icle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA **VISAKHAPATNAM | SUNDAY | 11 JULY 2021**



Plava: Uttarayana Tithi: Ashada Shuddha Padyami Star: Pushyami till 2.19 am (Monday) Varjyam: 9.26 am to 11.07 am Durmuhurtam: 5.06 pm to 5.58 pm Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm **HIJRI CALENDAR** Zeeqad 29,1441 AH

Asar: 5.00 pm Maghrib: 6.19 pm

MOONRISE TOMORROW 6.21 AN



more population,

TAKES

Washington: US President Joe Biden on Friday nomi-

nated Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, to be ambaswho has led country's sectransportation and sustainbeen widely seen as seeking to burnish his credentials with a new job.

4 held with heroin worth ₹2,500 cr

Kabul rushes troops to border

VIJAYAWADA, JULY 10

Deficit rainfall in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh has slowed down cultivation activity this kharif season. The north and coastal AP districts received deficit rainfall and Rayalaseema districts received excess rainfall in June month which is considered as the beginning of kharif sow-

Chittoor, Kadapa and Kurnool districts had received an average of 103.8 mm rainfall in 72.3 mm. Chittoor district June which was 43.6 mm received 98.5 mm against

AP for kharif-2021 is 38,13,859 hectares and sow-According to

received an average of 103.8 was 43.6 mm excess comtion area in 13 districts of AP for kharif-2021 is 38,13,859 hectares and sowing activity has been started in only 5,75,884

normal rainfall of 78.7 mm, Kadapa 109.3 mm against 89.2 mm. Anantapur 102.9 mm against 63.9 mm and Kurnool 104.3 mm against 77.2 mm rainfall during

June month. South coastal district received normal rainfall of

normal rainfall in June. Krishna district received 100 mm rainfall against 97.8 Guntur 81.7 mm against 88.3 mm, Prakasam 42.3 mm against 58 mm and Nellore 20.4 mm against 56.8 mm rainfall in June.

The north coastal districts received deficit rain-126.1mm. district against 123.7 mm and West Godavari district received 71.5 mm rainfall against normal rainfall of 114.7 mm

Farmers B Seetharamaiah and K Brahmaiah said irrigation water was must but the deficit rain slowed down the sowing activity. They said the sowing activity would pick up in the second half of July with the release of irrigation water in the canals and due to seasonal

■ Page 2: Deficit rain only in

WORLD 5 **EU vaccinates** 70% of adults

Aussie Barty is Wimbledon champ

SPORTS 6

TABLOID

A field day for Harleen

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Sky no limit for Sirisha Bandla

Cabinet reshuffle rumours get loud

Several YSRC aspirants hoping to get berths

MD ILYAS | DC VIJAYAWADĀ, JULY 10

Speculation is rife about a Cabinet reshuffle and many aspirants including firebrand YSRC leaders are pinning hopes on getting berths. The YSRC came into power with a mam-moth majority and there was huge competition for Cabinet berths during that time. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy decided to reshuffle the Cabinet after two-and-a-half years to give chance to others.

to give chance to others.

Recently, the BJP-led
Central government was
reshuffled as per equations
to face the elections.
Similarly, the YSRC will
rejig the state Cabinet for the next general elections to strengthen the party.

under social engineering

the Cabinet but only a few countable ministers were Jagan Mohan Reddy, to the sources, the Cabinet

concept, kept five deputy Chief Ministers' posts and reshuffle in the next three months or in December this priority to all sections in year. The sources informed his Cabinet. There was no representation of minorithat the Chief Minister was unhappy with the performance of some ministers ties in the earlier Telugu and they would be sacked Desam (TD) government but Jagan gave deputy from the Cabinet. Jagan Chief Minister's post to Mohan Reddy, in a major Amzath Basha who belongs development, stripped two to a minority community. The YSRC legislators who of his ministers of impor tant portfolios by their subhad played active roles jects from revenue to when the party was in finance department. Opposition were hoping to Registrations and stamps

being looked after by deputy CM Dharmana Krishna Das and commercial taxes department being looked after by Deputy CM K. Narayana Swamy were transferred to finance under the charge of finance Buggana minister Rajendranth Reddy.

■ Page 2: Wide debate about new Cabinet ministers

TS stops N'sagar hydel power

An artist paints a portrait of astronaut Sirisha Bandla in Mumbai on Saturday. Sirisha, the Indian-origin aeronauti-

cal engineer who was born in Guntur and brought up in Houston, Texas, will join Sir Richard Branson, Virgin

Galactic's billionaire founder, and five others on board SpaceShip Two Unity to make a journey to the edge of

AP sees bid to avoid criticism as Pulichintala was filling fast

UP: No job, sops

over 2-child law

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 10

Telangana state government has stopped hydroelectric power generation Nagarjunasagar from dam main power house with a capacity of 810 mw at about 12 noon on Saturday.

AP water resources authorities say that power generation has come down at Srisailam project as water level in the reservoir dipped to 810. 24 ft with the current storage of 34.39 tmc ft (15.94 per cent). With zero

J&K DISMISSES

HIZBUL CHIEF'S

SONS FROM JOB

YUSUF JAMEEL I DC

The Jammu and Kas-

hmir authorities on Sat-

urday sacked two sons of

Hizb-ul-Mujahideen

chief MuhammadYusuf

Shah alias Syed Sala-

huddin "in the interest of

the nation", along with

Pursuing a tough policy

against what it sees as their anti-national activ-

ities, their being in gov-

ernment service posing a

threat to the security and integrity of the country

or their violating Gove-rnment Servants Cond-

uct Rules, the Jammu

and Kashmir govern-ment has in the past

two years dismissed a

large number of its employees including teachers, revenue offi-

cials, engineers and policemen. Official

policemen. Official sources said that in the

latest spell Salahuddin's sons, and nine others

were terminated "in the

interest of the nation as per the Constitutional

nine others.

SRINAGAR, JULY 10

inflow of water into the reservoir, outflow was recorded at 6,357 cusecs.

At Nagarjunasagar dam, current water level was recorded at 530.81 ft with storage of water to the tune of 166.59 tmc ft (53.39%) against gross capacity at FRL of 312.05 tmc ft with inflow and outflow registering 1,000 cusecs each.

At Pulichinthala project, current water level was recorded at 171.03 fet with current storage of water at 39.83 tmc ft (87.02%) against gross capacity at FRL of 45.77

Lucknow.

10: Acc-ording to a draft

of the proposed popula-

tion control Bill, anyone violating two-child poli-cy in Uttar Pradesh will

be debarred from con-

testing local bodies elec-

tions, from applying for

or getting promotion in government jobs, and receiving any kind of

government subsidy.
The UP State Law
Com-mission (UPSLC)

states that the provisions are part of the draft titled the Uttar

Pradesh Popul-ation (Control, Stabili-sation

and Welfare) Bill, 2021. The UPSLC website says, "The State Law Commission, UP, is working on control, sta-

bilisation and welfare of

the population of the

state and has prepared a draft Bill."

Suggestions have been

invited from the public to improve the Bill and

July 19 is the last date.

Listing incentives for

public servants who adopt the two-child

tmc ft of water while inflow and outflow of water were recorded at 6,790 cusecs each.

At Prakasam barrage, current level of water was recorded at 57.05 ft with current storage of 3.07 tmc ft of water (100%) against gross capacity at FRL of 3.07 tmc ft of water and inflow of water was recorded at 14,024 cusecs and outflow was at 12,646

The AP water resources authorities maintain that as Pulichinthala is getting huge quantum of water and it may get filled

norm, the Bill says,

"Public servants who

adopt the two-child

norm will get two addi-

tional increments dur-ing their service, mater-

nity or as the case may

be, paternity leave of 12

months, with full salary

and allo-wances and three per cent hike in

the employer's contribu-

tion fund under national

A State Population

Fund will be constituted

for the purpose of implementation of the Act.

Listing the government's duties, the draft

Bill says that maternity

centres will be estab-

lished at all primary

health centres. The Centres and NGOs will

distribute contraceptive

pills, condoms, etc, spr-

ead awareness about family planning

health workers and

ensure registration of

pregnancies, deliveries,

births and deaths across

through

the state.

community

pension scheme.

up to the capacity as water was being released from both Srisailam and Nagarjunasagar projects for power generation by TS, the latter may have stopped power generation

from Nagarjunasagar. This may result in more water at Pulichinthala forcing the authorities to lift spillway gates and dis-charge huge quantities of water into Prakasam barrage and from there into the sea. They say that as this may lead to criticism for wasting water into the sea, TS may have stopped generation to avoid it.

AP'S IRON ORE TENDER: K'TAKA SAYS BORDER NUI DEMAKCAIED

DC CORRESPONDENT ANANTAPUR, JULY 9

A controversy has erupted over the mining department inviting tenders for mining of iron ore in D Hirehal mandal, in the western boundary region of the state, as the Karnataka government says a survey to demarcate the boundary line

remains unfinished. The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC), fully owned by the state government, invited e-tenders from experienced and competent bidders for exploration, development and operations of 25 hectares of the iron ore deposit area at H Siddapuram village in D Hirelal mandal of the district a week

The mining operations will be on a raising-cumsale-contract basis.

■ Page 2: Bidders asked to register on AP portal

Shah to empower all coops

is expected to make another

be placed in the Cabinet but missed and now, they are expecting ministries in the

According to the sources,

the CM is considering the

performance of ministers to

continue them further in

Cabinet reshuffle.

New Delhi, July 10: The government is determined to make cooperatives and all cooperative institutions more empowered, Union minister Amit Shah, who met some leading figures of the country's cooperative sector on Saturday, said.

The meeting came three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi reallocated the portfolios of his ministers in which Shah was given the charge of the newly-created Ministry of Cooperation.

Those who met the Union home minister include chairman of the National Cooperative Uni-on of India Dileep Sang-hani, the chairman and the managing director of the Indian Farmers Limited Cooperative (IFFCO) B.S. Nakai and Ù.S. Awasthi respectively

and chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) Bijender Singh. Today met @ncuicoop chairman Dileep Sanghani

ji, @IFFCO_PR chairman B.S. Nakai ji, managing director U.S. Awasthi ji and @nafedindia chairman Dr Bijendra Singh ji. Officials said even though

Shah has not yet assumed the charge of the ministry of cooperation, he has begun to meet people.

