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HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 21 AUGUST 2020

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WEATHER
Max: 24.7°C
Min: 21.2°C
RH: 95%
Rainfall: 7 mm

Forecast: Cloudy sky. Light to moderate rains likely
Max/Min temp. 27/21 °C

COVID-19 COUNT	
CASES	DEATHS
(+68,921)	(+985)
29,03,676	54,963
<i>covid19india.org</i>	
STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS	
(+1,724)	(+10)
TS: 97,424	729
(+9,393)	(+95)
AP: 3,25,396	3,001

CASES AROUND THE WORLD

2,27,28,240

DEATHS
7,93,808

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES
213

worldometers.info/coronavirus

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvari: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Bhadrapada Shuddha Tadiya till 11.03 pm
Star: Utara Phalguni till 9.28 pm
Variyam: 6.19 am to 7.44 am; 5.04 am to 6.31 am (Saturday)
Durmuhurtam: 8.33 am to 9.24 am; 12.44 pm to 1.34 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon

HUJI CALENDAR
Muharram 1,1441 AH

PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.56 am
Zohar: 12.29 pm
Asar: 4.43 pm
Maghrib: 6.44 pm
Isha: 7.54 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.37 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.00 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 8.02 AM
MOONSET TODAY 8.39 PM

COUNTER POINT



We can't create jobs...
Let's create a recruitment agency at least!

INSIDE

CITY... PAGE 3
Hyd best mega city: Swachh Survekshan

CITY... PAGE 4
Yellareddy MLA tests Covid positive

TOUGH | RIDE

Cash-strapped drivers say no help received from cab aggregators 4K taxi drivers test positive for Covid

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

More than 4,000 registered drivers of Uber, Ola and other cab aggregators have been infected by Corona-virus, claim a senior official of Telangana state taxi drivers body. He also said that there was no help offered to them by cab aggregators.

Drivers say that many passengers opting for cabs are Covid-19 positive. Mostly those who are seek-

ing cab services are for trips to the hospital or back from hospitals. Drivers have no option to say no as the trip is booked online. If they refuse a passenger, huge penalties are slapped on them or sometimes their services are discontinued. Given that the metro and RTC busses have been suspended, cabs are the only easily available transport services. However, cab commuters express concern that when the driver is asymptomatic or has not

● **DRIVERS SAY** that many passengers opting for cabs are Covid-19 positive. Drivers have no option to say no as the trip is booked online. If they refuse a passenger, huge penalties are slapped on them or sometimes services are discontinued.

gone for a test, passengers are at high risk for the transmission of virus.

On August 13, E. Nagesh, driver, was confirmed as Covid-19-positive. He is in home quarantine.

According to Nagesh, it is difficult to isolate himself in a rented house, with two children who are 10 and 8. He informed the aggregator company to which his car is attached, but the company offered him no help.

"There has been no call of concern or any type of help extended. We used to see in the media that these companies have extended crores

of rupees to support the drivers during the lockdown, but none of the drivers I know have got any help from them. Where is that money gone?" Nagesh asks.

Before the nation-wide lockdown, there were 1.2 lakh drivers mostly operating in the city. Among them, 35,000 were registered drivers for Ola, Uber and other aggregators in the city.

■ **Page 2: No protection for us, rues cab drivers**

A record of sorts for Kamala Harris



US Democratic vice-presidential nominee Kamala Harris gives two thumbs up during the third day of the Democratic National Convention in Wilmington, Delaware, on Wednesday. Kamala became the first Indian-American and also first Black woman to accept the nomination for V-P from a major US political party. ■ **Report on P7.** — *AFP*

Rain havoc continues in state, highways flooded

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Normal life was thrown out of gear across the state with the heavy rainfall since Wednesday night.

Two youngsters were washed away in Mulugu Eturu Nagaram district and another drowned in a check dam in Mahabubnagar district on Thursday.

After a brief respite in the last two days, the rains again picked up in the state with Warangal Rural, Bhupalapally,

Mulugu, Peddapally, Karimnagar and Bhadradi-Kothagudem and also Hyderabad receiving heavy to very heavy rainfall on Wednesday night.

Public transport was also severely affected in the state as the heavy rainfall left many roads, including several national highways waterlogged and streams, tanks and rivulets overflowing in many parts of the state.

Several villages lost road connectivity in the state with breaching of roads due to flood water.

In Warangal Rural dis-

trict, the highway connecting Narsampet and Nekkonda is flooded at Chennaraopet mandal obstructing traffic movement to either side. Coal production is also severely affected in the mines of Singareni collieries in Karimnagar, Ramagundam, Kothagudem and Jayashankar Bhupalapally.

Officials said crops in 3.6 lakh acres were submerged and the enumeration of crop loss is on.

■ **Page 2: Ramappa lake overflows, affects NH 163**

River meet may get postponed

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

The Apex Council meeting, scheduled by Union Jal Shakti Ministry on August 25 with Chief Ministers of Telangana and AP, is likely to be postponed as Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat was tested Covid positive on Thursday.

Shekhawat was scheduled to chair the meeting as he is the chairman of the council. On Wednesday, Chief Minister K. Chandrabab Nair decided to attend the council meeting to personally counter issues being raised by the AP government, which has been opposing various irrigation projects taken up by Telangana.

At the meeting, Mr Rao also wanted to oppose the AP government's move to increase the height of Pothreddypadu Head Regulator and construct the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project, as also excess usage of Krishna and Godavari waters by Andhra Pradesh.

The Apex Council was set up under the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 to oversee the functioning of the Godavari River Management Board and Krishna River Management Board and also to resolve disputes between both the states on the sharing of river waters.

The Jal Shakti ministry had decided to convene the meeting of the Apex Council after a dispute arose over the AP government's order to increase the capacity of Pothreddypadu head regulator and the construction of a lift irrigation project.

AMMONIA LEAK IN CHITTOOR, 14 HOSPITALISED

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, AUG. 20

At least 14 people fell ill after inhaling gas emanating from ammonia liquid that leaked in a milk processing factory at Bandalapalli village in Gudipala mandal of Chittoor district Thursday night.

According to officials, the incident happened at Hatsun Dairy factory, when ammonia liquid leaked from a tank within its premises.

There were about 20-40 employees in the factory at the time of the incident. Among them, 14 fell unconscious and were immediately shifted to hospitals in Chittoor and Gudipala.

The condition of them has now stabilised, said the officials.

■ **Page 2: Scared people near plant ran for safety**

AMMONIA LEAK IN CHITTOOR, 14 HOSPITALISED

I do not ask for mercy: Bhushan

SC asks him to relent; A-G says don't punish him; Prashant quotes Mahatma, stands by his remarks

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, AUG. 20

Quoting a statement made by Mahatma Gandhi to a court in the British era, senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan on Thursday refused to apologise to the Supreme Court for his two tweets, which a three-judge bench found to be contemptuous.

"I did not tweet in a fit of absence mindedness. It would be insincere and contemptuous on my part to offer an apology for the tweets that expressed what was and continues to be my bonafide belief. Therefore, I can only humbly paraphrase what the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi had said in his trial: I do not ask for mercy. I do not appeal to magnanimity. I am here, therefore, to cheerfully submit to any penalty that can lawfully be inflicted upon me for what the Court has determined to be an offence, and what appears to me to be the highest duty of a citizen," Bhushan told a bench comprising Justice Arun Mishra, Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Krishna Murari.

Bhushan was held guilty of criminal contempt for his two derogatory tweets against the judiciary on August 14 and faces simple imprisonment of up to six months or with a fine of up to ₹2,000 or with both as punishment.

Attorney General of India K.K. Venugopal, however, told the Supreme Court that the contempt proceedings against Mr Bhushan should rest with the court holding him guilty of criminal contempt and pleaded that he should not be punished.

However, the AG's plea was declined as the court said "the way he (Mr Bhushan) has worded his statement, we cannot accept your argument. We are giving him time to consider" modification of his statement.

The hearing saw Justice Mishra repeatedly telling Bhushan to consider and make modifications in his statement that he had read out to the court but the senior lawyer appeared unrelenting and stood his ground.

On being repeatedly asked by the court to modify his statement, Bhushan said, "I will consider and discuss with my lawyers".

Justice Mishra pointed to maintaining a "balance" while saying anything critical of the court and not cross the Lakshman rekha.

Senior counsel Rajeev Dhavan, representing Mr Bhushan, said Lakshman Rekha also applies to judicial restraint.

Dhavan wondered if all the five former judges of the Supreme Court who have supported Bhushan's

statement too are guilty of contempt as under contempt law those repeating or enduring a statement that is held to be contemptuous too are also guilty.

Earlier, senior counsel Dushyant Dave also appearing for Bhushan urged the court to defer the hearing as he (Bhushan) has to file a plea seeking review of the judgment and that under the court rules he has 30 days time to do so.

The bench, however, refused the plea as it felt that it was a way to avoid Justice Mishra who is retiring on September 2.

Justice Mishra told Dave that no judgment convicting a person is complete without sentencing and that it would not be right for any judge that the question of sentencing going to any other bench.

Justice Mishra, however, said, "Even if we decide on his punishment, it will not be activate till review is decided."

An order on the Supreme Court website posted late Thursday evening, while reserving the order on sentencing of Bhushan after being held guilty of criminal contempt, says, "We have given time to the contemnor to submit unconditional apology, if he so desires. Let it be filed by 24.08.2020. In case, apology is submitted, the case to be posted for consideration on the same on 25.08.2020."

MEA TO PAK: LET INDIAN LAWYER DEFEND JADHAV

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, AUG. 20


India on Thursday said that it has asked Pakistan to permit an Indian lawyer to represent former Indian naval officer Kulbhushan Jadhav when his review petition comes up in a Pakistani civilian court against the verdict sentencing him to death on charges of "espionage and sabotage".

Ministry of external affairs (MEA) spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "On this issue, we are in touch with Pakistan through diplomatic channels. For a free and fair trial in keeping with the letter and spirit of ICJ judgement, we have asked for Mr Jadhav to be represented by an Indian lawyer. However, Pakistan has to first address the core issues — giving copies of relevant documents of the case and providing unimpeded consular access to Mr Jadhav."

India had last month hired a Pakistani lawyer after Islamabad told New Delhi that the relevant documents in the Jadhav case could be handed over only to an authorised Pakistani lawyer. But New Delhi had stated earlier that to "our surprise, as advised by the Pakistani officials, when the authorised Pakistani lawyer approached the concerned authorities, they declined to handover the documents to the lawyer". On April 10, 2017, a Pakistani military court had sentenced him to death.

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IN BRIEF

SCB moots welfare schemes for locals

Hyderabad: Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) could shortly be dishing out new welfare schemes to its residents. This comes after the Union Government agreed to implement central schemes across cantonments. Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Ramakrishna, SCB vice-chairman, said that he was happy and is prepared for a meeting of all cantonments. "These meetings were to take place in March but they were postponed due to Covid-19. Now it would happen online on August 25," he said. This would mean that the freshwater and drainage infrastructure received by the state government from GHMC could be replicated in the board.

RAMAPPA LAKE OVERFLOWS, AFFECTS NH 163

From Page 1

Two youngsters were washed away in the flood waters of the Medi vagu near Mulugu on Thursday. They were identified as Allam Yuvaraju and Allam Shivaji, residents of Bandarupally village in Mulugu mandal.

Due to heavy rains in the district, Ramappa lake is overflowing and flooded the National Highway (NH) 163 at Jangalappally. From the opposite side of the highway, the Medi vagu stream, which is in spate, also reached the highway. As a result, the highway got completely submerged and blocked traffic movement between Hyderabad and Bhupalpatnam in Chhattisgarh.

Two persons who tried to cross the flooded section of the highway with a motorcycle on Thursday morning got washed away and were untraceable.

In Mahabubnagar district, a 21-year-old, Sai Kumar Goud, drowned in Allipur check dam on Thursday. According to the police of Chinna Chinthakunta mandal, the victim slipped into the check dam while taking a selfie. Police launched a search operation.

SCARED PEOPLE NEAR PLANT RUN FOR SAFETY

From Page 1

The pungent smell emanating from the factory sparked panic among people in the surrounding localities and they started running to safer locations. District officials rushed ambulances to the spot to rescue workers.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, District Collector Narayan Bharat Gupta said that they have taken up all safety measures to contain the leakage of the ammonia.

"Officials were pressed into service to take up relief operations on a war-footing. We have ordered an enquiry and will take appropriate action based on the report given by the enquiry committee," Gupta said.

"The leakage was confined to the factory premises and it has not spread outside. There is no need for people to get panicky. The condition of 14 staffers of the factory is currently stable and the situation is under control," he added.

NO PROTECTION FOR US, RUE CAB DRIVERS

From Page 1

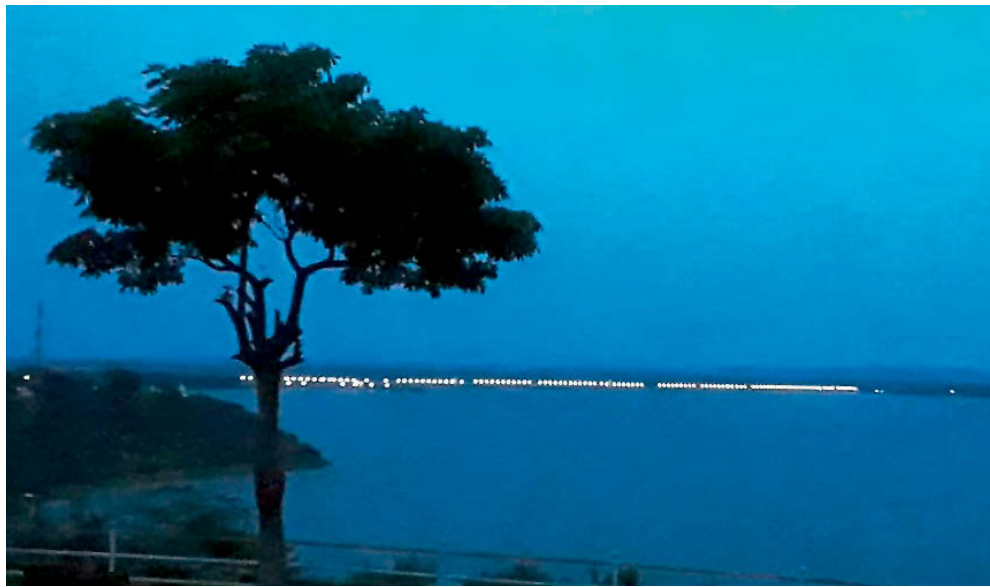
"There were passengers who are Covid-19-positive who travelled in the cab in spite of knowing they are positive. One such case came to my knowledge when the person forgot his hospital reports in the cab. In an attempt to trace his phone number, the reports were opened and I came to know he is Covid-19-positive."

