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HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 13 AUGUST 2020

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### WEATHER

Max: 29.7°C  
Min: 23.6°C  
RH: 77%  
Rainfall: 0.1 mm  
Forecast: Light to moderate rains very likely.  
Max/Min temp. 31/23 °C

### COVID-19 COUNT

CASES (+69,712)	DEATHS (+945)
23,94,738	47,130

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+1,897)	(+9)
TS: 84,544	654
(+9,597)	(+93)
AP: 2,54,146	2,296

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

2,06,45,578	DEATHS 7,48,581
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worldometers.info/coronavirus

### ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana  
Tithi: Shrawana Bahula Navami till 12.54 pm  
Star: Rohini till 5.21 am (Friday)  
Varjyanam: 8.42 pm to 10.26 pm  
Durmuhuram: 10.15 pm to 11.05 pm  
11.05 pm: 3.18 pm to 4.08 pm  
Rahukalam: 1.30 pm To 3 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Zulhijja 22,1441 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.55 am  
Zohar: 12.31 pm  
Asar: 4.47 pm  
Magrib: 6.49 pm  
Isha: 8.00 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.42 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.58 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 12.29 AM

MOONSET TOMORROW 1.45 AM

### COUNTER POINT



Those are all free phones from BSNL for MPs!

### IN BRIEF

**IAF objects to online movie**

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) has written a letter to the Censor Board objecting to its "undue negative" portrayal in the movie *Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl*, said a senior official. The movie was released on streaming platform Netflix on Wednesday.

### Transparent tax platform on anvil

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday will unveil the next phase of direct tax reforms aimed at easing compliance and rewarding honest taxpayers, as the government looks to rebuild the pandemic-hit economy.

### US ELECTIONS

## Biden picks Harris as his running mate

**First woman of colour to get major party ticket**

Washington, Aug. 12: Democratic US Presidential candidate Joe Biden has picked Senator Kamala Devi Harris as his running mate to woo the Black voters and the influential Indian diaspora who could play a key role in his bid to defeat Donald Trump in the presidential election.

By naming the 55-year-old lawyer and moderate Democratic politician from California as his vice presidential candidate in the November 3 election, Biden made history by selecting the first Black woman to compete on a major party's presidential ticket. Harris, whose father is from Jamaica and mother an Indian, is currently the Senator from California. The 77-year-old former vice-president, made the announce-

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- KAMALA HARRIS PICK TO INTENSIFY CHINA ROW
- BIDEN'S V-P CHOICE SURPRISES TRUMP

ment in a text message to his supporters on Tuesday, ending days of suspense. It came about a week ahead of his virtual Democratic National

Convention that would formally nominate Biden as the party's candidate for the presidential election, challenging incumbent President Trump, a Republican. "Joe Biden here. I've chosen Kamala Harris as my running mate. Together, with you, we're going to beat Trump. Add your name to welcome her to the team," Biden said in his message.

Biden said Harris will be the best partner for him to finally get the country back on track. He described her as "a fearless fighter" and "one of the country's finest public servants." Harris later tweeted that Biden "can unify the American people because he's spent his life fighting for us. And as president, he'll build an America that lives up to our ideals."

—PTI

## 50% Covid deaths going unreported in Telangana

### Rat menace hits RIMS Covid block

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC  
ADILABAD, AUG. 12

RIMS. He cited the poor facilities and tried to leave on Tuesday night. Finally, the medical staff took him in an ambulance to his home in Adilabad on Wednesday. This is not the first incident of a patient leaving the earlier one went missing.

A lack of coordination between the district medical and health department and RIMS was evident when both sets of officials gave different versions on positive patients missing.

"Already given direc-

Some Covid-19 positive patients undergoing treatment at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of medical sciences (RIMS), Adilabad, are less scared of their health and more worried about poor facilities and rats around them and on their beds at the Covid-19 isolation ward at RIMS.

A Covid-19 positive patient had requested the staff to let him go to home and be in home quarantine instead of being in the ward at

arrival of test results, families do not want it to be registered and it is being alleged that the government too does not want to show these cases in their data.

A senior doctor, on condition of anonymity, explained, "We are seeing patients whose CT scans show lungs filled with virus (depicted as V) but death certificates do not name Covid-19 as the cause of death."

However, they develop complications, are hospitalised and die. These are often found positive from the samples are taken after their deaths. Often, due to the death and late

death of patients, families do not want it to be registered and it is being alleged that the government too does not want to show these cases in their data.

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death of patients, families do not want it to be registered and it is being alleged that the government too does not want to show these cases in their data.

"I am going to miss all the excitement, the flag-hoisting, speeches and cultural programmes," says a class 9 student, Ashrith P. from St Joseph's Public School, Koti. "I am really

going to miss the part where snacks are distributed and then sitting with friends and enjoying together and planning something to do. This year, it is not going to be fun."

Meanwhile, the historic Nizam College this year

## FB post sparks riots in B'luru, 3 killed in firing

Mob sets Congress MLA's house, DJ Halli police station afire

VINAY MADHAVA GOWDA | DC  
with agency inputs  
Bengaluru, Aug. 12

At least three people were killed after police opened fire to quell a mob that went on a rampage at Kadugudanahalli area in Bengaluru North, sparked over a Facebook post allegedly put out by a Congress MLA's relative.

"Three people have died (in police firing)," Bengaluru police commissioner Kamal Pant said.

Further, 110 people have been arrested in connection with the incident at Pulakeshi Nagar here.

Scores of persons, including around 50 policemen, were injured in the violence that erupted on Tuesday night and continued till the wee hours of Wednesday, apparently prompted by the 'communally sensitive' online post.

The Congress MLA's home and a police station were among those targeted by the angry mob, prompting the government to issue a stern warning that rioting and law and order issues will not be tolerated. Mr Pant said Naveen, who allegedly posted the Facebook post was arrested and appealed for peace.

Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa said the "attack on the residence of MLA Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy and the DJ Halli police station and riot are condemnable."

"Already given direc-



Charred remains of vehicles vandalised by a mob over a Facebook post, allegedly by a relative of a Congress MLA, in Bengaluru, on Wednesday.

—PTI

tions to initiate stringent action against the criminals (and) the government has initiated all the measures to contain violence," he said. The attack on

police, media persons and common citizens was unpardonable. The government will not tolerate such instigation and mischief, he added.

## HC chides civic body for outsourcing sanitation

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

The Telangana High Court faulted the GHMC for outsourcing workers for posts like sanitary supervisors (SFA), sanitation workers, entomology fieldworkers, entomology superior field-workers, supervisors (EFA), superior field assistants through intermediaries, agencies and contractors, abandoning the hiring of regular workers for decades together.

Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao observed that the "outsourcing basis" method is contrary to the law, violative of Article 14, 16, and 21 of the Constitution of India and also the law declared by the Supreme Court in the State of Karnataka and

The court observed that outsourcing workers who are working with GHMC in the sanitisation and entomology departments since 2008, after they were selected based on the pre-

scribed norms of notification, are entitled to regularisation.

The High Court directed the civic body to consider the regularisation of their services within two months.

Others vs. Uma Devi and Others judgement, mandating periodic regular recruitment to sanctioned posts.

"The outsourcing system adopted by the GHMC is only a sham and a ruse to avoid extending genuine services and entitlements to workers," Justice Rao opined.

The court observed that outsourcing workers who are working with GHMC in the sanitisation and entomology departments since 2008, after they were selected based on the pre-

scription of notification, are entitled to regularisation.

Elsewhere in Kasturba Gandhi college for women too, celebrations have been scaled down.

Meanwhile, the historic Nizam College this year

On Tuesday night, sparked by the post, hundreds of people went on a rampage and set DJ Halli police station on fire.

They torched many police and private vehicles, smashed the belongings of MLA Murthy and those of his sister. An ATM was smashed into pieces. To disperse the mob, police resorted to lathi charge, lobbed tear gas shells and later opened fire, killing three people.

One of the victims has been identified as Yasin Pasha. The victim's father Afzal told reporters that his son was "innocent."

"My son operated a meat shop in the area and had gone for dinner when the police opened fire and he died. He is innocent and was not involved in any arson," he said.

He claimed that some outsiders, who came in hordes and damaged property, were responsible for the violence.

Meanwhile, curfew has been imposed in the affected areas in and around DJ Halli and KG Halli.

Legislator Murthy appealed against violence.

"I appeal to my Muslim brethren that we should not resort to violence for the fault committed by some miscreants. There is no need to fight. We are all brothers. We will get the person punished as per law. We will also be with you. I appeal to the Muslim friends to be calm," he said in a video message last night.

## JAWAN, HIZBUL LOCAL HEAD KILLED IN FIRING

DC CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR, AUG. 12

An Army jawan and a local commander of Hizbul Mujahideen were killed and another soldier was injured in a brief gunfight in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Pulwama district on Wednesday morning.

Later during the day, militants targeted a Quick Reaction Team of the Army with gunfire at Trungund-Hygam crossing along the Srinagar-Baramulla road, injuring at least one jawan of 15 Garwal regiment.

The soldier who laid down his life while fighting militants in Pulwama's Kamrazipora village has been identified as Sowar Jilajeet Singh Yadav. He was a resident of Village Ijari of Sadar Tehsil, Jaunpur district in Uttar Pradesh and had joined the Army on March 18, 2014.

■ Report on Page 7

## PRANAB STILL ON VENTILATOR SUPPORT, CRITICAL

New Delhi, Aug. 12: The condition of former president Pranab Mukherjee continues to be critical and he remains on ventilator support, the Army's Research and Referral Hospital said on Wednesday. The 84-year-old had tested positive for Covid-19 prior to a brain surgery. —PTI

■ Report on Page 8

**SHORT TAKES**  
**I-DAY MEMORIES TO MAKE STAFF PROUD**

From Page 1

"We always had grand celebrations with a lot of excitement among students. This year, it is going to be a very different experience for us," says Major D. Jayasudha, head of the department, Sports, at the college.

The principal of the Methodist Boys High School, M. Vinayashela, said the 100-year-old school has its office filled with photographs of many years of I-Day celebrations. Though there will be only a few of the staff here on August 15 this year, those memories make us proud," she says. "The Coronavirus has controlled people from gathering to display their national spirit but the virus cannot dampen our spirit of integrity and our love for the country," she says.

**GHMC VIOLATING EQUAL PAY: PETITIONER**

From Page 1

Chikkudu Prabhakar, counsel for the petitioners, contended that the GHMC is violating the principle of equal pay for equal work and the law settled by the Supreme Court in the Umadevi judgement, on the regularisation of temporary workers, in which their intake was legally proved correct.

After a two-year long adjudication, the court has pronounced this judgment stating that the 98 workers who approached the High Court seeking regularisation, are directly engaged by the GHMC for decades now and are entitled to regularisation of their services.

It also made it clear that the petitioners are entitled to minimum scale of pay and payments shall be made by the GHMC directly to the petitioners w.e.f. the date of filing of this writ petition (after deducting the payments already received by them during this period from the contractor/intermediary).

**HERBAL GARDEN FACILITY COMES UP AT UOH**

**Hyderabad, Aug. 12:** At the University of Hyderabad (UoH) campus a Herbal Garden with approximately 250 medicinal plants was created.

Approximately 60 species with different medicinal properties were planted in the garden which includes rare and endangered species.

UoH Vice-Chancellor Prof. Appa Rao Podile inaugurated the facility at the School of Life Sciences on Wednesday, in the presence of faculty members, administrators, university researchers.

The garden was built to support the School of Life Sciences' teaching and research activities related to medicinal plants. This will also become collection center for medicinal plants which are rare and endangered and have numerous health benefits.

The Vice-Chancellor lauded the Dean's and Herbal Garden Creation Committee's efforts to establish the facility, particularly during this pandemic time, within a short span.

According to the UoH, through mobilizing funds from different sources, the School of Life Sciences aims to broaden the facility and further enhance work on medicinal plants to explore these tools for the treatment of various health disorders.

— INN

**WEAR MASKS TO CURB COVID, GOV. TELLS POLITICIANS**

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Wednesday expressed anguish over the non-compliance of preventive measures like maintaining physical distance and mandatory wearing of mask to stop the spread of Covid-19 by a section of politicians. The Governor said that wearing of masks would effectively prevent the spread of virus by at least 80 per cent.

She was addressing a video conference organized by the Federation of Telangana Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) from the Raj Bhavan here on 'Strategic interventions of Central and State governments for the mitigation of Covid-19 Crisis.' The Governor exhorted the commerce and industry leaders to intensify their efforts in mitigating the crisis caused by Covid-19 pandemic and support the government. She said that the commerce and industry sector was showing lot of resilience in overcoming the crisis and has been sustaining the livelihoods of millions of people.

Dr Soundararajan said that early detection of Covid-19 cases through "testing, testing and more testing, contact tracing and isolation would reduce the risk of Covid-19 spread."

FTCCI president Ramakanth Inani urged the Governor to impress upon the governments to chalk out a roadmap for economic revival.

The president of the organisation said FTCCI, with Administrative Staff College of India, has set up a think tank, 'Centre for Monitoring Covid' to research, analyse and create awareness on different areas related to the disease in Telangana.

**THE GOVERNOR** exhorted the commerce and industry leaders to intensify their efforts in mitigating the crisis caused by Covid-19 pandemic and support the government.

**SHE SAID** that commerce and industry sector was showing lot of resilience in overcoming the crisis.

**TS records 1,897 new Covid cases**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

After two days during which the number of Covid-19 cases saw a dip in Hyderabad and the rest of GHMC limits, Coronavirus cases rose by 141 more with 479 new individuals diagnosed as having contracted the disease compared to 338 the previous day.

According to the health department, for the 24-hour period ending at 8 pm on Tuesday, the state recorded 1,897 new Covid-19 cases and nine more deaths from the disease, taking the total cases to 84,544 and the deaths to 654 in the state.

The results of 1,221 tests were still awaited from

**Metro lockdown hits pedestrians**



Pedestrians have a tough time crossing the busy road near Prakasnagar Metro station, which is closed due to the pandemic. With this closure, the HMR has also denied the facility to the pedestrians to use the stairs and escalators of the Metro station to cross the road.

— GANDHI

# Covid impact: Huge fall in I-T collections

**Growth dips -29.7 pc in the Hyderabad region (TS and AP)**

VIKRAM SHARMA DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

## MASSIVE DECREASE IN REVENUE GROWTH

Region	Net collection	Previous year	Growth
Lucknow	₹2,012.2 cr	₹3,558.5 cr	-43.5 per cent
Jaipur	₹2,979.9 cr	₹4,299.0 cr	-30.7 per cent
Bhubaneshwar	₹1,842.2 cr	₹2,774.3 cr	-33.6 per cent
Pune	₹9,936.6 cr	₹15,865.6 cr	-37.4 per cent
Ahmedabad	₹7,670.1 cr	₹13,731.0 cr	-44.1 per cent
Patna	₹2,123.5 cr	₹3,173.2 cr	-33.1 per cent
Kolkata	₹4,248.5 cr	₹10,847.2 cr	-60.8 per cent

### THE TARGET

The target for the IT department is set at ₹13.19 lakh crore for 2020-21 of which the corporate tax target is ₹6.81 lakh crore and personal IT is ₹6.25 lakh crore besides security transaction tax of ₹13,000 crore. For Mumbai, the target is ₹4.07 lakh crore; Delhi (₹1.89 lakh crore); Karnataka and Goa (₹1.40 lakh crore), Tamil Nadu and Puducherry (₹91,227 crore); Kerala (₹20,194 crore) and Gujarat (₹65,237 crore)

As the Covid-19 pandemic drags on, income tax collections in this financial year present a gloomy picture of the country's economy, which has nosedived even as businesses are struggling to come out of the massive losses.

The overall tax collections (up to August 10) for the financial year 2020-21 stands at a little over ₹1.89 lakh crore as against ₹2.50 lakh crore during the corresponding period in the previous fiscal, recording a massive dip in the overall growth of - (minus) 24.5 percent.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has set a target of ₹13.19 lakh crore for the IT department for the financial year 2020-21. Going by the prevailing situation, not much improvement is expected as several businesses have either wound up or are on the verge of collapsing under the burden of heavy losses.

According to the latest figures, which are accessed by Deccan Chronicle (from April 1 to August 10), the net collection from the financial capital Mumbai was

₹59,881.1 crore while the figure during the same period last financial year was ₹65,429.7 crore. The growth dipped to -8.5 per cent. The corporate tax collected was ₹27,244.9 crore and IT was ₹27,015.2 crore.

In the Delhi IT region, the net collection was ₹10,517.7 crore while the figure during the same period last year was ₹14,957.0 crore.

The growth dipped to -29.7 per cent. Corporate tax collected was to the tune of ₹3,225.6 crore while IT was ₹7,175.7 crore.

The target set for the Hyderabad region alone for 2020-21 is a whopping ₹73,809 crore.

"Due to the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown, which has adversely impacted businesses across the spectrum, it was a herculean task to

take up tax collection operations. Even, IT searches and raids have been halted due to the pandemic. All industrialists and businessmen have been complaining of how the pandemic has broken the back of their respective businesses," officials told this newspaper.