In the meeting, the minister asked cooperatives like IFFCO and KRIBHCO to work in the field of seed production using vacant land of 38,000 hectares as well as in organic farming, the NCUI said in a separate statement.

Shah also assured the delegation that the same benefits given to Farmer Producer Organisations will be provided to primary agriculture cooperatives in the country for strengthening them, it added. In the meeting, the minis

ter desired that a conference with representatives of state-level cooperatives should be organised by NCUI, IFFCO and other cooperatives for discussing confronting the cooperative movement.





30/25 ºC

ASTROGUIDE

PRAYERS (ROYAL MOSQUE) Fajar: 5.05 am

Isha: 8.30 pm SUNSET TODAY 6.36 PM **SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.29 AM MOONSET** TODAY 7.52 PM



Happy population day... more voters!

Eric Garcetti is

US envoy to India

sador to India. Garcetti. ond-largest city since 2013 with a focus on improving ability, declined to run for president last year but has

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Special Cell has arrested four men, including an Afghanand recovered a record 354 kilograms of heroin worth over ₹2.500 crore from them, officials said. The accused have been identified as Rizwan Kashmiri, a resident of Ghitorni here and native of Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir, Gurpreet Singh and Gurjot Singh, both residents of Jalandhar in Punjab and Hazrat Ali, from Afghanistan, they said.

Report on Page 4

STATE... PAGE 2 **Boat owners want** tourism to restart

WORLD... PAGE 5

MONSOON | ERRANT

Deficit rain slows down cultivation DC CORRESPONDENT excess to normal rainfall of 72.3 mm. The targeted cultivation area in 13 districts of

> ing activity has been started in only 5,75,884 hectares. Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES) on Rainfall in Andhra Pradesh, the Rayalaseema districts - Chittoor, Kadapa, Anantapur and Kurnool Anantapur, mm of rainfall in June that

THE TARGETED cultiva-

fall of 85.5 mm rainfall against Srikakulam

received 82 mm rainfall against 134.9 mm, Vizianagaram 83.4 mm against 128.4 mm, Visakhapatnam 102.7 mm against 128.8 mm, East 61.1 mm against 74.7 mm Godavari received 88.0 mm

during June.

north coastal districts

SHORT BRIEF

NEED EXPLANATION ON OBJECTIONS TO LOANS: PAC TO CM

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 10

Payyavula Keshav, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of AP Legislative Assembly, Saturday demanded the YSRC government to explain whether or not the Union Finance Ministry had taken strong objection to loans of ₹17,923 crore taken by the state

imposed. In a statement, the PAC Chairman asserted that the objections of the Centre were enough to understand how the finances and economy were crumbling under the

Jagan Mohan Reddy misrule.
"It was high time that the Chief Minister, Finance Minister and the AP Finance Department should give an explanation to the public on the Centre's letters," Keshav

3 SPECIAL OFFICERS APPOINTED FOR HOUSING WORKS

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 10

Three special officers were appointed to coordinate the construction of houses under ISR Congress government's Navaratnalu Pedalandariki Illu to complete the targets. M. Kamalakara Babu, OSD, appointed as incharge of housing pro-gramme for Srikakulam,

Vizianagaram,Visakhapatnam , East and West Godavari Districts. M. Siva Prasad, OSD appointed as incharge of housing programme for Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore Districts. P. Sree Ramulu Chief Engineer appointed incharge of housing programmes for Anantapur, Kadapa, Kurnool and Chittoor districts. These officers would supervise the housing programme with coordination of concerned District Officials and reports will be submitted to the Special CS and Managing

Director housing department.

Special Chief Secretary to Government for housing, Ajay Jain said that instructions were given to all the Joint Collectors (Housing), Project Directors Housing to concentrate on completing the construction of Houses within stipulated time. He said that the offline grounded houses are being updated in the Website and the task would be completed soon. He said that 9.95 lakh houses had been grounded during a three day gramme and now the details of 7,39,613 grounded houses were updated on the website.

MEDICOS TO MOVE HC TO PROMOTE THEM TO 2ND YEAR

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 10

First year medical students of the 2019 batch who failed to get promoted to the second year due to backlogs are to move the AP High Court seeking entry to the second year.

T. Srinivas Vishwanath, AP Medical Students Parents Association state convener, said here on Saturday that 450 students were affected. He said the students and their parents would file a petition in the HC

on Monday. He said that a delegation comprising association members met the Dr Aruna V. Vanikar, president of the National Medical Commission's UG Medical Education Board, and adviser Saxena in New Delhi recently and explained to them about the difficulties that students face while taking online classes, failure to get support

from them faculty members. He said that they also informed the NMC that the NTR University and the college managements failed to bring about awareness among the students on new pattern of exam resulting in some students lost 20 marks in each paper as they failed to answer the questions in allotted time and added that the university also made some mistakes in setting question papers. He said that some students failed to appear for the exams as they

were infected with Covid-19. He stated that the affected students and their parents met the NTR university registrar and vice chancellor and sought their intervention to allow them to appear to attend second year classes. They also took the issue to the notice of Health Minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas and others to take their issue to the notice of

the CM for his intervention.

Neta's Natter

AP's move to increase revenue boomerangs!

The Andhra Pradesh government has been trying every trick to meet its mounting expenses. However, all those efforts seem to be of no use, and, making matters worse, they also create utter confusion among the officials, resulting in further loss to the exchequer. The latest experiment that AP has undertaken is to bring the taxes and registration departments into the fold of the finance department, a practice unheard in the state administration for decades. The task has been entrusted to a secretary-level officer, N. Gulzar, which came as a shock to many officials. They are said to be wondering how such a change can improve the state finances. They feel that the move will certainly increase red-tapism as the finance department is already loaded with pending files and anything more will only add to further delays.

Babus propose, but the big boss disposes

new trend has emerged in Andhra Pradesh babudom. Officers themselves have been deciding on what posts they want to handle or at least propagating their choices of the posts. Senior bureaucrat Sameer Sharma, who is currently on Central deputation, requested Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to allow him to join the state cadre before retirement. Coming back to the state will help the officer make some monetary gains in the form of post-retire-ment benefits. The Chief Minister immediately agreed and a request was sent to the Centre to relieve him. The order of his repatriation was drafted in such a manner that it appeared that the officer was being sent back on the request of the state government and it coincided with the end of term of chief secretary Adityanath Das. Rumours started just a night before Das' retirement that Sameer Sharma will be the new chief secretary, only to subside the next day when the Centre extended the former's tenure by three months. Then came the illusionary transfer of Gandham Chandrudu as Visakhapatnam collector. He was shunted out of Anantapur recently and put in charge of the village secretariat administration. The WhatsApp group of babus received a forward message of someone congratulating him on being appointed as Visakhapatnam collector from Chandrudu himself. Some media publications even uploaded to their web editions the news of his appointment which later turned

• RUMOURS STARTED just a night before Das' retirement that Sameer Sharma will be the new chief secretary, only to subside the next day when the Centre extended the former's tenure

KTR joins foul-mouthed club

RS working president and IT minister K.T. Rama Rao, may be unwillingly, has joined the race of ranters, apparently to survive among aggressive leaders of Opposition parties. Rama Rao had carved a place for himself during the Telangana agitation and subsequently in the government led by his father K. Chandrashekar Rao. Smart, sophisticated and a go-getter, Rama Rao won the hearts of many, particularly the urban middle class and the elite. Active on social media, the minister used them to convey his views, ideas and highlight his efforts besides lending a helping hand to the needy. He has also been credited with success in developing the capital city and attracting investments. But changes in the political arena following the appointment of Congress MP A. Revanth Reddy as Pradesh Congress Committee chief and his BJP counterpart Bandi Sanjay preparing himself for a walkathon, seem to have made the minister rethink. Moreover, his father himself becoming hyperactive in the recent past turned the arc lights slightly away from the son. The two opposition leaders succeeded in drawing media and thereby public attention for, what the political analysts say, speaking to the Chief Minister in his own language. Neither the Chief Minister nor his two adversaries think for a moment to use language that puts the sophisticated lot ill at ease. Now comes Rama Rao with a verbal attack on his political adversaries whom he described as "new beggars on the street". Welcome to the club!



TS political leaders, high officials immune to rules, even for Covid

to see various ministers, MLAs, MLCs, Opposition leaders and anyone and everyone, waltzing around the city and the rest of the state without wearing the mandatory bureaucrats do not seem to care much for the orders issued by the Chief Secretary for not wearing a face mask while in a public space, punishable by a fine of Rs 1,000. Such events can be seen every day in every news bulletin on television news channels, in videos forwarded by the PROs of the ministers and MLAs and Opposition leaders, and anywhere and everywhere. The other day, a minister

Tas the Covid-19 called it a day in Telangana state? Or may be gone on a vacation? It certainly appears so if one were and a former minister held a press conference about the upcoming Bonalu festival and spoke about how Covid-19 safety guidelines conference about the upcoming Bonalu festival and spoke about how Covid-19 safety guidelines would be strictly followed to ensure safety of all those who might participate in the festivities in temples across the city. Only, neither the current minister, nor the mask while promising citizens that safety of the people was paramount for the Telangana state government. Meanwhile, the police are yet to make a single announcement of slapping a ₹1,000 fine on any minister, and the rest of the political class members. Clearly, two sets of rules are in operation in the state, one for the elite ruling class, and another for the common

Wide debate about new Cabinet

From Page 1

out to be fake.

There is widespread debate over who will replace the current ministers in the forthcoming cabinet expansion. According to sources, the positions of Ch. positions Venugopalakrishna and Sidiri Appalaraju, who became ministers in the middle after Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose and Mopidevi Venkataramana became MPs after the first Cabinet expansion, are safe for now. Apart from them, senior ministers Satyanarayana, Peddireddy Ramachandra

Reddy, Mekapati Gautham government programmes Reddy, P. Anil Kumar Yadav, Kursala Kannababu, Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao alias Muttamsetti Nani, Srinivas, Mekathoti Sucharita and Buggana Rajendranath Reddy are on the safe side.

The present situation in districts would also be considered to give chance to legislators in the Cabinet reshuffle. Opposition TD is continuously campaigning against YSRCP government from the beginning on every issue for the past 25 months, halted many

and schemes taking advantage of technical snags and but only a few ministers strongly retaliated opposition attacks hence political activeness also would be considered in view of coming elections in performance evaluation.