"The drivers are in a bad financial state. Many of the drivers are jobless. Those who have bought their vehicles on EMIs are unable to pay the monthly instalments. Apart from that, it is estimated across the 16 associations of drivers, more than 4,000 drivers have been infected," said Shaik Salauddin, the chairman of Telangana state taxi and drivers Joint Action Committee.

Ramakrishna Yadav, who started his career as a cabbie in 2013, was diagnosed with Covid-19 last month. Yadav, who lives in a rented house at Uppal with his wife and two children, he said, "I was infected by one of the passengers. There is no protection for the drivers; companies are just concerned about their profits."



Ten spillway gates at Srisaillam Dam were opened on Thursday following heavy inflows of floodwater into Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers on Thursday. — DC



Nagarjunasagar reservoir is filled up following heavy inflows from the Srisaillam project. The authorities have geared up for the release of water on Friday. — GANDHI

Nagarjunasagar gates to be opened today

Authorities say reservoir is expected to reach its full capacity of 590 feet by Friday morning

10 spillway gates lifted at Srisaillam dam

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Authorities of Nagarjunasagar Dam have decided to lift four of its gates at 11 a.m. on Friday and release water in view of the heavy inflows into the reservoir from upstream Srisaillam project.

According to the NS Dam engineers, the current water level in the reservoir is 576 feet as against its full storage level of 590 feet. The reservoir is expected to reach its full capacity of 590 feet by Friday morning.

Meanwhile, Suryapet district authorities and Nandikonda municipality have decided against allowing visitors to view the release of water. They fear cool weather conditions with moisture in air may lead to spread of Coronavirus if people arrive at the dam site in large numbers. People will

● **SURYAPET DISTRICT** authorities and Nandikonda municipality have decided against allowing visitors to view the release of water. They fear cool weather conditions with moisture in air may lead to spread of Coronavirus.

hence not be allowed to watch the release of water, authorities clarified.

Suryapet superintendent of police R. Bhaskaran cautioned people from going near Krishna River in the district, as gates of Nagarjunasagar Dam will be opened and flow of water in the river will be heavy and rapid due to water gushing out. The SP also advised fishermen against venturing into Krishna River for fishing. He further asked people living in villages along rivers Krishna and Musi to be alert.

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, AUG. 20

With heavy floods in both Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers, ten spillway gates of Srisaillam Dam were opened on Thursday.

Priyadarshini jurala project on Krishna River is discharging 350000 cusecs of water into Srisaillam Reservoir while Sunkesula Barrage has opened 23 gates by letting out 110000 cusecs of water. A total of 460000 cusecs were received till Thursday evening.

The water level at Srisaillam reservoir stood at 883.90 ft as against the total height of 885 ft. The quantum of water stored is 209 tmc against its full capacity of 215 tmc. Dam

officials released 3,02,716 cusecs of water, including 1,92,990 cusecs to Nagarjuna Sagar by lifting seven crest gates.

Meanwhile, officials are on high alert and advising people not to visit water reservoirs and dams. Nandyal sub-collector Kalpana Kumari, along with revenue and police officials, visited several low-lying areas in the river bank of Kundu in Nandyal town.

Presently, all 13 generators of both power stations are continuing production. Sources said seven units of Andhra Pradesh power house were producing 700 MW of power by utilising 31,062 cusecs of water from the Srisaillam dam while six units of

Telangana power house were producing 900 MW by utilising 40,259 cusecs from the same dam.

Outflows from the Srisaillam reservoir are 302577 cusecs from spillway, Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanti lift irrigation scheme draws 1,688 cusecs, Pothireddypadu head regulator is drawing 37,000 cusecs while the reservoir is receiving water from both Jurala project via Krishna River and Sunkesula dam through Tungabhadra River.

Jagan to visit Srisaillam today.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is visiting Srisaillam project on Friday to perform Jal Harathi on Krishna River

for the water wealth bestowed on the territory. This is his first visit to Srisaillam after assuming office.

It is customary on the part of the State ministers to offer Jala harathi before the main gates are opened for the first time during the season.

Jagan Mohan Reddy will be accompanied by water resource Minister Anil Kumar Yadav and Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy. He will interact with engineering officials and find out the progress of various works taken up from Pothireddypadu head regulator and Rayalaseema lift irrigation scheme tenders that were finalised recently.

● **OUTFLOWS FROM** the Srisaillam reservoir are 302577 cusecs from spillway, Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanti lift irrigation scheme draws 1,688 cusecs, Pothireddypadu head regulator is drawing 37,000 cusecs while the reservoir is receiving water from both Jurala project via Krishna River and Sunkesula dam through Tungabhadra River.

● **CHIEF MINISTER Y.S.** Jagan Mohan Reddy is visiting Srisaillam project on Friday to perform Jal Harathi on Krishna River for the water wealth bestowed on the territory.

State stares at surplus rainwater due to rise in weather systems

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

This August, the number of weather systems that have brought on rain over the state has increased manifold. This could explain why the state is staring at a surplus of rainfall this year.

As a result of the incessant rainfall over the last ten days, there are no districts in the state which are rain-deficit as of now. As of Thursday, the state had received 777.6 mm of rainfall as against a normal of 523 mm, which translates into a 49 per cent rainfall surplus. Currently, there are 14 districts that have received a large excess of rainfall. Similarly, there are 11 districts which have received excess rainfall and six districts that have received normal rainfall.

"There are several systems that have formed on either side of the peninsula. These systems have been feeding moisture that is aiding in the formation of clouds over the state. The monsoon has been very active over the state and that has brought about a lot of rain," K. Naga Ratna, director, Indian meteorological department (IMD), Hyderabad, told *Deccan Chronicle*.

Adding to her statements, experts from Skymet (a private weather forecasting unit), like



As heavy rains continue to lash city, motorists struggle to make their way through the flooded roads in Hyderabad on Thursday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Mahesh Palawat, say that the number of weather systems have been unusually high, this year.

"There were close to five systems that have impacted the weather over Telangana. These systems have brought along copious amounts of rain over the state. There will be another such system over Telangana on August 23," he said.

IMD has also issued a yellow alert for the next two days for the state. In its alert, it asked officials concerned to restrict movement and asked the municipalities concerned to display warnings.

Rain lashes city for four days in a row

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

For the fourth day in a row, the city saw the skies open up. According to the Telangana state development planning society (TSDPS), the highest rainfall in the city, was recorded at Mehdiapatnam where the rain gauges measured 26.3 mm of rain (till 8 pm).

Weather officials say this

would continue for the next 48 hours.

"There are going to be light to moderate showers over the city for the next two days. We predict that there would be a new weather system over the state that would hit it around 23 August. Once this system is in place, more showers are expected," said an official of the Indian meteorological department.

HYD POLICE LAUNCH PLASMA DONATION CAMP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

The Hyderabad city police, in association with the Hyderabad city security council, launched a plasma donation campaign on Thursday. A website was launched where donors and receivers can register themselves and get the plasma for needy Covid-19 patients.

The website donateplasma.hcsc.in will help donors register themselves and requests for plasma can be made. NGOs can also register through the website to deliver services. To register, the public can also call 9490616780 and 040-23434343. So far, 150 police personnel working in the Hyderabad police commissionerate have donated plasma and saved lives.

Home minister, Mohammed Mahmood Ali, launched the website and health minister, Etala Rajender, launched the campaign video, in a programme at Khairatabad.

Hyderabad police commissioner, Anjani Kumar, said, "Telangana state's swift response in dealing with the virus has helped in maintaining the lowest fatalities and fewer cases in Hyderabad compared to other metropolitan cities in the country." Appealing to elderly people to stay home and stay safe, Kumar congratulated his colleagues and subordinates for all efforts put in the battle against the virus.

TS records 1,724 cases, 10 deaths

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Telangana has recorded 1,724 new cases of Coronavirus on Wednesday, apart from 10 deaths. The total number of Covid-19 cases and deaths has thus gone up to 97,424 and 729 respectively.

State medical authorities tested 23,841 additional samples, whereby total 8,21,311 people in Telangana have undergone Coronavirus tests.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits have recorded 395 cases while districts are continuing to have a high load of cases. There are 101 new cases in Karimnagar district, followed by 105 in Medchal Malkajgiri, 169 in Ranga

● **DISTRICTS ARE** witnessing a lot of young people in the age group of 20-40 years contracting Covid-19.

Reddy and 91 in Warangal Urban district.

Districts are witnessing a lot of young people in the age group of 20-40 years contracting Covid-19.

People, including youngsters, have been asked to not undertake unwanted travel and restrict themselves to their homes.

The government has requested people to wear masks, practice social distancing and also report to hospitals early in case they feel any symptoms of Coronavirus. This would ensure better treatment and recovery.

Gov. concerned over Covid cases

Hyderabad, Aug. 20: Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Thursday expressed concern over the estimates of a new study that at least six lakh people in the city may have been infected by the Coronavirus.

"Concerned on the numbers. Congratulations @ccmb_csir for your efforts to study the problems in depth," she tweeted, tagging a report on the findings of the study based on harvested sewage samples in the city.

Soundararajan, a medical doctor herself, had on Tuesday last stressed the need to conduct adequate numbers of Covid-19 tests in the state, saying eradication of the virus would be difficult without sufficient testing. The state's Covid-19 tally stood at 97,424 as of Wednesday night with the capital city continuing to remain the hotspot, accounting for a lion's share of the cases.

Conducted by the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), the study said there may be at least six lakh people in the city who have been infected by coronavirus but a large number of them could be asymptomatic. —PTI

BJP DEMANDS SAIDI APOLOGISE TO GOV.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Telangana wing condemned Huzurnagar TRS MLA S Saidi Reddy's statement on Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan. The party spokesperson K. Krishna Sagar Rao alleged that the MLA's comments were irresponsible and disrespectful to the constitutional head of the state.

Rao said MLA Saidi Reddy seems to be an illiterate, who doesn't know that the Governor is also head of the state executive to which the Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers report.

Alleging that the Legislator abused his own government, he said that the Governor had highlighted serious lapses by the state administration in dealing with Covid-19 situation in the state and had advised corrective measures.

The BJP demanded a written public apology from Saidi Reddy and withdrawal of his irresponsible statement.

PROBE | REPORT Multiple identification documents recovered from arrested persons

NIA charges couple for trafficking

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

The National Investigation Agency at Hyderabad filed a supplementary chargesheet against a couple including the woman Bangladeshi national who was arrested for trafficking young girls from the neighbouring country and pushing them girls into prostitution.

In 2019, the agency re-registered a case and probed the cross-border human trafficking case

booked at Chatrinaka, Hyderabad, where six women from Bangladesh were rescued.

The four accused — Mohd Yousuf Khan, Bithi Begum, Sojib Shaik and Rahul Amin Dhali — were arrested and a chargesheet was filed against them in March 2020.

During the probe, on May 23 this year, Mohd Abdul Salam alias Kounla Justin, 47, and his wife Shivuli Khatun alias Sheela, 30, a Bangladeshi national, were arrested from Hayathnagar and

three minor girls were rescued.

The NIA said the investigation revealed that the couple along with the other accused trafficked poor young Bangladeshi girls to India through a well-organised network of agents in both India and Bangladesh, by luring them with high-paid job offers.

The premier investigation agency which filed a supplementary chargesheet against Abdul Salam and Shivuli on Thursday before an NIA Court in the

city said that the raids at the couple's house resulted in recovery of many incriminating articles including multiple identification documents of the trafficked girls.

The teams also seized contraceptive pills, mobile phones and a large number of diaries and registers containing names and mobile numbers of various brothel agents to whom the trafficked girls were sent for sexual exploitation on a commission basis, said the NIA.

● **IN 2019**, the agency re-registered a case and probed the cross-border human trafficking case booked at Chatrinaka, Hyderabad, where six women from Bangladesh were rescued.

● **THE TEAMS** also seized contraceptive pills, mobile phones and a large number of diaries and registers containing names and mobile numbers of various brothel agents whom the trafficked girls were sent to.

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Sub Station- S.D.Hospital
11 KV Feeder- Police Mess
Areas affected: Ahmed Nagar, Masab Tank, Garden Towers, Police Mess, Khaja Mansion, Khadi Bancer, Khaja Nagar, First Lancer, Diamond Hotel, Fazal Residential, Banjara Function Hall.

IN BRIEF

Youth held for harassing minor

Hyderabad: Neredmet police arrested a 23-year-old Ayurveda student from Andhra Pradesh for sexually harassing a minor through Instagram. Neredmet inspector A Narsimha Swamy said that accused Syed Farooq, a third-year student of Bachelor of Ayurveda Medicine and Surgery at Davangere and is a native of Guntur. A few months ago, Farooq came in contact with a 14-year-old girl through some friends and started to chat with her on Instagram. He said that recently Farooq started sending messages in a filthy language and harassed her with the sexual content. Following a complaint from the victim, a case was registered against him under relevant sections of IPC and POCSO Act. The accused was arrested and produced before the court for judicial remand on Thursday.

TWO KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT, CASES LODGED

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

An elderly pedestrian was killed when a speeding lorry hit him at LB Nagar X roads. The body was shifted to Osmania General Hospital mortuary and investigation was taken up to identify the victim. In another incident at Jubilee Hills, two persons escaped with minor injuries when the SUV they were speeding hit a road median.

According to LB Nagar police, the accident took place at around 9.30 pm on Wednesday, on the main road located opposite to Rajiv Gandhi statue at LB Nagar X roads. A speeding lorry hit a male pedestrian, aged about 50 years.

