are datable to the 10th century AD representing the Iconographical features of



**Above:** Members of Kotta Telangana Charitra Brindam pose with the Mahavira sculpture which is about 4.5 ft in height seated in Dhyanamudra but devoid of head. The sculptur was excavated on the outskirts of Kondapochamma village in Jagdevpur mandal of Siddipet district on Tuesday.

**Left:** The Jain Chaumukh sculptured image which was also excavated on the outskirts of Kondapochamma village in Jagdevpur mandal of Siddipet district.

with Komaravelli another Jain centre of the Kalyana Chalukyan times.

Dr Reddy appealed to the village Sarpanch and the government to safeguard the sculptures of archaeological significance and erect them on pedestals with proper labels.

## COPS RESCUE 20 KIDS UNDER OP. MUSKAAN

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

The Rachakonda police rescued 20 child labourers as a part of Operation Muskaan VII on Monday.

In the first case, 10 minor children employed in a pharma company were rescued. The Anti-human trafficking unit (AHTU) team, along with Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) and Childline jointly conducted a rescue operation on Krishna Pharma company at Devender Nagar Colony, IDA, Uppal, and rescued four girls and six boys who were employed in the company. Three of these children are from Uttar Pradesh, one from Maharashtra and three each from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

"The company owner engages these children for more than nine hours by paying them ₹200 per day. The owner of the company is exploiting them," said Rachakonda police. "These are the effects of Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the lockdown, two girl children came and worked with their mother. Another two girls are school dropouts," said police.

"Among the two rescued girls, aged 15 and 10, and studying in 10 and 8th grade respectively, are from Auxilium Vikas Home (child care institution).



## SHORT TAKES

## WOMAN OFFERS ₹30K REWARD FOR MISSING CAT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

A woman lodged a missing complaint stating that her pet cat was missing from a veterinary hospital under Raidurgam police of Cyberabad Commissionerate.

The complainant Serina Natto reportedly admitted her cat Ginger to Trusty Vet Multi Specialty Pet Hospital on June 23 and next day she was informed about the cat missing from the hospital.

The complainant took the cat on 17 June for some surgery and again visited the hospital on June 23 when Ginger fell sick after the surgery was done. "The doctor advised me to admit the cat in the hospital and I agreed to it," Serina told the media.

She added that the next day, the hospital authorities informed her that the cat was missing from the hospital. The woman approached the Raidurgam police station on June 27 and made a complaint. "We have received the complaint and are making efforts to track down the animal with the help of hospital staff," said G. Rajagopal Reddy, in-charge Inspector Raidurgam police station.

Meanwhile, the woman announced a reward of Rs. 30,000 for anyone one who helps trace her cat that went missing from an animal care centre at Raidurgam.

## RAINS IKELY TO CONTINUE FOR 48 HOURS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) warned that the city can expect similar weather over the next two days. According to the Telangana State Planning Development Society (TSPDS) which maintains a large number of automated rain gauges and weather stations in the city and across the state. As per TSPDS, the highest rainfall in the state, the highest rainfall was registered at the Kalamandal, which the TSPDS said, received 110.3 mm of rain during the day.

The IMD warned of more such showers for the next 48 hours as well. In a warning issued on Tuesday, it said, "Heavy to very heavy rains are very likely to occur many places in Adilabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtial and Rajanna Sirsilla districts, and heavy rains are very likely to occur at several places in Mancheril, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Kamareddy, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Warangal (Rural), Warangal (Urban), Janagaon, Siddipet and Yadadri Bhuvangiri districts of Telangana. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are very likely to occur at many places in a few districts of Telangana."

On Tuesday, the IMD said Aswaraoopeta in Bhadradi Kothagudem district received 13 cm of rain, while Konaraopet in Rajanna Sirsilla received 10 cm of rain. Isolated heavy rainfalls were also reported from Mahbubnagar, Jangaon, Wanaparthi, Khammam and Ranga Reddy districts.

## Sarpanch sets NREGS staff on fire for not clearing bills of works

DC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, JULY 13

In a ghastly incident, TRS sarpanch Sainath of Sawli village set Ravula Raju, 29, Technical Assistant of NREGS, on fire with petrol for not passing bills for the gravel road works he did in the Sawli village in Kubheer mandal in Nirmal district on Tuesday afternoon.

Ravula Raju suffered 60 per cent burns in the incident and was immediately shifted to the Bhainsa private hospital and later to the Nizamabad for better treatment.

The incident took place in the NREGS office in which even files and documents related to NREGS works also got burnt in

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANT OF NREGS** Ravula Raju suffered 60 per cent burns in the incident and was immediately shifted to the Bhainsa private hospital and later to the Nizamabad for better treatment.

the incident. It is learnt that Ravula Raju had raised objections against signing the muster rolls and clearing the Bills for the works since Sarpanch done the works by using the earth moving machine (JCB) but the gravel road works should be completed by engaging the laborers under NREGS. Ravula Raju is a native of Narsapur mandal headquarters of Nirmal district.

## Koushik will be taught a fitting lesson: Cong.

Challenges him to contest independently in Huzurabad

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, JULY 13

The District Congress Committee leaders strongly condemned the comments made by Padi Koushik Reddy against the TPCC chief A. Revanth Reddy and Ponnamm Prabhakar in Karimnagar district on Tuesday.

Speaking to the media persons in a press meet held at Congress party office Indira Bhavan, DCC president Dr. K. Satyanarayana came heavily against Padi Koushik Reddy.

Satyanarayana alleged that Koushik Reddy reading the script sent from the Pragathi Bhavan made baseless allegations against the Congress leaders, forgetting his level and without having any sense what he was talking about.

Koushik Reddy cheated many people in Huzurabad by collecting money from them in the name of allotment of jobs. He even cheated some of the Congress leaders assuring them MLA and GHMC tickets along with posts in PCC using the name of his cousin former TPCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy.

He said that Koushik Reddy himself on a number of occasions said that Uttam Kumar Reddy is a TRS party covert and demanded to allot TPCC

## Cong. asks Koushik how much he paid for post

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, JULY 13

Comparing TPCC chief A. Revanth Reddy with Mumaith Khan, Padi Koushik Reddy is behaving like Sri Reddy and talking shamelessly and making baseless allegations against the Congress leaders, alleged the District Congress Kisan Cell president, Patti Krishna Reddy speaking to the media persons in Huzurabad of Karimnagar district on Tuesday.

"When the former Chief Minister of United Andhra Pradesh, Y.S. Rajasekar Reddy assured Koushik Reddy MLA ticket to contest in assembly elections. What was his age at that time? did he even wear knickers at that time?" he said.

Koushik Reddy took government land present near Attapur and Thirumala Nagar areas in Huzurabad on lease for

a period of 25 years and opened petrol bunks. Even after completing the lease period he did not vacate the land he accused.

By encroaching 25 guntas of government land in Attapur, Koushik Reddy opened a dog farm. In the Huzurabad constituency one has a dog farm and the other leader have a poultry farm, he alleged pointing out at former minister, Etala Rajendar who had poultry farms in Huzurabad. He warned Padi Koushik Reddy to stop making baseless allegations against the Congress leaders.

Meanwhile the leaders of the District Youth Congress under the leadership of Youth Congress president Abdul Rehman burnt an effigy of Padi Koushik Reddy here at Indira chowk in Karimnagar on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, A. Rehman alleged that Koushik Reddy got

name and fame in the political field with the mercy of Congress, still he choose to betray the party. Being a covert of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao, Koushik Reddy sold the tickets during GHMC elections.

When Koushik Reddy alleged that Revanth Reddy purchased TPCC posts by paying money to party leadership, he must also reveal how much money he spent to get the TPCC secretary post when his cousin Uttam Kumar Reddy was president of the TPCC, he demanded. Being caught red handed in audio tape, unable to cover it and to divert the attention of the public with the script sent by the leaders of TRS from Pragathi Bhavan, Koushik Reddy is trying to blame TPCC chief Revanth Reddy and former MP Ponnamm Prabhakar, he alleged.

has belief that he has strong grip in Huzurabad, then he should contest independently, he challenged.

## TALIPERU PROJECT TOUCHES FULL WATER LEVEL

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM,  
KOTHAGUDEM, JULY 13

The incessant rains for the last three days witnessed receiving water by various water sources to Bhadradi-Kothagudem and Khammam districts.

Taliperu project in Charla mandal in Bhadradi district touched 74 meters of full reservoir level on Tuesday and the officials are releasing 2695 cusecs of flood water by opening four gates of the project.

The rivulets in Dummugudem, Burgumapahad, Aswapuram and Dammapet mandals received rain water.

The Kinnerasani reservoir is receiving flood water from its rivulet and the water level reached to 400.2 feet against 407 feet of full reservoir level. In Khammam district, the Munner witnessed overflowing due to rains for the last 72 hours in Warangal, Khammam and Mahabubabad districts.

On the other hand, the water level of Godavari at Bhadrachalam is at 15.5 feet.

post to Revanth Reddy. But after his audio tape went viral on various social media platforms, when TPCC suspended

him from the party, he is talking against the party and its leaders, he pointed out. If Padi Koushik Reddy has any guts and

## Rajendar got b-forms due to Laxmikantha Rao, says Satish

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, JULY 13

Etala Rajendar should not forget that he was able to get ticket and the TRS b-form to contest in assembly elections all these years because of the sacrifice done by the Rajya Sabha member Captain Laxmikantha Rao, said the Husnabad MLA, Vodithala Satish Kumar.

As TRS Huzurabad mandal election in-charge, the MLA participated in the meetings held with the party workers here at Dharmarajupally and Pedda Papaiahpally villages of Karimnagar district on Tuesday.

He consoled the family members of Bashaboina Praveen Yadav, the party workers who passed away recently and assured them of helping on the behalf of the party by taking the issue to the notice of the Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao and finance minister Harish Rao.

Later, addressing the party workers, MLA Satish Kumar said that former minister Etala Rajendar came into the party and left the party in the middle. But the cadre is still with the



Husnabad MLA, Vodithala Satish Kumar speaks in a meeting held with the party workers here in Dharmarajupally in Huzurabad mandal of Karimnagar district on Tuesday.

TRS and has a lot of faith in Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

Before 2004, the people of Huzurabad did not know who Rajendar was. After he joining TRS in 2004, it is my father Captain Laxmikantha Rao who sacrificed the ticket for him.

"Even myself sacrificed the ticket for Rajendar in 2009, 2014 and 2018 assembly elections," he said.

Having a lot of faith in Rajendar, Chief Minister gave him b-forms, by the image of Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao and with the support of Captain Laxmikantha

Rao, he was able to win all these years.

Instead of keeping that recognition, Rajendar kept an agenda of blaming the TRS and its leaders. Having learnt about this, Chief Minister suspended him from the party, he informed.

People of Huzurabad are very well aware of what happened in the past and what is going on at present. They are with the TRS.

It is the responsibility of every party worker to explain people about the facts and work hard for the registering massive victory of TRS in the upcoming by-elections in the Huzurabad, he appealed.

## Diagnostic centres in govt hosps, boon to the poor in state

**Khammam:** The diagnostic centres that were set up in district headquarters hospitals in Khammam and Kothagudem have turned out to be a boon to the poor in the two districts.