This time the list of leaders hoping for ministerial posts is big. According to sources, senior leader and Jagan Mohan Reddy's relative Y. V. Subba Reddy who worked as TTD chairman is seeking a minister post but the chances seem to be very low. Assembly

Speaker Sitaram is also said to be vying for a minister post. Sources further informed that Ambati Rambabu, Samineni Udaya Bhanu, Shilpa Chakrapanireddy, Granthi Srinivas, Anam Ramanarayana Venkat Talari Rao. Kalavati, Ushashree Charan, Sanjeevaiah, Kolagatla Veerabhadraswamy, Peedika Rajanna Dora, KP Parthasarathy,

Ramesh,

inflows from upstream Alla Ramakrishna Reddy and others are putting a lot of hopes to get Cabinet

Boat owners want tourism to restart

Operators had been jobless due to the pandemic

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC VIJAYAWADA. JULY 10

Private boat operators appealed to the state government to permit them to ply boats on the Godavari river to popular tourist destinations like Papikondalu and others during the ensuing festive season beginning from October.

As the state government recently launched opera-tions of AP Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) boats from Pochamma Gandi to andi to carrying Papikondalu tourists, private boat operators too want to operate their boats as they have been unable to operate their boats for nearly two years following the tragic boat mishap at East Katchuluru Godavari in September 2019, depriving their source of livelihood. Nearly 4,000 families directly or indirectly depend upon boat operations to make their living.

Nearly 60 boats and launches used to ply on the Godavari river transporting tourists and of them, about 25 boats underwent overhaul to comply with safety norms while the plying of the launches is uncertain once the Polavaram dam gets completed.

As private boat operators got registration and licence to operate them on the Godavari river from port authorities after complying with all safety norms, they want APTDC to issue no objection certificate and water resources authorities to issue route maps based on

 NEARLY 4,000 families directly or indirectly depend upon boat operations to make their living. Nearly 60 boats and launches used to ply on the Godavari river trans-

porting tourists. bathymetric survey. They also want the state government to come up with modalities to operate the boats, especially dealing with the price of tick-

At present, the APTDC is charging ₹750 per head for an adult and ₹650 for a child, including road transport, food including breakfast, lunch, tea and snacks Rajahmundry to Pochamma Gandi by road and from there to Papikondalu on the river and return to the place of

origin, between 9 am to 5 pm in a day in their AC boat. However, private boat operators want the ticket price to be fixed at nearly ₹1,200 per head assuring quality transport and food in their AC boats, given the huge burden of maintaining four crew persons with each to be paid ₹15,000 per month and other maintenance and operation costs. They allege that APTDC's big AC boat incurred nearly ₹10,000 loss for its Papikondalu trip as the ticket price is very low and they cannot afford to operate their boats by

incurring loss. They want the state government to take the initiative to promote tourism on the Godavari river especially to the Papikondalu by giving good publicity and also to

release modalities to operate the boats in the context of safety. They also come up with Covid-19 protocol to be complied with, in case the virus still prevails during October with regard to occupancy

Raja Viswanath Kumar said, "We appeal to the state government to permit private boat operators the Godavari river carry ing tourists once the flood season is over and during the commencement of festive season in October as we have been unable to operate boats for nearly two years and are facing severe financial hard-ships. We want the APTDC and private operators to enter into an MoU and operate boats together by fixing reasonable

Ramakrishna Rao said, level of water the boats to be permitted to ply on the Godavari at Sir Arthur Cotton barrage, how much to be paid for maintenance of control rooms, food to be served packed or open and fate of launches to ply on river as they are not registered with port authorities for want of overhaul for safe

boats of Singanapalli in West Godavari to Papikondalu tourists Hyderabad arrive to take darshan at Bhadrachalam temple and sail on Godavari to Papikondalu.

TS violated KRMB orders, says Sajjala

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 10

YSR Congress alleged that the Telangana government was indulging in politics on Krishna water sharing even as there were crystal clear norms.

Advisor to the government (public affairs) Ramakrishna alleged that a gover ment violated KRMB has orders and its construction of projects illegally would deprive Andhra Pradesh from getting water from Krishna River.

The YSRC conducted a virtual meeting on Saturday on AP's water rights issues and con-sumption of Krishna waters by the two states. The meeting was attended by Ramakrishnareddy, minister for water resources, P. Anil Kumar Yadav and other leaders. Speaking on the occasion, Ramakrishna recalled that Telangana Minister K

Chandrasekhar assured to cooperate in helping quench the thirst of Rayalaseema region but he was now creating obstacles to the Rayalaseema lift irrigaobstacles tion scheme. Reddy claimed that

Telangana constructed illegal irrigation projects during Telugu Desam government but the then CM N. Chandrahabu Naidu did not raise any objections despite deeksha protest by Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He recalled that AP and Telangana governments had agreed to the allotment of water but now the Telangana government is violating the norms by starting power generation using Krishna waters. He said that they would fight against the injustice meted out to AP.

Anil Kumar said that Krishna Management Board (KRMB) came into existence under provisions in Section $8\overline{5}$ of Reorganisation Act, 2014.

TUNGABHADRA DAM RECEIVES 34 TMC FT WATER FROM HEAVY RAINS

DC CORRESPONDENT

ANANTAPUR, JULY 10 In view of constant

parts of Western Ghats, the Tungabhadra Reservoir received constant inflows and TB dam reported 35.786 TMC ft capacity on Saturday. As against 1633 ft capacity,

the dam reported storage level of 1610.28 ft.

Dam authorities hoped the TB reservoir would get full storage capacity of water around August 15. A senior official from TB dam hoped to release water into the river by lifting all gates as part of I-Day celebrations, which is a tradition here.

want the government to of seats and other norms. A private boat owner

to operate their boats on rates for tickets with quality service and food."

Another boat owner, P. V.

The state government also has to decide on ply-

RAYALASEEMA STARES AT SEVERE FAMINE: SOMIREDDY

DC CORRESPONDENT KADAPA, JULY 10

Telugu Desam leader Somireddy Chandra Mohan criticised CM Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for writing letters to the Centre. This will not help Rayalaseema, which is now in a dangerous position. He wanted to know when 8.000 more than of water was flowing into the sea every day, why was he afraid to blame Chandrasekhar Rao.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday along with politburo member Reddeppagari Srinivasa Reddy (Vasu), he said it was time to go to Delhi and settle the issue, otherwise Nellore and Prakasam districts would face severe famine. He recalled that N. Chandrababu Naidu opposed Palamuru-Ranga Reddy and Dindi projects in Telangana during the apex council meeting held in 2016. He said that Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy persuaded Jawaharlal Nehru during his tenure

He questioned why Jagan was not opening his mouth even though all the important projects in Kadapa district were drying up today and the KCR government was acting in a way that would cause damage to Rayalaseema

as CM to bring in the

Srisailam project to rejuvenate the drought-

stricken Rayalaseema.

Bidders asked to register on AP portal

In the e-auction, the intending bidders were asked to register themselves with the AP e-procurement e-auction portal using valid digital signer certificate. The tender document for the e-tender can be viewed on APMDC website www.apmdc.ap.gov.in

from 02-07-2021.

https://konugolu.ap.gov.in The bidder shall upload / transaction acknowledgment along

with prequalification doc-

tal. The last date for submission of technical bid by online is July 23.

The H. Siddapuram mining area has rich iron deposits in the D. Hirehal mandal located closer to Bellary district's forest area of Karnataka.

A dispute between AP and Karnataka states over demarcation of boundary is ongoing. In view of the illicit mining activities and also because of the damage thereof to the state's boundary caused by mining companies, the

owner from Ballari, observed in his representation to the authorities that the Survey of India has demarcated Karnataka and AP interstate boundary without considering the original landmark. The original boundary was displaced

CBI had filed cases. Thereon, mining activities were stopped for a decade now in D Hirehal mandal. With the APMDC is

for about 400 metres.

inviting e-tenders for mining activities in H. Siddapuram area, more than four lakh million tonnes of rich iron ore, including a major part of it having 65 grade ore, is available. While Karnataka min-

ing companies have reportedly demanded that the state government stop mining activities because a boundary dispute existed, the central survey teams have not considered village contours demarcating the bound-

observed in his representation to the authorities that the Survey of India demarcated

has Karnataka and AP interstate boundary without considering the original landmark. The original boundary was displaced for about 400 metres from the original line, due to illegal mining activities.

Sources in the mining department observed that the e-tender process was done as per norms without any violation.

From page 1

DEFICIT RAIN RECORDED ONLY IN

THE NORTH COASTAL DISTRICTS

State Agriculture Mission vice-chairman M.V.S. Nagi Reddy said cultivation and sowing works began in the second week of July and would continue till the end of July. He said there was deficit rainfall only in the north coastal districts and the rest of the state received good rainfall and Rayalaseema received excess rainfall which was a good sign.

IMD Amaravati director

IMD AMARAVATI director S. Stella said from July 8 there would be seasonal rainfall in almost all districts.

rainfall in almost all districts and a low pressure would be formed in the West Central Bay which would give good rainfall for north coastal Andhra. She added that there would be normal rainfall in all the districts according to weather reports in S. Stella said from July 8 the coming days.

there would be seasonal

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బందుమూలంగా యావన్మందికీ తెలియజేయున మనగా, మాక్షయింటు త్రీ బందారు త్రీనివాసరాశ

Anandapuram, Vizag.

BHOGAPURAM

IN BRIEF

TRAINS TO ARAKU. **TIRUPATI TO RUN FROM JULY 15**

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 10

The railways has, on Saturday, decided to restart the opera-tions of key trains including Vizag-Araku and Vizag-Tirupati keeping in view the demand from the passengers, from July 15.

The trains include 08528/27 Vizag-Raipur daily-Vizag will be operated from July 15, while train 08516/15 Vizag Araku-Kirandul-Vizag 08561/62 Vizag-Kacheguda-Vizag, 07488/87 Vizag-Kadapa-Vizag, and 02831/32 Vizag-Lingampalli-Vizag will be operated from July 15.

AP REGISTERS 2,925 NEW CASES, 26 DEATHS

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 10

Andhra Pradesh registered 2,925 new Covid-19 cases with 26 deaths in the last 24 hours.

