

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | MONDAY 12 | JULY 2021

## WEATHER



**Max:** 30°C  
**Min:** 22°C  
**Rainfall:** 6 mm

## ASTROGUIDE

**Pilava:** Aani 28  
**Tithi:** Dhuvidhiyai  
**Star:** Ayilyam  
**Rahukalam:** 7.30 am to 9 am  
**Yamagandam:** 10.30 am to 12 noon

### PRAYERS

**Fajar:** 4.27 am  
**Luhar:** 12.18 pm  
**Asar:** 3.38 pm  
**Maghrib:** 6.39 pm  
**Isha:** 7.58 pm

**SUNSET TODAY** 6.49 PM

**SUNRISE TOMORROW** 6.06 AM

**MOONRISE TODAY** 7.55 AM

**MOONSET TOMORROW** 9.38 PM

## CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+35,446)	(+691)
3,08,71,708	4,08,763

covid19india.org

### STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+2,775)	(47)
TN:25,18,786	33,418

### WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

18,75,01,030

### DEATHS

40,46,629

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

219

worldometers.info

### Chirag Paswan speaks to Lalu Yadav

**Patna:** Lok Janshakti Party leader Chirag Paswan met Rashtriya Janata Dal national general secretary Shyam Rajak on Saturday evening. The meeting comes amid the spat between Chirag Paswan and his uncle Union Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras over the claim of Ram Vilas Paswan's political legacy. Rajak's meeting with Paswan has set the speculations of Chirag joining hands with RJD high. "It was a courtesy meeting with Chirag Paswan. I went there to meet the Paswan family including Chirag Paswan," Rajak said. However, Rajak's meeting with Paswan a day after his meeting with RJD chief Lalu Yadav on Friday holds political significance. Asked whether Chirag is welcome in RJD or not, Rajak said, "All those who want to take forward the ideology of Lohia and Ambedkar are welcome, be it Chirag Paswan or anyone else."

## COUNTER

## POINT



**Now only yogis and sadhvis will be eligible to contest polls!**



## STATE | 3

**Ex-AIADMK minister 'Thoppu' joins DMK**



## WORLD | 5

**China vows retaliation as US bans firms**

## SPORT | 8

**Argentina win Copa America**



# NIA conducts raids in Kashmir valley, arrests six under UAPA

## ■ Agency books case against 'ISIS conspiracy to radicalise youth'

**YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, JULY 11**

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday conducted raids at multiple locations across Kashmir Valley and arrested six persons including head of an Islamic seminary in connection with a 'jihadi terrorism' case.

The agency said it had registered a case on June 29 this year under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, in connection with the "conspiracy of the ISIS (Islamic State) to radicalise and recruit impressionable youth in the country to wage violent jihad against the Indian state."

This comes a day after the J&K government sacked its 11 employees including two sons of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen chief Muhammad Yusuf Shah alias Syed Salahuddin on charges of being involved in anti-India activities. The Hizb chief's sons were fired based on the investigations done by the NIA in an alleged terror funding case, the government had said.

The NIA sources said

### JAMMU AND KASHMIR

**The catch:** Six persons

**The place:** Kashmir valley

**The case:** Links to ISIS conspiracy to radicalise and recruit impressionable youth in the country to wage violent jihad against the Indian state.

**Agency:** NIA

### UTTAR PRADESH

**The catch:** Six persons

**The place:** Kashmir valley

**The case:** Links to ISIS conspiracy to radicalise and recruit impressionable youth in the country to wage violent jihad against the Indian state.

**Agency:** NIA

### WEST BENGAL

**The catch:** 3 suspected operatives of banned Jamaat-ul Mujahideen

**The place:** Kolkata

**The case:** To raise funds and recruit young members for a module of the JMB.

**The agency:** Special task force of Kolkata police

Source: Police, security agencies

# 3 Bangladeshis with 'JMB links' arrested

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, JULY 11**

Three suspected Jamaat-ul Mujahideen (JMB) operatives were arrested by the Special Task Force (STF) of the Kolkata police from the south western parts of the city in a secret operation early on Sunday.