With regards to Chennai, the net collection was ₹11,523.7 crore while the previous year it was ₹19,432.9 crore and the growth rate took a massive hit at -40.7 per cent.

— GANDHI

**JAYENDRA CHAITANYA T. | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 12**

A 25-year-old nurse working at Yashoda Hospital in Secunderabad was found dead in her hostel room on Tuesday night. Police recovered a syringe and an empty vial of sedative generally used for patients who are on ventilators.

According to the Market police, Soundarya, a native of Nalgonda district, was working as a staff nurse at the hospital for the last four years. Prior to that, she worked in a private clinic in Nalgonda.

**SOUNDARYA ON** Tuesday noon returned to the hostel along with her colleagues.

She did not have her lunch and stayed back in the room. Her colleagues, who went to work, returned in the evening and found Soundarya lying on the bed.

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At around 8 pm, when they tried to wake her up, she was in an unconscious condition. They found an injection beside her on the bed. She was taken to the hospital but was declared dead, said the police. Market inspector P. Shankar Yadav said "Soundarya took anaesthesia medicine through injection to take her life. She took a high dosage."

Prima-facie, it is suspected that a strained relationship could be a reason for her to take the extreme step.

"The last call she made was to a former colleague, from whom we have to take details of the conversation. Necessary legal action will be taken," he said.

— GANDHI

**25-year-old nurse found dead in hospital hostel**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

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**Real picture of Covid not shown: Doc**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

**made it to hospital and those who made it do not want it registered. This has led to the conclusion that the numbers are not the real-time numbers.**

**THOSE OPERATING** hearse services state that people are sentimental and do not want the name Covid-19 as the cause of death.

and in plastic bags, family members wearing personal protection equipment want their dead to be respected in their final journey and rituals followed. Due to this, the disease is not declared but all the precautions, limited numbers of near and dear ones and other basic protocols are followed."

This sentiment has allegedly helped the government too as there is a

committee scrutinising the death reports before declaring them as Covid-19 deaths. They are now not considering these cases.

Presently, the medical bulletin has consistently highlighted 54 per cent deaths due to co-morbid conditions of diabetes, hypertension, kidney failure and other multi-organ failures as the prime cause of death rather than the infection by the virus.

The fact that the virus triggers havoc in the body is not being understood by common people and that is taken advantage of, allowing for the projecting a low fatality rate of 0.77 per cent in the state and 1.99 per cent in the country.

— GANDHI

**Leftover garbage, food luring rats**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

**threat from huge rats and red ants that are moving in the SNCU (special neonatal care unit) and paediatric ICU.**

**There is no proper supervision of the new-born babies.**

Director Naik says "There is a huge shortage of doctors and teaching staff at RIMS and this is effecting the medical services to the patients."

Nurses and grade IV employees, working on contract basis at RIMS, are staging protests demanding immediate payment of their pending salaries.

A few days ago, collector, Sikta Patnaik, inspected various wards and said they would try to improve the conditions.

— GANDHI

# Display rates or face action, pvt hospitals told

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

Private hospitals have been warned that if they continue to over-charge patients, action will be taken against them by the state government. All rates must be displayed on the notice board near the billing desk.

The government in a notification stated that maximum fixed rates for treating Covid-19 patients has been clearly chalked out but still there are innumerable complaints that patients are being overcharged.

The ceiling prices for intensive care unit and Covid-19 treatment have been fixed and patients have to be charged accordingly, said government officials.

Patient bills are running into lakhs of rupees and there are innumerable complaints against the private hospitals which are showing no humanitarian concern.

of a corporate hospital explained, "The government is not checking their own rules for insurance vs. cash-paying patients. They are sending a notice based on whoever complains to them without verifying the details.

In some corporate hospitals, the billing staff is directly asking patients' relatives if they have the money to pay for bills or being advised to go to a government hospital.

The price of high-end drugs and personal protection kits are excluded from the package rates and they have to be charged at a maximum retail price only, stated by the government.

While discharging patients, itemised bills must be provided and if that is not done, it will be taken as an offence. The government has warned private hospitals of action if the rules are not followed. Private hospitals, on the other hand, claim that they are following government guidelines but every complaint on social media is leading to a notice without even mentioning the details of the case.

Every private hospital has received at least four notices from district medical and health officers asking them to explain the reasons for charging patients exorbitant amounts for treatment. A chief executive officer

## POWER | SHUTDOWN

**10 am to 11 am**  
Sub-station: Motihmalah Feeder: Risala Bazaar Katora House, Golconda Police station, Dilvarshana, Risala Bazaar.

**11 am to 12 noon**  
Substation: Motihmalah Feeder: MD Lines Ahmed Colony, MD Lines, Akbarpura, Durganagar, Shatam Tala, Rehti Gally, Govt. Golconda Hospital, Balancer, Bada Bazaar, Moula Gunj, Risala Bazaar, Kotora House, Priya Darshini School, Golconda P.S., Devdas Guda, Dilawarsa Nagar.

**12 noon to 1 pm**  
Substation: Motihmalah Feeder: Company Bagh Mothi Darwaza, Shangri-La High School, Apsar Colony, Company Bagh, Ahmed Colony, Bagdad Colony.

**2 pm to 3 pm**  
Substation: Motihmalah Feeder: Heerakhana Mothi Mahal, Sadadnagar, Heera Khana.

**3 pm to 4 pm**  
Substation: Motihmalah Feeder: Balancer Rethi Gally, Govt. Golconda Hospital, Balancer, Bada Bazar.

**4 pm to 5 pm**  
Substation: Motihmalah Feeder: Saleh Nagar Sale Nagar Kancha, Dhana Kota.

**11 am to 1 pm**  
Substation: Golconda Feeder: Narayanamma College Laxmi Nagar, Falcon Colony, Shaik Pet Kallu Compound, Adithya Hills, Narayanamma College, Disper Valley, Radhe Nagar, Lather Factory.

**10 am to 2 pm**  
Substation: Saroor Nagar Feeder: Hanuman Nagar Hanuman Nagar, Vikas nagar, Vidyuth nagar, Geetha hospital and surrounding areas.

## SHORT TAKES

## COPS ARREST TRAVEL AGENT OVER FAKE VISAS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

A travel agent, who was cheating job aspirants on the pretext of providing employment visas in the Gulf, was caught by the South Zone Task Force police on Wednesday.

Sikander Khan, 40, a resident of Kalapathar area, was arrested by the police of Kalapathar, RGI Airport, and Falaknuma, for cheating those who wanted to work abroad.

The police said that Sikander, a Dubai returnee, started an illegal travel agency in 2014.

The accused used to arrange several visit visas and then started giving fake employment visas to the aspirants by taking money.

Currently, he is booked in three cases at Kalapathar and Chandrayangutta.

Police seized four Indian passports, several fake visas, fake job offer letters and a mobile phone from the accused.

## HC ASKS FLATS TO REGISTER UNDER TMACS ACT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

The Telangana High Court said the owners of flats in a residential complex can register its maintenance under the provisions of the Telangana mutually aided co-operative societies act (TMACS Act).

Justice K. Lakshman made this clear in response to a petition filed by Sri Kalakuteer Apartment, a residential complex with 150 apartments. When they went for registration under TMACS Act, the registrar of TMACS stated that there was no possibility to register the flat owners' maintenance cooperative society under the provisions of the TMACS Act.

Aggrieved, the residents filed a petition before the high court. Judge Lakshman declared that the society has an option to get registered under a particular statute.

If there is more than one statute operating in the field, the state cannot impose any restriction or force the society to get itself registered under a particular statute for which the society has not applied.

"If any such restriction is imposed, it amounts to a violation of the fundamental right of a citizen guaranteed under Article 19 (1)(c) of the Constitution of India, contrary to Article 43B and a violation of the first basic co-operative principle that every action shall be as desired by its members voluntarily", Judge Lakshman said.

# GHMC garbage machines make a sweeping racket

GPS-enabled trucks just roam around the streets, claim money

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

Sweeping machines in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) have become new money-minting machines for private agencies and officials.

Taking advantage of the pandemic and lockdown-induced deserted roads, contractors have been running vehicles with GPS equipment on without sweeping the roads.

It has also come to official notice that the contractors, hand in glove with the officials, have been claiming bills without even sweeping the roads. However, authorities were turning a blind eye and did not check the irregularities since field-level staff and officials monitoring the work were deployed on other duties. This has been not only leaking the corporation's

revenue but also turning the roads dirtier than usual when the nodal agency has been facing severe financial crisis during the current financial year.

The GHMC on August 21, 2015, entered into an agreement with Marlin Infra-lion services to maintain and operate sweeping machines. As per the agreement, the sweeping machines should work for 10 hours from 9 pm to 7 am on a daily basis. Highly-placed sources in the GHMC said that the sweeping machines have been sweeping only a lane adjacent to the road divider but not all lanes.

Sources say that most of the sweeping machines which are to work for 10 hours are working only for three hours and not taking the social audit. Sources also said due to the apathy of GHMC officials, private contractors are maintaining

● A SENIOR GHMC official said that it was the duty of the vehicle owner to check the condition of brooms installed in the vehicles. He said that deputy commissioners and AMOs should conduct field inspections on a regular basis to check the quality of the brooms.

ing everything on paper but not on the ground.

Sources claimed that the private agencies, hand in glove with corporation officials, have not only claimed full amounts in the bills but also collected maintenance charges. "More than 60 per cent of the bills are fake. Due to the negligence of GHMC, private agencies and ground-level staff have been swindling several crore rupees," said a source.

When *Deccan Chronicle* conducted a ground verification on Tuesday night and spoke to the sweeping machine drivers, they said that GHMC officials and contractors maintaining them has instructed them only to sweep four kilometres and only lanes in 10 hours' time. They claimed that they were following the instructions of higher authorities.

For instance, a sweeping machine driver with registration number AP TA 9095, which has been sweeping from Gandhi Hospital towards RTC X Roads on Tuesday night, said that he is supposed to clean one lane on both sides of the road. "I am just following the instructions of my superior at work," he said.

Each sweeping machine should sweep 60kms per day. The civic body has been paying ₹2,457 per hour to sweep the city roads. The corporation has been spending ₹7.37 lakh per machine every month. Overall, the corporation has been spending ₹1.84 crore on 26 sweeping machines. A senior GHMC official said that it was the duty of the vehicle owner to check the condition of brooms installed in the vehicles. He said that deputy commissioners and AMOs should conduct field inspections on a regular basis to check the quality of the brooms.

Stringent action will be taken against officials and private contractors for not inspecting vehicle maintenance, said the official. The civic body is spending ₹30.78 crore annually to clean 2,000kms of arterial roads in the city. It was also found out from the officials that 18 sweeping machines have been under-performing.

Everyone should behave and act with a sense of responsibility, Mahendar Reddy said, adding that maintaining peace in society and law and order is everyone's responsibility.

In another tweet, Anjani Kumar called on people to be cautious, and thoughtful before sharing information on social media. He, too, recalling the violence in Bengaluru that led to police firing and the deaths of two persons, said 60 policemen were also injured in that city in the incidents that followed inflammatory posts on social media. "Action will be taken against any individual who shares such posts," he warned.

## Cops warn against B'luru type FB posts

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

Director General of Police M. Mahendar Reddy and Commissioner of Hyderabad city police Anjani Kumar on Wednesday cautioned people not to share posts without verifying the authenticity and truthfulness of messages they may receive or find on various social media platforms.

● IN A TWEET, Mahendar Reddy said the impact of sharing such unverified information that focused on a communal aspect caused a lot of destruction and damage in Bengaluru.

● EVERYONE SHOULD

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## WOMAN HELD FOR SELLING BABY BOY FOR ₹45K

JAYENDRA CHAITANYA T. | DC  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

Angry with her husband after petty fights, a woman sold her two-month-old son for ₹45,000, with the help of mediators.

Habibnagar police on Wednesday arrested six persons, including the boy's mother and the woman who paid for the boy.

Mohd Abdul Mujahed (29), a resident of Nampally, works as a manager at a bar. He married Abdul Zoya Khan (22) and they are blessed with a son two months back. Police said that on August 3, the couple had a fight over a petty issue and Mujahed went to live with his parents at MS Maqtha.

After five days, when he went home, he did not find his son Adnan and asked Zoya, who told him that she had sold their son to Shaik Mohammed and Tabassum Begum, of Aghapur ₹45,000.

When Mujahed called Shaik Mohammed, he was told they had sold the boy to another woman living in Kalapathar area. Following his complaint, Mohammed and Tabassum were arrested and subsequently, Ayesha Jabeen, who had taken the boy, her mother Hameem Begum and aunt Siraj Begum were arrested on Tuesday night and produced before a court on Wednesday.

Police said that the boy was handed over to his father.



A blueprint of the theme park undertaken by the GHMC. Mayor Dr Bonthu Rammohan laid the foundation stones of six theme parks in Kapra Circle on Wednesday.

## GHMC to build 50 theme parks in Hyd

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

Intending to enhance urban lung space, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has decided to construct 50 theme parks against an estimated cost of ₹123 crore.

Mayor Bonthu Rammohan, along with other city MLAs, on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for six such parks in Kapra circle, which will be constructed at a cost of ₹16.30 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, Rammohan said that as per directions of Municipal Administration and Urban Development minister K.T. Rama Rao different designs of theme parks are being developed for the benefit for all age-groups. These designs are inspired by those in New Delhi and Bengaluru.

"The theme parks will be developed with all facilities like space for yoga, walking track, open gym and other basic amenities. They will be developed in such a

## THE THEME PARK FOUNDATIONS LAID IN KAPRA CIRCLE:

● A.S. Rao Nagar: ₹30 crore

● Vasavi Enclave Kushaiguda: ₹2.50 crore

● E.C. Nagar (Cherlapally Division): ₹2.50 crore

● B.N.Reddy Nagar park (Cherlapally Division): ₹3.00 crore

● Mallapur Park (Mallapur Division): ₹3 crore

● Banda Bhavi Park near Noma Talkies: ₹3 crore

way that it provides a good environment and is useful for all age-groups. The responsibility of maintenance and protection of the theme parks lies with the respective residential welfare associations (RWAs)", Rammohan said.

## Career Chronicle

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4. SURVEYOR/TOTAL STATION ENGINEER : B.Tech (Civil) with above 8 yrs experience.
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(S/2021/D00435)

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- 1) Dy. Medical Superintendent - MBBS with 10 years administrative experience.
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- 3) Pharmacists - D.Pharm / B.Pharm with PCI Registration.
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Mention position to submit the profiles to E-Mail ID : hpdscgh@gmail.com

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## SHORT TAKES

## PANCHAYAT TRIBUNAL PASSES MAIDEN ORDER

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

Telangana State Gram Panchayat Tribunal passed its first direction, since being formed ten months back, on Wednesday.

The bench, comprising chairman B. Bhasker, Puligari Goverdhan Reddy and G. Ajay Kumar, pronounced a judgement on an appeal by the suspended sarpanch of Warangal (Urban) District, whose term as sarpanch of Ambala village in Warangal district, was terminated by the District Collector on allegations of misuse of panchayat funds. However, after considering the facts, the bench directed the Collector to allow the sarpanch to continue in office.

The Tribunal was constituted in line with the provisions of the newly enacted Telangana Panchayat Raj Act 2019. It looks into appeals pertaining to gram panchayats, which earlier were examined by the Panchayat Raj Minister and other officers.

## WATER RELEASED, NSP LEFT CANAL COMES ALIVE

DC CORRESPONDENT

KHAMMAM, AUG. 12

Starting from August 12, farmers of the NSP Left Canal ayacut will receive water till September 3. Minister for transport, Puvvada Ajay Kumar released water into the canal from the Palair reservoir on Wednesday.

Khammam district is entitled to use 24.61 tmc water during 'Vanakalam' (Kharif) from the NSP left canal. Officials will release water based on the 'Warabandi' method from September 10. It means that farmers can use the water to irrigate their lands during the period.

In the 'Vanakalam' farmers will receive water seven times. Water will be released for nine days and there will be a break for the next nine days.

The minister said that the government is releasing water into the NSP Left Canal before the normal schedule, and officials have been asked to make available fertilisers and other farm related for the farmers.

The minister said that this year farmers need not worry as there is 225 tmc of water available in the Nagarjunasagar reservoir. Farmers at the tail-end of the ayacut will also receive water this year. The area in the Sattupalli assembly segment will get water in the coming two days. The NSP staff from engineers to laskars will monitor the water supply in the district.

Mr Ajay said, "Farmers should use the opportunity by following best farm methods. They should take the advice of farm scientists whenever they have doubts." He advised farmers not to apply more fertilisers and pesticides to the crops without the advice of the agricultural extension officers.

"Farmers in Khammam district had a bumper crop in Rabi, however they did not make good profit on the crop. The aim of the government is to make farmers in Telangana rich and for that the government is working towards providing all logistical support," the minister said.

Sattupalli MLA Sandra Venkata Veeraiah, Palair MLA Kandala Upender Reddy and Wyra MLA Lavudya Ramulu Naik took part in the programme.