The state health authorities reported on Saturday that out of 95,366 samples tested, 2,925 people were infected with Coronavirus. Out of 2,28,94,611 samples tested so far, 19,20178 persons were infected with the virus and of them, 18,77,930 were recovered while 29,262 are still active with the infection.

Among the daily cases, East Godavari reported the highest at 611 followed by 414 in Chittoor, 361 in West Godavari, 260 in Prakasam, 250 in Krishna, 211 in Guntur, 199 in Nellore, 180 in Kadapa, 139 in Visakhapatnam, 117 in Kurnool, 84 in Anantapur, 67 in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram.

East Godavari topped the state with highest number of cumulative active cases at 4,771 followed by 4,396 in Chittoor, 3,273 in West Godavari, 3,341 in Prakasam, 2,819 in Krishna, 2,599 in Nellore, 2,230 in Guntur, 1,802 in Srikakulam, 1,265 in Visakhapatnam, 1,090 in Kadapa, 652 in Anantapur, 546 in Kurnool and 478 in Vizianagaram.

With regard to the daily deaths, Chittoor and Krishna reported five each followed by four in East Godavari, two each in Kurnool, Nellore, Sri-kakulam and Vizianagaram and one each in Kadapa, Prakasam, Visakhapatnam and West Godavari, raising the death toll to 12,986.

FILM CRITIC KATHI MAHESH PASSES AWAY

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 10

Film critic and actor Kathi Mahesh, 43, passed away while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Chennai on Saturday evening.

Mahesh met with an accident while travelling in a car, with his friend at the wheel, suffering injuries to his head and eyes. He was on his way to his native place in Chittoor district on June 26 when the accident occurred. His friend escaped with minor injuries Mahesh was admitted in a local hospital and later shifted to a private hospital in Chennai for better medical care.

Mahesh gained popularity in the last few years for his sharp reviews of Telugu films and at times, he faced online spat from fans of actors. He acted in films like Hrudaya Kaleyam, Kobbari Matta, Krack and others. He also appeared as a contestant on season one of popular show Bigg Boss Telugu hosted by actor Junior NTR.

He found himself in controversies frequently. He faced trouble for his remarks on Lord Rama and Sita from religious institutions and the police had to exile him from Hyderabad in July, 2018 as his remarks could cause social unrest. Though he received flak for his remarks from several people and reli-gious heads, he got support from those who believed that freedom of expression of the

citizens should not be breached. The Andhra Pradesh government released ₹17 lakh to provide medical treatment to Mahesh recently from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Mahesh had openly appreciated various programmes of YSRCP government and even took part in the campaign in support of party nominee Dr Gurumoorthy in Tirupati Lok Sabha bypoll. He also took part in a dharna organised by YSRCP at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi with a demand for according special category status to AP.

was a popular Mahesh Dalit activist and a staunch critic of Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan.

Fish aplenty



Birds flock to the overflowing Prakasam Barrage which is filled with fish from the upstream, in Vijayawada on

Sudden slump in oil palm prices shocks farmers

Rate of fresh fruit bunches fall from ₹19,100 per tonne to ₹16,300

VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC KAKINADA, JULY 10

Oil palm farmers in West Godavari expressed concern over the sudden slump in the rate of fresh fruit bunches (FFB) from roughly ₹19,100 per tonne to ₹16,300 per tonne within a month due to the fall in international prices. The rate of oil palm bunches is fixed on the formula based on the international prices by the governments.
Oil palm farmers in

West Godavari district alleged that the compa-nies had deceived them by not giving minimum support price (MSP). The farmers under the purview of the process-

ing unit at Jangareddygudem complained that the company was deceiving them and they were paid ₹19,100 per tonne in June, but now they were only getting ₹13,500 per tonne after reduction of 'ad hoc

CREDAI WELCOMES POSTPONING OF REVISION IN LAND VALUES

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 10

Confederation of Real Estate Developers Associations of India (CREDAI) has welcomed AP government's decision to postpone revision of land values in the state.

However, CREDAI AP chairman

Venkataramaiah, president A. Raja Srinivas and general secretary K. S. C. Bose reiterated that government must also reduce stamp duty because construction sector is in a slump due to Coronavirus pandemic, which started in the beginning of 2020.

They said it will take quite some time to recover from the effect Covid-19-induced lockdown has had on the construction industry. Reduction in stamp duty fee will help not only the construction sector but people of entire Andhra Pradesh.

They recalled that on June 29, CREDAI had submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and revenue minister Dharmana Krishnadas seeking cancellation of market value revision, which takes place in

August every year. They thanked the CM and revenue minister for postponing the revision in land values. However, they asked the state government to reduce stamp duty too. They pointed out that reduced stamp duty will increase revenue to the state government by boosting realty activities and construction industry in the state which, in turn, will lead to more property

registrations. • THEY SAID it will take quite some time to recover from the effect Covid-19-induced lockdown has had on the construction industry.

• WHEN ASKED about these allegations, the company representatives gave clarification that the prices were fixed by the government and in June, the farmers were paid on the basis of May prices.

They were not even getting the harvesting cost, the farmers complained. They also alleged that the company representatives rejecting many fresh fruit benches as unripe and not fit for extraction.
Andhra Pradesh Rythu

Sangham District Secretary K. Srinivas said the prices of FFB were ₹19,100 in June, and in July, the prices had been reduced to ₹16,300. He said that further the company had given training to labourers on the fruit which they should cut after ripening. But now, the company employees were rejecting most of the FFBs and it was a great loss to the

When asked about these allegations, the company representatives gave clarification that the prices were fixed by the government and in June, the farmers were paid on the basis of May prices.

"The government will announce the present month prices next month. We will make payments as ad hoc advance to the farmers to their crop. In this case, the farmers have been paid in June based on the month prices. But the government announced ₹16,300 and so in July for June month prices. If there had been an increase, they would have paid the balance to the farmers. If any slump in the prices, balance deducted during the payment to the farmsaid Navabharat

Manager Rajagopal.

About the unripe fruits, he said that the company had provided training to labourers by giving stipends to them so that the farmers should not incur losses, he said.

If the farmers encouraged the cutting of unripe-fruit, it would not be made use of either the company or the farmer. Not only that, the farmer should bear additional expenses. If he cut the ripening fruit, the weighing can be increased and it would profit them, he said and added that the government increased the 'oil extraction rate' to 18.68 per cent from 16 per cent. The farmers will get 75 per cent of participation rate on 18.68 per cent rate. Nearly 20 lakh tonnes

of palm oil fruit is being purchased from nearly .52 lakh palm oil gardens in West Godavari



Students and women from various sections of life take part in the seminar on Disha Duty Policies towards Women's Safety organised by AP Police at AU Convention Centre on the beach road in Visakhapatnam on Saturday.

Disha court in every district, says DGP

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 10

Director general of police Gautam Sawang said Disha courts would be established in every district of the State as the government has been giving top priority to women security. Addressing a seminar

on awareness on the Disha App held in Visakhapatnam on Saturday, the DGP said Mahila Mitra committee would also be set up in every police station to widen the network.

global He said Disha App has been created as per the betaken to the village level, the DGP said every

Gautam Sawang

evidence in the court.

standards and every audio and video would be treated as an Stating that the awareness programmes would responsibility of explaining the importance of the App to the women in their vicinity. He said a large number

women have been taken into the police force and recently 15,000 women have been appointed to the village and ward secretariats. However, Mahila Mitras would not be treated as employees as they would serve as representatives.

He said that 31,100 FIRs have been registered months and that cases were being resolved at an impressive pace.

Longing for son, man kills daughter

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 10

Frustrated for not having male children, a man killed his two-year-old daughter and injured her older sister in a ghastly incident that took place in Jodimamidivalasa village under Salur mandal in

Vizianagaram district. Reports said the man banged his two daughters against the wall as he was angry at his wife for not

younger daughter died on the spot and the older suffered injuries in the incident. The deceased was identified as K. Pravani (2) and the injured girl K. Siri, who was admitted to a hospital. The accused was identified as K. Prasad. The police said that Prasad, a daily wage worker, married Lakshmi six years ago. He was fond of having sons but the couple had two daughters.

giving birth to a son. The

MOHAN BABU **OFFERS EDU. TO** HAVALDAR'S KID

CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, JULY 10

In a laudable gesture, actor Mohan Babu offered free education to the daughter of a Havaldar, who sacrificed his life for the country, after 18th regiment Commanding Officer Colonel O.L.V. Naresh wrote to him about the plight of the family.

AP offers 100% tax exemption to EVs

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 10

The state government supports eclectic vehicles (EVs) by offering 100 per cent road tax exemption while the Union government offers nearly 30 percent of the subsidy on the purchase of EVs, said Ravneet Singh Phokela, the chief business officer

of Ather Energy.

Speaking to *DC* on the sidelines of launching Ather's 12th outlet in the city on Saturday, Phokela said that electric motor scooters contribute nearly 40 per cent share in the country's motorcycles by the next five years.

They would open a second outlet in Vijayawada in the state. The vehicle's manufacturing unit is based in Tamil Nadu, their company can open manufacturing units in Andhra Pradesh too if the situation demands.

'The Andhra Pradesh government has introduced several policies to encourage faster adoption and manufacturing of electric vehicles in the state. The state government offers various subsidies for customers like a 100 per cent road tax exemption for newly-purchased EVs. Andhra Pradesh's EV policy supports every aspect of electric mobility and is focused on accelerating the adoption of EVs, Phokela said.

have to depend on electric director

Mines official rules out illegal mining of bauxite in Vizag

DC CORRESPONDENT

Mines principal secretary Gopala Krishna Dwivedi ruled out any illegal mining for bauxite in Visakhapatnam district and said that mining for laterite was permitted at Nathavaram mandal in

He told the media on

out of six leased out areas for mining of laterite, no mining took place in five areas. He said that mining of

TRADE UNIONS **TAKE OUT HUGE RALLY FOR VSP**

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 10

In the intensifying agitation against the privatisa-tion of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, several trade unions took out a massive rally in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. The rally was taken out from Saraswati Park to Gandhi and culminated into a public meeting.

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good interio **CLEARANCE SALE** FACTORY SECONDS The next generation will

vehicles since the rising cost of fuel prices and other reasons force the people to adopt electric vehicles as an alternative and best option for mobility on the public roads, SN Auto managing

VIJAYAWADA, JULY 10

the district.