The centres conduct 57 medical tests and the patients are relieved from the hardships of getting tests in private hospitals. The patients faced two types of problems in private diagnostic centres. The prices in private centres are exorbitant, such as ₹4000 for MT scan. Now they get such tests at free-of-cost. Tests like X-ray, ultra-sound, five parts cell counter, ECG, 2D echo, fully automatic urine analysis and elisa reader are also performed at the centres.

The staff of PHCs and other centres collected 13,224 blood samples from

5,635 patients after setting up a diagnostic centre on June 9. DMHO Malathi said that the count will be 43,799 in terms of tests conducted on the blood samples and 1,41,710 after considering all parameters. "The patients did get all the tests at free of cost and it is first of its kind", she said. In Bhadradi district, the diagnostic centre commenced three months back and 9600 patients benefited from it, resulting in significant financial savings.

The patients can save their valuable time wandering for diagnostic centres and hospitals. There is no need for the patients to go to the private centres. They can obtain all the test results within 24 hours in the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and within hours in government hospitals.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I. P.SUPRIYA spouse of P.VIJAYA SARADHI (Old Names), resident of H.No.5-4-35, Court Road, Kamareddy town & Dist. Telangana state, have changed my name from P SUPRIYA, To PAMIDIPARTHI SUPRIYA DEVI spouse of PAMIDIPARTHI VIJAYA SARATHI (as per affidavit Dated:-13.07.2021). For the purpose of "Change in Pension Records of Indian Airforce". The above names are one and the same of me only there is no dispute in respect about it. I use to be called by the above names.  
Cell: 9676061991/ 9177392313

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27th Dec 1966 - 12th July 2021  
She'll be missed for her impeccable sense of humour, selflessness and all the love and compassion she carried with her.  
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Fondly Remembered by:  
Smt. Jamuna Devi (Mother-in-law)  
Dilip Kumar Motwani (Husband)  
Rajkumar & Sangeetha Motwani  
Vineeth, Purna, Mohit & Dimple  
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Recovery Certificates were drawn up against the following Defaulters by the Recovery Officer, SEBI under section 28A of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 read with section 222 of the Income-tax Act, 1961. However, Notice(s) of Demand could not be served on the Defaulters at their last known address, as provided in the table below:

Sr. No.	Name of the defaulter	Permanent Account Number/ CIN/DIN	Address as available with SEBI/last known address	Recovery Certificate Number(s) and date of Demand Notice (NoD)
1	MOSTO SYSTEMS	Telemarketer No. RR22134152	<b>Address No.1:</b> MOSTO SYSTEMS P.NO. 292, Triveni Nagar Balapur, Landmark: D-Function Hall Hyderabad-500079 (T.S.) <b>Address No.2:</b> MOSTO SYSTEMS MIG 1/6, 2nd Floor, JNTU- Hitech City Main Road, Hyderabad- 500072(T.S.)	3860 of 2021 Dated : 24/06/2021
2	M. Narasimha Rao	AHKPM5414F	<b>Address No 1:</b> Shri M. Narasimha Rao B-75, 2nd Floor, Madhuranagar, Hyderabad-500038 (T.S.)	3861 of 2021 Dated : 24/06/2021
3	Sudhir Chandra Bera	PAN: AXAPB8554D	Anima Complex, Flat No. B-107, Uppar Road, Uppal, Hyderabad-500039, (T.S.)	3275 of 2021 Dated : 15/02/2021

The above named Defaulter(s) are advised to contact the Recovery Officer by sending a letter to the address given above or an email to [tvrajneesh@sebi.gov.in](mailto:tvrajneesh@sebi.gov.in) latest by July 19, 2021. Further, if any person is aware of the whereabouts of the Defaulter(s) mentioned above, details of the same may be provided by sending a letter to the Recovery Officer at the address given above or an email to [tvrajneesh@sebi.gov.in](mailto:tvrajneesh@sebi.gov.in) latest by July 19, 2021.

Date: 30.06.2021  
Place: Chennai  
Davp 15204/11/0125/2122

T. Vinay Rajneesh  
(Recovery Officer)

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1	Viswas Real Estates and Infrastructure India Limited.	AADCV4403E	<b>Address 1:</b> 1-90/12, Ground Floor Opp: CCMB, Habsiguda X Roads Hyderabad - 500 007	1187 of 2017 Dated : 31/05/2017
2	Vaka Saradhi	AFHPV7774C	<b>Address 1:</b> 202201/48/208 AS Raju Colony, Lane -1 Bhagyanagar Colony Balanagar Mandal, Rangareddy Dist. Hyderabad - 500 072.	1187 of 2017 Dated : 31/05/2017
3	Eshararao Gundala	AHIPG8660R	<b>Address 1:</b> Flat No. 405, Bandaru Layout Seeligala, Nizampet Hyderabad - 500 090. <b>Address 2:</b> 8-3-1013/1, Plot No.28 Sunil Towers, Srinagar Colony, Yellareddy Guda, Flat No. 405 Hyderabad - 500 090; <b>Address 3 :</b> S/o. Sanyasi Naidu D. No. 13-574/9/3 Sundarayya Nagar, Arilova Chinnagadili Visakhapatnam - 530040 Andhra Pradesh.	1187 of 2017 Dated : 31/05/2017

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Date: 02.07.2021  
Place: Chennai  
Davp 15204/11/0126/2122

T. Vinay Rajneesh  
(Recovery Officer)



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## SHORT TAKES

INDIAN NAVY  
RECEIVES 10TH  
P-8I AIRCRAFTPAWAN BALI | DC  
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

Amidst it being used to keep an eye on Chinese in Ladakh, Indian Navy on Tuesday received its 10th long-range maritime reconnaissance anti-submarine warfare capable P-8I aircraft from Boeing.

The Indian Navy was the first international customer for the P-8 and today operates the largest non-US fleet.

This is the second aircraft to be delivered under an option contract for four additional aircraft that the defence ministry awarded in 2016.

Though P-8I are meant for sea operations, India had deployed them in Ladakh for reconnaissance and surveillance purposes amidst the ongoing stand-off with China.

It was first during the 73-day-long standoff at Doklam in 2017 with Chinese that India had deployed P-8I for surveillance purposes and were surprised with its capability even on land.

"I came to know about the capabilities of the P-8I anti-submarine warfare planes after they were deployed in Doklam for surveillance," CDS General Bipin Rawat, had said last year.

ONLINE CLASSES  
RESUME IN  
MADHYA PRADESHRABINDRA NATH  
CHOUDHURY | DC  
BHOPAL, JULY 13

Private schools association in Madhya Pradesh called off its indefinite strike and resumed online classes on Tuesday.

Around 47,000 private schools affiliated to Madhya Pradesh higher secondary education board and Central board of secondary education had suspended online classes on Monday demanding waiving of annual recognition fee and resumption of physical classes at least for standard nine to standard 12 students.

The association, however, met here late on Monday night till early hours of Tuesday and decided to call off their strike in the interest of the students, the association said.

The association decided to continue to mount pressure on the state government to accept to their demands.

A rift in the association over the decision to suspend online classes indefinitely had caused the association to end the strike, sources said.

VIJAY TOLD TO  
PAY TAX ON HIS  
IMPORTED CARJ. STALIN | DC  
CHENNAI, JULY 13

The Madras high court on Tuesday criticised actor Vijay for his attempts to avoid paying entry tax as per the statute for the luxury car he imported saying people who paid their taxes properly are the real heroes. The court dismissed the actor's petition with a cost of ₹1 lakh and directed him to pay the tax in two weeks.

Vijay had approached the court seeking a restraint on the authorities from demanding or collecting entry tax on the new Rolls Royce Ghost car he imported in 2012.

"In the absence of payment of entry tax by the petitioner within two weeks, the authorities are directed to initiate all further actions by following the procedures as contemplated under the statutes for recovery of the entry tax from the petitioner as well as the consequential liability if any, as per the provisions of the act and rules," Justice S.M. Subramaniam said in his order.

The petitioner/actor has large scale fan groups and those fans are seeing him as real hero, the court noted. Cine heroes have become rulers in the state, the judge said, adding that they are not expected to behave like reel heroes.

Vijay had contended that he had paid import duty to the customs department. However, the regional transport officer, Chennai South, refused to register his vehicle without a certificate issued by the Customs saying no entry tax was payable for the vehicle. The Customs, however, took the stand that entry tax should be paid for the vehicle. Vijay contended that the Customs was imposing an extraordinary entry tax and that his vehicle was lying idle as it could not be operated on public roads without registration.

## Security matters



Army soldier trains youths aspiring to join armed forces near Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan border in Kausalian village of Poonch on Tuesday.

— PTI

Up in arms, West Bengal BJP  
MLAs quit House panel posts

Adhikari, BJP MLAs meet Guv over Roy's appointment as PAC chief

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA, JULY 13

Eight West Bengal BJP MLAs jointly resigned as chairmen of various Assembly standing committees on Tuesday in protest of Mukul Roy's appointment as the public accounts committee (PAC) chairman even after his defection to the Trinamul Congress from their party.

They are Manoj Tigga, BJP legislative party chief whip, Anandamoy Burman, Ashok Kirtaniya, Nikhil Ranjan Dey, Bishnupada Sharma, Dipak Burman, Mihir Goswami and Krishna Kalyani.

They tendered their resignations to Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee who appointed Mr Roy as the PAC head last week. The move is bound to affect the legislative work of the panels.

Led by leader of the

opposition Suwendu Adhikari, the BJP MLAs later met governor Jagdeep Dhankhar at Raj Bhavan and complained to him against Mr Banerjee's role in awarding the post of PAC head to Mr Roy against whom they already moved a disqualification petition under the anti-defection law.

Mr Adhikari said, "Eight of our party MLAs resigned from their posts as chairmen of the Assembly standing committees for the politicisation of the PAC post. The governor is the constitutional custodian of the Assembly. We sought his interference about the deprivation to us by the ruling TMC in the House. We, as the main opposition party, should have got the PAC post as per the norms but we did not. This is also the first time the rule was broken."

He added, "We have

enough evidence against Mr Roy for his present political status. From the video footage of his entry to the TMC to his tweets, everything proves that he is very much in the TMC. Besides, his name for the PAC post was proposed by a TMC MLA. Still the speaker found him in the BJP and gave the post to him. It shows that the ruling party does not want it's financial corruption to be revealed. Next week, we will submit the copies of deputation to President Ram Nath Kovind and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla against the Assembly Speaker for his decision."

Lashing out at the Nandigram BJP MLA, TMC MP Sougata Roy however alleged, "Mr Adhikari has no knowledge of the Assembly rules in the appointment of PAC chairman. The post can go to any member of the House."

TMC TO ASK ELECTION COMMISSION  
FOR EARLY ASSEMBLY BYPOLLSRAJIB CHOWDHURI  
KOLKATA, JULY 13

West Bengal's ruling Trinamul Congress has decided to raise its demand to the Election Commission for early Assembly bypolls in the seven seats of the state following a significant drop in the Covid-19 infection rate.

It is likely to send a parliamentary delegation with the demand to the poll panel in New Delhi on July 15. It may suggest a seven-day campaign period from 10 am and 7 pm daily.

Sources said the TMC, which suspects the EC is working under the top BJP leadership's influence, fears that if there is a

delay in the Assembly bypolls in the event of a Covid-19 "third wave" by October-November, it may prevent its supreme Mamata Banerjee continuing as chief minister.