• THE NSP staff from engineers to laskars will monitor the water supply in the district.

## KTR eyes sector linked to agri

Food processing units have great scope as agri output has gone up, says minister

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

IT and Industries Minister K.T. Rama Rao said that though Telangana was witnessing an increase in crop production, the state does not have the capacity to fully process them. He said that against this backdrop there was an urgent need to promote the food processing industry.

The minister was giving a presentation to his Cabinet colleagues on food processing and logistics policies here on Wednesday. Mr Rao said that there are abundant investment opportunities in the food processing sector as the state registered a quantum leap in agriculture production. He opined that by promoting the food processing sector extensively, farmers will be able to grow economically and help create employment opportunities for the local youth.

He stressed that these policies will help bolster rural economies, attract investments, and increase employment opportunities. Mr Rao pointed out that the completion of irrigation projects and other similar measures have helped in increasing irrigation facilities and agricultural production in the state.

The minister said that due to the implementation of the sheep and fish fingerlings distribution schemes, there has been a significant increase in the number of sheep and production of fish. He said the state was experiencing a water revolution and was in the process of witnessing another Green Revolution (agriculture), followed by Blue Revolution (fisheries), Pink Revolution (meat production), and White Revolution (milk).

He highlighted that the crops being cultivated in every village, mandal and district are being mapped for comprehensive information on agricultural operations.

He said that there will be special incentives for SCs, STs,

minorities and women while setting up their food processing unit. He explained that necessary subsidies and incentives to develop the food processing industry have been proposed. Incentives given in other states and countries are being studied, he said.

He took inputs from ministers and assured them to take their suggestions while drafting the guidelines. Ministers Harish Rao, Singireddy Niranjan Reddy, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Srinivas Goud, Mohammad Mahmood Ali, Etala Rajendar, Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Koppula Eshwar, Sabitha Indrareddy, Satyavathi Rathod, V Prashanth Reddy, Gangula Kamalakar, Puvvada Ajay, Jagadish Reddy, Indra Karan Reddy, Telangana State Planning Board vice-chairman B. Vinod Kumar, Government Chief Advisor Rajiv Sharma, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, Principal Secretaries, and senior officials were present in the meeting.

## MEC-HYD ANNOUNCES B.TECH ADMISSIONS ELIGIBILITY

Hyderabad, Aug. 12: The Ecole Centrale School of Engineering (MEC) of Mahindra University, Hyderabad has declared the eligibility criteria for admission to the four-year B.Tech programme at its Hyderabad campus for the 2020-

2024 academic year.

Students who apply by August 15 via the www.mechyd.ac.in website will be eligible for an early round of online therapy.

Admissions will be given either on the basis of Joint Entrance Examination

(JEE) Main (Qualified and qualified for JEE Advanced 2020) or on the basis of valid SAT subject test results Scores or SAT scores or ACT scores or Class 10 + 2 tests.

Through its B.Tech, the MEC has about 400 spaces. — INN

## NSUI activists protest against exams, held

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

"The decision of the Telangana government to conduct examinations clearly shows how insensitive the government is towards students' health," alleged Balmoor Venkat, Telangana NSUI state president.

Huge numbers of NSUI student activists tried to lay siege to Pragathi Bhavan in protest against the government's decision to go ahead with the CET exams and the final year exams, alleging the state is ignoring the fact that the matter is pending in the High Court of Telangana. The activists were prevented by the police personnel and taken into custody. Many activists were seen wearing PPE kits when they came to Pragathi Bhavan to stage the protest.

Balmoor said that the TRS government which has failed to arrest the spread of Coronavirus is making every attempt to conduct the examinations only risking the lives of students.

"It is evident from Karnataka's KCET Exam that the students will be easily infected with the virus if exams are conducted in this pandemic. Taking a cue from Karnataka, the Telangana government should abstain from conducting any exam," Balmoor demanded.

CLP leader, Bhatti Vikramarka, MLAs T. Jagga Reddy, Srihari Babu, and other Congress leaders went to Goshamahal police grounds to show their solidarity with the detained NSUI activists. However, the police denied them entry, which led to an altercation. TPCC president and MP, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, MP, A Ravanth Reddy, and other leaders condemned the detention.

## Imams, muezzins seek release of payments

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 12

Imams and muezzins are not getting their honorariums promptly ever since the government started its disbursement through the Treasury and thereby effectively replacing direct disbursement from the Wakf Board.

Beneficiaries who have accounts in grameen and cooperative banks are not getting the honorarium.

The state government

started making the payments to imams and muezzins of 5,000 mosques in Telangana from July 2015 in compliance with the High Court's order.

In the state, as of now, each of the 10,000 beneficiaries is entitled for a monthly honorarium of ₹5,000.

Earlier, the Wakf Board used to transfer the amount through the Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTG) method. However, the government

changed the procedure and mandated transfer through Personal Deposit (PD) Accounts. Under this mechanism, amounts were not transferred to the beneficiaries with accounts in grameen and cooperative banks.

Out of 10,000 beneficiaries, 1,335 could not get their amounts this year. It is pertinent to mention that the Wakf Board had transferred the honorarium till April but could not transfer ₹4,33,25,000 to 8,665 beneficiaries.

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## HEAVY RAINS AFFECT OPEN CAST MINES

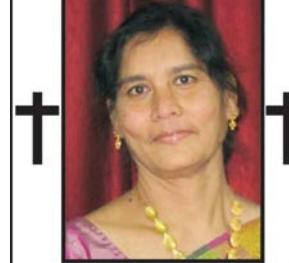
**SATTUPALLI, (KHAMMAM):** The continuous rains have affected coal production in the open cast mines in

Sattupalli. Due to the heavy rains and water logging, the mining lorries have been stranded and unable to go to

the open cast mines in JVR and Kistaram. About 22,000 tonnes of coal are mined from the two mines.

## OBITUARY

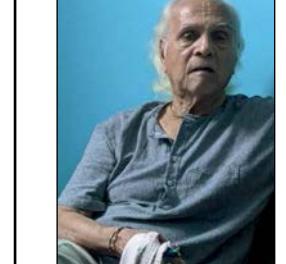
Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our Great God and Saviour Jesus Christ Titus 2:13



Late Mrs. Hemalatha Vijay Theophilus  
DOB : 5th February 1963  
Slept in the Lord 11th August 2020

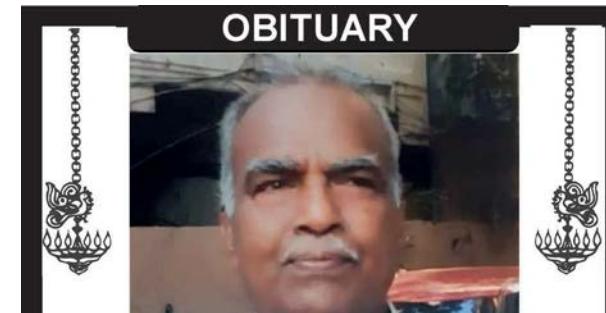
Husband : Vijay Theophilus  
Daughter : Jerusha Swetha  
Son : Joash Sanjog  
9908190323, 7799028568, 9849003527

## 13th DAY CEREMONY



Late. SHRI VIJAY PRATAP SINGH  
DOB 02-08-2020

You live in our hearts forever, we miss your presence and we have only memories as treasure.  
HARE KRISHNA  
Deeply mourned by:  
Wife REKHA SINGH  
Daughter RAKHEE  
Son-in-law KRISHNA KISHORE SINGH  
Daughters-in-law PRIYA & ARCHANA  
Sons: BHANU & JAI  
Grand Sons: KRISHNA KAUSHIK,  
KRISHNA RITHVIK RISHAB,  
RONAK AND AANSH.



PADHMANABHUNI  
LAKSHMAIAH CHETTY  
01-07-1939  
12-08-2020  
"We live with your memories and grow with your blessings"

Inserted by :

**Family Members**  
Balaji Industries  
and Engineering Corporation,  
Balaji Pressure Vessels Limited,  
Saibaba Flameproof  
and Switchgear Pvt. Ltd

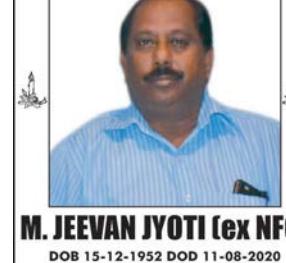
## SHRADHANJALI



Late Sri VASULAK. L. LAKHI  
(Ex-President, SSSDA)  
We deeply mourn the sad demise of our respected Ex-President Sri Vasulak. L. LAKHI

Inserted by:  
SREE SINDHI SATASANG DARBAR  
ASSOCIATION, SECUNDERABAD  
(S/2021/D00428)

## OBITUARY



Late Major. BAJ. WYCLIFFE (AOC)

DOB: 23 March 1921 DOD: 11 Aug. 1998

Mrs. BHOOŠHIL LILY DEVENAMMA WYCLIFFE  
DOB: 21 April 1926 DOD: 12 Aug. 2020

B-91, 2nd Avenue, Sainikpuri, Secunderabad.

## IN REMEMBRANCE



Late Major. BAJ. WYCLIFFE (AOC)

DOB: 23 March 1921 DOD: 11 Aug. 1998

Mrs. BHOOŠHIL LILY DEVENAMMA WYCLIFFE  
DOB: 21 April 1926 DOD: 12 Aug. 2020

B-91, 2nd Avenue, Sainikpuri, Secunderabad.

## SAD DEMISE



Smt. R. BHARATHI

DOB : 18.09.1947 DOD : 04.08.2020

Loving compassionate one of the kindest souls she left behind a rich legacy

Ajay (Son), Sandhya (Daughter-in-law), Aashray (Grandson), CALYX INTERNATIONAL, Secunderabad Ph: 9391057435 / 9740509491

## 10th DAY CEREMONY



S. B. SURENDER  
DOB: 1952 DOD: 02-08-2020  
Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS  
Ph: 8497952360

## 13th DAY CEREMONY



Sri. GARAPATI KRISHNA RAO

Executive Engineer (Retd)

Passed away on 1st August 2020

13th Day Ceremony will be performed

today the 13th August 2020 at his residence Hno: 8-3-320/A/1, Street #

11, Behind Sri Tharsha Studios, Yellareddyguda, Hyderabad - 500073.

RSVP: 040-23732066/ 974015634

Inserted by: Near & Dear.

(S/2021/D00034)

## 5th DAY CEREMONY ON 13-08-2020



Late. Smt. KOTHWAL LAKSHMI GARU

D.O.B : 01-03-1960 D.O.D : 05-08-2020

(Retd. Teacher, St. Patrick's School)

Your beautiful soul rests in peace. "We miss you"

Daughter & Son in Law:

**SHORT TAKES**  
**JAGAN LAUNCHES SCHEME FOR 23 LAKH WOMEN**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
 VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 12

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday launched another welfare scheme 'YSR Cheyutha', which will benefit 23 lakh women, aged between 45 and 60 years, belonging to SC, ST, BC and minorities.

Each woman in this category will get an annual financial benefit of ₹18,750 for four years to aid them in their economic empowerment. Over the four years, each woman will get a total of ₹75,000. The financial burden on the budget would be ₹4,687 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that he received complaints from women during his padayatra about the lack of government schemes aimed at them.

**INDUSTRIALIST SUCCUMBS TO CORONAVIRUS**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
 KADAPA, AUG. 12

Palem Srikanth Reddy, 57, a prominent industrialist-politician from Kadapa district succumbed to Coronavirus in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Shocked at the tragic news, people from the district, including his native village Tatimakulapalle of Veerapu-nayupalem mandal, went into mourning.

Srikanth Reddy came into politics as TD Kadapa Lok Sabha candidate in 2009 and was pitted against Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who as the Congress candidate won having secured 5,42,611 votes while Srikanth Reddy polled 3,53,765 votes.

Subsequently, he was in TD's technology wing. He founded the Janapalan party and worked to educate youth on politics for some time. Later, he completely concentrated on business and started Four Soft Company. After he sold his earlier company, he floated Palred Technologies.

# AP officials cash in on home isolation kits

Medicines, kits supplied by government being sold at profit

SAMPAT G.  
 SAMRITAN | DC  
 VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 12

The Covid-19 worries notwithstanding, several people are trying to earn a fast buck on its name, including government officials, in East Godavari district.

The state government has been encouraging Covid-19 positive people with relatively less viral load to go for home quarantine provided they have a separate room attached with a washroom. Towards this, it has started distribution of 'Covid-Home Quarantine Kit' comprising a pulse oximeter, first-aid medicines, sanitiser, hypochlorite 5% solution, liquid soap, surgical masks, tissues, disposable gloves, disposable bags and others to patients recommended for home quarantine by health authorities.

Though all medicines and other materials in the kit are being supplied by the state government, district health authorities are procuring kit bags made of rexine locally and are charging ₹1,200-1,300 for each bag, though it costs about ₹150-200.

Health authorities distributed such kit bags to nearly 1,000 patients.

Subsequently, with many people opting for home



Ignoring protocols for handling dead bodies of Covid-19 victims, a patient's body is being shifted on a rickshaw from a government hospital at Bapatla in Guntur district on Wednesday. According to hospital officials, the patient was brought with chest discomfort. However, he died within 15 minutes of being given first-aid by a doctor. After he died, the staff conducted a Covid test that turned out to be positive. The hospital staff informed the attendants about it. When they wished to shift the body in a vehicle arranged by them, hospital staff gave two PPE kits for their protection. The picture of relatives transporting the Covid-19 infected person's body in a rickshaw went viral on Internet. — TEJO ROY

are charging ₹1,200-1,300 for each bag, though it costs about ₹150-200.

Health authorities distributed such kit bags to nearly 1,000 patients.

Subsequently, with many people opting for home

quarantine, pulse oximeter is not being given to patients and kit bags are replaced with polythene covers.

However, the district health authorities have come up with bills towards procurement of the Covid-home quaran-

• THOUGH ALL medicines and other materials in the kit are being supplied by the state government, district health authorities are procuring kit bags made of rexine locally and are charging ₹1,200-1,300 for each bag, though it costs about ₹150-200.

ties for nearly ₹34 lakh.

Health personnel privy to such development in the department say that even if 1,000 kit bags were distributed with each one costing ₹200, the total cost of procurement would be just ₹2 lakh and not ₹34 lakh.

The district health authorities maintain that at present 10,980 Covid-19 positive patients are in home quarantine while 9,863, who were in home quarantine earlier, have turned Covid-19 negative.

Health personnel appealed to the district administration to order an inquiry into the excessive billing and punish the culprits for cheating gullible Covid-hit people.

## Tirupati probes cheating of Covid patients

AVINASH P.  
 SUBRAMANYAM | DC  
 TIRUPATI, AUG. 12

charges each patient anywhere between ₹15,000 to ₹75,000 per day," a senior health official said.

The probe found that six of the hospitals were charging exorbitant rates in the name of special packages and facilities. For mild cases, the charges are anywhere between ₹15,000-₹35,000 per day, ₹30,000-₹45,000 for moderate cases and ₹40,000-₹75,000 for critical patients per day.

District collector Dr Gupta, who inspected the private hospitals in the city, announced appointment of a nodal officer to keep tab on private hospitals fixed by government.

"It has come to our notice that some private hospitals are charging patients heavily. We want to make it clear that the government will not tolerate such unfair practices. Hence, nodal officers were appointed to ensure compliance with guidelines," said Dr Gupta.

In state-run hospitals and government-permitted private hospitals, however, the government is supplying the drug at free of cost based on the requirement as data of all patients and their health condition is available online.

## ANTI-COVID DRUG COSTS ₹1 LAKH FOR SET OF SIX VIALS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
 VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 12

With antiviral drug remdesivir emerging as a life-saving drug for some critically-ill Covid-19 patients, the price of the drug has skyrocketed to ₹1 lakh for a set of six vials in some hospitals in Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and other parts in AP.

The demand for remdesivir has increased after some critically ill patients have seen a good recovery after they were administered this drug.

In an attempt to cash in on the demand, a section of private doctors have started sourcing the drug — which was facing shortage — from their sources and been charging the patients ₹1 lakh as against the actual price of ₹32,400.

Sources said the private doctors are convincing the patients to pay more than its label price by saying that the drug is not available. The price in the hospital invoice, however, will be as per the MRP to avoid action by law enforcing authorities. In some cases, the family members of the patients themselves are demanding the doctors use Remdesivir to help save their family member's life.

In state-run hospitals and government-permitted private hospitals, however, the government is supplying the drug at free of cost based on the requirement as data of all patients and their health condition is available online.

## 19 PRISONERS IN KADAPA JAIL TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

NAGESWARA RAO  
 BALLEDIA | DC  
 KADAPA, AUG. 12

tect the jail from the virus.

But, a remand prisoner is reportedly infected his fellow inmates and the staff.