Saturday that out of six areas leased out for mining for only laterite in the district, the lease period was over for one leaseholder and no mineral was found. No mining was taken up by two leaseholders. In two leased out areas in the names of Singam Bhavani

and Lovaraju, illegal mining of 2.3 lakh tonnes of laterite was found during the inspection and ₹19 lakh penalty was imposed on two leaseholdinspection ers and the illegal mining was stopped. No mining was taken up

in two more areas leased out areas for want of road connectivity. He said that

laterite was being taken up in Nathavaram leased out area in the district and it was confirmed by both Geologial Survey of India and Indian Bureau of

EAST COAST RAILWAY

22-WC-4, Dt.: 06.07.2021 Name of the Work : RATE REPAIR CONTRACT FOR COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF 1.5/2 TON WINDOW ACS, SPLIT ACS & WATER COOLERS AT VISAKHAPATNAM SETTLEMENT IN WALTAIR DIVISION FOR

Tender Value : ₹ 37,00,892.40, Cost o tender document; 3,540/-, Completion Period;

04.08.2021, Date & Time of opening of tenders: at 1600 hrs. of 04.08.2021. Manual offers are not allowed against this ender and any such manual offer received

Complete details & tender documents will be lable at website www.ireps.gov.in

బందారు అప్పలనాయుదు, బ్లాక్ నెం. 101, బాలాజీ నగర్,

ప్లైట్ నెం. 101, బాలాజీ నగర్, పెందుర్ర్లు విశాఖపట్నం బస్టీ వాస్తవ్యలు ఈ దిగువ షెడ్యూలు దాఖలా ఆస్టిని త్రమత్ గుదెన పుష్పారావు, Wo. జి.జె.రావు, దోల్ నెం. 8–3–1జి, దాక్టర్స్ కాలనీ, ఏ.యు. అవుట్ గేట్, పెదవాల్రేరు, వీళాఖపట్నం ప్రస్తుతం అమెరికా నివాస్ నుండి నా క్షయంలు కొనుగోలుచేయుటకు సంసిద్ధులైయున్నారు. సదరు ఆస్టిపై లోకులుఎవరికైననూ తనఖాలుగాని, క్రయ అగ్గమెంట్లు గాని, కోర్టు దావాలుగాని మరే విధమైనటువంటి లావాదేవీలుగాని, అభ్యంతర ములుగాని, ఆక్షిపణలుగాని ఉస్తయెదల ఈ ప్రకటన తేది లగాయతు 7 రోజుల లోపు ఈదిగువ చిరునామాకు లిఖితపూరుకముగా తెలియపరవ చిరునామాకు లిఖితపూర్వక్రముగా తెలియపర: గలరు. లేనియెదల సదరు ఆస్త్రి నిర్వివాదమై ఆస్టిగా నా క్లయింటు భావించి రిజిష్టర్ను క్రయమ పొందుదురు. ఆతదుపరి వచ్చు అభ్యంతరములు ఇక్షేపణలు నా క్లయింటు హక్కులను ఏవిధము

బంధింపజాలవు.

పెడ్చూలు ఆర్టీ: విశాఖపట్నం జిల్లా, అనందపురం సబురిగి యిలాకా, గంభీరం పంచాయితీ, కళ్ళివాని పాలెం (గ్రామం తాలూకు, సర్వే నెం.174/4, 196/2, 198/1, 174/48, 196/23, 198/13 ర్లులో చేరినట్టిన్ని VUDA వారిచే యల్.మీ. నెం. 42/94 గా ఎట్టూవల్కకాబడిన ఈస్ట్ పిరిడి సాయి లే–అవుట్ దాఖలా ప్లాటు నెం. 33, 39 ర్లు కలిగిన 600 చగగులు లేక 501.678 చూమిగలు మేర్వరం కలిగిన ఖాళీ స్థలమునకు హద్దులు: తూర్పు: షాటు నెం.34, 40ర్హ, డక్రిణం: 33తిగల రోద్య, పడమర: నెం. 34, 40ర్లు, దక్షిణం: 33త్వుల రోడ్డు, పదమర ప్లాటు నెం. 32, 38 ర్లు, ఉత్తరం: 40 త్వుల రోడ్డు

S.S. REDDY, D.S. RAMARAJU



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Stream SX: Students enrolled in/planning to join XII standard (Science Subjects) during the academic year 2021-22 and aspiring to join an undergraduate program in basic sciences (B.Sc./B.S./B.Stat./ B.Math./Int. M.Sc./Int. M.S.) during the academic year 2022-23.

Stream SB: Students enrolled in/planning to join First Year B.Sc./B.S./B.Stat./B.Math./Int. M.Sc./Int. M.S. in basic sciences during the academic year 2021-22.

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GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WAS SHORT TENDER NOTICE he GVMC is inviting sealed tender from Firms (-or-) Printing Agency for Clean Andhra Pradesh (CLAP) Awareness ampaign in GVMC following) Tender Notice No : E.file No.250143/2021/F2/CMOH/SBM 2) No of Works : 4 Est Value : 7,75,090/-) Name of Works: Clean Andhra Pradesh (CLAP) Awareness campaign 4) Tender Schedule cost : Rs.1,000/i) Tender Schedule will be issued: From 11-07-2021 to 17-07-2021 upto from 10.30 AM to 5.00 PM 6) Date of receipt of tender schedule: 19-07-2021 from 10.30 AM to 3.30 PM 7) Tender opening date and time: above : 19-07-2021 at 5.00 PM The interested parties can obtain further information on purchase of Tender Schedule in all working days from the O/o the CMOH Section, GVMC rom 10.30 AM to 5.00 PM. The terms and conditions are detailed in Tender Schedule. The Commissioner, GVMC has right to reject or cancel tender vithout assigning any reason thereof. For Commissioner

MECHANICAL SECTION

'e' Procurement Tender Notice No.51/
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MECHANICAL SECTION

MECHANICAL SECTION e' Procurement Tender Notice No.16/ 2021-22/EE-VIII / DB/ Dt:07-07-2021 02 Nos 07-07-2021 @ 08.00 PM 14-07-2021 @ 02.30 PM Procurement Sh.T.N.No.18/2021-22/ IE-VI / DB, Dt.07-07-2021 (7 DAYS) (3rd Call) 136.36 Lakhs Bheemili Zone Sh.T.N.No.102021-22E.E-I/DB, Dt.08-07-2021 4 Nos 08-07-2021 @ 05.00 PM 28-07-2021 28-07-2021 Price Bid 98483 @ 02.00 PM @ 03.00 PM 30.072021 @4 PM 08824

SHORT TAKES

NIA RELEASES LIST OF 20 WANTED NAXALS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC **RAIPUR. JULY 10**

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), probing the killing of the local BJP MLA Bheema Mandavi in Chhattisgarh's south Bastar district of Dantewada in April, 2019 by Maoists, on Saturday released a list of 20 wanted

Naxals in the case. The premier probe agency has issued a list of 20 Maoists including Nambala Keshav Rao alias Gaganna alias Basavraj, Kottam Sudarshan alias Anand alias Mohan and Madvi Hidma, the commander of battalion number one of CPI (Maoist), declaring different bounties on them.

NIA has declared a reward of ₹10 lakh each on Basavraj and Mohan, while a bounty of ₹7 lakh has been announced on Hidma.

Basavraj Barring Mohan, all the Naxals figured in the wanted list of NIA in the killing of the Dantewada MLA, have been active in insurgency-hit Bastar.

The NIA filed a chargesheet in the case in the NIA court in Jagdalpur in Bastar in March, 2020, naming 33 people as accused. Six of them have so far been arrested.

AYURVEDA DOYEN DR P.K. WARRIER **DIES AGED 100**

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 10

Doyen of ayurveda medicine Dr P. K. Warrier died at his resin Kottakkal in Malappuram district on Saturday. He was 100.

Warrier who popularised ayurveda globally, had celebrated his 100th birthday on June 8. He was also honoured by the nation with Padma Bhushan in 2010 and Padma Shri in 1999.

He became the trustee of the Aryavaidya Sala, one of the leading Ayurveda Healthcare chains in the country, at the age of 24 and remained its

managing trustee till death. Dr Warrier made huge contribution to ayurveda sector and initiated several measures to make the alternative system of medicine accessible to the common masses. He also focused on extensive research and drug standardisation.

Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi expressed deep condolences over Warrier's death. "Saddened by the passing away of Dr P. K. Warrier. His contributions to popularise ayurveda will always be remembered. Condolences to his family and friends," Mr Modi tweeted.

Chief Minster Mr Pinarayi Vijayan said Warrier brought principles of ayurveda to the grassroots level. He was known for his secular and progressive ideas.

D.K SHIVAKUMAR SLAPS MAN FOR EMBRACING HIM

Bengaluru: Karnataka Congress President D. K. Shivakumar on Saturday allegedly slapped a man who attempted to put his arms around him, drawing criticism from the BJP and on social media.

In the video that has since gone viral, Shivakumar can be seen getting irritated by the action of the man, who tried to get close to him and pace along with him.

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee Chief, who appeared to lose cool, can then be heard telling the man. said to be a party worker: "...you should be responsible....", before asking cameramen present there to delete the footage

The incident took place during his visit to the district headquarters town of Mandya to inquire about the health of ailing veteran leader, former Minister and MP G Made Gowda.

Tweeting the video of the incident, BJP national General Secretary C. T. Ravi, asked Congress national leader Rahul Gandhi whether he had given "licence for violence" to Shivakumar, whom he referred to as a follower of Kotwal Ramachandra, one of the underworld dons of Ben-

galuru in the 1970s and 1980s. "Karnataka Congress President @DKShivakumar Slaps his party worker in full public view. If this is how the 'former shishya" of Kotwal Ramachandra treats his party worker, one can imagine what he would do with Others, Have you given DKS the "licence for violence", @RahulGandhi?"

he asked.

LA Mayor is US envoy to India

Los Angeles Mayor nominated by Biden to replace Kenneth Juster if confirmed

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs

United States President Joe Biden has nominated Los Angeles city mayor Eric M. Garcetti as the next US ambassador to India. If confirmed by the Senate, Mr Garcetti, 50, would replace Kenneth Juster, who served as the US ambassador to India during the Trump administration.

Mr Juster's term had ended a few months ago. In between, after his departure, the US had appointed Daniel Smith as

People's plight

New Delhi and after his appointed senior career diplomat Atul Keshap — who is of Indian origin — as the CdA to head the US embassy in India.