Ms Banerjee, who is a non-elected member of the Assembly due to her defeat to Suwendu Adhikari of the BJP at Nandigram, needs to win a seat in the bypolls and become an MLA within six months to retain her Chief Minister's chair.

She is all set to contest from her home turf, Bhowanipore, in the bypolls. The seat was recently vacated by state minister Sovandeb Chatterjee, who is expected to fight from Khardah in North 24 Parganas.

AAP always  
recognised my  
vision: Sidhu

Chandigarh, July 13: Amid attempts by the Congress high command to resolve the infighting in the party's Punjab unit, party leader Navjot Singh Sidhu on Tuesday said the opposition Aam Aadmi Party has always recognised his vision and work for Punjab.

His remarks came a day after AAP Punjab unit chief Bhagwant Mann took a dig at the cricketer-turned-politician and asked him to tweet about the "funds" allegedly accepted by the ruling Congress from private power companies in the state.

"Our opposition AAP has always recognised my vision & work for Punjab. Be it Before 2017- Beadbi, Drugs, Farmers Issues, Corruption & Power Crisis faced by People of Punjab raised by me or today as I present 'Punjab Model', it is clear they know - who is really fighting for Punjab," Sidhu said in a series of tweets.

He said, "If the Opposition dares to question me, yet they can't escape my Pro-People Agenda ... This means they have resigned to their fate!"

Sidhu also shared old videos of AAP leaders praising him for raising his voice on several issues including the drug mafia and corruption during the previous SAD-



BJP regime.

On Monday, AAP leader Mann had alleged that the Punjab government was not scrapping the power purchase agreements (PPAs) signed by the erstwhile SAD-BJP government as the ruling Congress had accepted "funds" from the three private companies that have set up thermal plants in the state.

He asked Sidhu to tweet on this issue. "@sherryontopp Saab, If not anything else, we hope you could bother to at least tweet on the issue as you are used to," he said in a tweet.

Sidhu, who has been raising power supply-related issues through social media, had demanded that a white paper on PPAs signed during the previous SAD-BJP regime be released to make the Badals "accountable" to the people for these "corrupt agreements".

— PTI

'I am trying to avoid  
Dharmyuddha'BHAGWAN PARAB | DC  
MUMBAI, JULY 13

While senior BJP leader Pankaja Munde from Maharashtra had denied she was using pressure tactics against the party, she has also issued a veiled warning that she might take a drastic step in future.

"I am trying to avoid Dharmyuddha, but when I realise that there is no worth working here, I will see what to do," she said while addressing her supporters who came to Mumbai to meet her on Tuesday.

Pankaja was reportedly upset over the non-inclusion of her sister and MP Pritam Munde in the recent expansion of the union cabinet. Her several followers have resigned

from the BJP to protest the party's decision. Following this, Pankaja on Sunday attended a meeting of BJP national secretaries in Delhi convened by BJP president JP Nadda and also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In her address to party supporters, the BJP leader indicated that she has been 'sidelined' by the party.

"I was told by the BJP to fill the form for Vidhan Parishad polls, but later was not selected. I accepted the party's decision. Pritam Munde's name was there in the reckoning for the union cabinet expansion, but instead Bhagwat Karad was made the minister. I welcomed that decision too," she said.

## AICC member urges Sonia to restrain Digvijaya

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC  
MUMBAI, JULY 13

All India Congress Committee (AICC) member Vishwabandhu Rai has written to Congress president Sonia Gandhi asking her to control Digvijaya Singh as he is angering the Hindu voters in order to please "a particular community's voters".

In his letter addressed to Mrs Gandhi, the AICC member said that Digvijaya Singh has angered the Hindu voters by raising the issue of reimposition of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir: Mr. Rai also sent a cartoon along with the letter. In the Cartoon, Mr.

Singh was portrayed as burying a coffin of the Congress party.

With the Subject line, "There is a dire need to rein in Digvijaya Singh's tongue", Mr. Rai, who was former Mumbai General Secretary and close aide of Sanjay Nirupam, said, "Digvijaya Singh has been continuously angering the Hindu voters of the party since 2003 when he was ousted from power in Madhya Pradesh. He is constantly trying to hurt the sentiments of Hindus to please only a particular section of the country's voters."

The letter has also gone viral and is being retweeted by the BJP leaders including Madhya

● ALL INDIA CONGRESS Committee (AICC) member Vishwabandhu Rai also sent a cartoon along with the letter.

Pradesh Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra.

"...Now it needs to be seen whether Mrs Gandhi takes action against Mr. Singh or supports his anti-Hindu statements," the senior BJP leader tweeted in Hindi. Mr. Rai also claimed that the country's majority Hindu population considers the irresponsible statement of Digvijaya Singh as the official thinking of the Congress party. Due to this, the Hindu voter is continuously moving

away from the party. On the other hand, even his appeasement politics is not increasing his follower base. The former Mumbai Congress General Secretary claimed that Mr. Singh's rhetoric is also one of the reasons for the defeat of the Congress party in the assembly elections in Delhi after he termed the Batla House encounter as fake.

He also alleged that it was a well thought out strategy of Mr. Singh to name the world's deadliest terrorist Osama bin Laden with respectful words as 'Osama Ji'. The party has also suffered a lot due to this statement.

Cautioning the party high command about Mr.

Singh's role in upcoming assembly elections, Mr. Rai said, "His role (Digvijaya Singh's role) in the politics of Uttar Pradesh should be reviewed. The beginning of the disintegration of the Congress party in UP has started due to his unchecked statements from time to time."

The letter also said that the people have started viewing the Congress party as an anti-Hindu party.

"Please take my words seriously and start the process of locking Digvijaya Singh's tongue so that the Hindu population of the country is not hurt again and again," the letter mentioned.

## CRUCIAL | POLICY

Two Private Member Bills on the issue likely to come up

## Population Bill issue to echo in Parl

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JULY 13

With the BJP-ruled states of Uttar Pradesh and Assam taking the lead in initiating the process of population control measures - an issue which is hotting up in the political discourse - the coming Monsoon Session of Parliament can also expect to see heated exchanges between the treasury and Opposition benches as at least two private members' bills are likely to come up on the same issue.

While Lok Sabha MP

from Gorakhpur Ravi Kisen's private member's bill could come up in the first week of the session, Rajya Sabha MP Rakesh Sinha's bill is also waiting to get a date for introduction.

Mr Sinha asserts that a balance between resources and population is inevitable and population control "should not become a victim of the communal discourse".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Independence Day speech in 2019, had expressed concern over the population explosion

● While Lok Sabha MP from Gorakhpur Ravi Kisen's private member's bill could come up in the first week of the session, Rakesh Sinha's bill is also waiting to get a date.

in the country.

The proposed legislation on population control lays emphasis on dis-incentivising couples having more than two children, by making them ineligible for government jobs and subsidies on various facilities and goods given by the government.

After Assam and Uttar

Pradesh, the demand for a similar population control policy in another BJP-ruled state, Karnataka, has been raised by BJP national general secretary and MLA C.T. Ravi, who tweeted: "With the limited natural resources available, it will be difficult to meet the needs of every citizen if there is a population explosion."

Karnataka law minister Basavaraj Bommai has said that a decision will be taken after discussion and deliberation.

A Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the Supreme Court by

BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyaya seeking the introduction of a two-child norm or framing a new law to control births.

Meanwhile, slamming the government on the issue of price rise, the Congress on Tuesday said there is no respite from its "economic mess" and demanded that fuel prices and GST rates on mass-consumed goods be reduced to provide relief to the common people.

It also hoped that a joint strategy would be evolved by various parties to raise the issue in the upcoming session of Parliament.



## SHORT TAKES

## HERZOG, ERDOGAN TALK IN SIGN OF THAW

Jerusalem, July 13: Israel's newly inaugurated president spoke Monday with his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in a sign of a possible thaw after years of frosty relations between the two former allies.

President Isaac Herzog's office said in a statement that the two leaders emphasised "that Israel-Turkey relations are of great significance for security and stability in the eastern Mediterranean" and that cooperation has great potential for both countries. Israel and Turkey were once close regional partners, but relations between the two countries soured in the past decade. The Turkish government frequently criticises Israel's policies toward the Palestinians.

According to the Israeli President's Office statement, Herzog and Erdogan said that "ongoing dialogue despite all the differences of opinion" was important, particularly for advancing steps toward a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians.

Herzog took office last week after he was elected by the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in a June vote. He spoke Saturday with neighbouring Jordan's King Abdullah II after Israel and Jordan agreed to initiate negotiations for the sale of water to the Hashemite kingdom.

## SCRIBE ATTACK: GEORGIA OPPN ASKS PM TO QUIT

Tbilisi, July 13: Opposition lawmakers in Georgia on Monday disrupted parliament to demand the prime minister's resignation after a TV cameraman died, blaming the ruling party for attacks on journalists. Alexander Lashkarava, who worked for independent TV news channel *Pirveli*, died on Sunday — days after he was beaten by far-right activists during a protest against an LGBTQ Pride march.

Lashkarava's death spurred demonstrations on Sunday outside parliament, drawing about 8,000 people.

On Monday, several opposition lawmakers occupied the parliament speaker's seat and demanded Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili stand down.

They claimed he and the ruling Georgian Dream party had allowed violence against media workers.

Footage aired by the independent Mtavari TV station showed chaotic scenes in the plenary chamber where opposition parliamentarians scuffled with ruling party MPs.

The session resumed after four MPs who had occupied the speaker's chair were forcibly removed from the room.

Later in the evening, some 2,000 people — including hundreds of journalists and rights activists — staged a protest outside parliament, vowing permanent demonstrations until Garibashvili resigns.

## U.S. WILDFIRES THREATEN HOMES IN 10 STATES

Los Angeles, July 13: Wildfires that torched homes and forced thousands to evacuate burned about 10 parched Western states on Tuesday, and the largest, in Oregon, threatened California's power supply. Nearly 60 wildfires tore through bone-dry timber and brush from Alaska to Wyoming, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Arizona, Idaho and Montana accounted for more than half of the large active fires. The fires erupted as the West was in the grip of the second bout of dangerously high temperatures in just a few weeks. A climate change-fuelled megadrought also is contributing to conditions that make fires even more dangerous, scientists say.

The National Weather Service says the heat wave appeared to have peaked in many areas, and excessive-heat warnings were largely expected to expire by Tuesday. However, they continued into Tuesday night in some California deserts, and many areas were still expected to see high in the 80s and 90s.

In Northern California, a combined pair of lightning-ignited blazes dubbed the Beckwourth Complex was less than 25% surrounded after days of battling flames fuelled by winds, hot weather and low humidity that sapped the moisture from vegetation. Evacuation orders were in place for more than 3,000 residents of remote northern areas and neighbouring Nevada. There were reports of burned homes, but damage was still being tallied. The blaze had consumed 140 square miles (362 square kilometres) of land, including in Plumas National Forest.

## 92 Iraqi Covid patients die in fire

Blaze in the Nasiriyah's Al-Hussein Hospital was fuelled by explosion of oxygen canisters

Baghdad, July 13: The death toll from a fire that swept through a hospital Coronavirus ward in Iraq has climbed to at least 92, the Iraqi state news agency reported on Tuesday. The announcement came as anguished family members buried their loved ones and lashed out at the government over the tragedy. The blaze that erupted Monday in the city of Nasiriyah was the second catastrophic fire in less than three months to kill hospitalised Covid-19 patients in Iraq, where the health care system has been crippled by decades of war and sanctions.