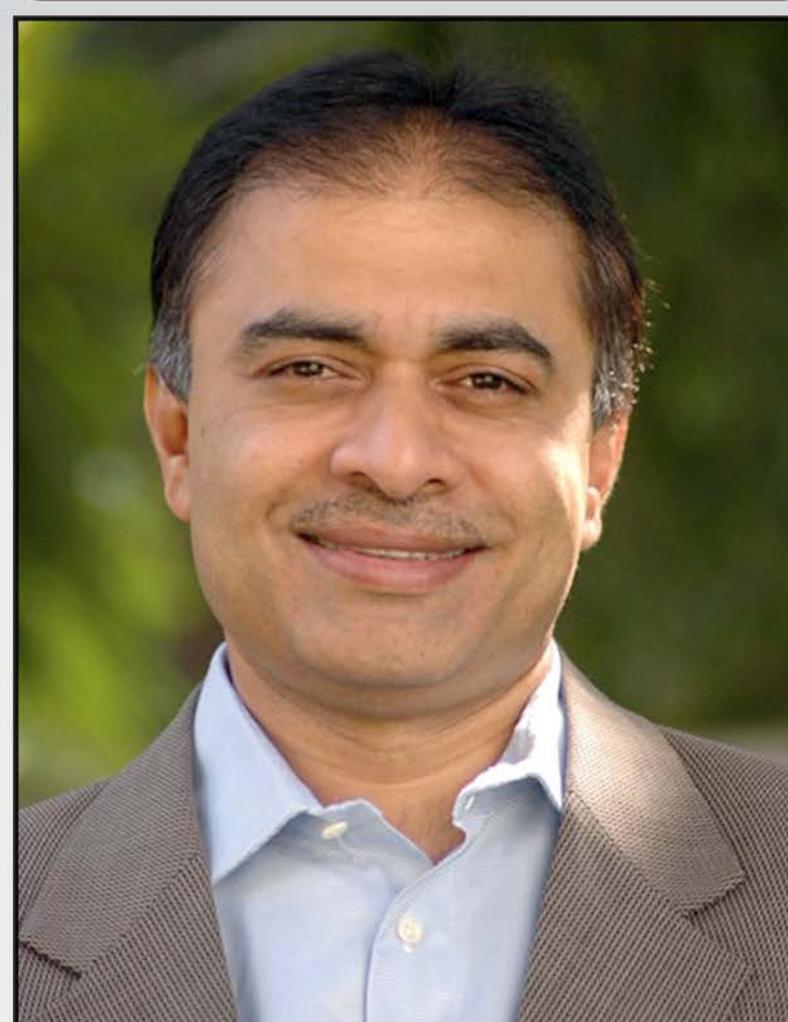
What worries the authorities is quick spread of the virus within four walls of the jail, built to accommodate 1,000 prisoners from Rayalaseema districts.

Presently it has 600 convicts and 200 remand prisoners.

### MECHANIZED CLEANING WORKS AT ALIPURDUAR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. AP-Mech-02-2020 Dated 10-08-2020. Name of Work: Mechanized cleaning (External & Internal), water topping and Pad locking of Coaches at washing Pit, Intensive cleaning of coaches, pit lines, Mechanized cleaning and water topping and Pad locking of Platform return trains, Mechanized cleaning of Pit line, sick line and Depot premises along with garbage Disposal of Alipurduar Division, N.F. Railway for a period of 03 (three) years. Tender Value: ₹8,91,65,611.96, Earnest Money: ₹5,95,800/- Cost of Tender document: ₹10,000/- Last date & time of submission of tender: 15.00 hrs. of. 03-09-2020 & opening on 16.00 hrs. of. 03-09-2020. For details please visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Sr. D.M.E, Alipurduar Jn. NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

## OBITUARY



Date of Birth  
 August 28th 1963



Date of Death  
 August 12th 2020

### Shri. PALEM SRIKANTH REDDY

Son of Chief Justice P.C. Reddy

A brilliant entrepreneur, a courageous leader, an incredible human being and a devoted family man whose zest for living, caring nature and immense generosity touched so many lives.

Your Family, Friends and Colleagues love you more than life itself and promise to honour all that you stood for.

Funeral to be held at Mahaprasthanam at noon on 13-08-2020.

Wife : Supriya Reddy  
 Children : Stuthi, Sanhita,  
 Son-in-law : Shravan,  
 Siblings : Srikanth, Srinivas, Dakshaini



# DECCAN Chronicle

13 AUGUST 2020

## PM 'mantra' old hat, should fund state fights

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the nation what he called a new mantra to defeat the Coronavirus: testing, tracing, isolation and treatment. The Prime Minister also said if the 10 states that account for 82 per cent of the number of Covid patients are able to contain it, then India will win the war against the pandemic. He has asked the Chief Ministers of West Bengal, Gujarat, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Punjab to step up testing.

It is welcome that the Prime Minister is seen to be taking an active interest in the war against the virus but the mantra he has given is by no means new. This formula — to test all the people who could have been in contact with infected people, trace all their contacts and isolate or quarantine them, and treat all those who have been infected — has long been employed successfully across the world. Several Indian states have aggressively pursued this path and have been able to contain the virus. Even Delhi, once considered the Corona capital, and Dharavi, the slum in Mumbai, have employed this mantra successfully. The World Health Organisation has been talking of increased number of tests from the very start of the campaign against the virus. The PM's advice comes at a time when India's daily caseload has crossed 60,000; of late, we are ahead of even the United States and Brazil on this count. At present, India with over 23 lakh infections is at the third position in the list of the worst affected nations. With a doubling rate of 22.7 days, India is projected to overtake Brazil in a couple of weeks. The only silver lining is case fatality rate of 2.1 per cent, which is lower than the global average of 3.75 per cent. However, the number of deaths has shown an alarming trend with the figure touching 1,000 on some days. India's number of tests per million of population is low compared with other severely affected nations: 18,300 per million against 1,99,803 of the US and 62,200 of Brazil. India's test positivity rate is higher than these two countries, too. An early rollout of the mantra across the country when it was under lockdown would have stopped India from coming to such a pass. However, it is always better late than never.

Apart from the new mantra, what the states who are in the frontline of the "war" want is money. Most states are now exhausted in terms of their financial and human resources. The increasing cost of the Corona fight and the decreasing economic activity stare them in their faces. The suggestion of Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami that the PM-Cares fund meet at least half of the testing cost merits the Centre's serious consideration. The government must also drop its reported move to renege on its statutory obligation to offset the shortfall in GST collection. It must open its coffers and help the states instead so that India emerges a winner as Mr Modi suggested.

## Educating courts, citizens

All fair-minded Indian citizens have occasion to be grateful to the judiciary today — it has done its job well of reading the law right and settling all ambiguities — whether intentional or wishful — concerning the landmark 2005 amendment to the 1956 Hindu Succession Act. Clearcut in nature, the amendment had nevertheless seen several challenges involving its interpretation — especially with respect to whether the karta or head of the family was alive on the date it had been passed — in the present case, the Court settled seven special leave petitions alongside the main matter involving siblings Vineeta and Rakesh Sharma's share of family property. The Hindu Succession Act lays down a uniform system of inheritance that applies to persons governed by Hinduism's Mitakshara (northern India) Dayabhaga (West Bengal, Assam), Murumakkattayam, Aliyasantana and Nambudri (southern India) laws. The amendment expands women's rights within this law. According to its Section 6, which, the Court pointed out, applies retroactively, rather than retrospectively, daughters are equal coparceners in a Hindu undivided family property irrespective of their date of birth or, alternatively, the date of death of the father, provided there has been no partition or devolution of the property in question before December 20, 2004. This judgment thus ensures that a woman can no longer be denied her share on the ground that she is born prior to the enactment of the law on September 9, 2005, or that her father was not alive on that date. The judgment is a reminder of another progressive judgement in the same context — on December 22, 2015, the Delhi High Court ruled that the eldest female member of a Hindu undivided family can be its karta. However, another critical issue still lies open regarding this very law. It is to do with the daughter's progeny and lineal descendants. Do they have the same rights as the son's descendants? Section 15 of the law pertains to the circumstances of a woman dying intestate. It does not give her parental and marital heirs equal rights of inheritance to her property, scrutinising it and returning it to its originator, and his heirs, as if she has added no value to it on her part. A reform, thereby, is the need of the hour.

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"Mut ranja kar kisi ko, ke apne to aeteqaa,  
Jee dhaaye ke jo kaaba banaya to kya kya?"

— Mir Taqi Mir

We will lose Turkey, if Istanbul is lost." This statement by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan returned to plague him when his Justice and Development Party lost Ankara, Istanbul and five major cities in 2019's local elections. This may be one reason why he swiftly transformed the Hagia Sophia museum into a mosque on July 24.

From the Bosporus, the Istanbul skyline is exactly like picture postcards, a skilful contrast of domes and minarets, slim as thermometers. The brooding Ayasofya Museum stands apart. The greatest Byzantine cathedral, built at the edge of Europe in 537, was designed to dominate the panorama of the Marmara Sea and the Asian mainland beyond.

The first Arab probe of Sindh by Mohammad bin Qasim was in 711 AD, exactly the date when Tariq ibn Ziad crossed over from Morocco to set up station at what he called Jabal al-Tariq, or the Rock of Tariq, which the British renamed Gibraltar in 1704 after the famous Spanish-British naval engagements, including the "Spanish Armada".

Before the Iberian Peninsula turned into a cauldron of intra-European conflict, 800 years of Muslim rule was somewhat unevenly spread across Spain. To flavour this phase of history, one has to read Maria Rosa Menocal's masterly *Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*. The title itself tells the story. It is astonishing that in the past three decades of gruelling Islamophobia, not one of our liberals has referred to phases in history when robust multiculturalism thrived under Muslim rule. After Reconquista in 1492 by Christians, the Inquisition was much harsher on the Jews who found refuge in Morocco and later in the Ottoman Empire.

The glory of the greatest Eastern Orthodox Cathedral came under partial eclipse when the Roman Catholic Church occupied it for six decades. But it was Sultan Mehmet's establishment of the Ottoman Empire in 1453 that caused the cathedral to face a predictable total eclipse. It was then transformed into a mosque.

From the debris of the Ottoman Empire after World War I, Mustafa Kemal Pasha "Ataturk" resurrected what is modern Turkey. He was determined to take his country from "backwardness" into "modernism". In other words, he turned his back on "Muslim traditionalism" and dreamt of a secular Turkey, custom made for Europe. He replaced the Arabian alphabet with the Roman script in the Turkish language. He banned the "fez" cap, brought the practice of Islam under a department of religious affairs under the Prime Minister, and so on. Little wonder the texture of life in Istanbul and Ankara was more European than Islamic, rather like North Tehran under the Shah of Iran. But what was the ingredient that made Turkey's secularism comparatively more durable? It was the Turkish Army, which became the guarantor of the republic's secularism. Ataturk divined, and quite rightly too, that Hagia Sophia mosque would be an eyesore for Europe, in perpetuity. With one executive order in 1934, it was reinvented as a museum of Byzantine history.

It was Western callousness that, in the ultimate analyses, made Turkey's secular edifice vulnerable. Western, mostly American, and Israeli hostility to Arab socialism (Egypt), Ba'athism (Iraq, Syria) and Libya's cradle-to-grave welfare system (details of the Afghan tumult are only slightly different) promoted Islamism on an unspeakable scale. The details of Turkey's upheaval

must be explained. With the breakup of the former Yugoslavia, Serbian and Croatian nationalisms turned upon Bosnian Muslims with vicious brutality. Srebrenica is only one chapter in that shoddy history. Briefings by Gen Sir Michael Rose, the UN military commander, were laden with more gruesome detail by the day, particularly in the four-year siege of Sarajevo. The Balkans, the turf for continuous conflict throughout history between the Ottoman and the Austro-Hungarian Empires, became an open killing field when Belgrade couldn't hold Yugoslavia together. The helplessness of Bosnian Muslims was unbelievable. Europe's reason for not intervening was a long hollow. Its intervention, it was said, would cause individual countries to take sides in a conflict where World War II adversaries Serbia and Croatia were fighting each other over the Bosnian spoils.

A Europe sucked into the Bosnian war carried the risk of undermining the very purpose for which the EU was forged: to avoid conflict between member states. This was sophistry, said Salman Rushdie. Reverse the religious affiliations of the combatants, and European troops would be in Bosnia within a day.

Mornings, evenings and afternoons, Turks watched the brutalisa-

Subhani



## Make India stronger in order to take on China

Sunanda K.  
Datta-Ray

Reflections

Although both countries have roughly the same population, India's GDP is only \$2.5 trillion, compared with China's \$12.2 trillion

squanders money on architectural extravaganzas like the Ayodhya temple to Ram that is now being built, reinventing Delhi and gigantic statuary instead of investing in liveable housing, potable water and a creaky healthcare system that is incapable of coping with Covid-19. China, meanwhile, never ceases to advertise itself as the only one among the world's top five healthcare markets with double digit growth.

Another yardstick is that while India is inordinately proud of its nine Nobel laureates, their success is really happenstance. China's eight prize-winners are the products of the solid primary and secondary school system that has been built up throughout the country.

Standing up to China sounds undeniably patriotic. But we must know the threat in order to repulse it. If the goal had been conquest, China would not have walked away after Bomdila in 1962. If it was economic domination, the Chinese would not have wanted to invest in infrastructure (highways, railways, ports and airports) as well as manufacturing to reduce India's trade deficit and realise Mr Modi's "Make in India" dream.

Of course, the Chinese have a strategy and the purpose is to help China, not India. But the way to counter that is not empty bombast and blowing hot and cold, but to build up India's own economic strength, bargain hard over trade terms to increase India's exports, and to cooperate in economic and development projects that help both countries.

Like Australia, India too cannot contain China in the South China Sea. It would only diminish itself by becoming another Tibet, Xinjiang or now Hong Kong in America's anti-China armoury.

The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

## LETTERS

### TIGER RESERVES

The Madhya Pradesh government's decision to release captive tigers looks ridiculous (*Reserves for man-eater tigers planned*, DC, Aug. 11). These tigers housed in zoos for years may have lost their natural instinct to hunt for prey. So, if they cannot hunt for food, there is a good chance of them dying of hunger.

**Naveen Goud**  
Hyderabad

### POLITICIANS' OUTLOOK

One fails to understand the reason why morally bankrupt politicians ditch the party on whose ticket they have won the election (*6 Manipur Congress MLAs give up Assembly membership*, DC, Aug. 12). This is India where politicians find greener pastures even by losing their seat.

**P.J. David**  
Hyderabad

### RUSSIAN VACCINE

Notwithstanding the doubts of medical experts about the efficacy of the Russian Covid vaccine in the absence of human trials, it is a welcome news. Even if the vaccine provides relief to half of the affected people, its distribution will be a priority for the world.

**P. Panduranga Rao**  
Hyderabad

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.

### Sino-Pak attack on India not ruled out

NEW DELHI, Aug. 12 The possibility of Pakistan attacking India with the help of China "cannot be ruled out" Defence Minister Jagdish Ram said in a written answer in the Lok Sabha today.

Mr. Abdul Ghani Dar's question was: "Whether there is a possibility that Pakistan may attack India with the help and active support of China in this year or in the coming years." Replying to another question, Mr. Jagdish Ram said that the Government was aware of Chinese activities in the Chumbi valley having a military significance, but "there is no confirmation of the reported construction of an air strip".

Saeed Naqvi  
Wide Angle



## Will Erdogan's Islamist play at Hagia Sophia rescue his govt?

From the Bosporus, the Istanbul skyline is exactly like picture postcards, a skilful contrast of domes and minarets, slim as thermometers. The brooding Ayasofya Museum stands apart. The greatest Byzantine cathedral, built at the edge of Europe in 537, was designed to dominate the panorama of the Marmara Sea and the Asian mainland beyond.

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The writer is a senior journalist and commentator

**SHORT TAKES**  
**MULAYAM'S  
HEALTH CONDITION  
IMPROVES**

Lucknow, Aug. 12: The health condition of Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, who was admitted to a hospital here last week, is under control, the medical facility said on Wednesday.

Yadav was admitted to Medanta Hospital here on Friday following an infection in the urinary tract. He was tested for Covid-19 and was found negative.

"He (Mulayam Singh Yadav) is stable, and treatment is going on. He has not completely recovered. His condition is under control," Medanta Hospital Director Dr Rakesh Kapoor said.

Kapoor had earlier said that the 80-year-old SP leader also underwent ultrasound, blood and urine tests.

SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary had said on Saturday that party chief Akhilesh Yadav and his wife Dimple Yadav had visited the hospital on Friday night to enquire about Mulayam Singh Yadav's condition.

**AMNESTY FOR  
PROBE INTO  
SHOPIAN KILLINGS**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
SRINAGAR, AUG. 12

Amnesty International (AI) on Wednesday called for investigation and prosecution into the alleged extrajudicial execution of three labourers by the Army troops in Shopian district by independent civilian authorities, saying civilian investigations and trials "offer a degree of transparency and independence that is missing from the military justice system".

The human rights watchdog was reacting to the Indian Army's statement that it has launched an inquiry into the reports that three labourers Imtiaz Ahmed, Abrar Ahmed Khan and Abrar Yusuf from frontier Rajouri district were killed in a fake encounter by the troops in Shopian on July 18, a day after the trio had arrived in the area to work in an apple orchard to earn their livelihood.