Announcing the nomination along with several other ambassadors, the White House said Eric M. Garcetti has been the mayor of the City of Los Angeles since 2013, following 12 years as a member of the City Council, including six as Council President.

As Mayor, Garcetti oversees the busiest container appointed Daniel Smith as Chargé d'Affaires (CdA) to head the US embassy in port in the Western Hemisphere, the largest municipal utility in the



Eric M. Garcetti

country, and one of the busiest airports in the

He led LA's successful bid to return the summer Olympic Games American soil for the first time in three decades. He currently chairs LA

Metro, the country's secwhich is building or extending 15 new transit lines, and shifting to an all-electric fleet.

Mr Garcetti, a Rhodes Scholar, had earlier spent 12 years as an intelligence officer in the US Navy Reserve Component and had served under the US Defence Intelligence Agency.

Mr Garcetti co-founded Climate Mayors and led more than 400 US mayors to adopt the Paris Climate Agreement.

He is the current Chair C40 Cities a network of 97 of the world's biggest cities taking bold climate action and has led the

organisation's India as well as C40's global response to the Covid-19 pandemic through the sharing of best practices and resources.

A Rhodes Scholar, he studied at Queen's College, Oxford and the School London Economics and Political Science. Garcetti was selected as an inaugural Asia 21 Fellow of the Asia Society, and taught at Occidental College's Department of Diplomacy and World Affairs, as well as at the University of Southern California's School International

Relations.

WHO to decide on Covaxin inclusion within 4-6 weeks

New Delhi, July 10: The World Health Organisation (WHO) is likely to take a decision on including Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin in the emergency use list (EUL) within four to six weeks, Soumya Swam-inathan, the global health body's chief scientist has

Speaking at a webinar organised by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on Friday, Ms Swaminathan said the WHO is reviewing Covaxin as its manufacturer Bharat Biotech is now uploading its entire data on the health body's portal.

According to WHO guidelines, EUL is a procedure to streamline the process by which new or unlicensed products can be used during public health emergencies.

"There is a process to be followed for EUL and pre-qualification of vaccines under which a company has to complete phase 3 trials and submit the whole data to the regulatory department of WHO which is examined by an expert advisory group, Ms Swaminathan said.

"The completeness of the data, which includes safety and efficacy and also the manufacturing quality, standard is provided. So, I expect that Bharat Biotech already submitted data and in four to six weeks there will be a decision on inclusion," Swaminathan added.

At present, the WHO has approved vaccines by

INDIA RECORDS 42,766 NEW **COVID-19 CASES**

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI JULY 10

India on Saturday recorded 42,766 fresh cases and 1,206 fatalities, taking the total Covid-19 death toll to 407,145. With 455,033 active Coronavirus cases, India's share of global active cases now stands at 3.82 per cent (one in 26) and it is the fourth most affected country in the

Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla on Saturday sounded a note of caution against the blatant disregard of Covid-appropriate behaviour at hill stations and other tourist locations, stressing that the second wave of the pandemic is not yet over.

Amid the huge influx of tourists in Uttarakhand, newly-appointed chief minister of the state. Pushkar Singh Dhami, on Saturday said that the state government has issued an order restricting occupancy of hotels in Nainital and Dehradun, the two most visited tourist places in the state.

Pfizer/BioNTech, Astrazeneca-SK Bio/Serum Institute of India, AstraZeneca EU, Janssen, Moderna and Sinopharm for emer-

India, Georgia to work jointly

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC

Becoming the first Indian Foreign Minister to visit the strategically-located Caucasus nation of Georgia after its inde-pendence three decades ago, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar held talks with the Georgian leader-ship, even as India made a major goodwill gesture by permanently handing over a part of the Holy Relics of the revered 17th century martyred Georgian Queen St. Ketevan that had been preserved

in Goa for centuries. The move, on the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has generated enormous goodwill for India in the Caucasus nation that borders Pakistan's friend Turkey, estranged neighbours Armenia and Azerbaijan as well as India's time-tested friend

bled relations with Russia that has been viewed with

But it is Georgia's trou-

a lot of interest by foreign policy watchers. Georgia claims that 20 percent of its territory comprising the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia has been illegally occupied by Russia. It is an issue on which India is expected to tread carefully, given New Delhi's close ties with Moscow, even though Georgia is understood to have thanked India for "strong and steadfast support" for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Georgia was part the erstwhile Soviet Union that broke up in

After talks on Saturday with both Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili and Deputy PM and Foreign Minister David Zalkaliani, EAM Jaishankar said, "I come here in a sense with a sacred purpose".

SHIVRAJ, NATH

Police personnel detain Youth Congress activists during their agitation outside Governor House to protest against hike in the fuel and LPG prices in Kolkata, on Saturday. **ANANTNAG GUNFIGHT: 3 Let MILITANTS KILLED**

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR JULY 10

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday said that it along with the Army and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) killed three Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) militants in a fire fight that broke out in southern Anantnag district earlier during

The police claimed that one of the slain militants was involved in the murder of a Territorial Army (TA) soldier in June 2019.

It said that the fighting broke out in Kawarigam village of Anantnag's Achabal area following a cordon-and-search operation was launched jointly by its counterinsurgency Operations Group (SOG), the Army's 19 Rashtriya Rifles and the CRPF to flush out mili-

The J&K police and Army officials said that when the joint teams zeroed in on the suspected hideout of the militants they opened fire, triggering the gun

BJP claims win in UP local polls

Lucknow, July 10: Uttar BJP in the polls to the Pradesh Chief Minister posts of block and district All party Yogi Adityanath on Saturday claimed victory in the polls for the posts of the block panchayat chief, amid allegations of violence by the opposition parties.

The Opposition has slammed the state government over incidents of violence in the run-up to the polls. Reports of clashes had surfaced from several areas of the state with allegations that candidates backed by opposition parties were not allowed to file nomination

However, claiming an outstanding show by the

per cent seats went in favour of the ruling

Terming the success an outcome of the team work, the chief minister said the BJP and its allies bagged 635 of 825 seats of block panchayat chief on Saturday.

Meanwhile, lauding the BJP's win in the elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted that the "big victory" is a reflection of the benefits people have received due to the Yogi Adityanath government's policies and pro-

All party workers panchayat chiefs, deserve congratulations Adityanath said almost 85 for this win, he said.

ission for the peaceful and fair polls. Conducting such a mas-

election process fully, in a state sive peacefully, in where democracy was mortaged before profescriminals and mafia on the basis of caste religion and sect, is praiseworthy, he told reporters at the BJP headquarters here.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday congratulated Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath and other BJP leaders for the party's victory in the elec-tions to posts of block and The CM also praised the district panchayat chiefs state Election Comm- and said it happened due to people's faith in the state government's welfare programmes.

Adityanath said almost 85 per cent seats in the polls went in favour of the ruling BJP. "This grand victory of @BJP4UP in the Uttar Pradesh block chief election is a result of the public's faith in the welfare policies of the Yogi government under the guidance of Prime Minister @narendramodi Shah said

AIKSCC: Maha govt betrayed farmers

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, JULY 10

Farmers' union All India Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) of Maharashtra on Saturday alleged that the MVA government has betraved the farmers by bringing three amendment bills in connection with the central farm laws. Despite giving assurance of passing a resolu-

revocation of all the farm laws, the MVA government has acted under pressure from the corporate lobby and the Union government, the AISKCC said. Dr. Ajit Nawale of the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) said that if the state government did not stop from implementing the proposed three bills, the farmers would protest in farmers' body can give Mumbai on the lines of their suggestions to the

Meanwhile,

rashtra agriculture minister Dada Bhuse denied the allegation that the state government is working under anyone's pressure. The bills were drafted after several rounds of discussion and delibera-tions, he said. "Accordingly, the bills were tabled in the state Assembly. The proposed bills," the minis-

Earlier in this week, the MVA government in Maharashtra had introduced three amendment bills in the assembly in connection with agriculture, cooperation and food and civil supplies, in a move to counter contentious farm laws enacted by the Union Government that are facing stiff opposition from farmers in the Country.

for higher than MSP rate for produce in farming agreement with traders. timely payment of dues and three-year jail term or Rs 5 lakh fine or both for harassment of farmers. It has also provisions to give power to the state government to regulate and prohibit production, supply, distribution and impose stock limits on essential

RIVALRY SPILLS TO RAJ BHAVAN RABINDRA NATH

CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JULY 10

A day after Leader of Opposition (LOP) Kamal Nath met governor Mangubhai Chaganbhai Patel here to draw his attention to 'deteriorating' law and order situation in Madhya Pradesh, chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday invited the latter for dinner at his official residence, taking his political rivalry with the Congress veteran to the Raj Bhavan.

Mr Chouhan visited the governor at the Raj Bhavan in the morning to extend his invitation for dinner at his official residence in Shyamla Hills here. Although, the dinner hosted for the governor is termed as a gesture of courtesy' and 'purely apolitical', sources said the chief minister was likely to apprise the governor of achievements of his government. The governor may be apprised of the law and order situation in the state on the sidelines of the occasion,

sources said.

DRUG | PEDDLING | Afghan national among four arrested, 354 kg of drugs recovered Delhi cops seize heroin worth over ₹ 2,500 cr

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, JULY 10

The Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested four persons, including an Afghan national, and recovered a record quantity of 354 kg Afghan heroin worth over ₹2,500 crore in international markets, officials

said on Saturday. The accused have been identified as Rizwan Kashmiri, a resident of Ghitorni and native of Anantnag Singh

dents of Jalandhar in Punjab, and Hazrat Ali, a native of Kandahar in Afghanistan, they said.

Police said that recently it came to notice that Rizwan Kashmiri was involved in drug peddling in Delhi and other states like Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana.

"On Monday, information was received that Kashmiri was going to deliver contraband in south Delhi's Ghitorni area. Thereafter, a trap was laid and the accused

was arrested when he was going to deliver a packet of one kilogram of heroin," deputy commissioner of police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah

Kashmiri revealed that he works under the command of an Afghan national Isha Khan who recently left India for Afghanistan. Khan directed him to contact Gurpreet and Gurjot who were currently operating a drug racket from Faridabad Sector-65 in Haryana, the

At the instance of Kashmiri, Gurpreet and Gurjot were arrested, he

said Police recovered 166 kg and 115 kg heroin from two cars which were parked in the society. Later, 70 kg heroin was also recovered from the rented accommodation of the accused persons, police said.