The lorry was proceeding to Chintalkunta. Rash driving resulted in the death of the pedestrian on the spot, said police, who registered a case.

In another incident at Jubilee Hills, a speeding SUV (TS 07 GT 2157) met with an accident on Road No 82 in the early hours on Thursday. The speeding car rammed into the road median and turned turtle. The Jubilee Hills police registered a case.

LAND RECORDS OFFICIAL TAKES BRIBE, ARRESTED

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

A Superintendent in the office of Assistant Director of Survey and Land Records at Rangareddy district was caught by Anti-Corruption Bureau ₹5,000 for rendering official favours.

According to ACB, Bommireddy Venkateshwar Reddy was caught at his office Thursday noon when he demanded and accepted ₹5,000 from T. Venkateshwar Reddy of Khajaguda. The official demanded the bribe to process the file of an application forwarded to the RDO office of Rajendranagar, in connection with fixing of boundaries of the land belonging to the complainant.

The bribe amount was recovered from the accused and he was produced before the Special Judge for SPE and ACB cases at Hyderabad, said the ACB in a note.



GHMC maintenance staff carry out temporary road repairs on the busy Chaderghat bridge at Malakpet in Hyderabad on Thursday.

— P. SURENDRA

Hyd best mega city: Swachh Survekshan

Beats Greater Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Delhi

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Hyderabad has been adjudged best mega city in the Swachh Survekshan 2020 citizens' feedback category. It also trumped Greater Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, north and south Delhi and is ranked 23rd in the overall category.

The greater Hyderabad municipal corporation (GHMC) roped in the civic body's sanitation wing and instructed to them give feedback in person and through various other platforms. Supervised by an additional commissioner (Swachh Bharat mission), zonal commissioners played a key role enhancing the marks in the feedback category.

For Swachh Survekshan 2020, the centre has allotted a total of 6,000 marks divided in four categories: service-level progress, certification, direct observation and citizen feedback. Each category had 1,500 marks. In the first, 200 marks were reserved for SS 2020 league and the remainder for service-

level progress; 1000 marks for garbage-free status (GFC) and 500 towards ODF++ certificate in the second category. The star certification comprised 1,000 out of 6,000 marks. The third and fourth categories did not have subcategories and all marks were dedicated to the overall observation by the survey conductors and on the basis of citizen participation and feedback on the GHMC's work.

Against this backdrop, the GHMC has been awarded in the above-40 lakh population category and ranked 23rd in the above-10 lakh population category for overall performance, ahead of other competing metros.

This year there were separate rankings for cities with one lakh or more population and those below one lakh. It is based on an assessment of progress from January 2019 till December 2019 under the Swachh Bharat mission urban which cov-

ers 4,384 cities. The central government released these rankings on Thursday. There are 500 cities with a population above 1 lakh. Hyderabad participated under the category of cities with a population above 1 lakh. It was conducted in three quarters of the previous year 2019, in a bid to keep the cleanliness drive spirited throughout the year. The annual cleanliness survey was conducted between January and February 2020 by the ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA).

"With the co-operation of public representatives, citizens and the efforts of sanitation workers, the Hyderabad city secured a good rank in the performance of sanitation," said, mayor, Bonthu Ramohan.

Adding that GHMC has been appreciated for the implementation of innovation and best practices in the country, including the installation of green kiosks (street food park), a special park for dogs, two bins with recycled plastic, and the feed the need initiative.

TS degree admissions to begin from Aug. 24

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

The Telangana state council of higher education (TSCH) issued a notification for opening of the online dost portal for undergraduate degree admissions in the state from August 24. Students can register on dost by paying a registration fee of ₹200. After the registration, students will get a dost id and pin to be used to open the application form.

Students must exercise web options by choosing the course and college of their preference by giving priority numbers according to which seats will be allotted.

After this, if students are satisfied with the seat allotted, they can proceed to confirm the

seat by online self-reporting. Students allotted to government/university colleges and not eligible for an e-pass fee reimbursement will be required to pay an amount of ₹1,000 for online self-reporting, whereas those allotted private colleges and eli-

gible for an e-pass reimbursement need to pay an amount of ₹500. Students allotted to government colleges and eligible for an e-pass reimbursement, however, will not be required to pay any amount.

All candidates will further be required to visit their respective colleges to submit the required documents and fee from October 8 to October 12 to confirm their seats.

TSCH has also introduced additional services on the DOST platform to ease the Covid-19 burden on students, like real time digital face recognition to T-App folio to avoid human touch. An online grievance system has also been introduced to resolve the issues of students on Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Hyderabad, Aug. 20: Hyderabad CCS police on Thursday arrested four persons for taking a loan of ₹1.8 crore from Bank of Maharashtra in 2012 by submitting fake documents.

According to police, the bank registered a complaint against Gali Niranjan, Vode Krishna, Vode Laxminarayana and Vode Prabhakar, apart from a few others, for allegedly cheating the bank.

Police said accused created fake will deeds and pahanies to execute sale deeds in favour of Gali Niranjan with respect to lands that had already been sold. They submitted these fake documents to Bank of Maharashtra branch in Khairatabad and obtained a working capital loan of ₹1.8 crore.

The accused failed to pay money to the bank and became defaulters.

CCS ARRESTS 4 FOR DEFRAUDING BANK OF ₹1.8 CR

Hyderabad, Aug. 20: Hyderabad CCS police on Thursday arrested four persons for taking a loan of ₹1.8 crore from Bank of Maharashtra in 2012 by submitting fake documents.

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Centre releases protocol for conducting JEE main, NEET

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

The Central government has announced standard operating protocols for the national testing agency (NTA) ahead of the JEE (main) and NEET examinations, scheduled for next month.

According to the guidelines, all examination centres will be sanitised thoroughly before the exams to ensure maximum safety. The exam halls will be equipped with masks, gloves, hand sanitisers, and disinfectant sprays.

There will be no physical

frisking of candidates this year and contactless verification of documents like admit cards. Students will be required to produce a self-declaration form stating they are not Covid-19 positive and do not exhibit any symptoms either upon reaching the exam centres. Students with body temperatures higher than the recommended limit of 99.4 degrees will be allowed to take the test only in an isolated room.

This year, the NTA will follow an odd-even scheme to implement social distancing. Candidates will be required

to take the exam in different shift timings, for example, odd seat number candidates will take the exam in shift one and shift three, whereas even seat numbers will take the exams in shift two and shift four, enabling 50 per cent utilisation of the exam venue.

While JEE mains will be conducted from September 1 to September 6 across 605 centres for BTech courses, and 489 centres for BArch and BPlanning courses, NEET 2020 will be conducted on September 13 across 161 exam centres, for close to 25 lakh aspirants.

Jamiat meet on masjids in Sectt

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

The Jamiat Ulema Hind has decided to meet leaders of Opposition parties urging them to raise the issue of demolition of two mosques in the Secretariat in the ensuing assembly session. A meeting of the Ulema and office-bearers was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Moulana Hafiz Peer Shabbir Ahmed, State President to chalk out protest programmes for reinstating the demolished mosques.

It observed that the government showed an indifferent attitude towards the reconstruction of two mosques. It decided to approach Opposition parties before September 1 and asked them to raise the issue of demolition of places of worship as the

government had assured the Assembly to protect it.

The Jamiat will also submit memoranda to District Collectors, Police Superintendents and MROs. Before organising mass protests a round-table of political and non-political outfits will be conducted. At the district level, Jamiat workers will call on local MLAs and in case the government fails to reconstruct the two mosques at the specific locations, a Jail Bhara campaign will be launched.

Prominent among those who attended the meeting include Moulana Mufti Abdul Mugni Mazaheri, City President of Jamiat, Hafiz Peer Khaliq Ahmed, Moulana Ghyas Ahmed Rashadi President Safa Bait ul Maal, Moulana Zallal ur Rahman President Lajannat ul Ulema and others.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

We have it for you

DECCAN CHRONICLE



INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY (A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, GOVT. OF INDIA) KOLKATA CAMPUS
P-19, Taratala Road, Kolkata - 700 088.

ADMISSIONS-LATERAL ENTRY FOR THE YEAR 2020

Eligible Candidates desirous of joining into Second Year B.Tech (Marine Engineering) under Lateral Entry can submit their applications on or before 01.09.2020 at IMU, Kolkata Campus, P-19 Taratala Road, Kolkata-700088 along with attested photocopies of all the Certificates, Medical Certificate and Prescribed fee in the form of Demand Draft.

Candidates are requested to refer IMU, Kolkata Campus website (www.maritime.ac.in) or IMU website (www.imu.edu.in) regarding Eligibility criteria and other details for Lateral Entry admission.

During admission, candidate must have a valid passport which is compulsory for INDIOS application in DGS portal. Interested candidates having no passport should apply passport in Tatkal mode so that during admission candidates can submit passport.

Lateral Entry admissions into Second Year of B.Tech (ME) will be made in the order of merit based on aggregate percentage of marks.

davp 37217/11/0001/2021

DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Revenue (L.A.) Department FORM-VI (Preliminary Notification)												20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
(The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act 30/2013) - See Sub-rule (1) of rule-19 and Section-11(1))												20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Collector File No. G2/1653/2020 R.D.O. File No. D4/931/2020 Gazette No. 462/2020						Dated: 18-08-2020 Dated: 14-08-2020 Dated: 18-08-2020																	
Whereas it appears to the Telangana Government / District Collector, Siddipet District that a total of Ac. 2.34 gts. and Ac. 0.36 1/2 gts. land is required in Laxmakapally and Mulug Villages of Mulug Mandal in Siddipet District for public purpose namely for construction of Konda Pochamma Sagar Canal Distributor System D-6R and D-5R canals. As such this notification is made for acquiring below mentioned lands under the provisions of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30/2013), As per G.O. No.35, Dated: 30-06-2017, Irrigation and CAD Dept. has exempted this project from this social impact assessment (public opinion) and food security vide section 10A. Therefore it is notified for the above said project in Laxmakapally and Mulug Villages of Mulug Mandal, Siddipet District land measuring Ac. 2.34 gts and Ac. 0.36 1/2 gts whose detailed description is as following, is under acquisition.																							
Schedule - I Village: Laxmakapally Mandal: Mulug Dist: Siddipet																							
Sangareddy Distributor System D-6R																							
Sl.No.	Survey No.	Type of Land	Type of Land	Area under Acquisition	Name of the Patented/Employee/Interested Person, Husband/Father and Address	Boundaries	East	West	North	South	Remarks	Sl.No.	Survey No.	Type of Land	Type of Land	Area under Acquisition	Name of the Patented/Employee/Interested Person, Husband/Father and Address	Boundaries	East	West	North	South	Remarks
1	84	Assigned Land	Dry	0.0250	Neerudi Balamma (Pentiah)	84	Mulugu Shivani	84	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	20	647	Patla	Dry	0.0200	Kadapaia Ravindhar Reddy (Yadavreddy) (P) 1. Nadiminti Narsing Rao (Sathyanarayana)(o) 2. Bhudavarapu Maheshwar (Shankaraiiah) (O)	647	647	647	647	647	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
2	84	Assigned Land	Dry	0.0250	Devi Sailu (Lachiah) (P) Devi Pentiah (Sailu) (O)	84	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	21	647	Patla	Dry	0.0150	Chakali Pentiah (Muthaiah) (P) Chakali Nagaiah (Muthaiah) (O)	29	29	29	29	29	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
3	36	Patla	Dry	0.0550	Rajaboina Yakaiah (Venkataiah)	36	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	22	29	Patla	Dry	0.0000	Chakali (Q) Jupally Lachiah (Lingiah)	29	29	29	29	29	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
4	37	Patla	Dry	0.0700	Maraboina Mangamma (Narsimulu)	37	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	23	29	Patla	Dry	0.0400	Chakali (Q) Jupally (Narsaiiah) (P) Jupally Narsimulu (Narsaiiah) (O)	29	29	29	29	29	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
5	38	Patla	Dry	0.0500	Maraboina Balaiiah (Rajaiiah)	37	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	24	29	Patla	Dry	0.0600	Chakali (Q) Jupally Krishnaiah (Lingiah)	29	29	29	29	29	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
6	38	Patla	Dry	0.0750	Cheraboina Barathamma (Narsaiiah)	42	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	25	29	Patla	Dry	0.0800	Pasunuri Madhukar Rao (Chalapathi Rao)	29	29	29	29	29	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
7	42	Patla	Dry	0.0600	Maraboina Papamma (Komuriah)	41	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	26	29	Patla	Dry	0.0900		29	29	29	29	29	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
8	42	Patla	Dry	0.0500	Chakali Muthaiah (Narsaiiah)	41	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	Total: 2.3400											
9	41	Patla	Dry	0.0650	Cheeria Narsimha (Papaiah)	42	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	SCHEDULE - II											
10	41	Patla	Dry	0.0100	Maskuri Yellaiah (Yellaiah)	42	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	Village: Mulug Mandal: Mulug Dist: Siddipet											
11	16	Patla	Dry	0.0400	Bollaboina Yadaiah (Nagaiah)	41	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	Sangareddy Distributor System D-5R											
12	17	Patla	Dry	0.0450	Bollaboina Nagaiah (Ramaiiah)	41	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	27	647	Patla	Dry	0.0200	Kadapaia Ravindhar Reddy (Yadavreddy) (P) 1. Nadiminti Narsing Rao (Sathyanarayana)(o) 2. Bhudavarapu Maheshwar (Shankaraiiah) (O)	647	647	647	647	647	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
13	17	Patla	Dry	0.0050	Bollaboina Ramulu (Narsaiiah)	41	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	28	647	Patla	Dry	0.0300	Kadapaia Srinivas Reddy (Yadavreddy)	647	647	647	647	647	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
14	16	Patla	Dry	0.0900	Chakali Pushpamma (Pentiah)	23	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	29	647	Patla	Dry	0.1100	Kanugula Vijaya Lakshmi (Shankar)	647	647	647	647	647	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
15	24	Patla	Dry	0.0400	Palle Shankar (Narsaiiah)	27	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	30	640	Patla	Dry	0.0100	Kadapaia Sandhya (Ram Reddy)	640	640	640	640	640	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
16	24	Patla	Dry	0.0400	Palle Kumar (Narsaiiah)	27	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	31	640	Patla	Dry	0.0600	R.R.Govardhan Reddy (Vankatreddy)	640	640	640	640	640	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
17	24	Patla	Dry	0.0200	Palle Yadaiah (Malliah)	27	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	32	639	Patla	Dry	0.0500	R.R.Govardhan Reddy (Vankatreddy)	637	640	640	640	640	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
18	27	Patla	Dry	0.0350	Palle Shankar (Narsaiiah)	28	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	33	635	Patla	Dry	0.0250	Kadapaia Ravindhar Reddy (Yadavreddy)	635	635	635	635	635	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
19	27	Patla	Dry	0.0350	Palle Kumar (Narsaiiah)	28	36	36	36	36	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	34	635	Patla	Dry	0.0200	Kadapaia Yellareddy (Chandra Reddy)	635	635	635	635	635	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
Total: 0.3450												Total: 0.3450											
SCHEDULE - III																							
Village: Mulug Mandal: Mulug Dist: Siddipet																							
Sangareddy Distributor System D-6R																							
Sl.No.	Survey No.	Type of Land	Type of Land	Area under Acquisition	Name of the Patented/Employee/Interested Person, Husband/Father and Address	Boundaries	East	West	North	South	Remarks	Sl.No.	Survey No.	Type of Land	Type of Land	Area under Acquisition	Name of the Patented/Employee/Interested Person, Husband/Father and Address	Boundaries	East	West	North	South	Remarks
1	394	Patla	Dry	0.0200	Kokonda Ramulamma (Narsimha Reddy)	394	394	394	394	394	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.	35	394	Patla	Dry	0.0200	Kokonda Ramulamma (Narsimha Reddy)	394	394	394	394	394	Borewells, Trees, Pipe Lines etc.
Total: 0.0200												Total: 0.0200											
Total Area:0.3650												Total Area:0.3650											
This notification is issued for payment of compensation to land owners under the provisions of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. A plan of the land may be inspected, by all the concerned, in the office of the District Collector, Siddipet and Revenue Divisional Officer, Gajwel, Siddipet District on any working day during the office hours. The Government of Telangana a Collector, Siddipet is pleased to authorize Revenue Divisional Officer, Gajwel, and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil; do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section - 12 of the said Act. Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector, Siddipet. Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before the Land Acquisition Officer.																							
Sd/-						Sd/-						Sd/-						Sd/-					
Tahsildar						Revenue Divisional Officer, Gajwel						Additional Collector						District Collector					
Mulugu Mandal						Siddipet District						Siddipet District						Siddipet District					
DIPR No.500/LA/PP-Agency-2020-21																							