While the Army said on Monday that it is investigating the social media reports linking to the encounter, the local police on Tuesday said that taking the cognizance of the claim by the families and media reports, it "will examine the claimants and carry out DNA sampling for matching purpose besides identification."

The police authorities said that the families of the three youth filed a complaint with Rajouri's Peeri police station on August 10, saying that their kin had gone to Shopian for labour work but they lost contact with them after they had made last phone calls to them after reaching Shopian on July 17. "Meanwhile social media reported that the terrorists killed in an operation at Shopian on July 18 are reportedly their kin," the police said in a statement here.

**ATTEMPTS TO  
DELAY NAGA  
TALKS FLAYED**

**MANOJ ANAND | DC**  
GUWAHATI, AUG. 12

People at grassroots are irked against some frontal organisations like Naga Hoho, Naga Mothers Association and Naga Students Federation for their alleged attempt to delay the Naga peace process at the behest of a section with vested interests including the leaders of ruling party.

Indicating that signing of the peace accord may lead to change of guard or mid-term polls to facilitate the rebel groups to contest the elections, security sources told this newspaper that the statement of the 14 Apex Naga Tribal Hoho, which commands the supreme authority on Naga people has come as major setback for vested interest circle trying to delay the peace talks.

"The political negotiations have progressed to the final leg where inclusive agreement could be reached anytime, if negotiating parties stood committed to the October 31, 2019 understanding," said the Apex Naga Tribal Hoho. It warned, "This is not the time for negative campaign as it could only delay the process and lead to another endless negotiations while remaining in one's comfort zone at the cost of peace and tranquillity. It was pertinent to avoid the double standard role of negotiation, without any commitment for solution."



Border Security Force (BSF) jawans display preparedness in Pargwal area along the India-Pakistan border in Akhnoor of J&K on Wednesday, ahead of the Independence Day.

— PTI

## Soldier killed; Hizb terrorist gunned down in encounter

**25-yr-old jawan was leading his party when it encountered terrorists**

**YUSUF JAMEEL | DC**  
SRINAGAR, AUG. 12

An Army jawan and a local commander of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen were killed and another soldier was injured in a brief gunfight in Jammu and Kashmir's southern Pulwama district on Wednesday morning.

Later, during the day, militants targeted a Quick Reaction Team of the Army with gunfire at Trumgund-Hygam crossing along the Srinagar-Baramulla road, injuring, at least, one jawan of 15 Garwal regiment.

Soon after the attack, the Army's 52 Rashtriya Rifles was joined by men from J&K police's counterinsurgency Special

Operations Group and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to conduct searches in neighboring villages to apprehend the assailants.

The soldier who laid down his life while fighting militants in Pulwama's Kamrazipora village has been identified as Sowar Jilajeet Singh Yadav.

**THE SLAIN** militant was involved in a series of terror activities including the killing of police head constable Anoop Singh on May 22 in the district's Pritch area.

**THERE ARE** six FIRs registered against him at various police stations.

"There are six FIRs registered against him at various police stations. Earlier he was detained under Public Safety Act

**THE SOLDIER** who laid down his life while fighting militants in Pulwama's Kamrazipora village has been identified as Sowar Jilajeet Singh Yadav.

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"There are six FIRs registered against him at various police stations. Earlier he was detained under Public Safety Act

for being an OGW (Over Ground Worker of militants) but after his release he became active again," the DGP said.

The clash took place at Kamrazipora after the SOG, the Army and the CRPF's 53 Battalion laid siege to the village to conduct search.

The police and the Army said that in the initial exchange of fire, two Army jawans were injured.

They were quickly evacuated to Srinagar's 92-Base Hospital where one of them succumbed to critical wounds.

One AK assault rifle was found on the slain militant, defence spokesman, Colonel Rajesh Kalia said.

The defence spokesman said that 25-year-old old Army jawan Yadav "was leading his party when it came into contact with the terrorists at Kamrazipora".

He added, "After one terrorist was eliminated, Yadav received a gunshot wound. Despite being grievously injured, he continued to fight. He was subsequently evacuated to 92 Base Hospital, Srinagar where he eventually succumbed to his injuries."

He said that the slain soldier was a resident of Ijari village of Sadar tehsil, Jaunpur district in Uttar Pradesh and had joined the Army on March 18, 2014. He is survived by his wife Punam Devi.

## Kerala objects to EIA notification

**GILVESTER ASSARY | DC**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
AUG. 12

The CPM-led Kerala's LDF government has urged the Centre to hold elaborate discussions with all stakeholders on the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification before taking a final decision.

The state government had conveyed its reservations on the draft notification on Tuesday, which was also the last date for the states to submit their opinion.

"We believe that the draft EIA notification will have adverse effect on Kerala. Hence, the Centre should take all concerned on board," Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan here directed the Idukki collector to prepare a detailed report on the incident and

The LDF government has also expressed its serious reservations against the proposal to do away with district environmental impact assessment committees. The government has pointed out that the district level committees are crucial for detailed inspection prior to the granting approval for small projects.

The Kerala government has expressed its opposition to some of the conditions laid down for mining/quarrying. Kerala is in favour of bringing down the lower limit for quarrying from five hectares to two hectares for seeking environmental clearance.

The existing norms will remain for quarries less than two hectares. Environment clearance is needed for B1 medium category for carrying out mining and quarrying in an area exceeding five hectares to one hundred hectares.

The CPM feared that the draft paved way for legalising the wrongdoings of projects that violate the environment laws.

The rights of adivasis and Dalits will come under threat, it alleged.

## Rehabilitation package for plantation workers soon

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
AUG. 12

The Kerala government on Wednesday decided to implement a comprehensive rehabilitation package for the families of plantation workers who died in landslides at Pettimudi in Rajamala village of Idukki district even as three more bodies were recovered from the site taking the toll in the incident to 54.

The Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan here directed the Idukki collector to prepare a detailed report on the incident and

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the plight of plantation workers in estates.

The government will formulate a detailed rehabilitation package based on the findings and recommendations of the report.

This newspaper on Wednesday had reported about the deplorable conditions in which plantation workers are living in Kerala, especially in Idukki district.

The Cabinet decided to bear the entire cost of the treatment of those injured in the landslide. The government said the priority at this stage was on rescue operations since 17

rescue personnel from the debris. Governor Arif

Mohammad Khan and Chief Minister are scheduled to visit Pettimudi on Thursday to meet the families of the victims and meet officials carrying out rescue operations in the area.

The Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues had drawn flak from the Opposition Congress and various other quarters for failing to visit the accident site immediately after the tragedy.

The bodies of ten children between the age group of six months and 14 years have been retrieved by the NDRF and other rescue personnel from the debris. Governor Arif

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**SHORT TAKES**  
60,963 FRESH  
CASES, RECOVERY  
RATE 70%

New Delhi, Aug. 12: India's Covid-19 tally went past 23 lakh on Wednesday with a single day increase of 60,963 cases, while the recoveries surged to 16,39,599 pushing the recovery rate to 70.38 per cent, according to data by the Union Health Ministry.

The total Coronavirus cases in the country have mounted to 23,29,638, while the death toll climbed to 46,091 with 834 new fatalities being reported in a span of 24 hours, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The case fatality rate has declined to 1.98 per cent.

There are 6,43,948 active cases of coronavirus in the country at present which comprise 27.64 per cent of the total caseload.

India had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7.

According to the ICMR, a cumulative total of 2,60,15,297 samples have been tested up to August 11 with 7,33,449 samples being tested on Tuesday.

Of the 834 new deaths reported, 256 are from Maharashtra, 118 from Tamil Nadu, 87 from Andhra Pradesh, 86 from Karnataka, 58 from Uttar Pradesh, 49 from West Bengal, 32 from Punjab, 23 from Gujarat, 18 from Madhya Pradesh, 16 from Bihar, 12 from Jammu and Kashmir and 11 each from Haryana and Rajasthan, the data showed.

Ten fatalities have been reported from Odisha, nine from Telangana, eight from Delhi, six from Goa, five each from Chhattisgarh and Kerala, four each from Assam and Jharkhand, two each from Puducherry and Uttarakhand while Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur have registered one fatality each.

Of the total 46,091 deaths, Maharashtra has reported the maximum at 18,306, followed by 5,159 in Tamil Nadu, 4,139 in Delhi, 3,398 in Karnataka, 2,695 in Gujarat, 2,203 in Andhra Pradesh, 2,176 in Uttar Pradesh, 2,149 in West Bengal and 1,033 in Madhya Pradesh, according to the Union health ministry data.

**JD(U) LEADER SHOT DEAD IN BIHAR**

Madhepura, Aug. 12: A 50-year-old JD(U) leader was shot dead in Bihar's Madhepura district, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place around 8 pm on Tuesday, when Ashok Yadav, JD(U)'s Gamharia block president, was standing near a shop in his Jogbani village, Madhepura Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Washi Ahmad said.

Two persons, who came on a motorcycle, opened fire at him from a close range and fled from the spot, he said.

Yadav was rushed to the Supaul Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. His body has been sent to the Madhepura Sadar Hospital for post-mortem.

The two men, who fired at him, are yet to be identified, the police officer said, adding that search operations are on to arrest them.

Asked about the motive behind the killing, the SDPO said it is difficult to say anything as of now as police are investigating the matter.

**INDIA-BHUTAN BORDER TRADE VIA WB HALTED**

Alipurduar (WB), Aug. 12: Trade across the India-Bhutan border through Jaigaon in West Bengal's Alipurduar district was suspended after a lockdown was imposed to curb the rise in Covid-19 cases in the Himalayan kingdom, an official said on Wednesday.

The border gates between India's Jaigaon and Bhutan's Phuentsholing were closed after the total lockdown came into force in the neighbouring country on Tuesday, an Alipurduar district official said.

"Border trade through Jaigaon has stopped completely," he said.

Even though three districts of West Bengal — Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri and Kalimpong — share a border with Bhutan, the major chunk of trade with the Himalayan kingdom takes place through the Jaigaon-Phuentsholing section.

Jaigaon serves as a major gateway for Bhutan to the rest of India through Siliguri that lies around 150 km west of the border town.

# Riot-hit areas resemble war zone

Charred vehicles, shards of glass from broken windows, stones lie strewn over deserted roads

Bengaluru, Aug. 12: Areas under Pulakesh-imagari assembly constituency here resembled a war zone on Wednesday, hours after an unruly mob went on a rampage torching vehicles, torched over a 'communally sensitive' social media post allegedly by put up by a relative of a Congress MLA.

Charred vehicles, shards of glass from broken windows, stones and bricks lie strewn over the deserted roads of the violence-affected localities.

Earlier, three people were killed in police firing and scores of others wounded, including at least 50 policemen in the violence and arson that erupted in the city on Tuesday night and continued till the wee hours of Wednesday.

Property of Congress legislator Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy and his family members were targeted after a 'communally sensitive' social media post uploaded online by one of his relatives enraged a section of people.

"We were not at home when all this happened," Jayanthi, the MLA's sister said weeping inconsolably.

"The only solace is that my brother and his family are safe," she said.

The violent crowd set on fire police vehicles and barged into DJ Halli police station on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday and damaged the property.

Police have arrested about 110 people on charges of rioting.

Terming the violence in the city as a 'well-planned act,' Karnataka Revenue Minister R. Ashoka on Wednesday said the 'traitors' who perpetrated the riots would be dealt with an iron hand and steps would be taken to ensure that such incidents do not recur.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Murthy at Vidhana Soudha here, Ashoka said, "The manner in which the riots were perpetrated shows that it was a well-planned act and was intended to spread to other parts of the city. These are traitors and we will subdue them."



Residents gather outside the residence of a Congress MLA in Bengaluru on Wednesday. — PTI

**Q** The manner in which the riots were perpetrated shows that it was a well-planned act and was intended to spread to other parts of the city. These are traitors and we will subdue them

— R. ASHOKA, Karnataka Revenue Minister

looted while the rest was set on fire.

It is clear from the intensity of vandalism that the intention was to attack and finish off Srinivasa Murthy.

It has to be investigated whether any anti-social elements from within the state and outside were involved," Ashoka said.

Claiming that the violence was planned to terrorise the people of Bengaluru, Ashoka said government will send across a strong message so that no one would ever

dare to take law into their hands again.

He also said he met the Chief Minister and apprised him of the ground situation.

The Minister added that steps would be taken to rein in anti-social elements as vandalism was carried out in a manner that communities were identified to target them.

"Whether Popular Front or SDPI is behind it, we will not bother. These people must be arrested. We will hunt them wherever they are holed up,"



Locals help move burnt vehicles at Devar Jeevana Halli in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

— SATISH B.

## BJP accuses Congress of not being 'vocal' against rioters in Bengaluru

New Delhi, Aug. 12: The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in Karnataka on Wednesday accused the Congress of not being 'vocal' against rioters who attacked a legislator of the Opposition party in Bengaluru, saying "appeasement" seemed to be its official policy.

The BJP also said Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa must make the rioters pay heavily for destruction of property.

He noted that rioters had attacked the house of Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy, a Dalit.

"Total support for right to riot. For them appeasement is the only official party policy," he said.

"After 14 hours

Yediyurappa must make rioters pay heavily for destruction of properties. #SaveBengaluru," BJP general secretary P. Muralidhar Rao tweeted.

Rao is the BJP's in-charge for Karnataka affairs.

BJP general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh alleged that the Congress was maintaining "dead silence".

He noted that rioters had attacked the house of Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy, a Dalit.

"Total support for right to riot. For them appeasement is the only official party policy," he said.

"After 14 hours

Karnataka Congress wakes up to blame Naveen for Facebook post & police for delay in taking action.

One straight question. Does your party support rioters like this? Why

Congress hesitates to condemn riots by minority groups?

#COnSupportsRiots," he said in a tweet. (sic)

Karnataka Congress leader Dinesh Gundu Rao hit back at Santhosh, accusing him of using the incident to gain political mileage.

His statement is a crude attempt to communalise the issue & divide on caste lines, Rao said, calling it "pathetic and deplorable".

"That's what BJP & RSS do best, play politics over/with dead bodies," he alleged.

Responding to his swipe, Santhosh tweeted, "At least acknowledge that your own Dalit MLA's house was ransacked. Police station was destroyed. Why Why Why so much of appeasement, fear when your own MLA is targeted? Be simple & straight Sir."

Opposition Congress and JD(S) in Karnataka have extended complete support to the state government in establishing peace in violence-hit parts of the city and demanded immediate action against culprits.

— PTI

Ashoka said.

Addressing the media after meeting the minister, Murthy said he wanted the government to provide him protection.

"We were not at home when nearly 3,000 people

with petrol bombs, clubs, came and burnt the vehicles, damaged our house. I need protection from the government after this incident," a visibly shaken MLA said.

He said for the past 25

years he has been living with the Muslim brethren but never faced such a problem.

He demanded a CBI or

CID inquiry into the matter to bring out the facts.

Asked about his relative

Naveen, whose alleged social media post sparked violence, Murthy said, "Naveen is not my relative. For the past 10 years we have not been in touch with him."

— PTI

## FORGET AND FORGIVE, GEHLOT TELLS UPSET MLAs

Jaisalmer/Jaipur, Aug. 12: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday said resentment among the Congress MLAs is natural after the return of dissident legislators to the party-fold but asked them to forgive, forget and move on.

But with just two days to go before the Assembly session, the party is taking no chances, deciding to keep them together at a resort in the state capital.

The MLAs in the Gehlot camp were on Wednesday flown back to Jaipur from Jaisalmer, where they were together at another hotel.

They were taken straight from the airport to the Fairmont hotel on the outskirts of the city, where they had stayed before being moved to Jaisalmer. The MLAs mostly from the Congress and some allies are expected to remain there till the Assembly meets on August 14.

The Congress crisis in Rajasthan appears to have ended with the intervention of the top leadership of Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra who met rebel leader Sachin Pilot earlier this week.

Pilot had openly rebelled against Gehlot last month along with 18 other Congress MLAs. He was then sacked as deputy chief minister and the party's Rajasthan chief.

— PTI

## Sushant's kin sends legal notice to Raut

Sharad Pawar says Parth is 'immature'

DC CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI, AUG. 12

Calling Ajit Pawar's son Parth "immature", NCP president Sharad Pawar on Wednesday said he gives "absolutely no importance to his grand-nephew's recent demand for a CBI probe into the case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

The NCP chief also said that he has full faith in Maharashtra and Mumbai police but if someone still wants a CBI probe into it, then there is no reason to oppose that too," the NCP chief told reporters here after a meeting with Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut at YB Chavan Centre in South Mumbai.

He was asked about the demand for a CBI probe in the case being made against some people, including by his grand-nephew Parth.

On July 27, Parth met state home minister Anil Deshmukh demanding

that the case of Rajput's death be handed over to the CBI or a Special Investigation Team (SIT) be formed with forensic experts to probe the case.