Gurpreet and Gurjot revealed that they were operating the drug racket on the instructions of one Navpreet Singh, presently Portugal. Gurpreet met Navpreet in Kapurthala Jail, Punjab, when they were in judicial custody in different NDPS cases, the DCP said.

At the instance of Kashmiri, Ali was also arrested from Gurgaon in Haryana and two kg heroin was recovered from his possession. Around 100 kg of different chemicals used for preparation of heroin was also recovered, Mr Kushwah said.

Police said that opium grown in parts of Afghanistan is concealed in different legitimate exports, i.e., talc stone, gypsum

containers to Chabahar port of Iran and from there the consignments containing the contraband are shipped to Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust Mumbai, they said. Thereafter, the material is separated from the legitimate exports and sent to the makeshift factories based in Shivpuri, MP, for its further extraction and processing to get the final product heroin, police said.

powder, basil seeds, and in

packaging material like

gunny bags, cartons etc. Then it is transported in



SHORT TAKES

UKRAINIAN SOLDIER KILLED, THREE WOUNDED

Kiev, July 10: The Ukrainian army said on Saturday that a soldier had been killed and three others wounded in the country's pro-Russian separatist east, amid rising tensions

in the conflict-torn region. It was the fourth Ukrainian

soldier killed in the past week. The wounded were being treated in hospital and their injuries not life-threatening. Ukrainian positions on the frontline had been targeted by artillery, mortars, grenade launchers and machine gun fire. The war, which has left more than 13,000 people dead, broke out in 2014 shortly after Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula.

TAJIKISTAN QUAKE CLAIMS FIVE LIVES

Dushanbe, July 10: An earthquake struck eastern Tajikistan on Saturday morning, killing at least five people, according to authorities in the mountainous Central Asian country. Tremors from the 5.9 magnitude quake could be felt in the capital of Dushanbe, 165 kilometres (100 miles) southwest of the epicentre.

'Dozens of houses were destroyed," the Tajik committee for emergency situations said.

"Power lines were also partly damaged" in three villages in the district of Tajikabad, where all the victims lived.

The quake struck at 7:14 am (0214 GMT) and at a depth of 10 kilometres, according to the committee and state news agency Khovar.

Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon has ordered a commission of inquiry.

MOGADISHU BLAST: UNKNOWN CASUALTIES

Mogadishu, July 10: A car bomb targeting a top police chief exploded in Somalia's capital Mogadishu on Saturday, causing an unknown number of casualties, police and witnesses said. "The commissioner is unharmed but there are other casualties the attack inflicted," said Somali police spokesman Sadiiq Dudishe.

He said the bomber, using an explosive-laden vehicle, struck the convoy of Benadir region police commissioner Farhan Mohamud at a busy intersec-

tion in the capital.
"It caused huge devastation and casualties of both police and civilians," said Mire Adan, who was a few metres from the scene, adding that he counted

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing.

ZELDA GAME CARTRIDGE SELLS FOR \$870,000

New York, July 10: A sealed cartridge of "The Legend of Zelda" for the old Nintendo NES console has sold for a world record sum of \$870,000, auction house Heritage Auctions said in a statement Friday.

The cartridge, dated to 1987, is still in its original packaging and trumps the previous world record sale of a video game -\$660,000 for a 1986 "Super Mario Bros" cartridge sold in April — according to the auction house. The game was the "masterpiece" in a sale of 443 lots that runs until Sunday. Eric Bradley, spokesperson for the Dallas-based company, said. The auction house has

not revealed buyer's identity. Blending adventure, action and exploration in a magical universe, Zelda is one of the most significant titles in the history of video games.

REMOVAL OF U.S. CAPITOL FENCING BEGINS

Washington, July 10: More than six months after the deadly US Capitol insurrection, authorities on Friday began the process of dismantling fencing and barricades surrounding the iconic Washington building, although some access restrictions will remain

in place. Personnel were seen removing bars connecting sections of the eight-foot (2.4-metre) black metal fencing that had been erected in the days following the violent unrest at the citadel

of American democracy. Removal of the fence itself was to begin early Saturday, workers on the site said, with the operation expected to last through the weekend. Thousands of National Guard troops were stationed there following the attack, and a wide security boundary complete with razor wire turned the Capitol into a

EU hits goal of delivering vaccines for 70% of adults

European Union has hit its target of delivering enough Coronavirus vaccine to cover 70 percent of the adult population, EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Saturday. The 27 EU member state governments are responsible for administering the vaccines to citi-— and some are working much faster than others — but von der Le-yen stressed that: "The EU has kept its word." The EU joint vaccine purchasing scheme, run by von der Leyen's European Commission, has delivered 330 million BioNTech-Pfizer shots, 100 million Astra-Zeneca, 50 million from Moderna and 20 million Johnson & Johnson. All but the J&J jab require two doses to achieve full efficacy, and the EU is

People wait in a queue to register for the Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine at a convention

Delta variant cases mark 32% weekly surge in UK

health officials said the Delta variant of Covid-19 continues as the dominant strain of Coronavirus and marked a sharp increase in the UK with 54,268 more cases logged on Friday, which marks a 32 per cent increase over the previous week. Public Health Engl-

London, July 10: UK analysis shows the continued rise in infections is not followed by a similar increase in hospitalisations and deaths, which reflects a high protection offered by both doses of a

Coronavirus vaccine. In a separate study, PHE also found that all the vaccines being administered are as effective at preventin the majority of people with underlying health conditions as the rest of the population.

The data continues to show that the sharp increase in cases that we are seeing is not being followed by a similar increase in hospitalisation and death.

Kabul rushes troops to border

Afghans try to retake Taliaban-held crossing

Kabul, July 10: Afghan authorities prepared Saturday to try to retake a key border crossing seized by the Taliban in a sweeping offensive that the insurgents claim has helped cap-ture a vast swath of the violence-wracked nation.

As US troops continued their withdrawal, the Taliban said its fighters had seized two crossings in western Afghanistan completing an arc of territory from the Iranian border to the frontier with China. It now held 85 percent of the country, a Taliban official said Friday, controlling about 250 of Afghanistan's nearly 400 districts — a claim impossible to verify, and disputed by the government. Beijing, meanwhile, which has criticised Washington for its hasty withdrawal, urged its citizens to leave the country "as soon as possible" after evacuating 210 nationals.

The "complex and severe domestic security situation" prompted the evacuation warning, the foreign ministry said, adding that 22 of those flown out tested positive for Coronavirus on arrival in China.

On Friday Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said their fighters had captured the border town of Islam Qala on the Iranian frontier and the Torghundi crossing with Turkmenistan. Herat governor spokesman Jilani Farhad said Saturday the authorities were deploying fresh troops to retake Islam Qala post, the biggest trade crossing between Iran and Afghanistan.
"They will be sent there

soon," he said.

The Afghan government has repeatedly dismissed the Taliban's gains as having little strategic value, but the seizure of multiple border crossings and the taxes they generate will likely fill the group's coffers with new revenue.

In a clear sign fighting was getting closer to major urban centres, an official at one hospital in Kandahar — the country's second-largest city and the birthplace of the Taliban — said Saturday dozens of wounded had been admitted in the past 24 hours, including at least 15 service members.

With the Taliban having routed much of northern Afghanistan in recent holds little more than a constellation of provincial capitals that must largely be reinforced and resupplied by air.

The air force was under severe strain even before the Taliban's lightning offensive overwhelmed the government's northern and western positions, putting further pressure on the country's limited aircraft and pilots.

On Thursday President Joe Biden said the US military mission would end on August 31 — nearly 20 years after it began — but he admitted it was "highly unlikely" Kabul would be able to control the entire country. "The status quo is not an option," Biden said of staying in the

Haiti asks US, UN for troops

Port-Au-Prince, July 10: Haiti's interim govern-ment has asked the U.S. and U.N. to deploy troops to protect key infrastructure as it tries to stabilize the country and prepare for elections in the aftermath of President Jovenel

Amid the confusion, hundreds of Haitians gathered outside the US Ĕmbassy in Port-au-Prince pleading for a way out of the country. Women carried babies and young men waved passports and ID cards as they cried out, "Refuge!" and "Help!"

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"We definitely need assistance and we've asked our international partners for help," Interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph said Friday. "We believe our partners can assist the national police in resolving the situa-

Cyberattack hits Iranian ministry

Tehran, July 10: Iran's transportation ministry said Saturday a "cyber disruption" had affected its computer systems and website, while the country's national railway company denied reports of being hit by a cyber attack. The dis-ruption started before noon (0730 GMT), taking down the body's website and links associated with it, the ministry said in a statement reported by state news agency IRNA.

home to an estimated 366

million adults. "This wee-

kend, we delivered enough

vaccine to member states

to fully vaccinate at least 70 percent of the adult

population this month. By

tomorrow, some 500 mil-

lion doses will have been distributed to all regions of Europe," she said. "Covid-19 is not yet defe-

ated. But we are prepared

to continue supplying vac-

cines — also against new

variants. Now the member

states must do everything they can to ensure that

vaccinations move forwa-

rd. Only then will we all be

safe." When the epidemic

hit Europe last year, the

European Commission

stepped in to coordinate a

joint buying programme

It said "technical experts" were investigating the issue and will announce when they are back up, without elaborating further. The body's website was still inaccessible around 5 PM (1230 GMT).

The railway company's announcement came a day after Fars news agency reported "unprecedented chaos" at stations with hundreds of trains delayed or cancelled.

In the now-deleted report, it said the incident followed "a widespread disruption in... computer systems that is probably due to a cyber attack.

Sadegh Sekri, a spokesman for Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, said on Saturday that

Dhaka, July 10: The owner of a factory

where 52 people died in

a fire was arrested for

murder Saturday along

with seven others, as it

emerged that children

as young as 11 had been

Hashem and four of his

sons were among eight

people detained over the

inferno, which broke

out Thursday and raged

A separate inquiry has

been launched into the

use of child labour at

Javedul Alam, police

chief for Narayanganj

district where the facto-

ry is located, said the

entrance had been pad-

locked at the time of the blaze and the factory

breached multiple safe-

for more than a day.

the food factory.

working there.