SHORT TAKES



S. Ramachandra Rao

FORMER ADVOCATE GENERAL DIES OF CARDIAC ARREST

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Legal luminary and former advocate general of composite Andhra Pradesh S. Ramachandra Rao passed away on Thursday evening due to cardiac arrest.

During his 50 years of service as advocate, he made every effort to solve grievances of people through various constitutional courts. He succeeded in most of his efforts.

TS ECET LIKELY TO BE CONDUCTED ON AUGUST 31

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Telangana ECET 2020 online exams have been tentatively scheduled on August 31 during morning and evening, an official communication stated. The state government is making all arrangements to conduct the first CET at 56 centres in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, while taking precautions against Covid-19.

Candidates can download their new hall tickets, which will need to be produced before the examination. The hall tickets will tentatively be made available from August 25. For more updates, students have been advised to regularly visit the TSECET 2020 website.

YELLAREDDY MLA TESTS POSITIVE

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, AUG. 20

Yellareddy MLA J. Surender has tested positive for the Coronavirus on Thursday. He was admitted to a corporate hospital in Hyderabad and is the fourth MLA from undivided Nizamabad district to test positive for Covid-19.

The MLA had actively participated in various developmental programmes in his assembly constituency. He displayed mild symptoms of Covid-19 and got himself tested in Hyderabad. The results came back positive.

MLA's PA and family members have tested positive.

PARENT ACCUSES COP OF BIAS IN SCHOOL FEE ISSUE

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

The Hyderabad Schools Parents Association has accused police of siding with management of St. Andrews School, Bowenpally, after police took into custody some of the protesting parents and also issued notices to them.

Parents of students studying in the school have been protesting against high fee being collected by authorities of St. Andrews in violation of Government Order 46.

Representatives of the association said while parents have been protesting peacefully, police have acted unfairly under the influence of school management and threatened to book them under pandemic laws. The association says cops have ignored harassment by school managements over fees and instead are enthusiastic about booking parents and intimidating them over phone.

HSPA says it will challenge in High Court notices issued by police to parents.

St. Andrew's School in Bowenpally had earlier been found guilty of violating the government order by collecting huge fees. The issue came to light when parents of students studying in the school lodged a complaint with the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Secunderabad Mandal 2, who conducted an inquiry.

The parents' group says the school management has outright refused to decrease fees for online classes.

Congress marks Rajiv's 76th b'day

Recalls ex-PM steered India in tough times

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee leaders on Thursday paid rich tributes to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 76th birth anniversary.

TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, apart from CLP leader Bhatti Vikramarka, senior leaders K. Jana Reddy, V. Hanumantha Rao and Ponnala Lakshmaiah, MLA Jagga Reddy and other leaders, paid floral tributes at Rajiv Gandhi's statue in Somajiguda as well as to his portrait at Gandhi Bhavan.

Speaking on the occasion, Uttam Kumar Reddy recalled that Rajiv Gandhi had become Prime Minister of India at the age of 40 years under very difficult circumstances. Still, he left an indelible impression because of his unique style of administration.

The TPCC chief underlined that it was Rajiv Gandhi who empowered youth by reducing the voting age to 18 years, so that they could be involved in the exercise of nation building. The late leader also promoted science and technology on a large scale and inculcated scientific temperament among all citizens.

He introduced large-scale reforms to boost technological industry, encouraged modernisation of industries and promoted foreign investments in economy. Rajiv Gandhi was the architect of digital India and



TPCC chief and MP N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and other Congress leaders pay tributes to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 76th birth anniversary at Somajiguda on Thursday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

“Father of Information Technology and Telecom Revolution in India,” he said.

Uttam Kumar Reddy asked party cadre to get inspired by the life of Rajiv Gandhi. He also wanted them to work hard for ensuring Congress party's victory during the forthcoming municipal elections in Greater

Hyderabad, Khammam and Warangal.

Former MP and senior leader V. Hanumantha Rao said the former prime minister empowered local bodies and backward classes in the country by constituting the Mandal Commission on granting reservations to BCs and making amendments to the Constitution.

Transgenders denied promised rations by govt

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

As the hijras in Telangana continue to face trouble in getting ration rice from the fair price shops, even after the government promised before the court, that 10 kg of rice is to be given to each hijra irrespective of whether or not she has a ration card, the Telangana High Court asked the advocate general to get the government to look into the issue.

The court also sought information on whether separate wards were cre-

ated in Covid-19 care hospitals to extend treatment to the hijra community.

The bench, headed by chief justice, Raghavendra Singh Chauhan, expressed concern on this issue on Thursday, in relation to the contentions raised by Ms. Kothari, counsel for the petitioner; hijra activist Vyjayanti Vasanta Mogli, who informed the bench that despite the orders of the court, the people running the fair price shops are insisting that hijras show ration cards defying the orders of V. Anil Kumar, com-

missioner of civil supplies department, Telangana, who had issued circular instructions to concerned officials dealing with supply of free 10 kgs of rice to all hijras, from July to November, 2020.

Though the director of medical education has made a statement in the media that separate wards will be created in all government hospitals to extend treatment to hijras infected with Covid-19, nothing of the sort has materialised as yet, contended the counsel for the petitioner.

ANDHRA PRADESH

JAGAN TO PRAY AT SRISAILAM PROJECT TODAY

D.S. REDDI | DC
KURNOOL, AUG. 20

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is visiting Srisailem project on Friday to perform Jal Harathi on Krishna River for the water wealth bestowed on the territory. This is his first visit to Srisailem after assuming office.

It is customary on the part of the State ministers to offer Jala harathi before the main gates are opened for the first time during the season.

Jagan Mohan Reddy will be accompanied by water resource Minister Mr Anil Kumar Yadav and Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy. He will interact with engineering officials and find out the progress of various works taken up from Pothreddypadu head regulator and Rayalaseema lift irrigation scheme tenders that were finalised recently.

● **IT IS CUSTOMARY** on the part of the State ministers to offer Jala harathi before the main gates are opened for the first time during the season.

● **JAGAN MOHAN REDDY** will be accompanied by water resource Minister Mr Anil Kumar Yadav and Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy.

AP cops announce ₹1L reward for info on Ramesh hospital top brass

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 20

AP police has announced a cash award of ₹ one lakh for those who give information leading to the arrest of top management personnel of Ramesh Hospitals.

Though the police have arrested three hospital officials in the aftermath of the death of 10 patients in the fire mishap in Swarna Palace Hotel hired by the hospital to run Covid Care Centre on August 9, the big guns, including managing director Dr P. Ramesh Babu, has been evading arrest.

The police even released the names and photos of four suspects, including hospital chair-

● **CP B. SRINIVASULU** said, “It is unfair on the part of top management of Ramesh Hospitals to abscond without helping the police to take up the inquiry.”

man Maddipati Seetha Ramamohana Rao, Ramesh Babu, COO Potluri Gopi Krishna and CFO Pothineni Ravi Kiran. In their bid to nab the four, the police announced the cash reward for information on their whereabouts.

CP B. Srinivasulu said, “It is unfair on the part of top management of Ramesh Hospitals to abscond without helping the police to take up the inquiry.”

AP crosses 3K toll, 9,393 new cases

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, AUG. 20

After a brief lull, the number of Coronavirus cases has risen in Andhra Pradesh again, registering 9,393 new Covid-19 cases, raising the tally to 3,25,396, apart from 95 deaths, taking the deal toll to 3,001.

The state health department has reported that of 55,551 samples tested for Covid-19, 9,393 individuals have tested positive. The state has so far tested 30,74,847 samples. Of them, 3,25,396 tested Covid-19 positive while 2,35,218 patients have been discharged after recovery and 87,177 patients are still undergoing treatment.

Among new infections, East Godavari district continues to lead with 1,357 cases, followed by 995 in West Godavari, 985 in Visakhapatnam, 973 in Anantapur, 836 in Chittoor, 805 in Kurnool, 762 in Srikakulam, 635 in Prakasam, 588 in Nellore, 443 in Guntur, 434 in Kadapa, 385 in Vizianagaram and 195 in Krishna.

With regard to cumulative infections, East Godavari is the worst hit with the highest number of 45,356 cases, followed by 36,381 in Kurnool, 32,603 in Anantapur, 28,808 in Guntur, 28,075 in Visakhapatnam, 27,025 in West Godavari, 26,573 in Chittoor, 19,672 in Nellore, 19,193 in

HC: Take stock of Nirmal lakes

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

The Telangana High Court has expressed worry over the state executive remaining passive towards protecting water bodies within TS from encroachments or being turned into dump yards. The court wanted district collectors to pay attention towards retaining water bodies as they are.

These observations were made by a division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhani and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy while directing Nirmal collector to visit all lakes under the district's jurisdiction, inspect them and find out if any of them are being encroached by filling them with sand or construction material. If such a thing is happening, the collector must initiate stringent action against encroachers and submit a cogent and cohesive report to the court before September 10.

The bench was hearing public interest litigation filed by K. Anju Kumar Reddy seeking a direction to Nirmal district authorities that they protect Jafur Cheruvu, Kurranapet Cheruvu and Kothaikotch cheruvu tanks in the district from illegal encroachments. Counsel for petitioner Chinnola Nares Reddy informed the bench that miscreants have encroached nearly eight lakes in Nirmal district. They have also started constructions

on encroached lands without obtaining any permission from Nirmal municipality.

On the High Court's directive Nirmal municipal commissioner and Irrigation Department executive engineer furnished a report on the lakes mentioned. The court opined that these reports are deficient and misleading with false information. The bench asked the commissioner to inform whether or not any construction has taken place on lake areas without obtaining permission. The commissioner maintained a steady silence on this and also further queries from court whether the said lake had been filled up with rubble.

The High Court then directed additional district judge, Nirmal, to personally visit the site and submit a factual ground report in case any part of the lake has been filled with rubble and whether or not any illegal constructions have come up on the land. The court also wanted the district judge to find out from chief engineer and superintendent engineer, Irrigation, Nirmal, the exact extent of the lake's full tank level area and alleged encroachments on the FTL.

Further, the division bench directed Nirmal collector to visit all lakes falling within the district and also ensure that their FTL, including the buffer zone, is discovered, clearly demarcated and fenced.

HC: Can't take back land allotted

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

The Telangana High Court made it clear that once land is allotted to an ex-service-man, then such allocation cannot be cancelled on the ground that the land was not allocated by a competent authority or the land was in shikam or in any prohibited list of land to assigned, prescribed in GO 1406 of 1958.

The Court also said that if that land was named in a prohibited

classification of land, then Revenue authorities should provide an alternative land to the beneficiary.

The division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy was dealing with a petition by ex-servicemen, challenging the cancellation of land allotment to them.

● **THE LAND** was in shikam or in any prohibited list of land to assigned, prescribed in GO 1406 of 1958.

TWITTER SEEKS TIME TO EXPLAIN TWEETS AGAINST MUSLIMS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

Microblogging site Twitter has sought more time from the Telangana High Court to submit its explanation on allowing posts against Muslims portraying them as Covid-19 spreaders.

Twitter's senior counsel from Delhi submitted that the inflammatory material had been removed and sought some more time to file an affidavit as it has to come from the US. It may be recalled that the High Court had issued notices to Twitter, Union government and the Telangana state police, in a PIL, filed by an advocate seeking action against Twitter for allowing the tweets, which he said “promoted hatred against Muslims”.