The rare catch of the JMB operatives has prompted the central and state security agencies to investigate the possibility of a sleeper cell formation by the banned terror outfit. The accused are Naziur Rahaman,

Sheikh Sabir and Rabiul Islam. All of them are from Bangladesh and belong to JMB functionary Master Zia's camp, the STF has learnt. Their job was to raise funds and recruit young members for a module of the JMB quietly, according to preliminary investigation.

Originally hailing from Gopalganj in the neighbouring country, they allegedly forged documents and entered West Bengal through the India-Bangladesh border. ■ P4

# BJP bags 'home' in Pondy ministry

**DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS PUDUCHERRY, JULY 11**

BJP's A. Namassivayam was given the home portfolio in the AINRC-led NDA government in Puducherry on Sunday.

The exercise of cabinet formation was carried out in over two months after the alliance won the polls and the cabinet members other than Chief Minister N. Rangasamy were sworn-in on June 27.

In its first representation in any cabinet in Puducherry, the BJP

bagged the prized home portfolio while the chief Minister would hold a number of portfolios, including revenue, general administration, health and family welfare and Hindu religious institutions.

Besides home, Mr Namassivayam will handle electricity, industries and commerce, education, including collegiate education, sports and youth affairs and sainik welfare. ■ P4



# India says intense fighting in Kandahar; flies out staff

**New Delhi, July 11:** India has evacuated around 50 diplomats and security personnel from its consulate in Kandahar in a military aircraft in the wake of intense fighting between Afghan forces and Taliban militants who seized control of new areas around the key city, people familiar with the development said on Sunday.

The ministry of external affairs (MEA) said the Indian consulate in

Kandahar has not been closed and it continues to operate through the local staff members.

The people cited above said the aircraft brought back the Indian diplomats, officials and other staff members, including a group of Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel, on Saturday evening as the situation around Kandahar deteriorated with Taliban fighters continuing their offensive.

It is learnt that the aircraft avoided entering the Pakistani airspace. However, there is no official confirmation about it.

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India-based personnel have been brought back for the time being in view of the intense fighting near Kandahar city and that New Delhi is closely monitoring the evolving security situation in Afghanistan. — PTI

# UP unveils policy to reduce fertility rate

**Lucknow, July 11:** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday unveiled a policy aimed at stabilising the population in Uttar Pradesh and reducing maternal and infant deaths in a time-bound manner as he termed rising population a "hurdle in development".

The Uttar Pradesh Population Policy 2021-2030, unveiled on the occasion of World Population Day, also aims at bringing down the gross fertility

rate among women to 2.1 by 2026 and to 1.9 by 2030.

A few days ago, a draft bill on population control was put up on the website of the Uttar Pradesh law commission inviting suggestions from the public till July 19.

It says people having more than two children in Uttar Pradesh will be debarred from contesting local bodies polls, applying for government jobs or receiving any kind of subsidy.



Serbia's Novak Djokovic kisses the Wimbledon trophy as he celebrates his victory over Italy's Matteo Berrettini in the final on Sunday.

— AP

## KUMAR REPLACES GOPAL AS RSS' BJP POINTSMAN

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 11**

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), it was learnt, has decided to replace its pointsman for the BJP, with Arun Kumar to succeed Dr Krishna Gopal for the post.

The decision, sources said, was taken by the RSS top brass at the ongoing meeting at Chitrakoot. Both Dr Gopal and Kumar are joint general secretaries in the Sangh. Dr Gopal, who had succeeded Suresh Soni in 2014 - the year BJP came to power at the Centre — to oversee the coordination between the BJP and the Sangh, it was learnt, had not been keeping well and had been infected with the Covid-19 twice.



## NAME TALENTED PERSONS FOR PADMA AWARDS, PM TELLS PEOPLE

**New Delhi, July 11:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to nominate their choice of persons, who are doing exceptional work at the grassroots, for Padma awards.

"India has many talented people, who are doing exceptional work at the grassroots," Mr Modi said in a tweet. "Often, we don't see or hear much of them. Do you know such inspiring people? You can nominate them for the #PeoplesPadma. Nominations are open till 15th September. http://padmaawards.gov.in," he tweeted, sharing the link of the website.