Two health officials said more than 100 people were also injured in the fire that torched the Coronavirus ward of al-Hussein Teaching Hospital in the city of Nasiriyah on Monday. Anguished relatives were still looking for traces of their loved ones. Many cried openly, their tears tinged with anger, blaming both the provincial government of Dhi Qar, where Nasiriyah is located, and the federal government in Baghdad for years of mismanagement and neglect.

"The whole state system has collapsed, and who paid the price? The people inside here. These people have paid the price," said Haidar al-Askari, who was at the scene of the blaze. Overnight, firefighters and rescuers — many with just flashlights and using blankets to extinguish small fires still smoldering in places — had frantically worked searching through the ward in the darkness.

As dawn broke, bodies covered with sheets were laid on the ground outside the hospital. Earlier, officials had said the fire was caused by an electric short circuit, but provided no more details. Another official said the blaze erupted when an oxygen cylinder exploded. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to journalists. The new ward, opened just three months ago, contained 70 beds. Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi chaired an emergency meeting in the wake of the fire and ordered the suspension and arrest of the health director in Dhi Qar, as well as the director of the hospital and the city's director of civil defence. A government investigation was also launched.

In the nearby Shiite holy city of Najaf, mourners prepared to bury some of the victims. It was the second time a large fire killed Coronavirus patients in an Iraqi hospital this year. At least 82 people died at Ibn al-Khateeb hospital in Baghdad in April, when an oxygen tank exploded, sparking the blaze. That incident brought to light widespread negligence and systemic mismanagement in Iraq's hospitals.

Doctors have decried lax safety rules, especially around the oxygen cylinders. On Monday, Ammar al-Zamili, spokesman for the Dhi Qar health department, said that there were at least 63 patients inside the ward when the fire began.

Maj. Gen. Khalid Bohan, head of Iraq's civil defence, said the building was constructed from flammable materials and prone to fire.

● **PRIME MINISTER Mustafa al-Kadhimi ordered the suspension and arrest of the health director in Dhi Qar, as well as the director of the hospital and the city's director of civil defence.**



Rescuers and civilians look for bodies after a catastrophic blaze erupted Monday at a Coronavirus hospital ward in the al-Hussein Teaching Hospital, in Nasiriyah, Iraq, on Tuesday.

— AP

## Macron orders all health workers to get vaccinated

Paris, July 13: French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday ordered all French health care workers to get virus vaccine shots by Sept. 15 and urged all of his compatriots to get vaccinated as soon as possible, to fight resurgent infections that are threatening the country's economic recovery. In a televised address, Macron also mandated special Covid-19 passes for anyone who wants to go to a restaurant, shopping mall or several other public places.

To get a pass, people must be fully vaccinated, have a fresh negative virus test or have proof they recently recovered from the

● **THE DELTA variant is driving France's virus infections back up again, just as the country kicked off summer vacation season after a long-awaited reopening process.**

virus. The Delta variant is driving France's virus infections back up again, just as the country kicked off summer vacation season after a long-awaited reopening process. Some 40 per cent of France's population is fully vaccinated.

"The country is facing a strong resumption of the epidemic touching all our territory," Macron said,

speaking against the backdrop of the Eiffel Tower. He stopped short of any new lockdown-like measures, saying "we have to live with the virus".

He said his centrist French government would declare a medical state of emergency Tuesday, which allows more freedom to impose curbs. Most European governments have shied away from mandating vaccinations. But after deaths in nursing homes, Macron said vaccination is essential for all health care workers, nursing home workers, and workers or volunteers who care for the elderly or ailing at home.

— AP

## SYDNEY CURBS ON, OZ VOWS FINANCIAL AID

Canberra, July 13: Australian government officials on Tuesday announced added financial support for businesses and households as Sydney appeared increasingly likely to enter a fourth week of lockdown due to Coronavirus clusters. New South Wales state Premier Gladys Berejiklian said she would announce on Wednesday whether Sydney's five million residents would remain locked down beyond the three-week mark on Friday. She had said the 24-hour record of 122 new cases recorded on Sunday made lifting the lockdown on Friday "almost impossible". No one knew how long the lockdown would last, Berejiklian said.

"What we do know is that we have the financial support there so that individuals and families and businesses don't have to stress and they know that for the duration of the lockdown, the support will be there," she said.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the presence in Sydney of the Delta variant, which is thought to be more contagious, had escalated the pandemic danger.

"The New South Wales outbreak has proved to be more severe, more dangerous, and it's in the national interest that we now put in place an upgraded set of arrangements for cooperation with the states and territories," Morrison said of the disaster funding deal.

— AP

## Merkel says jabs to remain voluntary

Berlin, July 13: Germany is not planning to follow France and other countries in introducing compulsory Covid-19 vaccinations for parts of the population, Chancellor Angela Merkel said Tuesday.

"We do not intend to go down this road," Merkel said in Berlin after visiting the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) public health agency.

"We are at the beginning of the phase in which we are still promoting (vaccination), where we have more vaccines than we have people who want to be vaccinated," she said.

After a slow start to its vaccination campaign earlier this year, Germany sped up its drive over the summer and had by Tuesday fully vaccinated 42.6 percent of adults, with 58.5 percent vaccinated at least once.

But demand has slowed over the past two weeks, with the number of jabs given on Monday at its lowest since February.

With the highly contagious Delta variant now dominant in Germany and the RKI saying at least 85 percent of adults will need to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity, some have been calling for a new approach.

Wolfram Henn, a genetics specialist at Saarland University and a member of the German Ethics Council, which advises the government on its vaccination strategy, called on Tuesday for jabs to be made compulsory for teachers.

"Teachers and educators, by virtue of their choice of profession, have a very special responsibility

● **AFTER A slow start to its vaccination campaign earlier this year, Germany sped up its drive over the summer and had by Tuesday fully vaccinated 42.6 percent of adults, with 58.5 percent vaccinated at least once.**

● **BUT DEMAND has slowed over the past two weeks, with the number of jabs given on Monday at its lowest since February.**

● **WITH THE highly contagious Delta variant now dominant in Germany and the RKI saying at least 85 percent of adults will need to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity, some have been calling for a new approach.**

towards the people entrusted to them and their families," he told the *Bild* daily.

French President Emmanuel Macron had on Monday announced mandatory vaccinations for healthcare staff, retirement home workers and others working with vulnerable people from September, in line with similar moves in Greece, Italy and Britain.

But Merkel said she did not believe the German government could "gain trust" by following a similar path.

"I think we can gain trust by advertising vaccination and also by letting as many people as possible in the population (...) become ambassadors for the vaccine from their own experience," she said.

— AFP

## Virus-hit Malaysia vax centre closed

Kuala Lumpur, July 13: Malaysia shut down a mass vaccination centre Tuesday after more than 200 medical staff and volunteers tested positive for the Coronavirus.

Science Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said it was difficult to determine if the infections occurred at the centre, while stressing that swift government action had stopped the cluster. He urged people who were vaccinated at the centre from Friday onward to isolate themselves for 10 days in case they develop symptoms.

Khairy said the 204 whose results were positive

● **SCIENCE MINISTER Khairy Jamaluddin urged people who were vaccinated at the centre from Friday onward to isolate themselves for 10 days in case they develop symptoms.**

had low viral loads, meaning the amount of virus in their bodies was small. The centre was shut for deep sanitisation and all its workers were being isolated. Khairy said the center will reopen Wednesday with a new team of medical workers. Despite a strict lockdown since June 1, the pandemic had worsened with confirmed cases breaching 844,000 and 6,200 deaths. But vaccination has picked up pace, with nearly 11% of the population inoculated. — AP

## Thailand defends Covid mix-and-match vaccine

Bangkok, July 13: Thailand on Tuesday defended mixing two different Covid-19 vaccines to battle a surge in infections, after the WHO's top scientist warned it was a "dangerous trend" not backed by evidence.

The kingdom is struggling to contain its latest outbreak fuelled by the highly contagious Delta variant, with cases and deaths skyrocketing and the health-care system stretched thin. Authorities said they will mix a first dose of the

Chinese-made Sinovac jab with a second dose of AstraZeneca to try and achieve a "booster" effect in six weeks instead of 12.

Thailand's chief virologist Yong Poovorawan said this would be possible by combining an inactivated virus vaccine — Sinovac — with a viral vector vaccine such as AstraZeneca.

"We can't wait 12 weeks (for a booster effect) in this outbreak where the disease is spreading fast," he said. "But in the future, if there are better, improved

vaccines... we will find a better way to manage the situation."

His comments come a day after the World Health Organisation's chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan called the strategy a "dangerous trend".

"We are in a bit of a data-free, evidence-free zone as far as 'mix-and-match'", she said.

Thailand has reported more than 353,700 coronavirus cases and 2,847 deaths.

— AFP

## Booster shots possible, says US Surgeon General

Washington, July 13: The nation's top doctor says it's "certainly possible" that Americans eventually will be advised to get a booster shot of the Coronavirus vaccine.

Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said no decision had been made yet after a meeting with Pfizer to discuss its request for approval of a third shot of its Covid vaccine. He added as officials make their assessments,

● **VIVEK MURTHY said no decision had been made yet after a meeting with Pfizer to discuss its request for approval of a third shot of its Covid vaccine.**

"what we're really looking for is clear evidence that immunity is waning," such as breakthrough infections in the vaccinated population.

He says that may trigger a recommendation for booster shots. Murthy also says it's "certainly very possible" a third shot will be recommended for immunocompromised or vulnerable Americans, such as those on chemotherapy.

"We are looking closely at that population," he says, adding when the data suggests a booster dose is needed, it will be recommended.

— AP

## J&amp;J vax increases risk of rare nerve disorder, warns FDA

Washington, July 13: The US Food and Drug Administration updated its warning labels Monday for the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine to include information about an observed "increased risk"

of a rare neurological disorder called Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS).

The news is a further blow for the company, which was granted an emergency use authorisation for its shot in February but

has played a minor role in America's Coronavirus immunisation campaign.

Officials have identified 100 preliminary reports of GBS after approximately 12.5 million doses administered. — AFP

## CONTROVERSIAL | VIEWS

Lectures, seminars are held to expose 2014 Nobel Prize winner's western agenda

## Pak pvt schools' assn launches anti-Malala documentary

Lahore, July 13: Pakistan's private schools' association launched a documentary on Pakistani education activist Malala Yousafzai for her controversial views on Islam, marriage and her pursuit of the Western agenda. Malala, who turned 24 on Monday, was the co-recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize for her struggle against the suppression of children and young people

and for the right of all children to education.

Having received the prize at the age of 17, Malala is the youngest Nobel laureate. She shared the prize with Kailash Satyarthi, a children's rights activist from India. Addressing a press conference at his office in Gulberg here the All-Pakistan Private Schools Federation president Kashif Mirza said: "Through this documen-

tary film — I am not Malala — we will tell 20 million students in 200,000 private schools across the country about her controversial views on Islam, marriage, pursuing of Western agenda."

"The idea behind this is we want to expose Malala among the youth as it does not get impressed by her so-called story of struggle for women rights," Mirza said. He said Malala had

advocated "partnership" that is adultery in Islam. "Marriage is a sunnah of the Prophet (pbuh) and partnership is adultery," he said. 'I am not Malala's Day' is also observed on July 12 in private schools as lectures and seminars are held to expose her western agenda to students. Mirza said Malala has categorically rejected the institution of marriage and suggested that

'partnership' is better than getting married.