ASP donates tarpaulins

Warangal: Mulugu ASP Potharaju Sai Chaitanya on Thursday donated tarpaulin covers to the Ganapeshwar-alayam temple which got flooded.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR FATHER



Sri IM KAPUR

He was strong, kind, caring & magnanimous. He breathed his last on 19-08-2020. He has etched a place in our hearts. Daughters: Ritu, Renu, Arti

(S/2021/D00466)

5th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Job 1:21

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Mrs. K. SUSHEELA GEORGE (PAO) DOB: 09-09-1942 DOD: 21-08-2015. Your memories, love and affection are still fresh in our hearts. Inserted by: Brother, Sisters-in-law, Sisters, Brother-in-law, Nieces and Nephews

FONDLY REMEMBERED

And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his tribulation were accomplished, he departed to his own house. Luke 1:23



PANDIT ISAIHA (Retd. EME / SCRI) Elder: Bethesda House of Prayer, Allugadabavi DOB: 17-09-1945 DOD: 21-08-2018. Two years has passed since you left us for heavenly abode, hoping to reunite with you one day. A Loving Tribute from: Family Members - Ph: 99128 56482

3rd ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE

The memory of the righteous is a blessing. —Proverbs 10:7



Mrs. DEEVANAMMA RADUVA Born on : 10-12-1932 DOB: 21-07-1961 DOD: 20-08-2020. Went Home on : 21-08-2017 Forever in our hearts! With Love : MR. RADUVA MITHRA (Husband) Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

SHRADDANJALI



BATCHU SUKUMARI DOD: 19-08-2020. Praying that God grants peace to the soul of your dearly departed. Inserted by: Telukunta Krishna Murthy & Family

(S/2021/D00467)

21st DEATH ANNIVERSARY



ADEPU NARSIMHA (MES Contractor) Expired on 21-8-1999 Inserted by: Wife, Sons, Daughters-in-law, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Grand Children Relatives & Friends. Ph: 27962397

17th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



MALLEMPUDI RADHA MOHAN 17th Anniversary on 21-8-2020. You are still fresh in our hearts. Inserted by wife M. Seshamani & Members of Family, Hyd.

OBITUARY

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7



T. SUKESHINI SUMALATHA DOB: 09-03-1965 DOD: 20-08-2020. Funeral Service will be held on 21st August 2020, at CSI Wesley Cemetery, Mettuguda, Secunderabad at 10.30 a.m. Inserted by: Husband & Children Ph: 9848015812, 9550288851

IN MEMORY OF THE GREATEST TELUGU TEACHER OF ALL TIMES



Somanna Sir Departed : 04 Aug 2020

St. John's Church High School 1990 B Section Students

(S/2021/D00465)

OBITUARY

"I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever" Ps. 23:6



Madana Ravi Prasanna Kumar Retd. Office Superintendent, DM & HO DOB: 21-07-1961 DOD: 20-08-2020

FUNERAL will be held at St. Thomas SPG Church Cemetery, Sec-bad at 10:30 am (today)

Inserted by: Wife & Children Cell : 9704474252 / 9989994625

OBITUARY



Sri Satyanarayan Kachwaha Left for heavenly abode on Wed., 19th Aug 2020.

MAY YOUR SOUL REST IN PEACE.

Deeply Mourned by: Raju, Prakash (Sons)

BALAJI TIFINS

BALAJI SHIVNARAYAN SWEET HOME

Beside Royal Plaza, Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad, Ph. No: 9247888674, 9392352828

(S/2021/D00459)

12th Anniversary In Loving Memory of



Late Kishan Kumar Mehra S/o Late Hazari Lal Mehra

"Your life is always an inspiration, strength and pride for us, you will always be in our hearts forever"

Mehra & Kapoor Family

9346517530/ 9395579580

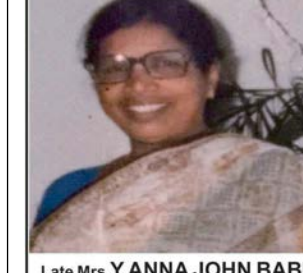
CAR FASHIONS, Minister Road.

MEHRA Trading Co.

(S/2021/D00459)

29th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith 2 Timothy 4:7"



Late Mrs. Y. ANNA JOHN BABU W/o Late Rev Y.S. John Babu

Founder Chairman, SION FELLOWSHIP, 2-10, Hydernagar.

Inserted by: Sons, Daughters, Sons-in-Law, Daughters-in-Law, Grand Children & Church Members

“Now waste is not a burden for the city, but a valuable resource as through these plants, after processing dry and wet waste, the IMC has earned ₹6 crore in 2019-20, which is likely to increase to ₹10 crore in 2021-22,” he added. — *PTI*

INFILTRATION FROM PoK DOWN BY 50 PER CENT

MEDICAL OFFICER HELD FOR KILLING FEMALE DOCTOR

The body has been sent for post mortem, he said, adding the accused was being interrogated and all facts of the case would be unveiled soon.

Tharoor, CPM spar over Centre's airport decision

He reminded the Centre that in 2005 the state gov-

"All our requests to hand over the airport to SPV have been ignored by the Centre. Moreover, the Centre's decision comes at a time when, on the directions of the Supreme

The ruling CPM said it will launch a statewide agitation since the Centre's decision to hand

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Mullappally Ramachandran echoed similar sentiments. He called for statewide protests to force the BJP Government at the Centre to roll back the unilateral decision. "None of us need to be on the payroll of these corporate giants," he said.

KERALA DIDN'T QUALIFY FOR BID: MINISTER

Per passenger fee was the criteria for the bidding process that was conducted in early 2019 for six airports — Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Mangalore, Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram. Adani Enterprises turned out to be the highest bidder for these six airports. —PTI

said the number of recovered patients is now three times higher than the number of active cases which currently is 6.90 lakh. "With the recoveries of 61,873 in the last 24 hours, India's Recovery Rate has crossed 74 per cent reflecting that the number of patients recovering is on a steady rise over the past several months. India has posted more than 14 lakh recoveries than the active cases (6,86,395 which are under active medical care)," officials said.


राजीव गांधी राष्ट्रीय विमानन विश्वविद्यालय
RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL AVIATION UNIVERSITY
 एक - भारत को जोड़ने वाला एकात्मिक शिक्षण संस्थान
A Central University under Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt. of India
 डाटा - संचार के माध्यम से शिक्षण प्रणालि
Established by an Act of Parliament in 2013.

CORRIGENDUM

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 2020

This refers to our earlier advertisement published in leading newspapers on 29th June, 2020 inviting applications for admission towards PGDAO & BMS in Aviation Services & Air Cargo.

- Due to COVID-19 situation, the last date for online applications is extended upto 1700 hrs on 10 September 2020 and no written examination will be held.
- For further details please visit RGAU website i.e. <https://www.rgau.ac.in>. Any corrigendum, in this regard, will be published only in the official website of RGAU.

Sd/- Registrar,

davp 03110/11/0005/2021 Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University

 Punjab State Power Corporation Limited Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001 (OFFICE OF CE/RE & APDRP (D), SHED NO: F2, SHAKTI VIHAR, PATIALA) Corporate Identity No. U46109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-22227, Fax No. 0175-2224168 Email Id: ase.std@gmail.com	
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER	
E-Tenders are invited for initial site survey, planning and subsequent execution of project for restructuring of overhanging existing HT/LT lines for Rainik Bazar, Jalandhar under Smart City Project on Turnkey Basis against Tender Enquiry No. 57A/CE/RE & APDRP/2020-21 DATED 19.08.2020	
Downloading of Specification/ Tender documents from e- tendering website	Start Date 20.08.2020
Last date and time of online submission of bid	09.09.2020 up to 11:00 AM
Date & time for opening of tenders	10.09.2020 at 11:00 AM
Cost of Specification	Can be downloaded free of cost from online tendering portal https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/
Contact Person	SE/RE & APDRP (D) Ph: 0175-2200499 Mob: 096461-22227 Shed A-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala-147001
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed NIT and Specification may be downloaded from e-tendering website http://eproc.punjab.gov.in. • The prospective bidders may contact customer care of above cited website in case of any difficulty. • CORRIGENDUM if any will not be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on e-tendering website http://eproc.punjab.gov.in. 	
Dy.CE/RE&APDRP (D), For CE/RE&APDRP, PSPCL, Patiala.	

GOVT TO CHARGE REVISED AVIATION FEE FOR ALL FROM SEPT. 1

However, special international flights have been operating with the approval of aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

CBI team reaches Mumbai to probe SSR's death case


SSR'S CASE WAS POLITICISED, SAYS SHIV SENA


A day after the verdict on the transfer of the death case of Sushant Singh Rajput, the Shiv Sena on Thursday said that the Indian Constitution will be shedding tears if quarantining a Bihar Police official in Mumbai gives rise to suspicion due to which the case has been handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

I-T sleuths raid nine major real estate developers in MP


The party also referred to several pictures posted in the real estate developer's social media site showing him in the company of state minister Aurobind Bhadoria at several places.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed NIT and Specification may be downloaded from e-tendering website http://eproc.punjab.gov.in. The prospective bidders may contact customer care of above cited website in case of any difficulty. CORRIGENDUM if any will not be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on e-tendering website http://eproc.punjab.gov.in. 	
C-262/2020 RO : U66049	Dy.CE/RE&APDRP (D), For CE/RE&APDRP, PSPCL, Patiala.


Govt. of Bihar



**BIHAR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD**
 [A Govt of Bihar Undertaking]
 NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGE (NAMAMI GANGE PROGRAMME)
Re-Invitation for Bids
International Competitive Bidding
 NIT. No: BUIDCo/Yo-871/2017 (Part-4)-169



- The Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited for and on behalf of the Owner in the State of Bihar, India invites bids from eligible Bidders for the works (I) Design and Build Sewage Treatment Plant of Installed Capacity 22 MLD and all Appurtenant Structures and Allied Works (for remaining work of ASP Technology); (II) Survey, Review the Designs, Redesign where Necessary, and Build New Underground Sewerage Network of about 138.9 km Length including Survey, Design, Construction of 4 No. Intermediate Pumping Stations and all Appurtenant Structures and Allied Works; And (III) Operation & Maintenance of the Complete Works of Sewage Treatment Plant, Sewerage Network and Pumping Stations for a Period of 15 Years in Hajipur, State of Bihar, India. Period for design/redesign, build, test and commissioning is 2 years and Operation and Maintenance period is 15 years.
- Detailed Invitation for Bid which includes instructions for submission of bids and all other relevant information is available on www.eprocbbihar.gov.in website Bidding Documents will be available with effect from **28.08.2020**.
- The last date & time of bid submission is **28.09.2020 at 15.00 hours** on e-proc. The last date & time of bid submission in hard copy is **29.09.2020 at 15.00 hours**. The bids will be opened on the same day at **16.00 hours**. E-bidding will be permitted.
- The interested eligible bidders may participate in the bidding process as per instructions given in the bidding documents.

Chief Engineer,
 Planning, Design & Monitoring,
 BUIDCo, Patna

Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation,
 Near Rajapur Pul, West Boring Canal Road, Patna-800001
 (Tel: 0612-2506109, Email: mbuidco@gmail.com)

PR. No. 005240 (NI NI) 2020-21

नोबल कोरोना के संघर्ष में विजय प्राप्त करने एवं स्वास्थ्य हेतु

Toll Free No.: **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

खाद्य सामग्री - संवर्द्धी किसी तरह की जाचकारी अथवा सुनाव हेतु दुरुभाव संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।



Directorate of Film Festivals



Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Government of India



51st
International
Film Festival
of India, Goa
20th - 28th November, 2020

51st INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA, Goa

CALL FOR ENTRIES

for INDIAN PANORAMA, 2020

Feature & Non-Feature Films

Eligibility

- Films produced between 1 st August, 2019 and 31 st July, 2020 are eligible.
- Last date for submission of ON LINE applications is 31 st August, 2020 till 6 P.M. and for receipt of the other requisite documents is 7 th September, 2020.
- Screenings of the films would be in physical and virtual format.

For Regulations and Entry Form please visit :

www.dff.goa.in & www.iffigoa.org

IN BRIEF

Iran unveils 2 new missiles

Tehran: Iran's state TV is reporting the country has unveiled two new missiles amid heightened tensions between Iran and the United States.

They are named after top Iranian Gen Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, who were killed outside Baghdad's international airport in a US strike in January. The "Martyr Hajj Qassem" surface-to-air, surface ballistic missile has a 1,400-kilometre range, according to the semi-official Fars news agency. State TV said the "Martyr Abu Mahdi" naval cruise missile has a 1,000-kilometre range.

Man gets 55 yrs for UK bombing

London: The brother of the suicide bomber who set off an explosion at a 2017 Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England, killing 22 people and injuring hundreds, has been sentenced to a minimum of 55 years. Hashem Abedi had denied helping plan the attack at the end of the Manchester Arena concert on May 22, 2017, but was found guilty of murder, attempted murder, and conspiring to cause explosions. His sentencing had been postponed due to travel restrictions put in place because of the Coronavirus pandemic. His elder brother Salman Abedi, who set off the bomb, died in the explosion. Sentencing Hashem on Thursday, judge Jeremy Baker said the two brothers were "equally culpable for the deaths and injuries caused by the explosion".

Chokehold: City to pay \$6.5 Mn

New Mexico: A New Mexico city has agreed to pay \$6.5 million to the family of Mexican American man who was choked to death by a police officer. A settlement agreement made public this week by Las Cruces, New Mexico, calls for the city to pay the family of Antonio Valenzuela within 30 days and promises the local government will embark on various police reforms. Financial terms of the settlement were not previously disclosed. Under the settlement, Las Cruces police agreed to ban all chokeholds and fire any officer who violates the new policy — something officials say the city already does. The city also must try to adopt a warning system involving officers who use excessive force and forge a policy so officers can undergo yearly mental health exams. Any police reforms must be approved by the city council.

ABEYWARDENA IS LANKA PARL SPEAKER

Colombo, Aug. 20: Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, who was sacked for opposing the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord in 1987, has been unanimously appointed as the Speaker of Sri Lanka's new parliament which met for the first time on Thursday following the August 5 general election. At the inaugural session of the 9th parliament, Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena proposed Abeywardena for the post.