The Padma awards, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri are amongst the highest civilian awards of the country.

In the last few years, the Modi government has been honouring scores of unsung heroes with the Padma awards for their life-long contributions to the society and achievements in different fields. — PTI

# Branson enters space in his own ship, glides back home safely

**Truth or Consequences (US), July 11:** Swashbuckling entrepreneur Richard Branson hurtled into space aboard his own winged rocket ship Sunday in his boldest adventure yet, beating out fellow billionaire Jeff Bezos.

The nearly 71-year-old Branson and five crewmates from his Virgin Galactic space tourism company reached an altitude of about 88 km (53 miles) over the New Mexico desert enough to experience three to four minutes of weightless-



ness and see the curvature of the Earth and then safely glided back home to a runway landing.

"Seventeen years of hard work to get us this far," a jubilant Branson said as he congratulated his team on the trip back.

The Virgin Galactic SpaceShipTwo space plane Unity and mother-ship separate flying way above Spaceport America, near Truth and Consequences, New Mexico on Sunday

Branson became the first person to blast off in his own spaceship, beating Bezos by nine days. With about 500 people watching, including Branson's wife, children and grandchildren, a twin-fuselage aircraft with his space plane attached underneath took off in the first stage of the flight.

The space plane then detached from the mother ship at an altitude of about 13 km (8.5 miles) and fired its engine, reaching the edge of space. The entire flight

up and back aboard the sleek white ship, named Unity, took just under 15 minutes.

Branson, the flamboyant, London-born founder of Virgin Atlantic Airways wasn't supposed to fly until later this summer. But he assigned himself to an earlier flight after Bezos announced plans to ride his own rocket into space from Texas on July 20, the 52nd anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. — AP

INDIAN IN TEAM: ■ P5

Sir Richard Branson speaks on stage with other crew members, after they flew into space aboard a Virgin Galactic vessel, a voyage he described as the 'experience of a lifetime' — and one he hopes will usher in an era of lucrative space tourism. Spaceport America, near Truth and Consequences, New Mexico on Sunday. — AP





## OTHER STORIES

## To block viruses and boost immunity

**Chennai:** The second wave of the pandemic may seem to be diminishing but scientists and medical experts keep warning the public of a third wave soon. From sanitisers to masks and immunity boosters, a huge number of products hit the market in the last two years.

The ongoing pandemic is based on an airborne disease that attacks the respiratory system, causing inflammation in the nose, throat, sinuses, and lungs. The dual strategy is to block the microbial passage from the oral cavity, deactivate it and additionally modulate the gut microbiota to enhance immunity. Aliniche has launched a novel product range under the brand name of Virobind, mouth spray and AB capsules to address both strategies to handle microbial infections.

The mouth spray, which forms a barrier in the oral cavity against the accumulation of pathogens, has an enzyme with effects on symptoms of sore throat, nose congestion, common cold, and other microbial infections. The spray can be used in the early stages of infection to recover and relieve sore throat, cough, rhinorrhoea, and other common cold symptoms. The AB (Veg. capsule) is a probiotic formulation for the treatment of respiratory infections. It improves the immune response and enhances the intestinal barrier function.



## AR Rahman becomes brand ambassador

**Chennai:** Oscar, Grammy and Bafta winner AR Rahman has been roped in as the brand ambassador by a company that makes specialty coatings among a range of paints in manufacturing. Sheenlac says Rahman will promote the company's range of wood, protective, floor industrial and automotive coating products that have air purifying and self-cleaning properties. Rahman said he was glad to represent a brand that had transformed itself and grown over decades. "A R Rahman is a natural fit for our brand, which is committed to innovation, transformation, and tech adoption," said Sudhir Peter, MD, Sheenlac Paints Limited.