"Malala has attacked the institution of marriage and family structure by advocating that people should live in sin...No one can justify Muslims living together without marriage as it is strongly condemned in Islam," he said.

Similarly, Mirza said in her book "I am Malala", the Nobel Peace winner book has highly controver-

sial material in it which is contrary to the teachings of Islam, Quranic injunctions, ideology of Islam and Pakistan's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah and the Pakistan Army.

"This book is written at the behest of western forces that used Malala for their ulterior motives. Malala has declared Islam and Pak army as 'militant' in her controversial book. She also criticised

Quranic verses about two women's testimony to be equal to that of a man and also about the four witnesses in rape case," he said. Mirza said a group photo with writer Tasleema Nasreen and strong ties with an Indian for Nobel award are enough to explain Malala's designs. Mirza alleged her blog in BBC under the name "Gul Makai" was written by someone else. — PTI



# DECCAN Chronicle

14 JULY 2021

## Pushing two-child policy: Can it ramp up growth?

Not since the dark days of the Emergency, when the late Sanjay Gandhi became an extra-constitutional authority and ordered a mass sterilisation drive in which the poor were mostly caught up, have we heard of coercive population control policies. The Himanta Biswa Sarma government in Assam kicked off with blatant public announcements last month, asking the Muslim minorities to be “decent” and adopt a two-child norm, the implication being that Muslim couples alone have more than two-children.

The Yogi Adityanath government in UP has hardly lagged behind and has made proposals of a similar nature. Fundamentally, in both Assam and UP, the idea is to deprive families with more than two children of government benefits and subsidies, and to accord benefits to families with no more than two offspring.

While this is not spelt out, the unspoken assumption seems to be to get at the minorities, although it is not yet clear how the issue would pan out in the case of non-Muslim families which have two children or more. So, there is turmoil on the horizon if the policies under consideration are sought to be implemented.

As far as the Hindu Right goes, the idea of population control for Muslims goes back a long way. It is interesting to recall that the Jana Sangh, the precursor of the BJP, tore into Indira Gandhi for the Emergency, but not Sanjay Gandhi — the architect of the sterilisation drive — whose widow afterward found a place of honour in the saffron party.

Indeed, before the Assam and UP state government plans were put on the table in recent weeks, some BJP MPs had moved private member Bills in Parliament along similar lines. One of them, Ajay Bhatt of Uttarakhand, was recently made a minister. Rakesh Sinha, a nominated Member close to BJP, moved a similar Bill, as did Ravi Kishan, a UP MP. Mr Sinha appears to be keen on reviving his Bill in the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament.

The idea that large populations dragged down economic growth, and hence practically wiped out prospects of rapid economic development in developing societies, once had a measure of acceptance even in academic literature. But the very fast rise of China has doused enthusiasm for that view. The forcibly implemented one-child policy has had to be abandoned. It led to serious economic consequences with shrinking of the labour force and the rise of older people demanding state support.

Standard economic development theory shows that more children are associated with poor societies as more children translate to more earning members in conditions of poverty. According to the last population census (2011), the rate of growth of population among Muslims was higher than the Hindus. This is consistent with the official finding that Muslims in India are poorer than even the scheduled caste population on average, and have a literacy rate that is well below the national average.

However, it is important to note that, according to the National Family Health Survey-3, fertility is declining at a faster rate among Muslims than among Hindus. This aspect is wholly lost in popular — especially political — discourse as communal agendas are sharpened on the basis of faster (although declining) population growth data. The poverty angle is wholly discounted as higher populations are spuriously co-related to religious teachings, fuelling majoritarian anxieties.

When a comprehensive national effort is needed to fight the pandemic, the present dispensation is expected to have squelched population-related communalism. It has done no such thing.

## Soccer’s race hurdle

It seems they were the best of times when the universal sport of football ruled the airwaves from Europe and South America. Poetry in motion, which flowing soccer is, may have come like a balm when the coronavirus pandemic raged in many parts of the world. But they also seemed like the worst of times as the game brought with it all its attendant evils like false nationalism, hooliganism and outright racism.

An absorbing final of the Euro 2020 competition in which the England team, which had whipped up overwhelming enthusiasm, came up short in the penalty shootout was followed by the worst kind of on-site as well as online behaviour. Thousands of brutes of fans had already invaded the Wembley Stadium in London before kick-off and created bedlam inside for paying spectators. Scenes of weekend drunkenness gave way to violence as English soccer hooligans began beating up Italian supporters as they were exiting the arena after Italy’s triumph.

In its excess, demonstrative loyalty to the national team can be an embarrassing jingoistic phenomenon, with politicians themselves not loath to climbing the bandwagon and appropriating popular sentiment. The beautiful game is to be enjoyed, not to be used for berating its players like many did on the social media, particularly roasting the three hapless players of colour who missed penalty kicks for England in a nerve-shredding shootout.

The social media is a modern phenomenon that lends itself too easily to toxic content in hate mongering and several evils as common people use them as platforms to display their biases. Big Tech exacerbates the problem as it does little to filter out the obvious, even when there are giveaway symptoms as in the use of icons such as bananas, monkeys and gorillas to deride people of certain races.

The FA and UK government have stood up to the racism of Internet ruffians. But fans were also guilty of booing when teams “took the knee” to condemn just the kind of racism that gives football, with its historical hooliganism, such a bad name. There is much to be done towards stamping it out from public spheres like sport.

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Subhani



## Managing expectations after Modi’s big shuffle



Shikha Mukerjee

The bigger the organisation the more complex and stumble-prone the process of recalibrating it to deliver on the manifest destiny of being the unsailable champion is what the meticulous exercise in expansion, face-saving resignations and reappointments looks like from a distance.

Seen through the lens of a state that delivered an electoral verdict which was as much an evaluation of 10 years of Mamata Banerjee’s government in West Bengal as it was of the seven years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s rule at the Centre and the BJP’s communally divisive Hindutva agenda and plans for domination on the basis of “one nation-one party”, the 43 new additions (including seven promoted to the Cabinet from junior ministries) in the Union government have stirred up more trouble than cheer. The inclusions, ostensibly of the marginalised, but in fact of a section of problematic claimants, have compelled the BJP to issue orders that no one should violate the party line.

In plain terms, two new ministers of state, both political mavericks, John Barla from Alipurduar and Nishit Pramanik from Cooch Behar in North Bengal, have been clearly told that reiterating the demand for breaking up West Bengal by creating a new Union territory for the north districts is not the BJP’s officially approved objective and that they should watch what they say. The inclusion of Shantanu Thakur from Bongaon in North 24 Parganas as a representative of the politically divided refugee settlers from the Scheduled Caste Matua community and “namashudras” from across the border who ostensibly fled religious

persecution, the West Bengal BJP leadership, namely its chief Dilip Ghosh, felt it necessary to issue a caveat. The appointment of Subhash Sarkar is a nod to the fact that there were old-timers in the BJP before the wave of defectors arrived and seized the limelight.

Basically, the BJP, at least in West Bengal, has temporised. It has included and given representation to the marginalised, which in an electoral democracy is a big positive as it works as an inclusion mechanism for people who had not been given a share in power. It has boosted the image of never represented or seriously powerless communities as it seems to have done painstakingly and methodically across the Hindi speaking heartland and in its stronghold of Karnataka and in the other states from where it has drawn its new ministers.

Looked at from the BJP’s local leadership’s rush to douse expectations in West Bengal, it does seem that the party hasn’t worked out how the raised status in terms of a place in the Modi ministry is to be converted into substantive action or policy or legislated action. BJP state president Dilip Ghosh equivocated on a key political issue, the inclusion of Hindu refugees and identification and exclusion of illegal Muslim migrants from across the border, by saying it was all up to Mamata Banerjee to implement the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens. Given her emphatic refusal to do any such thing, it seems that the BJP has pushed the CAA-NRC to the back of the list of deliverables. It’s equally significant that Assam’s chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has modified his initial position on the CAA-NRC and Muslims; he has declared that old Muslim

settlers were with him on identifying new illegals.

“Mainstreaming” the marginalised, converting one individual into an elite representative: is that enough? The question is fundamental to meeting expectations, where such expectations exist that the BJP is aware of and has a strategic position on. The question is equally important to policymaking over the next three years.

What, if anything, are the 27 new Other Backward Caste, 11 women, 12 new Scheduled Caste and eight new Scheduled Tribe ministers in the Modi Cabinet going to deliver for their specific constituencies? Having raised the status and stoked aspirations, the Modi government must have a plan to convert the newly bestowed prominence and the desires that go with it into something tangible that would then work to firmly bind the community’s loyalties to the BJP, in the state elections between now and 2024, and of course in 2024.

The Cabinet’s overhaul and its vast expansion is a tacit acknowledgment that the government was treading water and going nowhere in managing the crises that continue to overwhelm India’s population: containing the killer virus, providing health services, offering relief to the brutally affected poor as a consequence of the economy’s standstill or slowdown and cranking up the economy even as inflation threatens to spiral out of control.

The rejig focused on health, labour employment, education and petrol prices. The followup announcements on increased financial allocations for key problems, including farmers’ demands raised by the seven-month protest, the world’s longest ever such anti-gov-

ernment demonstration, was a concrete step at reassuring the sceptical and angry voter that the Narendra Modi government has shaken off its inertia.

The next step must be to revise the BJP’s narrative of being a civilising political force and protector of India’s glorious and ancient culture. The reality of political violence and the deliberate exercise of building up pressure that erupts in such violence is not limited to West Bengal, regardless of the BJP’s campaign that such violence had been tamed everywhere else.

The West Bengal election verdict was a clear sign that the voters in this state, and voters in Uttar Pradesh’s panchayat elections, that coincided with the West Bengal elections, was not well disposed towards the Modi government’s inaction. Voters in Uttar Pradesh, which goes for Assembly elections in 2022, will not be convinced that political violence is a West Bengal monopoly. In 12 districts of Yogi Adityanath’s state, scenes of murderous clashes unfolded as India watched, including a video that went viral of a woman leader from Lakhimpur Kheri whose sari was pulled off for which the entire contingent of a police station have been shunted out.

The gap between lived experience and rhetoric has caught up with the BJP after West Bengal and Kerala. The visuals of super-spreader crowds at Kempt Falls in BJP-ruled Uttarakhand is incontrovertible evidence of a failure of governance. The gaps must be closed with better governance and Prime Minister Modi has to do it, not with optics of meetings to manage oxygen supplies but by nudging Union ministries to effectively administer and certainly not by blaming state governments or specific individuals for their misdemeanours. The bottomline is that in a game of big stakes, the principal player has to know how to think big.

Shikha Mukerjee is a senior journalist in Kolkata

**The visuals of super-spreader crowds at Kempt Falls in BJP-ruled Uttarakhand is incontrovertible evidence of a failure of governance**

### LETTERS

#### SIRISHA’S FEAT

It is a proud moment for the people of the Telugu states that Sirisha Bandla, hailing from Guntur, has travelled by the Virgin Galactic to become the third Indo-American woman astronaut to travel in space. she deserves the congratulations of our nation in achieving this feat.