The resolution was seconded by opposition Member of Parliament Ranjith Madduma Bandara. Soon after he was appointed, Abeywardena, 75, was congratulated by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and all other legislators.

Abeywardena, who is from the southern district of Mata-ra, was removed from his seat in 1987 after entering the House 4 years before from the then ruling United National Party (UNP). He was opposing to the Indian intervention in Sri Lanka's conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who were fighting to create a separate homeland for the Tamils in the country's north and east. His sacking from parliament came as the then President JR Jayewardene and the then Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi signed the deal which brought the Indian troops to Sri Lanka's northern and eastern battle fields. Abeywardena was against the provincial councils system introduced as part of the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord by India in its bid to make Sri Lanka grant political power to the Tamils.

The system created nine provincial councils. Abeywardena, ironically became the chief minister of one of them, the southern provincial council in 1994 until he contested the 2001 national parliamentary election.

Trump ex-adviser Bannon nabbed for fraud

New York, Aug. 20: US President Donald Trump's former top adviser Stephen Bannon was arrested on Thursday and charged for his role in defrauding thousands of donors in connection with an online crowdfunding campaign known as 'We Build the Wall' that raised more than \$25 million. Bannon, 66, was charged in an indictment along with Brian Kolfage, 38, an Air

Force veteran from Florida, Andrew Badolato, 56, a financier also from Florida and Timothy Shea, 49, of Colorado, 'Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Audrey Strauss said on Thursday. The men were arrested on Thursday morning and Bannon will be presented in the Southern District of New York, while others will make their court appearance in their jurisdictions.

"As alleged, the defendants defrauded hundreds of thousands of donors, capitalising on their interest in funding a border wall to raise millions of dollars, under the false pretense that all of that money would be spent on construction," Strauss said. It was assured to donors that Kolfage, the founder and public face of 'We Build the Wall', would

not be paid a cent but the defendants secretly schemed to pass hundreds of thousands of dollars to him, which he used to fund his lavish lifestyle, he added. The men are each charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, each of which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Inspector-in-Charge

Philip R. Bartlett said the defendants allegedly engaged in fraud when they misrepresented the true use of donated funds.

"As alleged, not only did they lie to donors, they schemed to hide their misappropriation of funds by creating sham invoices and accounts to launder donations and cover up their crimes, showing no regard for the law or the truth. This case should

serve as a warning to other fraudsters that no one is above the law, not even a disabled war veteran or a millionaire political strategist." According to the Indictment unsealed in Manhattan federal court, starting in approximately December 2018, Kolfage, Bannon, Badolato and Shea, and others, orchestrated a scheme to defraud hundreds of thousands of donors, including donors

in the Southern District of New York. In particular, to induce donors to donate to the campaign, Kolfage repeatedly and falsely assured the public that he would "not take a penny in salary or compensation" and that "100% of the funds raised...will be used in the execution of our mission and purpose" because, as Bannon publicly stated, "we're a volunteer organisation". —PTI

Kamala accepts Dem Party VP nomination, inks history

Harris attacks Trump for failure of leadership, vows to fight for nation

Washington, Aug. 20: Senator Kamala Harris has scripted history as she became the first Indian-American and also the first PoC woman to accept the nomination for vice-president from a major political party in the US. Harris, 55, was nominated as the vice-presidential candidate on Wednesday at the virtual Democratic National Convention where she attacked President Donald Trump's for "failure of leadership" and blamed the Republican leader for the "lives and livelihoods" of the American people amidst the Coronavirus pandemic.

"I accept your nomination for vice president of the United States of America," she said while accepting the Democratic Party's nomination to be the running mate of the presidential candidate Joe Biden. In her acceptance speech, Harris paid tribute to the PoC women that came before her and she vowed to fight for the nation. "Let's fight with conviction. Let's fight with hope. Let's fight with confidence in ourselves, and a commitment to each other," she said.

In reference to her Indian heritage, Harris used a Tamil expression in speaking of "my uncles, my aunts — my chittis". Harris said she was there standing on her mother's shoulders, a woman who "came here from India at age 19 to pursue her dream of curing cancer. At the University of California, Berkeley, she met my father, Donald Harris — who had come from Jamaica to study economics".

She assailed Trump's "failure of leadership". She said the Republican leader "turns our tragedies into political weapons". Former vice president Joe Biden and Harris will challenge Trump and his Vice-President Mike Pence in the November 3 election. "We must elect a president who will bring something different, something better, and do the



Senator from California and Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris stands on stage socially distanced from former vice president and Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden at the end of the third day of the Democratic National Convention, being held virtually amid the Coronavirus pandemic, at the Chase Center in Wilmington, Delaware on Wednesday.

— AFP

Harris: 'Oh, how I wish my mother was here'

Washington, Aug. 20: Accepting the Democratic Party's historic nomination for the US vice-president, Kamala Harris fondly remembered her Chennai-born mother who instilled in her the values like compassion and service to others which helped her to grow as a strong woman and be proud of her Indian heritage. Harris opened her vice-presidential acceptance speech on Wednesday night at the virtual

Democratic National Convention by remembering her late mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, lamenting the fact that she could not be there to see her daughter's achievement. "My mother taught me that service to others gives life purpose and meaning. And oh, how I wish she were here tonight but I know she's looking down on me from above," she said. Harris' mother died of cancer in 2009. "My mother instilled

in my sister, Maya, and me the values that would chart the course of our lives. She raised us to be proud, strong women. And she raised us to know and be proud of our Indian heritage," Harris said. Harris in her impressive speech said that her nomination is a testament to the dedication of generations before her. Women and men who believed so fiercely in the promise of equality, liberty, and justice for all, she said. —PTI

important work. A president who will bring all of us together to achieve the future we collectively want," Harris said, making a passionate plea before Americans to vote them to power.

"We must elect Joe Biden. I knew Joe as Vice President. I knew Joe on the campaign trail. But I first got to know Joe as the father of my friend," she said. "And here's the thing: We can do better

and deserve so much more," she said. "Joe will bring us together to build an economy that doesn't leave anyone behind. Where a good-paying job is the floor, not the ceiling." —PTI

WORSHIP WOES FOR MUSLIMS, SIKHS: OBAMA

New York, Aug. 20: Minority communities like Sikhs and Muslims have been made to "feel suspect" for the way they worshipped, former US president Barack Obama has said as he tore into Donald Trump's presidency and warned American voters that his administration would "tear our democracy down" to get re-elected. Delivering an impassioned speech at the 2020 Democratic National Convention, Obama launched a scathing attack on Trump's policies and rhetoric, a break with the longstanding tradition of former presidents not publicly speaking out against their successors.

He urged Americans to vote in the November elections.

— PTI

Belarus leader digs in as protests go on

Minsk, Aug. 20: Demonstrators again took to the streets of the Belarusian capital and other cities Thursday, keeping up their push for the nation's authoritarian leader to step down after extending his 26-year rule in a vote the opposition saw as rigged. President Alexander Lukashenko has dismissed the protesters as Western puppets and threatened opposition leaders

with criminal charges.

Following that, a leading opposition figure reported receiving threats and being threatened with arrest. The 65-year-old Belarusian leader dismissed the European Union's criticism of the Aug. 9 vote and told its leaders to mind their own business.

The EU leaders on Wednesday rejected the official results of the election that showed Lukashenko win

80 per cent of the vote and expressed solidarity with protesters. The EU said it's preparing sanctions against Belarusian officials responsible for the brutal post-election police actions. During the first four days of protests, police detained almost 7,000 people and injured hundreds with rubber bullets, stun grenades and clubs.

At least three protesters died. The crackdown fuelled outrage, forcing authorities to change tactics and stop breaking up crowds that grew to an unprecedented 200,000 on Sunday.

Police again beefed up their presence on the streets of the Belarusian capital Wednesday, blocking access to some government buildings and also deploying in numbers outside major factories where workers have been on strike since Monday. The

industrial action that has engulfed major factories across the country cast a tough challenge to Lukashenko, who had relied on blue-collar workers as his core support base. In a bid to stop the strike from spreading, On Wednesday, he warned that the participants would face dismissal and ordered law enforcement agencies to protect factory managers from the opposition pressure. —AP

PEOPLE | CONNECT

Communications like letters and diaries used during Spanish flu of 1918 have disappeared

Japan museum portrays pandemic life via daily things

Tokyo, Aug. 20: Takeout menus. Directions for attending a funeral. A leaflet from a local shrine, announcing the cancellation of summer festivals. These humble, everyday artifacts of life in the pandemic have found a home in the Historical Museum of Urahoro, in Hokkaido, northern Japan, a town of just 4,500 residents that lacks a McDonald's or movie theatre.

But thanks to the museum's curator, Makoto Mochida, it has a repository of the dross of the moment, stuff that may tell future generations

what it was like to live in the time of Covid-19 — how life was profoundly changed with social distancing and growing fears over the outbreak.

"I am fascinated by how things connect with people," Mochida said. Some people are surprised he's hoarding what appears to be garbage, said Mochida, who has even problems throwing away things at home, too.

"Things furnish an excellent way to accurately archive history," he said. So there are documents that show how children were taught to shift to

online schooling. And instructions, complete with diagrams, on how to make a mask from a handkerchief. Several hundred objects have been collected so far, after a call went out to residents.

In the wake of the last great pandemic — the so-called Spanish flu of 1918-19, which killed more than 50 million people globally — letters and diaries provided insight into daily life. But these days, those analog communications have all but vanished.

And their digital versions, like emails and social media posts, are all

● THERE ARE documents that show how children were taught to shift to online schooling. And instructions, complete with diagrams, on how to make a mask from a handkerchief. Several hundred objects have been collected so far, after a call went out to residents.

but lost in a sea of cyberspace, Mochida said.

So it is left to Mochida to curate the flotsam and jetsam of the Coronavirus.

He is planning a big exhibition of his finds next February to follow up on the smaller display now at the museum, located in the Urahoro library, showing how masks have evolved in a short time.

At first, masks were hard to find in Japanese stores. Handmade varieties were primitive, concocted from old shirts and stockings. Then came innovations, like draping masks that allow for eating and drinking, or sheer plastic ones. They eventually became fashion statements, some with fancy embroidery. Cases of Covid-19 have

been growing in Japan, but they have not reached the levels of the hardest hit nations like the US, Brazil and several regions of Europe.

Urahoro has not yet recorded a single case. At first, the community brushed the outbreak off. Then fears began to creep in, especially toward outsiders, and households with adult children working in Tokyo or nearby cities, who could come home to visit.

Then came the adjustments. For the tiny town, takeout — including the local specialty "spa-cut",

or meat-sauce spaghetti topped with a fried meat cutlet, usually pork — has become the rule after restaurants shut to in-person dining.

Before the pandemic, it wasn't even an option. Shoko Maeda, who was born in Urahoro and works as a cook at a nursery school, feels she can almost picture people decades from now trying to remember life amid the pandemic. "They may think, 'Oh, so this was the way it was,'" she said, after visiting the museum. "Things do reveal how people think." —AP

IN BRIEF

More protection for platypus, urge scientists

Sydney: Australian scientists have called for the platypus to be listed as a vulnerable species in Victoria state, after research found dwindling numbers of the semi-aquatic mammal because of loss of habitat and a warming climate. Ecologist Joshua Griffiths, who supervised the collection of data that led to the recommendation by a scientific advisory panel, said the platypus population across the state had likely fallen by about 30% in the last 20 to 30 years. "We have seen major declines in population in Victoria's western regions, localised extinctions and the kind of things that are affecting the platypuses are going to increase in future," Griffiths said. Land-clearing for agriculture, mining and forestry had been the biggest factor in the destruction of habitat over several decades but last summer's bushfires have greatly compounded the impact. "A lot of that area got burned by the recent bushfires, so the situation could actually be worse than what we think at the moment," he said. The bushfires from September last year until February, killed nearly 3 billion koalas, kangaroos and other animals.

Alaska's salmon shrinking: Blame it on climate

Anchorage, Alaska: Alaska's highly prized salmon — a favorite of seafood lovers the world over — are getting smaller, and climate change is a suspected culprit, a new study reported, documenting a trend that may pose a risk to a valuable fishery, indigenous people and wildlife. The study, led by University of Alaska at Fairbanks (UAF) scientists, found that four of Alaska's five wild salmon species have shrunk in average fish size over the past six decades, with stunted growth becoming more pronounced since 2010. Hardest hit is Alaska's official state fish, the Chinook salmon, also known as king salmon. Chinooks on average are 8 percent smaller than they were before 1990, according to the study, published on Wednesday in the journal *Nature Communications*. Also shrinking are Alaska's sockeye, coho and chum salmon, the report said. The findings are based on data from 12.5 million samples collected over six decades. The study confirms first-hand anecdotal accounts from Alaskans with generations of salmon tradition, said co-author Peter Westley of UAF's College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. "People are walking into their smokehouses and not having to duck anymore," he said. "The fish are just smaller." Warmer seas attributed to climate change and increased competition among all species of salmon are the likeliest factors. Salmon are maturing in the ocean at earlier ages and returning to fresh water younger and smaller than in the past, the study found. In waterways like the Yukon River, the "really big whoppers" are no longer seen, Westley said.

POLAND COULD BE CLIMATE NEUTRAL BY '56

Warsaw, Aug. 20: Poland, the only European Union country that has not pledged to be carbon neutral by 2050, could reach that goal by 2056, a study by the state Polish Economic Institute (PEI) showed on Wednesday. Poland generates almost 80 per cent of electricity from burning coal and the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party has said it needs more time and significant funds to switch to a zero-emissions economy.

That goal also faces a strong opposition from powerful coal mining trade unions, whose leaders deny global warming and have recently blocked a plan to close more mines as part of an industry restructuring. Analysts at the PEI said Poland could achieve climate neutrality by 2056, according to calculations based on the Energy Transition Index of the World Economic Forum and the assumed years of decarbonisation in other EU states.

In a negative scenario, Poland could become climate neutral in 2067, the PEI added.

Poland plans to reduce the share of coal in power production to 56-60 per cent in 2030. It sees gas as a transition fuel that will help it secure stable power supplies before it builds planned offshore wind farms and a nuclear power station.