## MOBILE DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC TO CONDUCT RURAL HEALTH CAMPS

**Chennai, July 11:** Madras Medical Mission (MMM) inaugurated a Mobile Diagnostic Clinic (MDC) unit for cardiac screening purpose which was sponsored by Johnson Lifts. The mission behind the launch of the mobile unit is to provide easy access to cardiac facility in rural areas.

The mobile unit (Bharat Benz bus) will travel across Tamil Nadu and Kerala with an aim to provide quick diagnoses of patients with cardiac ailments and advise them on the next course of medical and surgical action.

The unit is well-equipped to provide detailed Cardiac Screening with equipment for blood investigations like random sugar, BP, ECG, ECHO and Treadmill. The camp will be held in rural pockets all over Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. M. M. Philip, Hon. Secretary, The Madras Medical Mission said, "Preventive cardiac care can help one to reduce the risks of heart disease by identifying the risk factors at an early stage and providing them with the guidance and care to improve cardiovascular health. This camp will facilitate the detection of various heart ailments, such as high blood pressure, coronary artery disease, valvular heart disease, and congenital heart disease among the general population, and patients in requirement of follow-up treatment will be treated at MMM."

The mobile unit (Bharat Benz bus) will travel across Tamil Nadu and Kerala with an aim to provide quick diagnoses of patients with cardiac ailments and advise them on the next course of medical and surgical action

## Ex-AIADMK minister 'Thoppu' joins DMK

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, JULY 11

In scenes of political enthusiasm with a few hundred supporters thronging the venue, former AIADMK minister Thoppu N.D. Venkatachalam joined the DMK in the presence of chief minister M.K. Stalin and other senior party leaders like Duraimurugan, T.R. Baalu and A. Raja on Sunday. Shifting parties on

**Venkatcahalam had served as a minister in Jayalalithaa's regime but may have fallen out of favour with her successor Edappadi Palaniswami**

Sunday was also the former MP and MLA, P.R. Sundaram of Namakkal, who like Venkatachalam comes from the western region of Tamil Nadu.

Venkatcahalam had served as a minister in Jayalalithaa's regime but may have fallen out of favour with her successor Edappadi Palaniswami.

Miffed over being denied a ticket to stand in the 2021 Assembly elections, the two-time MLA from Perundhurai constituency in Erode district, Venkatachalam stood as a rebel candidate but lost after having been expelled from the party. He changed party affiliation

along with a number of his old party cadre while promising to bring many more to the ruling DMK fold. He mentioned a figure of 25,000 cadre crossing over in a month's time.

The western region may have voted more for AIADMK+ in the Assembly polls but more defections are not to be ruled out after the verdict in the State was in favour of DMK+. 'Thopu' claims that many are waiting to cross over.



**HONOURING VETERAN POLITICO**  
Chief Minister M.K. Stalin visits DMDK leader Vijayakanth at his residence on Sunday. On hearing that Captain wished to donate to CM Relief Fund, Stalin himself went there

## Puducherry schools and colleges to reopen on July 16: CM

**Puducherry, July 11:** (PTI) After months of closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic, schools and colleges in Puducherry will reopen on July 16.

"Colleges will reopen on July 16. Schools would also reopen partially and classes for ninth to 12th standards alone would resume that day," Chief Minister N Rangasamy said on Sunday.

He was speaking to reporters after submitting to Lt Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, the list of portfolios for allocation to his newly inducted five ministerial colleagues.

The Chief Minister said the government took the decision as the situation was now improving in the Union Territory.

No Covid-19 death was reported in Puducherry on Sunday, while the number of fresh cases stood at 145.

— PTI

## Tamil Nadu got 8.62 lakh vaccine doses over weekend

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, JULY 11

Relieving a shortage of Covid19 vaccines that crippled the vaccination programme last week, the state received 3,62,410 Covishield doses on Sunday, besides a consignment of five lakh doses on Saturday night, which was sent to various districts where vaccination was stopped due to non-availability of vaccines.

The State's Department of Public Health and

Preventive Medicine had allotted 45,000 vaccines to Chennai; 24,000 to Coimbatore and the rest to other districts. According to data published by the department, 27,922 doses of vaccines were administered to take the total vaccination in the State to 1.61 crore by Saturday.