Dhiraj Dangoria  
Hyderabad

#### CHOKSI, STAN

Choksi who swindled ₹13,000 crore in our country and is in the custody of Dominican Republic gets bail (*Choksi gets bail from Dominica for treatment, DC, July 13, 2021*). He was granted bail by the court in Dominica which said, “to uphold the rule of law and right of human to be treated in the medical facilities of his choice”. In contrast we see how our country treated an 84-year-old sick man Stan Swamy. He ultimately died in custody. There is a need to respect the rights of a citizen by the constitutional authorities.

P.J. David  
Hyderabad

#### VAX CENTRE SCARY

People reaching the Urban Primary Health Centre, Vinayaknagar, Medchal Malkajigiri district, for their second dose of Covid-19 vaccine are not following social distancing norms. The staff are not issuing tokens. The cops posted there are of no help at all.

T.S. Noel Prashanth  
Secunderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN

## DECCAN Chronicle

### ‘Padma’ not carrying US arms to Pak

BALTIMORE, July 13. The manager of shipping agency in charge of loading a Pakistani ship, reportedly carrying military hardware to that country, has offered to give peace demonstrators “any military cargo” they might find being loaded on the vessel.

East-West shipping agencies manager Walter Spieker told representatives of the protesters yesterday that “there is no military cargo scheduled to go on board the ‘Padma’ here”.

The only cargo on board the ship Mr. Spieker said was 1,800 tonnes of general cargo including steel, flour, glassware and so on.

Rod Liddle



## How language gets mangled: ‘Myselfitis’ on the rampage?

I thought that this week I would share with you a bunch of words and phrases which are currently overused and I find thoroughly annoying. The idea came to me after hearing a woman with the IQ of a soap dispenser speaking on Radio 4 about the programme Love Island. In the course of her peroration she continually referred to myself. Not to me, but to herself as “myself”. Such as: “I would say so far as myself is concerned...” No, dear. The word is “I’m”.

She is far from the only culprit. “Myselfitis” is spreading rather more rapidly than the Delta variant. So too is its kind of antithesis. Twice recently I have been asked by phone-callers if “yourself” is happy with the service being provided, etc. Why do they do this? Do they think that addressing me as “you” is too blunt? Or is it an attempt to make their grammar more pretentious so that I might afford them greater respect? I have to say, if this is the case, it doesn’t work. It makes me want to smash their spectacles and spit on their shoes.

One suggestion I’ve heard is that

“myself” gets misused (it’s a reflexive pronoun) because the speaker is worried about the egotism inherent in the word “me”. So it’s a kind of false modesty. Whatever, it gets my goat. So does the wholly unnecessary use of the word “today” – again, usually deployed by people in the service sector. Such as “How can I help you today?” or, upon my entering a restaurant – one I’ve never been in – “And where would you like to sit today?”

I can’t for the life of me work out what “today” in this context signifies. Is it something taught at some hospitality finishing school? “Always add the word ‘today’ when talking to a customer. It will let them know how alert you are.” Or do they think that I am not wholly aware that it is today — that it might, instead, be yesterday, or several weeks ago, or tomorrow?

These infractions are not politically offensive, of course, and not really something to get worked up about. They are just another tiny little reason why I will not necessarily rage against the dying of the light, when the dying of the light finally arrives,

but instead greet it warmly, shaking it by the hand.

Equally minor is the verbal tic I hear more and more often when people are about to state an opinion. The ubiquitous prefix: “You know what...?” One supposes that this is intended to let the listener know he or she is about to be granted an audience to a hidden truth of great meaning and import. Whereas in fact the speaker is just about to tell you that he intends to wear a face mask after July 19, or something similarly humdrum and boring and stupid. These words and phrases are kind of prosthetic limbs for the intellectually amputated. But sure, they are not something about which one should get too overwrought.

The remaining annoyances, though, all have political or cultural baggage draped over their shoulders. The word “vile”, for example, is overused to such an extent that it has almost lost its meaning. It is always deployed when a charge of racism has been made, as if the writer or speaker is bound by law not merely to distance themselves from whatever transgression had been made, but

to eviscerate that transgression with the most severe word they can find in their stunted lexicon. The various “racist” social media posts made by the “disgraced” cricketer Ollie Robinson were described across the national press as being “vile”. They were nothing of the sort. They were daft, at the very most. And this mangling of language matters, because I will bet that very few people bothered to check exactly what Robinson had said. They will have been content to believe simply that they were “vile”.

Likewise, the word “toxic”. In my world, no words are toxic. Stuff which is toxic includes Strontium-90, blue asbestos and nerve gas: not words. But “toxic” these days is used simply to describe comments which run counter to the opinion of the person passing comment, or perhaps counter to the prevailing orthodoxy. This may make those words problematic or controversial, but it does not make them “toxic”.

Which brings me to “survivor”. I speak as a survivor of measles, chickenpox, pneumonia and, following a riotous holiday in Thailand many years ago, peculiarly resilient pubic

lice. But me? I’m OK. I’ll get by. I survived. Whereas once you were a survivor if you had managed to get into one of the Titanic’s lifeboats or had fought and been wounded on the Somme, it is now used to describe people – usually women – who were touched inappropriately on the top of the leg by an unpleasantly sweating middle-aged bloke. They are “survivors”. The word is deployed (by the Left) because to use the word “victim” is disempowering. And yet “survivor” is in a sense even more disempowering because it implies that their entire lives have been defined by that rogue accosting. Never has a word been more devalued than “survivor”.

Then there are the phrases used by the Left to deny reality. Such as “lived experience” and “my truth”, which these days easily trump objective fact: if you think you experienced it, you must be right, despite all the evidence to the contrary. And best of all — social justice. There is no such thing as social justice.

By arrangement with the Spectator



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	52769.73	0.76
Nifty 50	15812.40	0.76
S&P 500*	4,388.57	0.09
Dollar (₹)	74.49	0.13
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.20	0.15
Euro (₹)	88.21	0.20
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,856▲90	0.19
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	76.38	1.62
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.103	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.356	-0.007

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

S&P keeps India rating at BBB- for 14th year

S&P Global Ratings affirmed India's sovereign rating at the lowest investment grade of 'BBB-' for the 14th year in a row with a stable outlook, and said the country's strong external settings will act as a buffer against financial strains despite elevated government funding needs over the next 24 months. The ratings reflect the economy's above-average long-term real GDP growth and sound external profile, It said.

DGH cuts down paperwork in oilfield approval



In a major overhaul, the DGH has made it easier for firms to explore and produce oil and gas by limiting the requirement of statutory approvals to only extension of contracts, sale of stake and annual accounts while allowing self-certification and deemed approval for the rest. The Directorate General of Hydrocarbons said processes for oil and gas blocks awarded under nine bids round of NELP are being simplified.

Hotels' body approaches Niti Aayog for help

The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India has submitted a representation to Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, alleging Oyo's business model has caused "irreparable damage" to the hospitality ecosystem. It urged the Aayog to devise a system or policy to safeguard the interests of hotel- and lodge-owners. "Oyo operates its business under a maze of more than a dozen subsidiary entities," it said.

Mahindra prices Bolero Neo at ₹8.48 lakh

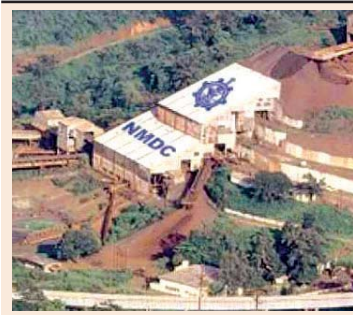
Mahindra and Mahindra introduced the Bolero Neo SUV at an introductory price of Rs 8.48 lakh across India. The Mahindra Bolero Neo is a TUV300 repositioned as a more upmarket variant of the Bolero range, and gets a 100hp, 1.5-litre diesel engine. In an attempt to change the fortune of the slow selling TUV300, Mahindra has now repositioned the sub-four-meter SUV as the new Mahindra Bolero Neo.



Shareholders to get equal share in NMDC Steel NMDC to spin off steel unit

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, JULY 13

The NMDC board has approved the demerger of its subsidiary, NMDC Steel, into a separate company after regulatory approvals. NMDC Steel owns a 3 million tonne per annum greenfield integrated steel plant coming up in Chhattisgarh State. Hyderabad-based NMDC Limited is a state-owned iron ore producer and exporter. "As a part of the demerger process fully paid-up equity shares of Rs 10 each of NMDC Steel will be issued and allotted to the equity shareholders of NMDC against over 293.06 crore fully paid up equity shares of Re 1 each held by them in NMDC," NMDC said in a disclosure to the stock exchanges. "The new shares of NMDC Steel to be issued



In October, the CCEA had approved strategic disinvestment of NMDC Steel by selling the entire Government of India stake

and allotted to the shareholders of NMDC as consideration under the scheme would be applied for listing on all the stock exchanges where the existing equity shares of NMDC are currently listed," marking the birth of a new PSU company. The NMDC stock gained 3.80 per cent on the BSE, closing at Rs 172.05. "The Board of Directors of NMDC at its meeting held today, July 13, 2021, has approved the Scheme

of Arrangement for Demerger between NMDC and NMDC Steel," NMDC said. NMDC is considering adding more value to the company's stakeholders by subsequently inviting an investor, it said. To this effect, in October 2020, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its 'in-principle' approval to the demerger of NISP from NMDC and strategic disinvestment of NMDC Steel

by selling the entire Government of India stake in NMDC Steel to a strategic buyer. NMDC is engaged in the exploration and mining of a wide range of minerals including iron ore, copper, rock phosphate, limestone, dolomite, gypsum, bentonite, magnesite, diamond, tin, tungsten, graphite, and beach sands. "As part of expansion, value addition and forward integration programme, NMDC is setting up a 3 MTPA capacity greenfield integrated steel plant i.e. NISP (NMDC Iron & Steel Plant) at Nagamar, located 16 km from Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh state," NMDC said. "The decision to construct the NISP was taken keeping in view the linkage with iron ore reserves and availability of investible surplus," NMDC said.