Flint water crisis: Michigan inks \$600 mn deal

Michigan, Aug. 20: Michigan has reached a \$600 million agreement to compensate Flint residents whose health was damaged by lead-tainted drinking water after the city heeded state regulators' advice not to treat it properly, multiple news outlets reported Wednesday. Details will be released later this week, according to reports by *The Detroit News*, *MLive.com* and *WXYZ-TV*. The offices of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel have been negotiating for more than 18 months with attorneys for thousands of Flint residents who have filed lawsuits against the state.

Ryan Jarvi, a spokesman for Nessel, declined to confirm the reports of a deal Wednesday night. We and the other parties are bound by a federal court order to maintain the confidentiality of detailed settlement and mediation communications until we reach a certain point, Jarvi said.

We have not yet reached the point where we can discuss a potential settlement. The settlement is intended to resolve all legal actions against the state for its role in a disaster that made the impoverished, majority-Black city a nationwide symbol of governmental mismanagement.

A state-appointed emergency manager was in charge in 2014 when Flint switched its water source from the city of Detroit to the Flint River to save money.

State officials advised the city not to apply cor-

EARTH'S TROPICS EXPANDING POLEWARD

Earth's tropics are expanding poleward and that expansion is driven by human-caused changes to the ocean, according to new research.

The tropics wrap around Earth's middle like a warm, wet belt.

This part of the globe gets the most direct sunlight throughout the year and is characterised by high average temperatures and heavy rainfall. In contrast to the tropics' lush interior, however, this region's edges are hot and parched.

Scientists have noticed for the past 15 years that these arid bands are expanding toward the poles into regions like the Mediterranean, southern Australia and southern California.

Interestingly, these dry areas have expanded more in the Southern Hemisphere than the Northern Hemisphere and researchers have struggled to pinpoint exactly what is driving the trend.

A new study in *AGU's Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres* argues that the failure to agree on an exact mechanism has been, in part, because most researchers have been looking in the wrong place. — *Agencies*

rosion controls to the water, which was contaminated by lead from aging pipes. — *AP*

HURRICANE GENEVIEVE LOSES STRENGTH

Mexico City, Aug. 20: Hurricane Genevieve lost some of its punch as it passed the southern end of Mexico's Baja California Peninsula Thursday, though it is still lashed the tourist region with hurricane-force gusts and heavy rains.

Genevieve had a been a powerful Category 4 hurricane with winds of 130 mph (215 kph) on Tuesday, but weakened to Category 1 strength as it pushed past the Los Cabos region, the US National Hurricane Center said.

Meanwhile a new tropical depression formed in the Atlantic and it was expected to become a tropical storm that would move near or north of the Leeward Islands, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The center said the hurricane was expected to stay out in the Pacific while moving north-westward along the Baja coast and weakening Thursday and Friday. But it was raking the shore with tropical storm-forces winds and hard rains that carried the potential for dangerous flooding. The center warned that only a slight shift to the east could bring hurricane-force winds onshore.

High surf had already claimed two lives in the area. Police in Cabo San Lucas said a 15-year-girl was trapped by a large wave and an adult tried to save her. — *Agencies*

Texas, Aug. 20: When progressive Seattle decided last year to wipe out its climate pollution within the decade, the city council vote in favour was unsurprisingly unanimous, and the easiest first step on that path was clear.

About one-third of the city's climate footprint comes from buildings, in large part from burning "natural" gas for heating and cooking. Gas is a fossil fuel that releases carbon dioxide and far more potent methane into the atmosphere and heats the planet. It is plentiful and cheap, and it's also a huge

Merkel hosts Thunberg for talks on EU's climate goals

Berlin, Aug. 20: German Chancellor Angela Merkel hosted Greta Thunberg and other leading Fridays for Future activists in Berlin on Thursday for talks on the EU's climate goals, with the campaigners expected to condemn "political inaction".

Merkel said Swedish 17-year-old Thunberg and her co-campaigners Luisa Neubauer from Germany and Belgium's Anuna De Wever and Adelaide Charlier had requested the meeting and she was "pleased" to welcome them to the chancellery.

The activists warned ahead of the talks that they were dismayed at the lack of progress in fighting climate change despite lofty promises by European governments.

"When it comes to action we are still in a state of denial. The climate and

North Calif. suffocated by wildfires, heat, polluted air

Power outages, pandemic force people to weigh risks of staying in or out

San Francisco, Aug. 20: Northern Californians were confronted with multiple threats as wildfires, unhealthy smoky air, extreme heat, the looming possibility of power outages and an ongoing pandemic forced many to weigh the risks of staying indoors or going outside.

Ash sprinkled the ground and smoke from several wildfires cast an eerie glow over much of the San Francisco Bay Area on Wednesday, creating unhealthy air quality and heightening concerns about people most prone to respiratory illnesses.

As ozone pollution reached unhealthy levels in some places, the region's air district and public health officials urged people to stay inside with windows and doors shut until the smoke subsided. There was no relief in sight: The forecast for Thursday called for some of the worst air in the world, with the air quality index doubling in the densely populated parts of the Bay Area.

The region's air district extended a "Spare the Air" alert through Sunday, which makes it illegal to burn wood. Smoke can irritate the eyes and airways, causing coughing, a dry scratchy throat and irritated sinuses.

Elevated particulate matter in the air can trigger wheezing in those who suffer from asthma, emphysema or COPD.

"I'm feeling lightheaded and I'm a healthy 30-year-old. Imagine what it's like if you're an older person or have asthma," said Kyle Laurentine of San Mateo. — *AP*



Docked boats burn on Lake Berryessa during the LNU Lightning Complex fire in Napa, California on Wednesday. Thousands of people fled their homes in northern California as hundreds of fast-moving wildfires spread across the region, burning houses and leading to the death of a helicopter pilot. — *AFP*

Pilot crashes, dies fighting fires

Vacaville, Aug. 20: A pilot battling a fire in central California died after his helicopter crashed. Cal Fire said in a statement that a Call When Needed helicopter crashed on Wednesday while fighting a wildfire in western Fresno County. The Bell UH-1H helicopter was on a water dropping mission

on the Hills Fire, about 14 kilometres south of Coalinga. The pilot was the only one on board.

The Fresno Sheriff's office was called shortly after 11 am to assist in a search and rescue mission. Crews were battling wildfires in the San Francisco Bay Area and thousands of people were under orders

to evacuate Wednesday as hundreds of wildfires blazed across the state amid a blistering heat wave now in its second week. Gov. Gavin Newsom blamed "this extraordinary weather we're experiencing and all of these lightning strikes" for 367 known fires, including 23 major fires or groups of

fires. He said the state has recorded nearly 11,000 lightning strikes in 72 hours. Police and firefighters went door-to-door before dawn Wednesday in a frantic scramble to warn residents to evacuate as fire encroached on Vacaville, a city of about 100,000 between San Francisco and Sacramento. — *AP*

Dallas factory blaze contained

Grand Prairie (US), Aug. 20: A massive day-long fire at a Dallas-area plastics factory Wednesday that sent a dense column of toxic black smoke over North Texas before fire crews could tame it has been contained, fire officials said.

There were no reports of injuries from the mid-night Tuesday blaze at the Poly-America complex in Grand Prairie, authorities said. No evacuations were ordered, but people with underlying health conditions were asked to avoid the area.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Grand Prairie officials are continually checking air quality conditions, Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement, urging area residents to heed local officials' advisories and warnings.

Fire officials had initial-

ly thought the fire would burn into Thursday. By 4 p.m. Wednesday, though, city officials posted a statement that the flames had been contained and that the fire was expected to be extinguished Wednesday night.

These are rolls of plastic sheeting, huge rolls, and they're stacked sometimes eight feet high. Plastic is hard to put out and it's just gonna burn.

Firefighters believe the blaze started when a power line fell about midnight Tuesday near an area where plastic rolls were being stored, causing them to catch fire, Assistant Fire Chief Bill Murphy said.

These are rolls of plastic sheeting, huge rolls, and they're stacked sometimes eight feet high. Plastic is hard to put out and it's just gonna burn," he said. — *AP*



From left: Climate activists Luisa Neubauer, Greta Thunberg, Anuna de Wever and Adelaide Charlier attend a news conference following a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin on Thursday. — *AP*

ecological crisis has never once been treated as a crisis," they wrote in a letter published in Germany's *Der Spiegel* and Britain's *The Guardian* on Wednesday. "We will tell Merkel that she must face up to

the climate emergency — especially as Germany now holds the presidency of the European Council. Europe has a responsibility to act.

"The meeting comes exactly two years after

Portland protesters set govt building afire

Portland, Aug. 20: Protesters in Portland broke out the windows of a county government building, sprayed lighter fluid inside and set a fire in a demonstration that started Tuesday night and ended Wednesday morning with clashes with police, officials said.

The fire at the Multnomah Building damaged the county govern-

ment's office of community involvement, where Oregon's first gay marriage took place and where protective gear has been distributed to try to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, said Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury.

"This is the heart of our County, where people in our community come to get married, get their pas-

ports, and celebrate their cultural traditions and diversity," she said in a statement.

Demonstrations in which fires have been set, objects have been thrown and police have fired "crowd control munitions" have gripped Oregon's biggest city for more than two months following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Participants have repeatedly broken into the offices of a police union headquarters building and last month clashed for weeks with federal agents dispatched to protect a US courthouse targeted by protesters.

Portland officers late Tuesday declared a riot outside the county building after demonstrators in a crowd of about 200 start-

ed fires in dumpsters, used rocks to smash first floor windows and tossed burning material inside, police said in a statement Wednesday. A subsequent fire in the building triggered alarms and the building's sprinkler system, police said.

The riot declaration allows officers to use crowd control methods such as tear gas or flash

bang devices. Police said in their statement that some unspecified "crowd control munitions" were used to disperse people but that officers did not use tear gas.

Two protesters were arrested and one officer was left with minor injuries in scuffles as police broke up the demonstration, authorities said. — *AP*

Revealed: Gas industry's opposition to climate action

● **LOCAL PLUMBERS and pipe fitters warned of job losses. Realtors complained their clients would still want gas fireplaces. Building owners feared utility bills could soar. The effort died. The ban wasn't politically tenable, it seemed.**

and public records reviewed by the Guardian. The documents show the multibillion-dollar gas industry has built crucial local coalitions and hired high-powered operatives

to torpedo cities' anti-gas policies — sometimes assisted by money those same cities have paid into gas trade associations.

In historically conservative states, the gas industry has convinced legislatures to pass laws prohibiting cities from following in Seattle's footsteps and trying to ban new gas hookups. In the digital world, it has carefully cultivated the fuel's image, paying Instagram influencers to cook with gas stoves. In the media, it has sought to be quoted in important stories in news outlets like *Reuters*, accor-

ding to internal records. In Washington DC, where the industry has strong support from the Trump administration, it has lobbied the federal government on everything from environmental reviews to appliance standards.

"The gas utilities are facing an existential threat, and instead of approaching a decarbonising economy as an opportunity to reinvent themselves, they're digging their heels in and going back to the age-old tactics of [the fossil fuel industry]," said Charlie Spatz, a researcher at the Climate Investiga-

tions Center. "These public records show just a fraction of a much larger effort to slow down critical climate solutions."

In the Seattle battle, Puget Sound Energy hired a lobbying firm that had previously defeated a proposed tax on sugary drinks.

The firm, CBE Strategic, was asked to "develop an action plan targeted at countering 350.org's efforts" and "stopping local governments" from enacting restrictions on gas, according to a summary document of the work. — *Agencies*

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	38,220.39	-1.02
Nifty 50	11,312.20	-0.84
S&P 500*	3,374.95	0.00
Dollar (₹)	75.03	-0.27
Pound Sterling (₹)	98.19	0.94
Euro (₹)	88.85	0.50
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	52,819	▼1.492 2.82
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	44.75	-0.62
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.000	-0.008
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	0.648	-0.027

* As of 9:30 PM IST

US jobless claims climb above 1 million

The number of laid-off workers seeking US unemployment benefits rose to 1.1 million last week after two weeks of declines, evidence that many employers are still slashing jobs as the coronavirus bedevils the US economy. The latest figures, released on Thursday by the Labor Department, suggest that more than five months after the viral outbreak erupted the economy is still weak, despite recent gains as some businesses reopen.

Fact & fiction: EPFO slashes job numbers



Net new enrolments with the EPFO rose to 6.55 lakh in June from 1.72 lakh in May, according to its latest payroll data. Its provisional payroll data last month had shown that net new enrolments stood at 3.18 lakh in May but the figure has now been revised to 1,72,174. Net new enrolments with the EPFO hover around 7 lakh every month. Latest data shows net new enrolments in April were just 20,164 against 1 lakh stated in July.

Banks sanction ₹1 lakh cr loans to KCC holders

The finance ministry said banks have sanctioned over Rs 1 lakh crore concessional loans to Kisan Credit Card (KCC) holders to help farmers meet financial requirements during the Covid-19 crisis. As on August 17, as many as 1.22 crore KCCs have been sanctioned with the credit limit of Rs 1,02,065 crore, and this will go a long way in reviving the rural economy and accelerating agricultural growth, the ministry said.

HFCs require ₹3.8-4.5 lakh cr for refinancing

Housing finance companies (HFCs) are likely to see a muted portfolio growth and would require Rs 3.8-4.5 lakh crore to meet their refinancing requirements in the current fiscal, says an Icra report. The pandemic effect is expected to lower the housing credit growth to 5-8 per cent in FY21, significantly below the last three years' CAGR of 14 per cent. The share of commercial paper borrowings came down to 4 per cent in FY20.

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■ Uptick in activity may not be as large as believed Babus fear protracted economic slowdown

SWATI BHAT & MANOJ KUMAR MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, AUG. 20

India is staring at a protracted slowdown as coronavirus cases reach its countryside, with signs of recovery in the rural economy hailed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi "at best a mitigating factor", government officials and analysts said.

The world's No.5 economy reports first-quarter GDP data on August 31 and, according to a Reuters poll, it is likely to have contracted 20 per cent over April-June. It is forecast to shrink 5.1 per cent in the year to March 2021, the weakest since 1979.

Nearly half of the country's 1.38 billion population rely on agriculture to survive, with the sector accounting for 15 per cent of the economic output.