Police said

B'desh factory

owner nabbed

Abul

NO CASUALTIES FROM TEHRAN **BLAST: OFFICIALS**

Tehran, July 10: Iranian police said a reported explosion early Saturday at a public park near state TV headquarters in the capital Tehran caused no casualties or damage, the IRNAofficial news agency reported.

Tehran deputy police chief Gen. Hamid Hodavand said the case was under investigation and details would be provided later. He accused foreign media outlets of exaggerating the reported blast.

"there has been no disruption or cyber attack for passenger, cargo or intercity trains." The company had said in a statement late Friday that trains were arriving and departing on schedule with "no problems". This followed the Fars report, which had included a picture of a station's departures and arrivals board showing rows of cancelled trips

"It was a deliberate murder," the police

eight

detained face murder

Before his arrest, Has-

hem told the Daily Star

newspaper the fire "may

have been a result of

suggesting a discarded

cigarette could have

Emergency services found 48 of the bodies

on the third floor of the

Beverage factory in

Rupganj, an industrial town outside Dhaka.

The fire department

said the exit door to the

main staircase had been

padlocked and highly

flammable chemicals and plastics had been

stored in the building.

Food and

sparked the carnage.

workers' carelessness'

chief said.

A11

the police

people

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SHORT TAKES

India-Lanka series now from July 18

New Delhi: The Indian team's six-match limited-overs series in Sri Lanka will now start from July 18, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Saturday, a day after a Covid-19 outbreak in the home team camp forced the postponement.

The series, which was originally scheduled to start with the three ODIs on July 13, had to be rescheduled after Sri Lanka's batting coach Grant Flower and data analyst G.T. Niroshan tested positive for the dreaded virus on their return from the UK tour. It also meant an extended quarantine period for the squad members. While the tentative date that was originally being discussed was July 17, but Shah confirmed that it will start from July 18. — PTI

Sciver shines as England beat India

Northampton: England allrounder Nat Sciver smashed a record-equalling half century before the bowlers put the struggling Indian batters under pressure to ensure an 18 runwin for the hosts via DLS method in the rain-curtailed first T20I against here. Put in to bat, England rode on Sciver's 27-ball 55 and wicketkeeper Amy Jones' 43 off 27 balls to reach 177/7 in 20 overs. Sciver's sensational fifty was England's joint fastest in the format. In reply, India failed to keep up with the required runrate despite vice-captain Smriti Mandhana's quickfire 29 off 17 balls before rain fell with the visitors at 54/3 in 8.4 overs, 18 runs behind England via the DLS method. — PTI Brief scores: England 177/7 (Sciver

55, Jones 43, Pandey 3-22) bt India 54/3 (Mandhana 29, Deol 17*, Glenn 1-6) by 18 runs (DLS method)

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IT'S BARTY TIME! THE FINAL

Aussie Ashleigh wins emotional Wimbledon title

Ashleigh Barty won her first Wimbledon title on the 50th anniversary of fellow indigenous Australian Evonne Goolagong Cawley's maiden crown, beating Karolina Pliskova 6-3, 6-7 beating (4/7), 6-3 in the final on Saturday.

25-year-old Australian — who wore a specially-designed dress in tribute to Cawley's iconic scallop one she sported in 1971 — adds the Wimbledon crown to her 2019 French Open title.

"It took me a long time to verbalise, to dare to dream it and say it," said Barty.

"I didn't sleep a lot last night, I was thinking of all the what-ifs. I hope I made Evonne proud," she added.

It was the first women's Wimbledon final to go to three sets since 2012 when Serena Williams beat Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska.

Barty had looked like cruising to victory after soaring into a 4-0 lead over her opponent — the Australian's start so blistering that she won the first 14 points.

However, 29-year-old Pliskova steadied herself while Barty faltered when she served for the match at 6-5 in the second set. The Czech broke and then swept the tiebreaker to take the final into a decider.

Barty got the break for 2-0 in the final set and despite one or two wobbles she got herself over the line sinking to her knees, her hands over her face in disbelief.

She wiped a couple of tears away before climbing up to the player's box, just like her compatriot Pat Cash did when he won the Wimbledon men's title in 1987.

London, July 10: Novak Djokovic reached his 30th Grand Slam final on Friday with a straight sets

win over Canada's Denis Shapovalov to move one victory away from a sixth Wimbledon title record-equalling The world number one triumphed 7-6 (7/3), 7-5, 7-5

Hurkacz 6-3, 6-0, 6-7 (3/7), in a tense semi-final in which he crucially saved 10 of 11 break points.

traught that he left Centre Court in tears. In his seventh Wimbledon final, Djokovic will face Matteo Berrettini after the world number nine became the first Italian to reach a

Wimbledon singles final

beating Hubert

Pliskova of the Czech Republic at the All England Tennis Club in London on Saturday.

Ashleigh Barty of Australia holds the Wimbledon trophy after winning the womens singles final against Karolina

Djokovic into 30th Slam final

6-4. "I don't think the scoreline says enough about the performance or match. He (Shapovalov) set and was probably the better player.

'I would like to give him a big round of applause for everything he has done today and also this two weeks. We are going to see a lot of him in the future, he is a great player," said Djokovic.

Victory on Sunday will not only take Djokovic level with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal on 20

Slam wins. He will also just need the

US Open to become only the third man in history, and first since 1969, to complete the calendar Grand Slam. "I am trying to make the maximum of my own abilities each match and see what hapsaid 34-year-old

Djokovic. "At this stage of my career, Grand Slams are everything and I have been very privileged to make history in the sport I

COUNTDOWN

England, Italy gear up for one big kick

London, July 10: England and Italy are holding their collective breath as the clock counts down to Sunday's Euro 2020 final showdown which will be watched by around 65,000 fans at Wembley and millions more on television.

The anticipation is great in England, as the hosts sense that this is their time to end a 55-year wait to add a second major trophy to their 1966 World Cup.

Wembley was the venue for that final and will be again on Sunday as Gareth Southgate's England seek to complete the job after edging out Denmark 2-1 in extra time in front of supporters Wednesday's semi-final. England began the tour-

nament as one of several contenders to lift the trophy but have taken advantage of playing most of their games at home. The final will be their sixth at Wembley out of seven. England have never beat-

en Italy at a major tournament, although meetings between the nations have been few and far between.

Italy triumphed in a penalty shoot-out in the quarter-finals of Euro 2012 in Ukraine and won 2-1 when they met in the group stage of the 2014 World Cup, although both sides ended up being eliminated in the first round.

Both teams have been transformed since then.

The Azzurri have lit up Euro 2020 ever since beating Turkey 3-0 in the opening game a month ago.

They are on a national record 33-match unbeaten run under coach Roberto Mancini, who has spent time in England both as a player and as a manager.

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NUMBERS GAME

Final: England vs Italy from

Prior to this, Italy had reached the European Championship final in 1968 2000 and 2012. And Italy's only title win in the European Cup came in 1968, when they beat Yugoslavia over two matches.

England, on other hand, beat Denmark 2-1 after extra time to qualify for the final for the first time England have to wait for 55 years to enter the final of a major tournament. Since winning the World Cup in 1966, England have reached the knockout stages of official tournaments 14 times out of a possible 28 - a 50 per cent success rate. This is Italy's 10th major final (six World Cups and four European Cup), Only Germany (14) having played in more among

European nations HEAD TO HEAD

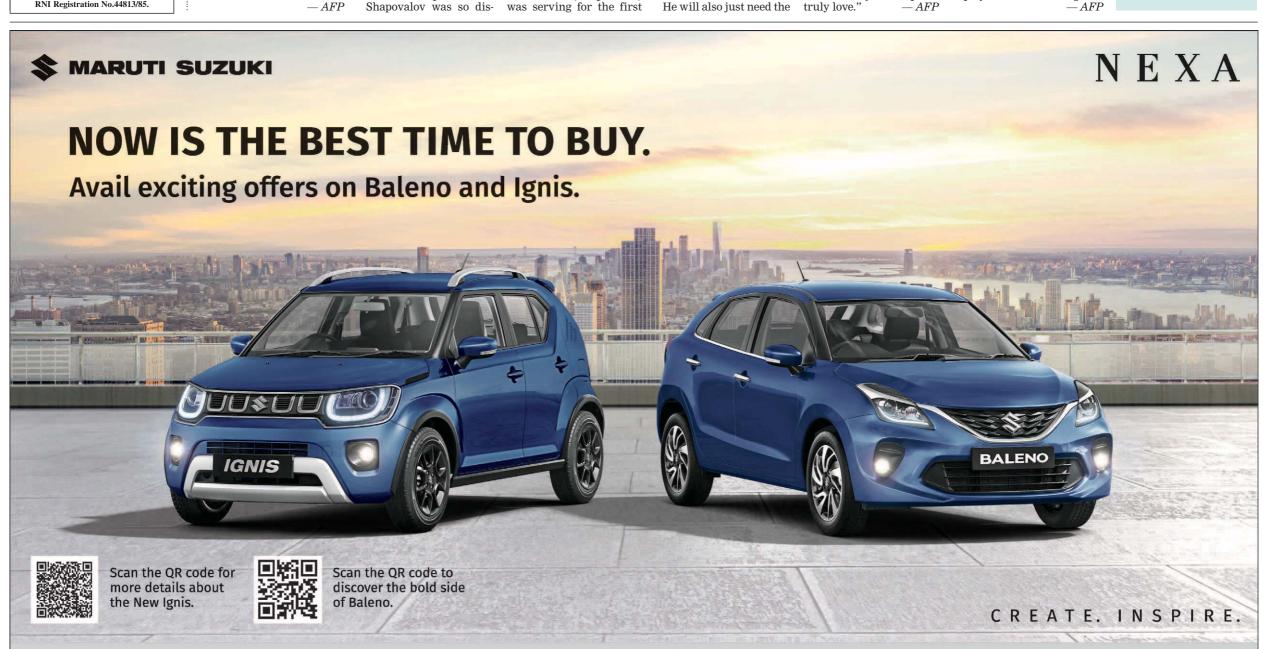
Matches: 27 Italy won: 11 England won: 8 Drawn: 8

LAST FIVE MATCHES Italy won: 2 **England won: 1**

Drawn: 2 MEETINGS IN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

1980: In Turin, Italy beat England 1-0 2012: In Kyiv, Italy drew with England 0-0 (Italy won 4-2

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