BoE sees threat to banks from cloud computing setup

HUW JONES & DAVID MILLIKEN LONDON, JULY 13

Cloud computing providers to the financial sector can be "secretive", and regulators need to act to avoid banks' reliance on a handful of outside firms becoming a threat to financial stability, the Bank of England said on Tuesday. Banks and other financial firms are outsourcing key services to cloud computing companies such as Amazon, Microsoft and Google to improve efficiency and cut costs, with the trend accelerating last

year as the Covid-19 pandemic unfolded. The BoE said cloud computing could sometimes be more reliable than banks hosting all their servers themselves. But big providers could dictate terms and conditions- as well as prices-to key financial firms. "That concentrated power on terms can manifest itself in the form of secrecy, opacity, not providing customers with the sort of information they need to monitor the risk in the service," BoE governor Andrew Bailey told a news conference. "We have seen

some of that going on." Bailey did not name specific firms he had concerns about. Earlier the BoE's financial policy committee said additional policy measures were needed to mitigate financial stability risks in cloud computing. "In terms of the standards of resilience and the testing of those standards of resilience, frankly we will have to roll some of that back, that secrecy that goes with it. It's not consistent with our objectives," Bailey said. Bailey said the BoE understood cloud

providers' desire not to reveal too much publicly about their operations, in case it opened the door to cyber-attacks, but that the firms needed to give more information to regulators and customers. "We have got to strike a balance here," Bailey said. The BoE said it welcomed the engagement of the finance ministry and Financial Conduct Authority on how to tackle risks from cloud computing, but that a broader approach may be needed, including other regulators and overseas partners. —Reuters

France fines Google 500 mn euros over news copyright row

PARIS, July 13: France's antitrust watchdog slapped a 500 million euro (\$593 million) fine on Alphabet's Google on Tuesday for failing to comply with the regulator's orders on how to conduct talks with the country's news publishers in a row over copyright. The fine comes amid increasing international pressure on online platforms such as Google and Facebook to share more revenue with news outlets. The US tech group must now come up with proposals within the next two months on how it would compensate news agencies and other publishers for the use of their news. If it does not do that, the company would face additional fines of up to 900,000 euros per day. Google said it was very disappointed with the decision but would comply. "Our objective remains the same: we want to turn the page with a definitive agreement. We will take the French Competition Authority's feedback into

consideration and adapt our offers," the US tech giant said. A Google spokesperson added: "We have acted in good faith throughout the entire process. The fine ignores our efforts to reach an agreement, and the reality of how news works on our platforms." News publishers APiG, SEPM and AFP accuse the tech company of having failed to hold talks in good faith with them to find common ground for the remuneration of news content online, under a recent European Union directive that creates so-called "neighbouring rights". The case itself focused on whether Google breached temporary orders issued by the antitrust authority, which demanded such talks take place within three months with any news publishers that ask for them. "When the authority decrees an obligation for a company, it must comply scrupulously, the antitrust body's chief, Isabelle de Silva, said. —Reuters

RoC to examine Carlsberg accounts

SHRUTI SRIVASTAVA & THOMAS BUCKLEY JULY 13

The government is inspecting the account books of the local unit of Carlsberg A/S, according to people with knowledge of the matter, following allegations of potential fraud. The Registrar of Companies has issued a notice to Carlsberg India seeking its response and is preparing to summon the board of directors soon, the people said. Pricewaterhouse-

Coopers LLP—which quit as auditor of Carlsberg India in November after a boardroom dispute at the brewery spilled into its book-keeping—had subsequently complained to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the people said. Carlsberg's joint venture partner—Nepal-based Khetan Group—had in 2019 written to the Indian ministries of Corporate Affairs and Commerce alleging that Carlsberg India was offering illegal trade discounts and engaging in

potentially fraudulent practices for sales promotion, the people said. They added that the board hasn't resolved the dispute, prompting the PwC complaint and the government's examination. Divergent views among the Carlsberg India board are the main reason for disclaimers of opinion by the auditor, a representative for Carlsberg said by email. It added that complaints made in 2019 and 2020 by its joint venture partner were closed last year without

any sanctions against Carlsberg India. "We continue to be in a difficult dispute with the JV partner in India," Carlsberg said. "A dispute which is expected to escalate for some time, as the partner still owes Carlsberg \$43 million and still wants to sell his share of the business ahead of time and at a completely unreasonable price." A representative for Khetan Group declined to comment. Carlsberg in its Sustain-

ability Report 2020 disclosed that an investigation during 2019 and 2020 found evidence of potential unethical practices at the India unit but found no evidence of actions aimed at personal gain for Carlsberg staff. An internal probe in 2018 had identified underage labourers in a warehouse operated by a third party. The contract was terminated, Carlsberg said. It added that a director nominated by the JV partner is unwilling to resign. —Bloomberg

Opec+ impasse means tight oil market: IEA

NOAH BROWNING LONDON, JULY 13

The oil market will see tighter supply for now amid a dispute inside Opec+ about how to ease production curbs but it still faces the risk of a dash for market share if disagreement persists, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Tuesday. The Paris-based agency said oil prices would be volatile until differences were resolved among members of Opec+, which

groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, Russia and other oil producers. "The Opec+ stalemate means that until a compromise can be reached, production quotas will remain at July's levels. In that case, oil markets will tighten significantly as demand rebounds from last year's Covid-induced plunge," an IEA report said. Opec+ has been slowly unwinding record output curbs agreed last year to cope with the pandemic. But a dispute over policy between Saudi Arabia and

United Arab Emirates this month meant plans to pump more oil by the end of 2021 were put on hold. If differences persist, analysts say the group could even abandon their pact, prompting them to open the taps in a race for market share, adding uncertainty to a market that has seen prices surge to two-and-a-half year highs and slide back again. "The possibility of a market share battle, even if remote, is hanging over markets, as is the potential for high fuel prices to stoke inflation and dam-

age a fragile economic recovery," the IEA said in its monthly report. "Oil markets are likely to remain volatile until there is clarity on Opec+ production policy. And volatility does not help ensure orderly and secure energy transitions-nor is it in the interest of either producers or consumers," the IEA said. The IEA said in a report in May that investors should not fund new oil, gas or coal projects if the world wanted to reach net zero emissions by mid-century. —Reuters

MARGINS OF MED DEVICES CAPPED, VACCINE INPUTS MADE DUTY-FREE

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JULY 13

The government on Tuesday capped the trade margins of five critical medical devices, like oximeter and digital thermometer, used in the treatment and prevention of Covid-19, at 70 per cent to bring down prices. The National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) has invoked extraordinary powers to put a cap on trade margin of oximeter, glucometer, BP monitor, nebulizer and digital thermometer with effect from July 20. "Existing margins range from 3% to 709% across five categories," the NPPA tweeted. The government has also exempted six adjuvants and emulsifiers used in the production of Covid vaccines and black fungus drugs as well as raw materials used for Covid test kits from customs duty. The customs duty has been exempted for DMPC, DMPG, HSPC DSPG, egg lecithin, cholesterol HP and raw materials for manufacturing Covid test kits. "The exemption will be beneficial for the industry," said P.V. Appaji, former director general of Pharmexcil.

Healthcare firms should explore Africa: Exim Bank

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JULY 13

The Exim Bank has identified healthcare as one of the most prospective sectors for investment in Africa and suggested Indian companies to explore opportunities to set up pharma units and hospitals in the continent. India is a leading drugs supplier and health services provider to Africa. Business opportunities in healthcare in Africa are estimated to reach \$259 billion in 2030, finds a study by Exim Bank. India was the largest exporter of pharma products to Africa between

2015 and 2019. India's exports stood at \$3.2 billion, or 19.1 per cent of Africa's pharma imports in 2019. Also, over 50,000 African patients come to India for treatment. "If a fund could be set up, like the India-Africa Health Fund, for financing tertiary hospitals across Africa in at least five regions with a capacity 100 beds each, these patients along with several others who are unable to bear the travel costs could be offered treatment," said the study. The global investment in Africa's healthcare sector during 2015-19 was \$1.1 billion.

SPACE | ECONOMY Moon to be integrated into Earth's economic sphere Companies urge Japan to tap moon

PAVEL ALPEYEV JULY 13

Japan needs to take commercial development of the moon more seriously if the country is to remain competitive in the budding space economy. That's the message to the government from a group of Japanese companies ranging from Sony Corp to an instant noodle maker. The Lunar Industry Vision Council on Tuesday submitted a white paper to Shinji Inoue, Japan's minister in charge of space policy, urging closer cooperation between the state and the private sector. The docu-

ment calls for incentives to boost investment in space ventures, detailed regulations for exploitation of off-planet resources and greater access for companies to lunar missions. Japan is among a handful of countries along with the US, the UAE and Luxembourg that have established a legal framework for commercial activity in space. The Japanese parliament last month passed legislation allowing the nation's companies to extract and use space resources, given government's permission. It is also part of the Artemis Accords, an international agreement among the US



and its allies allowing countries and companies to establish exclusive zones on the moon. "There will be a paradigm shift in which the moon will be integrated into the Earth's sphere of economic activity, forming into one ecosystem for space activities," the council said in the report. The 33-page document titled "Lunar Industry

Vision" is the first public statement by the advocacy group since it was formed in April. The council comprises representatives from two top universities and about 30 companies, including Sony's research lab, advertising giant Dentsu Group and cup ramen brand Nissin. More than 50 years after the Apollo 11 mission, the moon is once again a subject of geopolitical ambitions. NASA is targeting a return this decade with the Artemis programme. Russia and China are also in the game. India plans another uncrewed moon landing after an attempt failed in 2019.—Bloomberg



## SHORT TAKES

## Kabra 1st Indian gym judge at Oly

**New Delhi:** Deepak Kabra has become the first Indian to be selected for judging the gymnastics competition of the Olympic Games, a life goal achieved for the man who knew he wouldn't have made it there as an active gymnast because of his not-so-strong fundamentals. Kabra will be seen officiating the men's artistic gymnasts at the Tokyo Games, which gets underway on July 23.

"I had got the invitation in March last year but then the Olympics got postponed and what followed was a nervous wait for more than a year," Kabra said.

"I got confirmation again in April but with the Covid-19 pandemic still raging there was still uncertainty whether Olympics will actually happen. But I am happy that at last, I will be able to live my Olympic dream."

— PTI

## Andreescu to skip Tokyo Olympics

**Los Angeles, US:** Canadian world number five Bianca Andreescu said on Monday she will skip the Tokyo Olympics, citing concerns over the Covid-19 pandemic. The 21-year-old 2019 US Open champion announced her decision in a statement on social media.

"I would like to inform you that I have made the very difficult decision to not play in the Tokyo Olympics later this month," Andreescu said.

Meanwhile, David Goffin, the Belgian number one who is 20th in the ATP rankings, also announced that he would not play at the Olympics because he has not recovered from an ankle injury. — AFP

## Mithali loses top spot to Taylor

**Dubai:** India captain and star batter Mithali Raj was on Tuesday dethroned from the top spot by West Indies skipper Stafanie Taylor in the latest ICC ODI rankings.

Taylor recaptured the number one position in batting as well as in the list of all-rounders after a superb effort in the first ODI in Coolidge that helped the West Indies win by five wickets against Pakistan.

Taylor's Player of the Match effort of three for 29 and an unbeaten 105 have helped her ascend all three lists. She has gained four positions and displaced Mithali from the top of the batters' list.

She also gained three places to reach 16th position among bowlers and is up two places to first among all-rounders, replacing Ellyse Perry of Australia. — PTI

## India to host 2026 Badminton Worlds

**New Delhi:** India will host the World Badminton Championships in 2026, the sport's global governing body, BWF, said on Tuesday.

India were scheduled to organise the Sudirman Cup in 2023 but the Badminton World Federation decided to award the hosting rights of the world mixed team championships to China. The BWF was forced to shift this year's Sudirman Cup from Suzhou, China to Vantaa, Finland due to the Covid-19 situation in the Asian country.

"Suzhou will now stage the 2023 edition of the BWF World Mixed Team Championships, with original 2023 hosts India accepting the opportunity to host the BWF World Championships in 2026," the BWF said in a media release.

This will only be the second time that India will be hosting the world championship, with Hyderabad having played hosts to the prestigious event in 2009. — PTI

## Pakistan's hockey ace Naved dies

**Karachi:** Pakistan's well-known hockey World Cup winner, Naved Alam, died on Tuesday in Lahore, barely few days after being diagnosed with blood cancer. He was 47.

Alam, a key member of the Pakistan team that last won the World Cup in 1994, was diagnosed with blood cancer only a few days back when he checked into a hospital after feeling unwell. "It is with sadness that we announce that Naved Alam has passed away today after a battle with cancer," his family announced.