Talking to reporters, Health Minister Ma. Subramanian said that the health department was fully prepared to deal with the possible third wave of Covid19. "As part

of preparation to face the wave, oxygen production capacity of the state was built up to 900 metric tonnes. When the DMK government took office on May 7, the oxygen production in the state stood at 230 MT. In the last two months, the production has increased three fold with almost all government medical colleges and private hospitals setting up oxygen generators and concentrators considering the possible third wave", he said.

## Tiruchy SP transfers 16 cops after surprise inspection

R. VALAYAPATHY | DC  
TIRUCHY, JULY 11

Tiruchy superintendent of police P. Moorthy has ordered the transfer of 16 police personnel attached to the Lalgudi police station to the armed police wing for dereliction of duty on Saturday.

Police said Moorthy made a surprise inspection at the Lalgudi police station last night and went through the station records. He found

that registers were not maintained properly and a few of the duty police personnel were absent.

Following this, Moorthy transferred 16 police personnel including a special sub-inspector and five head constables including a woman head constable to the armed police wing, Tiruchy, and asked them to report for duty on Sunday.

Moorthy replaced the vacancies from the armed police wing.

## Loan collection staff harass women with microfinance

OP. ARULN | DC  
CHENNAI, JULY 11

Women in rural Tamil Nadu have been taken for a ride by micro finance companies offering micro-credit. As the banks are reluctant to offer loans to women self help groups, they rush to these companies.

The goal of microfinance is to give impoverished people an opportunity to become self-sufficient. However, the object of creating microfinance has been defeated as the company staff are involved in collecting the dues without fail. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown period the women were forced to repay EMIs.

S. Kalaivani of

**Collectors will abuse the woman in the presence of other members of the family and community if she defaults. Fearing such abuse, women again borrow from known persons and repay the amount regularly**

Kaveripattinam, Krishnagiri district said micro finance companies offer mini loans of ₹50,000. The staff will come to the villages to hand over the amount after deducting the first week's EMI of ₹580. They will visit every Monday for 104 weeks to collect ₹580.

A borrower ends up paying a total of ₹61,000 including interest.

Rain or shine, the company staffers reach the village to collect the amount

every week. After the amount is repaid, they will disburse similar loans to keep the women under a cycle of fear as anxiety would descend on a household when the due date nears. Women were forced to repay the amount even when they were deprived of any work during the lockdown.

S. Revathy of Cuddalore said chief minister M.K. Stalin had distributed loans and revolving funds to the women self help groups in the State when he was Deputy CM in the DMK government between 2006 and 2011. Similarly, the present government, under his leadership, should revive SHGs and distribute loans to them in a big way to protect them from loan

sharks. State Secretary, All India Agriculture Workers Union, K. Packrisamy said the microfinance companies have made the women who obtain mini credit into slaves. Once a woman takes the credit, she will not come out from the web. They have to repay EMIs whether they face any emergencies such as death at home or a natural calamity.

The collectors will abuse the woman in the presence of other members of the family and community if she defaults. Fearing such abuse, women again borrow from known persons and repay the amount regularly. As a result of such abuse, many women have attempted to commit suicide in the state.



The Victory Flame received by Indian Naval Station Kattabomman.

## 1971 war Victory Flame reaches Tirunelveli

**Chennai, July 11:** The Victory Flame, symbolising India's triumph over Pakistan in 1971 war, reached the Indian Naval Station (INS) Kattabomman near Tirunelveli on Sunday with a ceremonial guard of honour held to mark the occasion. Station Commander Captain Aashish K Sharma along with defence personnel, civil administration and veterans received the flame, an official release said here.

The Victory Flame commemorates India's victory in the 1971 Indo-Pak War and the golden jubilee cel-

ebrations to commemorate the triumph of armed forces commenced in December last year. A wreath laying ceremony and two minutes silence was observed to pay homage to the sacrifices made by the veterans, the release said.

The Victory Flame would be taken to Kanyakumari to felicitate the veterans by the district civil administration and it was also planned to take it to the houses of 1971 war heroes, including late sepoy Kasi- mani and late Naik Sangili Chelliah, who sacrificed their lives during the 1971 war.