"We attach absolutely no importance to what my grand-nephew says. He is immature. I have clearly said that I have 100 per cent trust in the Maharashtra police and Mumbai police but if someone still wants a CBI probe into the case, then there is no reason to oppose that too," the NCP chief told reporters here after a meeting with Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut at YB Chavan Centre in South Mumbai.

He was asked about the demand for a CBI probe in the case being made against some people, including by his grand-nephew Parth.

On July 27, Parth met state home minister Anil Deshmukh demanding

had swung into action after registering an FIR on July 25, the development was received with indignation by the Uddhav Thackeray government in Maharashtra.

Meanwhile, NCP leader Majeed Memon on Wednesday said actor Sushant Singh Rajput was not as famous during his lifetime as he is after death, a remark which did not go down well with his party which quickly distanced itself from it.

The NCP said it was Memon's personal opinion and not of the party.

Memon, who is a former Rajya Sabha member and a prominent lawyer, also

said the media space that

the late actor is occupying

nowadays is perhaps more than India's Prime Minister and US President.

As reactions came in on

the social media following

his post, Memon said his

comments do not insult

the late actor in any way.

Rajput, 34, was found

hanging at his apartment in Bandra area in Mumbai on June 14.

sented some situations that are misleading and portray an inappropriate work culture, especially against women in the IAF," said the letter.

It said that the production house was informed about the objectionable portion in the movie and was advised to delete or modify them.

However, the production house has not deleted the scenes but had proposed a media plan in the run up to the release and inserting a disclaimer in

the movie," it said.

The IAF said that it con-

siders that a mere media

plan and disclaimer would

not be adequate to prevent

## IN BRIEF

## 170 perish in Yemen floods

**Sanaa:** Flash floods triggered by torrential rains have killed at least 172 people across Yemen over the past month, damaging homes and Unesco-listed world heritage sites, officials said. The destruction has dealt a new blow to a country already in the grips of what the United Nations describes as the world's worst humanitarian crisis after years of war between a Saudi-backed government and Iran-allied rebels. In the mainly government-held province of Maarrif east of the capital, 19 children were among 30 people killed by the floods, a government official said.

## South Sudan clash: 127 die

**Juba:** Clashes between soldiers and civilians during a disarmament exercise in the South Sudanese town of Tonj left 127 dead, the army spokesman said Wednesday. Major General Lul Ruai Koang said that the fighting erupted on Saturday as security forces carried out an operation to disarm civilians in the area which has seen deadly inter-communal clashes. More than six years after a civil war broke out in the country, and many communities are flush with weapons, which they keep for protection or defense against cattle raids. The violence in Tonj began after armed youths got into a disagreement with soldiers. An initial confrontation was brought under control, but according to Koang the youths mobilised others for an attack on the army position.

## Fight on: HK tycoon to staff

**Hong Kong:** Hong Kong pro-democracy media mogul Jimmy Lai on Wednesday told his reporters to "fight on" after his dramatic arrest, as China widens its crackdown against critics in the semi-autonomous city. The clampdown has gathered pace since Beijing imposed a sweeping security law on the international business hub in June, with opposition politicians disqualified and activists arrested for social media posts. Lai was among 10 people detained under the new law on Monday as around 200 police officers searched the newsroom of his Apple Daily tabloid, which is unapologetically critical of Beijing. The 71-year-old was cheered by staff and handed a bouquet on Wednesday as he returned to the newsroom following a late-night release on bail after 40 hours in custody. "Fight on! Let's fight on," Lai said. "We have the support of the Hong Kong people."

## RAJAPAKSAS DOMINATE NEW CABINET

**Colombo, Aug. 12:** Sri Lanka's new Cabinet, including four members of the powerful Rajapaksa family, took oath on Wednesday with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa retaining the key defence ministry while the finance portfolio went to newly elected Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa after their party won a landslide victory in parliamentary elections last week. President Gotabaya administered the oath of office to the 28-member Cabinet which is two less than the 30 allowed by the Constitution. He also appointed 40 state ministers. The swearing-in ceremony was held in the central town of Kandy.

President Gotabaya retained the ministry of defence while his elder brother PM Mahinda has been assigned finance, urban development and Buddhist affairs ministries.

Mahinda's elder son, Namal Rajapaksa has been named the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports — a first time Cabinet position since he entered parliament in 2010.

The eldest brother of the president, Chamal Rajapaksa was named irrigation minister in addition to being the state minister of internal security. His son, Shasheendra Rajapaksa has also been given a state ministry. One of the main features in the Cabinet is that while veteran politician Dinesh Gunawardena has been re-named the foreign minister, a new state ministry of regional cooperation affiliated to the foreign ministry has been created.

Significantly, former president Maithripala Sirisena has been overlooked for a Cabinet ministry despite his overwhelming win in the elections. Gotabaya also appointed his lawyer as justice minister. Ali Sabry appeared for Gotabaya when he faced court cases related to corruption.

# US health chief sceptical of Russia's virus vaccine claim

Important to provide safe, effective vaccine, not a race to be first: Alex Azar

**Taipei, Aug. 12:** Washington's health chief on Wednesday expressed scepticism about Russia's claim of developing the world's first safe Coronavirus vaccine, pointing to the lack of data from its initial trials. Moscow said Tuesday its vaccine offered "sustainable immunity" against the virus, but Western scientists have previously raised concerns about the development speed of Russian treatments, suggesting researchers were cutting corners. US Health Secretary Alex Azar echoed those concerns Wednesday as he wrapped up a three-day visit to Taiwan.

"It's important that we provide safe, effective vaccines and that the data be transparent... This is not a race to be first," he told reporters during a conference call.

"I should note that two of the six US vaccines that we've invested in entered the phase three clinical trials weeks ago that the Russian vaccine is now only beginning," he added.

"The data from the initial trials in Russia have not been disclosed, it's not transparent." Russian President Vladimir Putin said the vaccine was safe, and that one of his daughters had received a dose.

The vaccine has been named "Sputnik," after the world's first artificial satellite that helped the Soviet Union take the lead in the Cold War space race in 1957.

Governments are under huge pressure to find a vaccine against the coronavirus, which has killed more than 700,000 people worldwide and decimated the global economy since it first emerged in central China late last year. The United States is the worst-hit country, with nearly 5.1 million infections and more than 174,000 deaths.

President Donald Trump is facing a tough fight to get re-elected in November, trailing rival Joe Biden in the polls as anger mounts over his administration's response to the pandemic. Azar said he was confident a vaccine would



Policemen talk to residents who were rounded up for violating quarantine protocols in Quezon city, Philippines on Wednesday. The residents were recorded and given lectures on community quarantine protocols before they were released as the capital and outlying provinces undergo another lockdown due to rising Covid-19 cases. — AFP

## Don declares 6th vaccine contract

**Washington, Aug. 12:** President Donald Trump on Tuesday announced a \$1.5 billion contract with US biotech company Moderna for 100 million doses of an eventual Coronavirus vaccine, the sixth such deal reached since May.

"I'm pleased to announce that we have reached an agreement with Moderna to manufacture and deliver 100 million doses of their Coronavirus vaccine candidate," Trump said at a White House news conference. "The federal government will own these vaccine doses, we're buying them."

Fauci has said researchers are unlikely to know the efficacy of the vaccine before the end of the year at the earliest. — AFP

easier, so we'll have 600 million doses," he added.

Moderna, in partnership with the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), is conducting Phase 3 clinical trials of a vaccine candidate and manufacturing of vaccine doses will take place while the trials are underway.

The vaccine, called mRNA-1273, is being co-developed by Moderna and the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which is led by Dr Anthony Fauci.

Fauci has said researchers are unlikely to know the efficacy of the vaccine before the end of the year at the earliest. — AFP

## MAN DIES OF BUBONIC PLAGUE IN MONGOLIA

**Ulaanbaatar, Aug. 12:** Bubonic plague has killed a man in western Mongolia, the country's health ministry said Wednesday, the latest in a handful of cases to emerge there and in neighbouring China this year.

At least one person dies of the plague every year in the landlocked Asian country, where the rare bacterial disease is usually spread by fleas clinging to the hair of the marmots native to the region.

The government has responded with campaigns to discourage people from eating the large rodents.

Officials said a man died on Tuesday night in the latest case, which is still to be confirmed by laboratory tests.

More than 70 people in close contact with the 42-year-old, who had bought two dead marmots before he fell ill, will now be tested and undergo quarantine. It comes weeks after a 15-year-old boy also succumbed to the disease in a neighbouring province.

Health officials in China have reported two deaths from its side of the border this month — one from bubonic plague, and another caused by the pharyngeal plague. — AFP

## Duterte: Will be Russia vaccine 'guinea pig'

**Manila, Aug. 12:** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte will be a guinea pig for a controversial Russian Coronavirus vaccine, his spokesman said on Wednesday, as the Southeast Asian nation emerged as a frontrunner for over-seas clinical trials.

Moscow says it has developed the world's first vaccine offering "sustainable immunity" against the

virus and is in the final stage of tests involving 2,000 people.

However, Western scientists have previously raised concerns about the speed of development of Russian vaccines, suggesting researchers might be cutting corners.

But despite the scepticism, Manila has accepted Russia's offer to participate in clinical trials, vacci-

ne supply and production of the drug, and Philippine health authorities said they are meeting the Russian drug developer Gamaleya on Wednesday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the drug was safe and that one of his own daughters had received the inoculation, dubbed "Sputnik V" after the pioneering 1950s Soviet satellite.

Duterte's spokesman Harry Roque said that the president was not joking. — AFP

Duterte has also expressed "huge trust" in Russia's efforts to stop the contagion. "I believe the vaccine that you have produced is really good for humanity," Duterte said, praising Putin. "I will be the first one to be experimenting on," he said on Monday.

Duterte's spokesman Harry Roque said that the president was not joking. — AFP

## US arms ban push will fail, hopes Iran

**Tehran, Aug. 12:** Iran's President has expressed "great hopes" Wednesday that a US bid to extend an arms embargo on his country will fail, warning of consequences if the UN Security Council backs it. Rouhani's remarks came after Iran's ambassador to the United Nations said the US would have to redraft its proposed resolution on the issue after being "rebuffed" by Security Council members.

The ban on selling weapons to Iran is set to be progressively eased from October under the terms of Resolution 2231, which blessed the Iran nuclear deal that world powers agreed in July 2015.

But a UN embargo on materials and technology that Iran could use for its ballistic missile program

is to remain in place until 2023. The European Union has said it will continue to enforce its own embargo against Iran after the lifting of the first UN embargo.

Under the accord officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Iran committed to limiting its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

The JCPOA has been on life-support since the US withdrew from it and reimposed unilateral sanctions in 2018.

Iran has since taken small but escalatory steps away from compliance with the agreement as it presses for the sanctions relief it was promised.

"We have great hopes that America will fail," Rouhani said. — AFP

Hassan Rouhani

## Oz sailor feted 77 yrs after saving crew

**Wellington, Aug. 12:** An Australian war hero will be awarded the nation's top military honor more than 77 years after he was killed while saving some of his shipmates.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II has approved awarding the Victoria Cross to sailor Edward "Teddy" Sheean, Australia's Governor-General David Hurley. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Sheean, who was just 18 when he died, sacrificed his life for his shipmates during World War II.

The ban on selling weapons to Iran is set to be progressively eased from October under the terms of Resolution 2231, which blessed the Iran nuclear deal that world powers agreed in July 2015.

But a UN embargo on materials and technology that Iran could use for its ballistic missile program

given for the crew of the HMAS Armidale to abandon ship, Japanese aircraft strafed the Australian sailors who were overboard," Morrison said in a statement. "Sheean then turned back, made for the gun, strapped himself in, and returned fire to the Japanese. He fought to the very end."

A week after the ship was sunk near East Timor in December 1942, 49 crew members were rescued, Morrison said. Many of them owed their lives to the actions of Sheean.

Sheean's family have spent decades trying to get

exchanges between the US and Taiwan under any pretext". On issues involving China's core interests, some people in the US must not harbour illusions, those who play with fire will get burned," said foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian at a regular press briefing.

Beijing slammed the visit Wednesday and said it "firmly opposes official

military and the Coronav-

irus pandemic.

Health chief Alex Azar finished a three-day trip to Taiwan, during which he criticised China's handling of the pandemic and visited the shrine of a former Taiwan president hatched by the Communist Party leadership.

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Reactions..



It is a moment of pride for Indians and Tamil Nadu especially, as Kamala Harris, the first Indian senator, whose mother hails from

Tamil Nadu has been nominated as the Vice Presidential candidate by the US Democratic party. My hearty wishes to her.

**O. PANNEERSELVAM,**  
State deputy chief minister



I'm thrilled to welcome @KamalaHarris to a historic Democratic ticket. She's already proven herself to be an incredible public servant and leader. And I know she'll be a strong partner to @JoeBiden. Please join me in having her back and getting her elected.

**HILLARY CLINTON**



@KamalaHarris will be a great partner to @JoeBiden in making our government a powerful force for good in the fight for social, racial, and economic justice.

**ELIZABETH WARREN**

## WHO IS KAMALA HARRIS

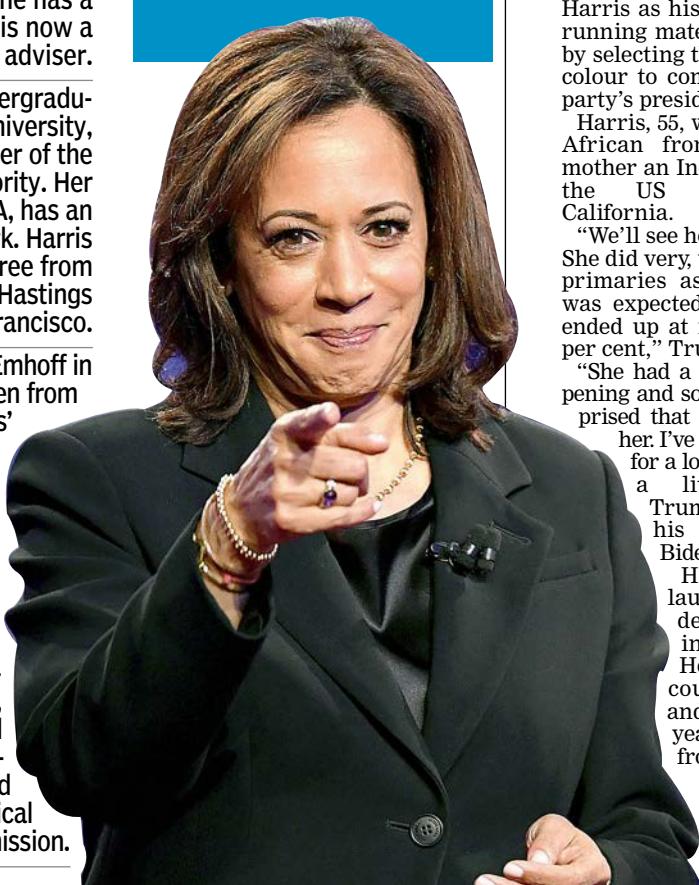
Kamala Devi Harris was born on October 10, 1964 in Oakland, California. Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, was a Tamil breast cancer scientist who emigrated from India in 1960 to pursue a doctorate in endocrinology at the University of California, Berkeley. Her father, Donald Harris, emigrated from Jamaica in 1961 to study at UC Berkeley and was a professor at Stanford University. She has a younger sister, Maya, who is now a close political adviser.

Harris received her undergraduate degree at Howard University, where she was a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Her sorority, known as AKA, has an influential political network. Harris received her law degree from University of California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco.

Harris married Doug Emhoff in 2014. Emhoff has two children from a previous marriage. Harris' long career as a prosecutor may be a boon for Biden, although critics have raised concerns about her record as a district attorney and California attorney general. After graduating law school in 1990, Harris was hired as a deputy district attorney in Alameda County, California. She also served on the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board and later the California Medical Assistance Commission.

**DEMOCRACY JUST**  
cannot flourish amid fear. Liberty cannot bloom amid hate. Justice cannot take root amid rage. America must get to work. . . . We must dissent from the indifference. We must dissent from the apathy. We must dissent from the fear, the hatred, and the mistrust.”

**KAMALA HARRIS,** *The Truths We Hold: An American Journey*



## Biden's V-P choice surprises Trump

Washington, Aug. 12: US President Donald Trump said he is surprised that his Democratic Party challenger for the presidential elections Joe Biden has named Indian-origin Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate despite knowing how “nasty” and “disrespectful” she has been towards him.

Biden on Tuesday named Harris as his vice-presidential running mate, making history by selecting the first woman of colour to compete on a major party’s presidential ticket.

Harris, 55, whose father is an African from Jamaica and mother an Indian, is currently the US Senator from California.

“We’ll see how she works out. She did very, very poorly in the primaries as you know. She was expected to do well. She ended up at right around two per cent,” Trump said.

“She had a lot of things happening and so I was a little surprised that he (Biden) picked her. I’ve been watching her for a long time, and I was a little surprised,” Trump said, offering his first reaction to Biden’s pick of Harris.