Naved, a strong fullback had just started his chemotherapy in Lahore on Monday, after which his condition deteriorated. Naved also served as Pakistan's hockey team manager at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. — PTI

## BIGGER, BETTER

## India to send largest ever contingent of athletes at Olympics

**New Delhi, July 13:** India will be sending a 228-strong contingent to the Tokyo Olympics, including 119 athletes, IOA President Narinder Batra said on Tuesday.

Out of the 119 athletes, 67 are male and 52 female participants, Batra said during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interaction with Olympic-bound athletes.

"The total Indian contingent for Tokyo Olympics will be 228. There will be 67 male athletes and 52 female athletes. We are fighting for 85 medal events," Batra said in the virtual interaction.

This will be India's largest ever contingent of athletes at the Olympics. "The first contingent will leave for Tokyo on July 17. It will have 90 athletes and officials in total."

Back stories of struggle, sacrifices and grit dominated Modi's interaction with India's Olympic-bound sportspersons during which he urged them to forget expectations and focus only on giving their best in Tokyo.

Among others, the PM spoke to iconic boxer M. C. Mary Kom, badminton ace P.V. Sindhu, talented shooters Saurabh Chaudhary, Elavenil Valarivan and veteran table tennis player A Sharath Kamal during a virtual interactive session.

Well aware of their preparations and formative years, Modi's conversations touched upon the making of their success stories and also some fun queries like the one posed to world champion

## INDIAN SAILING TEAM LANDS IN TOKYO

The Indian sailing team on Tuesday became the first from the country's contingent to arrive here for the Olympics.

The pictures of the Indian sailing team comprising Varun Thakkar, Ganapathy Chengappa, Vishnu Saravanan and Nethra Kumanan and their coaches arriving at the Haneda airport were put up by Sports Authority of India.

Nethra Kumanan will compete in the laser radial event, Vishnu Saravanan in laser standard class and the pair of Varun Thakkar and Ganapathy Chengappa in 49er class. — PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with the Olympic-bound sportspersons via video conferencing in New Delhi on Tuesday.

— PTI

## IOC prez quickly corrects slip up in Tokyo pep talk

**Tokyo, July 13:** IOC President Thomas Bach appeared in public on Tuesday for the first time since arriving in Tokyo last week with the pandemic-postponed Olympics opening in just 10 days.

Bach spent his first three days in isolation at the International Olympic Committee's five-star hotel in central Tokyo, and his movements in Tokyo are limited like almost everyone entering for the Olympics for the first 14 days. His first stop was the headquarters of the organising committee to deliver a pep talk with the beleaguered games set to go ahead without fans in almost all venues.

Organisers and the IOC decided last week to ban fans from all but a handful of outlying venues, a move that came after the Japanese government instituted a state of emergency in Tokyo forced by rising coronavirus cases.

"You have managed to make Tokyo the best-ever prepared city for the Olympic Games,"



IOC President Thomas Bach gestures on his arrival at a meeting with Tokyo 2020 President Seiko Hashimoto in Tokyo, Japan, on Tuesday.

— AP

Bach said in his opening remarks to organising committee president Seiko Hashimoto and CEO Toshiro Muto.

"This is even more remarkable under the difficult circumstances we all have to face."

Bach also pointed out the urgency of getting ready with deadlines looming. "Now it's 10 days to go to the opening ceremony. That also means there's still a lot of work to do."

Bach tripped over his words while addressing his Japanese hosts, referring to the Chinese people rather than

Japanese people as he spoke. "Our common target is safe and secure games for everybody; for the athletes, for all the delegations, and most importantly also for the Chinese people — Japanese people," Bach said, catching his mistake quickly.

Bach's comments in the briefing were interpreted from English to Japanese, but the slip was not included in the interpretations. Still, much of the Japanese media quickly reported it and there was backlash on social media. — AP

## VILLAGE OPENS DESPITE STATE OF EMERGENCY

**Tokyo, July 13:** The Olympics Village opened on Tuesday under a state of emergency just ahead of the start of the Olympics on July 23.

Athletes will be tested daily in the village, after being tested at least twice before leaving home, and again upon arrival. They will also be required to wear masks in the village — even if they are vaccinated — and be reminded constantly with signage about social distancing, washing hands and ventilating room areas.

About 11,000 athletes are expected for the Olympics and 4,400 for the Paralympics, which commences on August 24.

## JILL BIDEN TO ATTEND OPENING CEREMONY

First lady Jill Biden will attend the opening ceremony of the Olympics in Tokyo, the White House announced Tuesday, even as the city has entered a new state of emergency over a rise in coronavirus cases. Biden will attend the opening ceremony on July 23 without President Joe Biden. It will be her first solo trip abroad as first lady. — AP

## COPA | AMERICA

## Messi dedicates title to Maradona

**Buenos Aires (Argentina), July 13:** Lionel Messi has dedicated Argentina's Copa America triumph over Brazil to his family, his country and also late idol Diego Maradona.

"I want to dedicate this success to my family, who have always given me the strength to continue, to my friends whom I love so much, to all the people who support us and above all to 45 millions Argentinians who have suffered so with this dreadful virus," Barcelona megastar Messi wrote on Instagram.

Argentina is approaching a 100,000 Covid-19 death toll and weeks before the start of the Copa tournament Buenos Aires refused to co-stage the event with Colombia owing to the surge in pandemic cases.

South American confederation CONMEBOL ultimately transferred hosting rights to Brazil at the last minute despite that country having seen more than half a million virus deaths, the second highest global tally after the United States. Messi, 34, also paid tribute to the memory of Maradona, who died aged 60 last November, saying that "Diego was surely urging us on wherever he is". Argentina's success over

● **Messi had been desperate to lead the side to glory after a series of disappointments both at World Cups and the Copa.**

the Brazilians in Rio was not just Messi's first major trophy for the Albiceleste but his country's first continental honour in 28 years.

Messi had been desperate to lead the side to glory after a series of disappointments both at World Cups and the Copa.

Given its battle against the further spread of the virus, Argentina has not organised celebrations to mark their title win.

After arriving back in the country on Sunday, the squad were briefly received at the country's football federation headquarters and then dispersed for a pre-season break. Despite the low-key welcome, thousands of fans took to the streets despite tight virus restrictions. "To continue to party we must continue to take care of each other — let's not forget we have a long way to go to get back to normal," Messi warned. — AFP



Players of Italy's national football team parade with the Euro 2020 trophy on a double decker bus in Rome on Monday. Italy beat England 3-2 in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw. — AP

## Never apologise for who I am: Rashford

**London, July 13:** England's Marcus Rashford said he will "never apologise for who I am" in an emotional statement after receiving racist abuse following the side's Euro 2020 final defeat. The Manchester United forward was one of three players, along with Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka, who were attacked by racist trolls after missing penalties in Sunday's 3-2 shoot-out defeat by Italy.

Rashford's England teammate Tyrone Mings criticised British Home Secretary Priti Patel, saying she had "stoked the fire" by defending those who booed players taking the knee.

Rashford has become a hero to many outside football by lobbying the British government to provide free school meals for underprivileged children during the coronavirus pandemic. "I'm Marcus Rashford, 23-year-old black man from Withington and Wythenshawe, South Manchester. If I have nothing else I have that," Rashford wrote in a statement on Twitter.

Rashford, who came on late in the second period of extra time, apologised for his penalty miss and said "something didn't feel quite right" when he came to take the kick.



Street artist repairs the mural of Marcus Rashford in Withington, Manchester, on Tuesday. The mural was defaced with graffiti in the wake of England losing the Euro final to Italy. — AP

"It's been playing in my head over and over since I struck the ball and there's probably not a word to quite describe how it feels. Final. 55 years. 1 penalty. History. All I can say is sorry. I wish it had gone differently," he wrote.

"I can take critique of my performance all day long, my penalty was not good enough, it should have gone in but I will never apologise for who I am and where I came from," Rashford wrote. — AFP

## 1983 WC hero Yashpal no more

## SHARMA: AN EPITOME OF GUTS, GLORY

**New Delhi, July 13:** India's 1983 World Cup hero Yashpal Sharma, who was admired for being a gutsy middle-order batsman at the peak of his prowess, died on Tuesday after suffering a massive cardiac arrest here.

He was 66 and is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

"Yes, Yashpal is no more with us. We just received the information from his family," a former India teammate of Yashpal confirmed.

Yashpal collapsed at home after returning from his morning walk here. He was cremated at the Lodhi Road crematorium with his former teammate Kirti Azad among those in attendance.

In his international career, Yashpal played 37 Tests, scoring 1606 runs, and 42 ODIs in which he made 883. He also picked up one wicket each in the two formats to his credit.

He was known for his gutsy attitude and his stroke-filled half century in the semifinal against England in the 1983 campaign at the Old Trafford will forever be etched in the public memory.

Former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar expressed shock at his teammate's demise. The 1983 squad had met on the sidelines of a book launch here couple of weeks ago.

"It is unbelievable. He was the fittest among all of us. I had asked him that day when we met how about his routine. He was a vegetarian, teetotaler, used to have soup for his dinner and very



guts personified.

Born in Ludhiana, Yashpal was one of those quintessential domestic workhorses who rose up the ranks right from his days as a school boy cricketer (National Schools) when he scored 260.

He was Punjab batting's superstar in 1970s, a wicket that Delhi or Mumbai were always desperate to get.

The 173 in the Duleep Trophy final for North Zone against South Zone, which had Erapalli Prasanna, B.S. Chadrasekhar and S. Venkataraghavan

particular about his morning walks. I am just shocked," Vengsarkar said.

"As a player, he was a proper team man and a fighter. I fondly remember the 1979 Test against Pakistan in Delhi (where Vengsarkar scored unbeaten 146 and Yashpal

60). We both had a partnership which helped us save the game. I knew him since my university days. Still can't believe it," he added.

He was also a national selector in early 2000s and was part of the panel which gave M.S. Dhoni his maiden India call-up

in 2004.

Yashpal was also part of the selection panel that picked the triumphant 2011 World Cup squad under Dhoni's leadership. So, from being a part of a World Cup winning to picking one that also won the trophy, Yashpal had seen it all. — PTI

WHAT THEY SAID

**Shri Yashpal Sharma Ji was a much beloved member of the Indian cricket team, including the legendary 1983 squad. He was an inspiration for teammates, fans as well as budding cricketers. Anguished by his passing away.**

— NARENDRA MODI  
Prime Minister

**Shocked and deeply pained by the demise of Yashpal Sharma ji. Have fond memories of watching him bat during the 1983 World Cup. His contribution to Indian cricket shall always be remembered. My sincere condolences to the entire Sharma family.**

— SACHIN TENDULKAR  
cricket legend

**It is unbelievable. He was the fittest among all of us. He was a vegetarian, teetotaler, used to have soup for his dinner and very particular about his morning walks. I am just shocked.**

— DILIP VENGSAKAR  
former India captain

**Shocking, this is the worst news that I have received. It is like ... 83 team is like a family, one of our family members is no more, it is so shocking.**

— BALWINDER SINGH SANDHU  
former India pacer

**Saddened by the passing away of ace cricketer & 1983 World Cup winning member Sh Yashpal Sharma. His contribution won't be forgotten.**

— ANURAG THAKUR  
sports minister

**I am deeply saddened by the demise of Yashpal Sharma. We have lost one of our cricketing heroes. His contribution to Indian cricket shall always be remembered. I extend my condolences to his family.**

— SOURAV GANGULY  
BCCI president