After INS Kattabomman, the Victory Flame would be received by the Coast Guard in the presence of NCC cadets and later it would be handed over to INS Parundu.

Commemorating the Golden Jubilee celebrations in December 2020, Four Victory Flames were lit from the eternal flame of the National War Memorial and one each was being carried to the four cardinal directions through the cities and villages of 1971 war veterans and veernaris (war widows), the release added.

— PTI

## A licence to take offence at everything



R. Mohan

## Namma Chennai Diary

**I**t is an action-packed summer of sport in Europe and the Americas. It's that time of year again when sports commentators become a part of living rooms. They wax eloquent at times over great sporting moments and at most times they do try to relieve us from the tedium in prosaic passages of play. But it is in the time of banality that they tend to trip and leave themselves open to criticism. And a lot of such criticism is around because the world has changed somewhat.

It appears it's anyone and everyone's turn to take offence at what is being said publicly by persons who have a reason to speak in public to the public. The

age of political correctness may be far behind us but now it is the age of taking offence at everything. One of our own fell into this trap of having to say something when play is interrupted, as it often is for injuries, equipment check or change.

The wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik, who has been making quite an impression behind the mike in his debut season as a comments man in UK's summer of cricket, ran afoul of feminists and a host of others when he compared a bat to the 'neighbour's wife' while alluding that the latter always seemed more attractive. He had to be profusely apologetic about it after the broadcaster

was inundated with adverse comments on a sexist remark like that.

It might be said that Karthik may indeed have crossed a line when he said something that seemed funny at a moment when nothing was happening on the field save a change of bats. Locker room humour is, however, not so welcome in these days of "offendedness", which is the term Salma Rushdie invented for this modern phenomenon of taking offence at just about anything said or done in the public sphere.

The tennis legend Boris Becker found himself at the centre of a huge sexism row after describing a tennis player's fiancée as "very pretty", which indeed she was. The former Wimbledon champion said, "They do say they have the most beautiful women in Hungary" as the TV coverage cut to Márton Fucsovics's partner Annette. But Boris' fellow commentator John Inverdale may have been as guilty since he had



pointed out, "That's Fucsovics' fiancée. Her name is Annette Boszormenyi. If you're a tennis player, always good to have a partner called Annette."

Once again, let us say that they were way over the line in describing a lady thus on live TV and diversity campaign groups

descended with full fury on Becker for objectification" of women, which is what riles the women and feminists the most. The BBC had declined to criticise a light-hearted comment that was not intended to cause offence and that would have been the end if not for women critics piling on men commen-

tators for talking about what women look like.

All this had come on top of the day on which John McEnroe was pulled up for uncharitable comments about UK's latest budding tennis star Emma Raducanu. The tennis champion with a rage for perfection who was hardly the darling of the Establishment because of his predilection towards demonstrative behaviour on court and his constant run-ins with match officials, McEnroe was cruelly critical of what he saw as quitting because the player could not take the heat of competition when the national focus was on her.

Naomi Osaka, who could not stomach having to appear before the media in compulsory press conferences on days she was feeling too shy or diffident, was also dragged into it, which made it all seem so much more explosive. McEnroe was not seen apologising for his comments. Nor was Becker, known for his flamboyant lifestyle and his flings

with women, who once said that he does go borderline and sometimes over the border and that he takes chances, which is because that is who he is.

The two tennis champion-celebrities could get away with it without having to trot out a grovelling apology but poor Karthik who is just starting out on this road to fame behind a mike on television and he had to come out and say sorry. Perhaps, that was the best route out at this time when all it takes is one unguarded comment to unravel an entire career as commentator, as it happened to Dean Jones who made an unfair comment on the bearded Hashim Amla. Commentators are skating on thin ice when they stray from the banal. Such scrutiny comes as part of the baggage these days.

(R. Mohan is the Resident Editor of the Chennai and Coimbatore editions of Deccan Chronicle)



Copyright United  
Feature Syndicate  
(Asia Features)