Harris had launched her presidential campaign in January 2019. Her campaign could not take off and by the end of the year, she withdrew from the race.

Harris is the first person of colour to be selected as a vice presidential candidate and also the fourth woman and first-ever African American and Indian American to be running for the second highest political position in the country.

selected as a vice presidential candidate and also the fourth woman and first-ever African American and Indian American to be running for the second highest political position in the country.

Responding to questions, Trump told reporters that Harris has been nasty to him.

As far as Kamala is concerned, she’s a big tax raiser. She’s a big slasher of funds for our military. And she’s got a lot of difficult things that she’s going to have to explain. Plus she was very, very nasty — one of the reasons it surprised me — she was probably nastier than even Pocahontas (Senator Elizabeth Warren) to Joe Biden. She was very disrespectful to Joe Biden, Trump said, referring to the Democratic Party debates.

“It’s hard to pick somebody that’s disrespectful. When she said (those) things during the debates — the Democrat Primary debates — that were horrible about sleepy Joe. I would think that he wouldn’t have picked (her).” Trump said. Commenting on Vice President Mike Pence, Trump said he has been fantastic at his work.

“I will take him over Kamala and the horrible way she, again, treated Justice Brett Kavanaugh. That was a horrible event. I thought it was terrible of her, I thought it was terrible for our nation. I thought she was the meanest, the most horrible, most disrespectful of anybody in the US Senate, Trump said. — PTI

“Choosing a vice president is the first important decision a president makes. When you’re in the Oval Office, weighing the toughest issues, and the choice you make will affect the lives and livelihoods of the entire country — you need someone with you who’s got the judgment and the character to make the right call,” Obama said in a statement.

Prior to being a Senator, she served as California’s attorney general and was the district attorney in San Francisco. She herself was a presidential aspirant until last year before she dropped out of the race because of lack of popular support. — PTI

Washington, Aug. 12:

Former US president Barack Obama has joined top Democrats, including Hillary Clinton, to praise Indian-American Senator Kamala Harris’ selection as the party’s vice presidential candidate in the November election, saying Joe Biden has “nailed this decision”.

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris as his vice presidential running mate, making history by selecting the first woman of colour to compete on a major party’s presidential ticket. Harris, whose father is from Jamaica and mother an Indian, is currently the US Senator from California.

“Choosing a vice president is the first important decision a president makes. When you’re in the Oval Office, weighing the toughest issues, and the choice you make will affect the lives and livelihoods of the entire country — you need someone with you who’s got the judgment and the character to make the right call,” Obama said in a statement.

Obama, who served in the White House with Biden for two terms, said the former vice president “nailed this decision” and by choosing Harris he “underscored his own judgment and character” — attributes that are “requirements of the job”

of president. Obama said that he has known Harris for a long time.

“She is more than prepared for the job. She’s spent her career defending our Constitution and fighting for folks who need a fair shake,” he said. Harris is the first woman of colour and the first South Asian woman to be picked as a vice-presidential candidate for a major party in the US.

Prior to being a Senator, she served as California’s attorney general and was the district attorney in San Francisco. She herself was a presidential aspirant until last year before she dropped out of the race because of lack of popular support. — PTI

## THE INSPIRING STORY OF MANY FIRSTS



Indian-origin Senator Kamala Devi Harris scripted history when she became the first woman of colour to be appointed as running mate by Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden in the November presidential elections.

The 55-year-old California senator becomes just the third woman to be selected as the vice president on a major party ticket. Then-Alaska Governor Sarah Palin in 2008 and New York Representative Geraldine Ferraro in 1984 were the other two.

Harris is known for many firsts. She has been a county district attorney; the district attorney for San Francisco — the first woman and first African-American and Indian-origin to be elected to the position. She would be several firsts in her role as vice president also: the first woman, the first African-American woman, the first Indian-American and the first Asian-American.

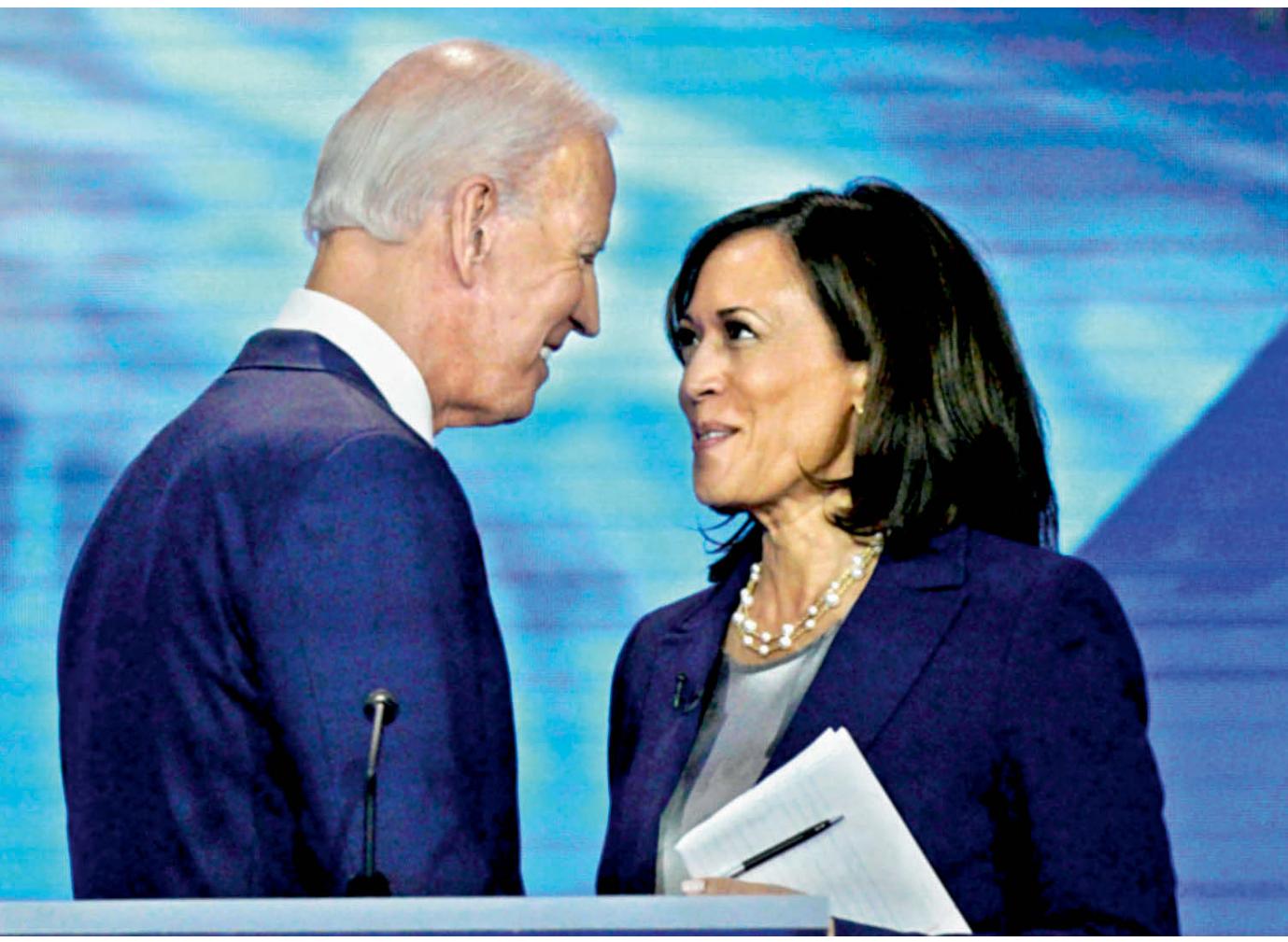
Harris grew up embracing her Indian culture, but living a proudly African American life.

In her nearly two terms in office as attorney general, Harris gained a reputation as one of the rising stars of the Democratic Party. She was elected as California’s junior US Senator in 2017.

It is believed that Harris’ nomination will stop Indian-American voters in key battleground states from shifting away from the opposition Democratic Party in the direction of Trump.

## Kamala pick to intensify China row

Senator had flayed China for the mass detention camps of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang



**KAMALA TAKES AFTER HER MOTHER, SAYS UNCLE**

**B. VIJAYALAKSHMI | DC CHENNAI, AUG. 12**

Just hours after Kamala Devi Harris scripted history by becoming the first African-American woman, the first Indian-American and the first Asian-American to be appointed as running mate of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden in the November presidential elections, her uncle G. Balachandran shared his joy with DC.

“Kamala takes after her mother Shyamala Gopalan who broke new ground way back in 1958,” said Balachandran from New Delhi. Though he had expected the nomination, the official announcement by Biden was a “pleasant surprise”. “Kamala is quick on her feet, has established herself as a good debater and has a lot of things going forward. We are proud of her,” he adds.

Shyamala had brought her daughters to Chennai quite often where her parents settled after Gopalan retired from government service. Kamala, the eldest grandchild, was Gopalan’s favourite and both of them used to spend time walking on the beach. When asked about her grandfather’s influence on Kamala, Balachandran says, “My father had retired by then and settled in Chennai. He used to take her to Elliot’s beach. She also used to have long chats with him.” Probably, he must have kindled Kamala’s interest in public service.

He also recalled his elder sister Shyamala’s grit and determination who went to UC Berkeley at a very young age of 19 in 1958. “She was bold and independent. Managed it all by herself, all alone in the US. She broke new ground,” he adds. He also remembers Shyamala bringing her two daughters to Zambia decades ago where his father was posted then.

He signs off saying, “It is common thinking, not progressive thinking or being liberal, that will take you places. All human beings are equal regardless of their colour, gender, race or nationality.”

## Being tough may backfire on her

Los Angeles, Aug. 12: Joe Biden’s choice of Kamala Harris as his running mate was hailed on Tuesday as a historic first woman of colour, but some warn her record as a tough prosecutor could dent her appeal with two key constituencies — coloured voters and liberals.

Harris, the first woman and the first woman of colour attorney general in the history of the Golden State, portrayed herself as a progressive reformer during her own presidential bid, but some have cast doubts on that claim.

As concerns police brutality — a subject very much in the news following the death of George Floyd, whose killing at the hands of police in May sparked nationwide protests — Harris has also been criticised for failing to intervene in cases involving police violence.

While serving as attorney general in 2016, for example, she opposed a bill to investigate deadly police shootings following the death of a stabbing suspect — shot 21 times by police — that sparked huge protests. — AFP

## Biden ‘nailed this decision’ in picking Harris: Obama

Washington, Aug. 12:

Former US president Barack Obama has joined top Democrats, including Hillary Clinton, to praise Indian-American Senator Kamala Harris’ selection as the party’s vice presidential candidate in the November election, saying Joe Biden has “nailed this decision”.

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris as his vice presidential running mate, making history by selecting the first woman of colour to compete on a major party’s presidential ticket. Harris, whose father is from Jamaica and mother an Indian, is currently the US Senator from California.

“Choosing a vice president is the first important decision a president makes. When you’re in the Oval Office, weighing the toughest issues, and the choice you make will affect the lives and livelihoods of the entire country — you need someone with you who’s got the judgment and the character to make the right call,” Obama said in a statement.

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## quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	38,369.63 -0.10
Nifty 50	11,308.40 -0.12
S&P 500*	3,381.80 1.44
Dollar (₹)	74.83 -0.06
Pound Sterling (₹)	97.64 0.21
Euro (₹)	87.89 0.15
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	52,946▼1,228 2.31
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	45.13 0.63
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.884 -0.019
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.678 0.020

\* As of 9:30 PM IST

## Mphasis gets US patent for its AI system

Mphasis said it has recently been granted a US patent for its artificial intelligence system for tracking, managing and analysing data from unstructured data sources. "The patented system enables enterprises to draw actionable insights at real-time from enterprise data sources such as e-mails, call centre transcripts, insurance policy documents, broker submissions, bank statements and customer complaints among others," it said.

## 23 firms attend meet on running private trains



As many as 23 firms, including Bombardier, Alstom, Siemens and GMR, have shown interest in running private trains and attended a pre-application meeting on Wednesday as a first step, the Railways said. Other attendees included BEML, IRCTC, BHEL, CAF, Media Group, Sterlite, Bharat Forge, JKB Infrastructure and Titagarh Wagons, it said. The Railways has invited 12 Request for Qualifications.

## Fuel demand declines by 11.7% in July

India's fuel demand is beginning to flatline after showing signs of returning to life, as consumption dipped 11.7 per cent in July, official data showed. Fuel consumption, a barometer of economic activity, had slumped by over 45 per cent in April as the nationwide lockdown halted most vehicular traffic and shut industries. However, with easing of lockdown restrictions, the demand picked up in May and June.

## Ford brings in top-end Freestyle SUV at ₹7.69 lakh

Ford expanded its Freestyle model lineup with a top-of-the-line Freestyle Flair compact SUV variant at an introductory price of Rs 7.69 lakh for petrol variant and Rs 8.79 lakh at Delhi showroom for the diesel to cash in on the festive season. The petrol engine in the new Ford Freestyle Flair is a 3-cylinder, 1.2-litre, TiVCT unit delivering 96PS of maximum power and 120Nm of peak torque.

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## ■ Say imports will hit viability of gardens Tea growers oppose move to reduce duty

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, AUG. 12

Amidst reports of traders seeking duty-free import of tea, growers across the country have opposed it and warned the government that any such move will destabilise the sector.

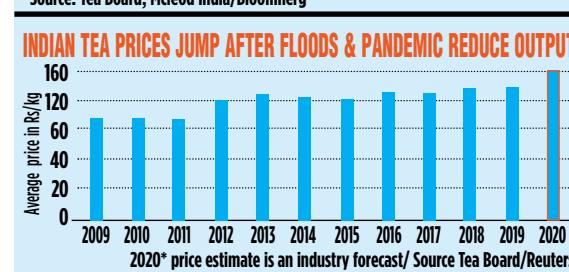
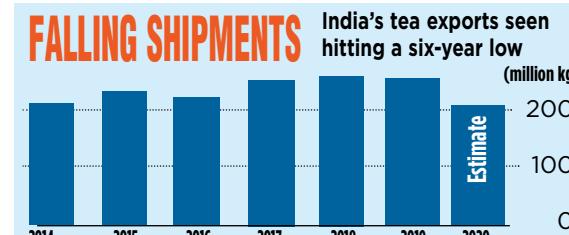
The Consultative Committee of Plantation Associations (CCPA), the apex body of tea associations in India, urged the government not to reduce import duty on tea "as any move in that direction will disturb the equilibrium of the industry".

"A duty reduction will lead to erosion of domestic prices and subsequently affect the economic viability of the tea gardens and livelihood of lakhs of people," CCPA chairman Vivek Goenka said in a letter to commerce minister Piyush Goyal.

The United Planters Association of South India (Upasi) too has maintained that it will be counter-productive for the tea growing sector. According to Upasi president A. R. Nagappan, the industry employs 2.12 lakh growers and 11.65 lakh workers, of which more than 70 per cent are women.

The tea growers have made such requests following reports that tea traders and packing companies had asked the government to allow duty-free imports after tea prices touched new highs in the recent auctions.

After eight years of price stagnation, average tea



prices in the country's auctions have risen by 40-60 per cent during the April-June period due to strong buyer demand and a huge shortfall.

According to the Indian Tea Association, the country has already registered a 120-140 million kg shortfall in production. Heavy rains and the absence of tea pickers due to the lockdowns had hammered production and sent tea prices records.

In contrast, tea prices in Kenya and Vietnam have made such requests following reports that tea traders and packing companies had asked the government to allow duty-free imports after tea prices touched new highs in the recent auctions.

After eight years of price

Lanka at a concessional duty of 7.5 per cent.

CCPA says reduction in import duty will see cheap tea flooding the market and it will have disastrous effects on prices. It also wanted tea imported into the country to be checked for the prescribed FSSAI quality norms and compliances.

According to Nagappan, the price increase in the last few auctions does not substantiate the duty reduction argument as the price increase for the period January to June in South India was lower by 9.4 per cent.

Further, India produces tea in surplus and exports around 18-20 per cent of its production. A disruption in the tea industry will also deprive export revenues to the country.

## UK plunges into deep recession, 'hard times'

ADITI KHANNA  
LONDON, AUG. 12

The UK economy plunged into a deep recession as it shrank 20.4 per cent between April and June at the height of the coronavirus lockdown, according to new figures released on Wednesday.

Reacting to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) data, UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak admitted that it indicated that the hard times he had warned about are here and that many more jobs will be lost.

"I've said before that hard times were ahead, and today's figures confirm that hard times are here," Sunak told Sky News.

"Hundreds of thousands of people have already lost their jobs, and sadly in the coming months many more will. But while there are difficult choices to be made ahead, we will get through this, and I can assure people that nobody will be left without hope or opportunity," he said.

It marks the first time in 11 years that the UK has tipped into a recession, which is defined by two consecutive three-month periods of falling GDP. The latest GDP figures showed that it fell by 20.4 per cent between April to June, following a drop of 2.2 per cent between January to March. —PTI

## ICICI Bank: Stock favoured by world's analysts lags behind

NUPUR ACHARYA  
AUG. 12

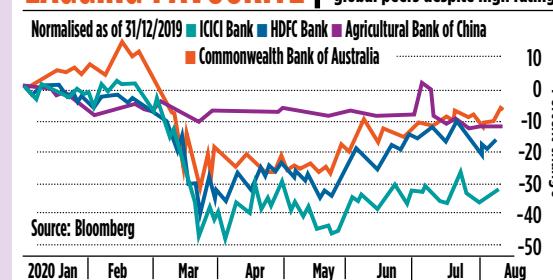
ICICI Bank Ltd is the world's highest rated banking stock, but its performance hasn't exactly been stellar.

The \$32-billion lender has 56 buy recommendations, and its consensus rating of 4.95 on a scale of 5 is the highest among the 50 largest banks globally, data compiled by Bloomberg show. But its share price is down 32 per cent this year, ranking it in the bottom four of that same group.

Coronavirus lockdowns and low interest rates have taken a toll on global financial stocks, and Indian banks are still reeling from a crisis among the nation's smaller shadow lenders. Even so, attractive valuations... should stand ICICI Bank's shares in good stead, said Sanjiv Bhasin, executive vice president at IIFL Securities Ltd. "The valuation of ICICI Bank gives us a lot of comfort as it has

### LAGGING FAVOURITE

ICICI Bank underperforming global peers despite high rating



been an underperformer," Bhasin said.

The second-largest public lender is trading at about 1.9 times book value, cheaper than the NSE Nifty Bank Index's 2.7 times. Its earnings have held up, with a 36 per cent rise in net income for the June quarter, helped by the sale of stakes in its insurance subsidiaries.

While the bank reported higher provisions against bad loans due to the pandemic, it plans to raise as much as Rs 15,000 crore through a share sale to institutions to boost its

balance sheet. A number of peers have undertaken such financial buffer building this year, and passive flow is seen helping to support ICICI Bank's stock.

Funds that track the MSCI, FTSE, Nifty 50 and Sensex indexes will need to buy around 40.8 million shares (10 per cent of the share issued in the qualified institutional placement) over the next couple of weeks and the stock could be supported," Brian Freitas, an analyst for Smartkarma, wrote in a note. —Bloomberg

## DGFT amends policy on Advance Authorisation

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, AUG. 12

lowing advance authorisation scheme where the export item is gold medals and coins, gold jewellery and articles manufactured by fully mechanised process.

The DGFT had issued a public notice on the same matter on September 26, 2019. However, M. D. Overseas, an exporter of gold jewellery and medallions, had filed a petition with the Delhi High Court

challenging the withdrawal of the scheme.

As per DGFT rules, Advance Authorisation is issued to allow duty-free import of inputs which are physically incorporated in the export product. The rules allow DGFT to exclude any product.

The Delhi High Court in May 2020 ruled that the the public notice issued was beyond DGFT's power jurisdiction and authority.

## Foxconn: China's days as world's factory are over

DEB WU  
AUG. 12

goods headed to US markets.

"No matter if it's India, Southeast Asia or the Americas, there will be a manufacturing ecosystem in each," Liu said, adding that while China will still play a key role in Foxconn's manufacturing empire, the country's "days as the world's factory are done."

The Taiwanese company reported better-than-expected net income of NT\$22.9 billion (\$778 million) for the quarter ended in June, boosted by increased demand for iPads and MacBooks.

Foxconn has been shaking up its traditionally China-focused operations.

Hon Hai Precision Industry Co chairman Young Liu said it's gradually adding more capacity outside of China, the main base of production for gadgets from iPhones to Dell desktops and Nintendo Switches. The proportion outside the country is now at 30 per cent, up from 25 per cent last June.

That ratio will rise as the company—known also as Foxconn—moves more manufacturing to Southeast Asia and other regions to avoid escalating tariffs on Chinese-made processes, welfare, working hours," it said.

"Ultimately, workmen employed in the factory would be forced labour which is prohibited under Article 23 of the Constitution," it said. —PTI

Foxconn will work on its component business to maintain tech leadership and it also benefits from its long-term relationship with Apple, Liu said in response to analysts' questions about Foxconn's competitive strategy.

—Bloomberg

## Bharat Forge reports Q1 loss of ₹127 crore

MICHAEL GONZALVES  
PUNE, AUG. 12

Bharat Forge, auto component major, on Wednesday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 127.32 crore in Q1 2020, as against net profit of Rs 171.92 crore posted in Q1 2019.

Bharat Forge also has businesses in power, oil & gas, construction & mining, locomotive, marine, defence and aerospace.

Revenue from operations stood at Rs 1,154.21 crore, tumbling 50 per cent from Rs 2,327.85 crore in the same period last year.

The Pune-based company clarified that a drop in revenue was due to the shutdown of manufacturing operations in April and May on account of the pandemic-led lockdown.

During April-June Thermax reported a total income of Rs 685.36 crore. It had posted a total income of Rs 1,414.01 crore in the year-ago quarter.

**CORRIGENDUM:** We carried the wrong photograph of Mr. Dipesh Kaura, GM (South Asia) of Kaspersky, in this page yesterday. The error is regretted. Here is the right one.

**THERMAX POSTS ₹15 CRORE LOSS**

MICHAEL GONZALVES  
PUNE, AUG. 12

Thermax, energy and environment solutions major, on Wednesday posted a net loss of Rs 15.27 crore in the June quarter, against a profit of Rs 63 crore in the year-ago quarter. The Pune-based firm has manufacturing facilities in China, Europe and South East Asia.

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## Things you're doing wrong when buying stocks on your own

EDWARD ROBINSON  
AUG. 12

how to avoid pitfalls, Bloomberg News picked the brains of these four top performers on eToro, a digital trading platform regulated by the UK's Financial Conduct Authority. eToro lets people copy the trades of investors with proven track records, like this quartet.

They all believe newcomers make mistakes by not investing for the long term and by not diversifying their portfolios with at least 30 well-researched names. Here are the other mistakes they spotted.

## SHORT TAKES

**Russia pays fine to escape ban**

**Moscow:** Russia paid \$6.3 million to World Athletics on Wednesday to escape expulsion from track and field's world governing body.

The federation, known as RusAF had a Saturday deadline to pay a \$5 million fine and \$1.3 million in costs to World

Athletics. That followed the alleged use of forged medical documents to give an athlete an alibi for being unavailable for drug testing. RusAF was threatened with expulsion after it missed an initial July 1 deadline to pay.

"World Athletics can confirm it has today received the funds to settle RusAF's two outstanding payments," World Athletics said in a statement.

The Russian Sports Ministry put up the funds after RusAF said it couldn't pay. The ministry said on Wednesday that it gave RusAF "a one-time subsidy for developing the sport, including clearing the debt to World Athletics," but didn't specify how much money has been transferred to the Russian sporting organisation.

— AP

**Serena, Simona are stretched**

**Los Angeles:** A rusty Serena Williams made a winning return from her six-month Coronavirus hiatus on Tuesday, defeating lowly ranked Bernarda Pera in three sets to advance to the second round of the WTA Top Seed Open tournament in

Kentucky. Williams, who before Tuesday had not played a competitive game since a Fed Cup appearance in February, was forced to come from behind to defeat world number 60 Pera 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in two hours and 15 minutes at the Top Seed Tennis Club in Lexington.

Meanwhile, top-seeded Simona Halep had to fight hard to advance to the second round of the Prague Open in beating unseeded Polana Hercog 6-1, 1-6, 7-6 (3) on Tuesday.

It was the first competitive match for Halep since she won the Dubai Championships in February for her 20th career WTA title. Before the

Wimbledon champion recovered from a foot injury she sustained in Dubai, the Coronavirus pandemic forced a five-month break. — Agencies

**CWG Village to be a multi-site affair**

**Birmingham:** The Covid-19 pandemic has forced the organisers of the 2022 Commonwealth Games to opt for a multi-site athletes village instead of building single accommodation facility for players and officials.

According to the Games organisers, the athletes and team officials will now be housed in three campus villages at The University of

Birmingham, The University of Warwick, and The NEC Hotel Campus. The 500 million pound village was being constructed on the former Birmingham City University site in Perry Barr and was set to provide accommodation to 6,500 athletes and team officials.

However, the organisers scrapped the idea after sensing that it could not be delivered on time. The new campus model will see 1,600 athletes and officials housed at the NEC Hotel Campus, 1,900 at The University of Warwick, and the principal village with 2,800 at The University of Birmingham. — PTI

**RIDERS BRACE FOR AUSTRIAN GP IN RAIN**

**Spielberg, Austria:** Forecasts are predicting a wet and wild Austrian Grand Prix at the Red Bull Ring as Alex Marquez and Stefan Bradl look to launch a rejuvenated challenge.

The MotoGP World Championship arrives in Austria for the first of two races at the Red Bull Ring hot off the back of the Czech GP. It proved to be a trying weekend for the Repsol Honda Team, but both riders are ready to put the team behind them and focus on adapting their respective Repsol Honda RC213V machines to the Austrian circuit. — Agencies

# COVID HITS IPL

## Rajasthan Royals fielding coach tests positive

New Delhi, Aug. 12: Rajasthan Royals' fielding coach Dishant Yagnik has tested positive for Covid-19, the IPL team announced on Wednesday, making it the first such case among the league franchises ahead of their departure next week to this year's tournament venue, the UAE.

The 13th edition of Indian Premier League is set to take place in the UAE from September 19 to November 10. The event was moved out of India due to Covid-19 cases.

"Rajasthan Royals would like to inform that their fielding coach Dishant Yagnik has tested positive for Covid-19," the franchise said in a statement.

"The test was undertaken keeping in mind that the team members need to assemble in Mumbai next week for their flight to the UAE. The franchise implemented an extra test for all players, support staff and management travelling to the UAE in addition to the two tests recommended by BCCI," the statement added.

This is the first case among the IPL contingent.

Yagnik is currently in his hometown Udaipur and has been advised to get admitted to a hospital for the mandatory 14-day quarantine.

After the completion of the two-week quarantine, Yagnik will be undergoing two tests as per the BCCI's Covid protocols and will be allowed back into the team only after his reports return negative.

After his arrival in UAE, Yagnik will have to stay in self-isolation for the next six days and will also undergo three more Covid-19 tests. — PTI



Dishant Yagnik, fielding coach of the Rajasthan Royals, in this file photo.

### FRESH BID FOR SPONSORS

New Delhi, Aug. 12: Education technology company Unacademy, which is already one of IPL's sponsors, is eyeing the league's title sponsorship rights now and is set to submit its bid to replace Chinese mobile phone company Vivo this season.

A BCCI official confirmed that Unacademy has picked up the bid papers but refrained from making any comments beyond that. "I can confirm that Unacademy has shown interest and picked the bid papers. I have heard they will be submitting a bid and are pretty serious. So Patanjali if they bid, will have competition," the senior official said.

The BCCI is now looking at a lesser value — between ₹300 to ₹350 crore — for a period of four months and 13 days. — PTI

## CSK want MSD to play till 2022

New Delhi, Aug. 12: Chennai Super Kings CEO Kasi Vishwanathan feels their talisman Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who has not played any competitive cricket since last year's World Cup semifinal, will be part of the franchise in 2021 and 2022 IPLs.

The 39-year-old Dhoni is set for a return to competitive cricket in the upcoming IPL, to be played in the UAE from September 19 to November 10.

"We can expect MS Dhoni to be part of both (IPL 2020 and 2021) and probably for even the next year — 2022," Viswanathan was quoted as saying by an Indian news media outlet.

"I am getting updates through the media only, saying he has been training in Jharkhand in indoor nets. But we don't have to worry about the skipper, boss. We don't worry about him at all."

"He knows his responsibilities and he will take care of himself and the team," he added.

N. Srinivasan, the vice-chairman and managing director of India Cements, owners of the CSK franchise, in January said that Dhoni would be retained by the team for the 2021 IPL mega-auction.

Speculations were rife about Dhoni's future since the 2019 World Cup as he failed to get a central BCCI contract. — PTI

### DADDY'S ARMY READY FOR IPL, SAYS BALAJI

Chennai, Aug. 12: The presence of many players who are deep into their 30s is a boon and not bane for Chennai Super Kings as they head into the 13th IPL after the long Coronavirus-forced break, the team's bowling coach L Balaji said on Wednesday.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni, 39, is getting ready to lead the three-time winners in the upcoming edition of IPL, scheduled to be held in the UAE from September 19 to November 10.

Asked if the senior players would find it difficult to get back into the groove, Balaji responded in the negative.

"I don't think it's going to be that difficult, because all your life you have played this sport. So many years of understanding will come in handy to get back to your best," Balaji said.

"Experience will definitely be important. It has been proven in big tournaments like IPL."

Besides the skipper, the franchise, among others, has in its ranks veterans such as Shane Watson and Dwayne Bravo. — PTI



Lucas Ocampos (centre) of Sevilla celebrates after scoring against Wolverhampton Wanderers during their UEFA Europa League quarterfinal at the MSV Arena in Duisburg on Wednesday. Sevilla won 1-0. — AFP

### EUROPA LEAGUE

## Shakhtar bump Basel, in semis

Gelencirkirchen (Germany), Aug. 12: Shakhtar Donetsk routed Basel 4-1 to set up a Europa League semifinal against Inter Milan.

Four Brazilians scored for the Ukrainian side before Ricky van Wolfswinkel netted a consolation goal for the Swiss League semifinals.

Junior Moraes put Shakhtar ahead in the second minute by steering in a header from Marlos corner. It was the Brazilian-born Ukraine forward's 25th goal across all competitions, coming after he scored two against Wolfsburg in the second leg of their rescheduled Round-of-16 tie last week.

Taison grabbed Shakhtar's second with a deflected shot after a fine flowing team move in the 22nd.

Raoul Petretta produced a clearance to deny Moraes from the rebound.

Alan Patrick's penalty in the 75th effectively sealed the Ukrainian side's place in the semifinals.

Shakhtar will play Inter

in Dsseldorf on August 17. The final takes place in Cologne four days later.

### SEVILLA HUNT DOWN WOLVES TO MAKE LAST-4

A late header from Lucas Ocampos gave Sevilla a 1-0 win over Wolverhampton and a place in the Europa League semifinals.

After Raul Jimenez missed an early penalty for Wolves, Sevilla increasingly took control of the game. The five-time Europa League champion had seemingly endless set pieces around the Wolves penalty area and finally broke through when Ocampos headed in Eder Baranega's cross following a corner in the 88th minute.

Wolves forward Adama Traore earlier showed extraordinary pace in his 53rd club game of the season to sprint in behind the Sevilla defense, only for Diego Carlos to cut him down with a tackle from behind for the penalty.

Jimenez's spot-kick was barely off-center and pushed away by Yassine Bouhou. — Agencies

## England out of Stokes for second Test vs Pak

### Live on TV

#### SECOND TEST

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#### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTERFINAL

Lepizig vs Atletico Madrid from 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2

- Hosts are left with a selection headache with star allrounder Ben Stokes out of the Southampton Test.
- Stokes has left for New Zealand to be with his ailing father and will miss the remainder of the series.

2-1 series win over the West Indies last month — a campaign that marked international cricket's return from the Coronavirus lockdown — and the first Test against Pakistan saw vice-captain Stokes effectively deployed as a specialist batsman by skipper Joe Root.

Stokes, however, still took two important wickets on the third evening against Pakistan.

The obvious move for England would be to recall batsman Zak Crawley, who has missed out on the last two

matches while an extra bowler has been deployed because of Stokes' injury problems.

Buttler underlined his skill in a run-chase last week but the wicketkeeper, by his own admission, had a poor match with the gloves. England do have the option to recall Ben Foakes, widely regarded as a better keeper, and play Buttler as a specialist batsman.

England are in the middle of a sequence of six Tests in seven weeks, a gruelling schedule that has seen them adopt a policy of rotating their quicks.

— AFP

## Kent cricketer breaks bubble

### HAFEEZ TO BE ISOLATED FOR GOLFING GOOF

London, Aug. 12: Jordan Cox, an English county cricketer representing Kent, has been dropped from the side's next first-class match after he posed for a photo with young fans, breaching the Covid-19 health safety protocols.

The 19-year-old broke quite a few Kent records on Monday with an unbeaten innings of 237 in an unbroken 423-run partnership with Jack Leaning in the four-day match against Sussex in the Bob Willis Trophy.

But agreeing to a request for a photo with some young fans means he will not be a part of the team's next game against Middlesex on Saturday. — PTI

He apologised for the indiscretion.

"I fully understand the consequences, and I want to apologise to everyone," Cox said in a statement.

"I'm gutted to be missing the next match and feel like I have let the team down. I am very sorry that this has happened," Cox added.

Cox will now have to self-isolate and will have to test negative for Covid-19 before he is allowed to join the squad again. "It is unfortunate for Jordan that on the back of an outstanding performance, our team medical protocols were breached," Kent's director of cricket Paul Downton said.


  
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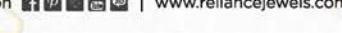
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