Modi has been citing higher fertiliser demand and sowing of monsoon crops, both key signs of rural activity, to show



there are "green shoots" in the economy.

But four government officials said the uptick in activity may not be as large as believed given a spike in virus cases in rural areas that were initially isolated from the pandemic.

"The economic situation has in fact worsened since April and May, and we are likely moving towards a longer economic slowdown than earlier expected," said a finance ministry official.

The official pointed to sluggish consumer demand and a slowdown in rural lending as causes for concern.

"The situation on the economy front is very seri-

ous and the government's hands are tied on the fiscal front," a government adviser with direct knowledge of the budget plans said.

Both declined to be named. A ministry spokesman declined to comment.

New virus cases emerging outside major cities, dashing hopes the rural economy will be a buffer against shrinking exports and manufacturing.

"While a recovery in rural activity provides a glimmer of hope, it is at best a mitigating factor," said Rahul Bajoria, a Barclays economist.

Bajoria expects India's GDP to have contracted 22.2 per cent in the June

quarter.

Farmers planted nearly 14 per cent more land between June 1 and July 31 than last year given good monsoon rains, while fertiliser production rose 4.2 per cent in June.

"Even as the momentum coming from the agriculture sector...is a positive, we believe this may not sustain due to surplus labour concerns, along with an increasing proportion of active Covid-19 cases," said Upasna Bhardwaj, economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Icra believes pent-up demand contributed to some improvement in manufacturing in June and July, and that it may not continue in August due to lockdowns.

"Flattening of India's virus curve is critical for a pickup in production. Once the economy unlocks fully, we expect exports to lead recovery and domestic demand to lag," said Kapil Gupta, chief economist, Edelweiss. —Reuters

Think-tank to advise Maha govt on economy

Pune, Aug. 20: A group of economists and scientists, who recently held a meeting with Maharashtra chief minister on how to revive the economy hit by Covid-19, will submit a detailed action plan for accelerating the state's growth.

They would provide inputs on what can be done to revive growth in the short, mid and long terms, eminent

scientist Dr Raghunath Mashelkar, who is the president of Pune International Centre (PIC), a think-tank, told PTI on Wednesday.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and deputy CM Ajit Pawar had a detailed virtual meeting on Tuesday with economist Vijay Kelkar, HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh, former diplomats Vijay Gokhale and

Gautam Bambawale, Mashelkar and other members of the PIC.

As PIC has members with diverse expertise, it had come up with some policy papers on agriculture, industries, education and other issues during the last year's state Assembly elections. In January, those papers were shared with the CM, who liked them, Mashelkar said. —PTI

Pharma, med tech not sure of govt targets

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, AUG. 20

The government expects bulk drug and medical device parks to attract cumulative investment of about Rs 77,900 crore and generation of about 2,55,000 employment. The industry, however, finds it very ambitious.

The government had announced schemes for development of three bulk drug parks and four medical device parks. Apart from increasing central assistance for development of common infrastructure facilities in the parks, the government will also extend production-linked incentive (PLI) to manufacturers of bulk drugs and medical devices in these parks.

"Government will provide an incentive at the rate of 5 per cent on incremental sales for a period of five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs 3,420 crore, minister of chemicals and fertilisers D. V. Sadananda Gowda said at an event.

According to him, bulk drug and medical device parks are expected to attract cumulative invest-

ment of about Rs 77,900 crore and can generate about 2,55,000 employment. For the medical device sector alone, investment could be to the tune of Rs 40,000 crore with generation of 1,40,000 new employment opportunities.

However, the industry is not quite convinced about the government estimate. "This is the assumption of the government. We will have to wait and watch. They assume that companies will leave China and come here. But that might not happen immediately. Even among domestic companies we have not seen a huge interest to invest thousands of crores," said G.S.K. Velu, chairman and MD of Trivitron Healthcare.

According to pharma veteran S. V. Veeramani, some states like Haryana, Gujarat and Telangana have evinced interest in setting up the parks. "Pharma companies might be interested in establishing API manufacturing plants. But whether, they will bring in around Rs 38,000 crore of investment has to be seen," he said.

Gmail service restored after global outage

New Delhi, Aug. 20: Gmail service, which suffered a global outage for hours on Thursday, has now been restored, according to Google.

Some users faced issues with Gmail like being unable to log in, add attachments and receive messages since morning.

On Thursday morning, GSuite status dashboard—which provides performance information on various Google services—said the company was investigating reports of an issue with Gmail.

When contacted, a Google spokesperson confirmed that the problem has now been resolved.

In its latest update, Google said: "...We apologise for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience and continued support. System reliability is a top priority at Google. We are making continuous improvements to make our systems better". The firm provided multiple updates, stating it is investigating the issue and that there was a disruption in sending e-mails, Meet recording and creating files in Drive, among others. —PTI

SELECT MIDCAPS JUMP AS ECONOMY UNLOCKS

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, AUG. 19

Unlock themes and undervalued stocks are emerging as big gainers in the broader market rally while super-large-cap stocks are showing signs of fatigue after touching five-month highs in the last one-month period.

Unlock theme gainers included stocks from tourism & hospitality, entertainment, aviation, consumer retail and power utilities, among others.

Big gainers included Indian Hotels, EIH Hotel, Interglobe Aviation, Spicejet, Future Retail, Avenue

Supermarts, Shoppers Stop, Jubilant Foodworks, GMR Infra and Inox Leisure, among others.

Some midcap stocks are also seeing value buying after languishing as their business prospects are improving and rose sharply on Thursday like NHPC (12.17 per cent), auto parts maker Varroc Engineering (17.75 per cent), water treatment specialist Va Tech Wabag (15.90 per cent) and Ashok Leyland (2.89 per cent).

The Nifty Midcap-50 has moved up 9.73 per cent in the last one-month while the Midcap-100 has moved up by 9.53 per cent.

SHARP GAINS IN UNLOCK THEMES

Company	Share price Aug. 20	July 20
Indian Hotels	102.55	81.65
EIH Hotel	88	60.2
Interglobe Aviation	1,199.30	971.35
Spicejet	51.55	48.75
Future Retail	127.75	110.75
Avenue Supermarts	2,286.35	2,018.95
Shoppers Stop	172.70	157.35
Jubilant Foodworks	1,965.60	1,751.35
Inox Leisure	307.80	227.5
Tata Power	61.50	49.05

Source: IC Research, BSE

CV-makers stare at ₹6K-cr net loss

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, AUG. 20

Commercial vehicle (CV) makers will face a six-fold increase in net loss to Rs 6,000 crore this fiscal due to a 30 per cent decline in sales volume on an already weak base.

Tata Motors, Ashok Leyland, Mahindra and Mahindra and VE Commercial Vehicles together accounted for about 90 per cent of industry volumes in fiscal 2020. The net loss, combined

with a stretch in working capital owing to support extended to dealers and suppliers, could result in sizeable negative cash flows and thus ballooning debt, says a research note.

"While this may constrain credit metrics in the current fiscal, credit profiles of manufacturers will be supported by strong balance sheets and comfortable cash buffers," ratings agency Crisil said in a report on Thursday.

CV-makers were already hit by new overloading

norms and a slowing economy when the Covid-19 pandemic arrived, and sales volume had fallen 29 per cent in fiscal 2020.

In the first quarter of this fiscal, volume plunged another 85 per cent because of the pandemic-driven lockdown.

The resultant sharp slowdown in industrial activity has hard-braked sales of medium & heavy commercial vehicles, which account for two-thirds of industry revenue.

Rising steel prices hit export sectors

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, AUG. 20

Rising steel prices have hit the exports of value-added products and made them less competitive in the international market. Along with increasing iron ore exports, curbs on import of steel from China, Vietnam and South Korea are also pushing up domestic steel prices.

"In the backdrop of restrictions on imports from China, Vietnam and South Korea, Indian steel makers have raised the prices across different product categories, making the raw material cost for user industries sky-high and leaving the engineering exporters non-competitive in the international market," says Engineering Export Promotion Council of India.

The export of value-added products, including automobile components, industrial machinery has been down in the past few months. Higher steel prices will further affect the competitiveness of Indian value-added products, it said.

Pig iron and steel prices had gone up by Rs 3,000 per tonne in the local market in July. Further, hot rolled coil prices have moved up by Rs 700-750 per tonne on an average, cold-rolled coil prices by Rs 500-550 per tonne, steel pellets by Rs 300-350 per tonne and iron ore fines and lumps by Rs 200-250 per tonne.

"Iron ore exports have been increasingly happening of late. Though they started exporting



when the demand was low in the domestic market, it is being continued even when demand is picking up. The lower import of steel from the international market is also making the steel producers hike the prices," said Mahesh Desai, chairman, EEPIC India.

According to him, international prices of some of the categories used by Indian steel product manufacturers are lesser than the domestic prices.

But, the government had imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of certain types of steel products from China, Vietnam and South Korea for five years. Duties ranging from \$13.07 per tonne to \$173.1 per tonne have been levied on imports of flat rolled product of steel, plated or coated with alloy of aluminium and zinc from these three countries.

MSMEs are not in a situation to use advance authorization scheme to import steel at higher duties.

"In such a scenario, the dependence of India's engineering industry on the domestic steel market is only expected to increase in the coming months," said Desai.

Property insurance premia buck trend

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, AUG. 20

The increase in premium rates and higher demand post-lock-down have helped property insurance premiums grow by 36 per cent between April and July despite the overall de-growth in general insurance premiums.

The gross direct premium collected under property insurance has grown by 36.3 per cent since the beginning of the fiscal to Rs 9125 crore against Rs 6695 crore in the same period of previous fiscal. Property insurance has bucked the general trend in other segments, which have either de-grown or grown in low single digits due to the pandemic.

The growth in gross property premium is mainly due to the hike in premium rates by insurance companies this year.

In the beginning of the calendar year, reinsurer General Insurance Corporation (GIC-RE) had increased its reinsurance rates for select occupancies and later for all the occupancies it was reinsuring. "GIC-RE had been asking the general insurers to follow risk-based pricing as the premiums were lower than the burn rate derived by the Insurance Information Bureau. IIB has been collecting the data of claims and premiums for the past few years," said R Chandrasekaran, former secretary general of General Insurance Council.

Since the de-tariffing in 2007-08, general insurers have been charging lower premium rates in order to grab business. This competition among the insurers had led to unviable rates. However, after GIC Re hiked the reinsurance rates, the premium rates too have gone up.

Further, post lock-down, several incidents of fire mishaps were reported from different parts of the country as and when the factories were opened. This has increased the demand for property insurance, said Chandrasekaran.



SHORT TAKES

Hyderabad FC partner Dortmund

Hyderabad: German football giants Borussia Dortmund (BVB) and Indian Super League Club Hyderabad FC (HFC) on Thursday launched a new two-year club partnership with an option to extend for additional years with an extended scope until 2025. BVB, which is renowned for its success and specialisation in nurturing and developing young players will focus on building and supporting HFC on its academy structure as well as guiding HFC's coaches on coaching education. The partnership will also include BVB's expertise in technology to drive innovation; enhance connectivity between the clubs, and positively grow and expand its fan base. In addition to providing excellent brand visibility and raising each of the club's profile among football fans around the sub-continent, the partnership is particularly good news for football supporters in India.

Two tennis players go into quarantine

New York: Two players within the US Open bubble have been dropped from the ATP and WTA Western and Southern Open and sent into quarantine after contact with a Covid-19 positive individual. The players have not experienced any Covid-19 symptoms but after input from the US Open medical team and in consultation with the New York City Department of Health, they were removed from the Western and Southern Open and sent into quarantine. The tournament, usually in Cincinnati, was moved to New York this year to serve as a tuneup for the US Open. — AFP

No Bryan brothers at the US Open

New York: Bob and Mike Bryan were not on the entry list released for men's doubles at the U.S. Open on Wednesday, possibly signaling the end of the 42-year-old American twins' record-breaking careers. The Bryans won five of their 16 Grand Slam doubles titles together in New York, most recently in 2014. Mike also won the 2018 U.S. Open with Jack Sock when Bob was recovering from hip surgery. Three-time U.S. Open champion Kim Clijsters received a wildcard entry in doubles to go along with the one she got for singles as she makes her Grand Slam comeback. — AP

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Kings XI Punjab team pose for a photograph inside a flight during their travel on Friday.

Teams dash to Dubai

IPL sides head to UAE to play Covid-hit 13th edition

C. SANTHOSH KUMAR | DC CHENNAI, AUG. 20

As IPL teams start descending on Dubai for the much-awaited 13th edition of the league, the Bio-Secure Environment protocols have come into effect. While Rajasthan Royals, Kings XI Punjab and Kolkata Knight Riders were the first teams to leave for the UAE on Thursday, Chennai Super Kings will land in Dubai on Friday evening. CSK have booked an entire wing of Taj Dubai where they will be based throughout the event.

Around 55 members, including players, net bowlers, support staff, franchise officials, marketing and social media team will leave Chennai by a chartered flight on Friday. "All our Indian players, except Harbhajan Singh, will be on the flight. Harbhajan will join the team later in Dubai. Shardul Thakur and Ravindra Jadeja who missed the camp have reached Chennai," said CEO of Chennai Super Kings, K.S. Viswanathan. Foreign players who are not part of the Caribbean Premier League and England-Australia ODI series are on their way to join the bubble.

Viswanathan said the team will start their training session only after the mandatory six-day quarantine period. "During this phase, players and officials are not allowed to step out of the room. All their meals will be served in the room. They will be tested on Day 1, 3 and 6. All players have been briefed on safety protocols," he said. "The biggest challenge as a franchise is to bring the players into a bio-bu-



Family members of Kings XI Punjab's Karun Nair gave the batsman a farewell with a special message to win the IPL trophy this year.

● **IPL teams have begun packing their bags and leaving for the United Arab Emirates. Rajasthan Royals, Kings XI Punjab and Kolkata Knight Riders were the first to depart on Thursday while Chennai Super Kings will land in Dubai on Friday to tune up for the tournament.**

ble. We had a camp in Chennai for our Indian players and we had to test everyone involved in organising it. It's been a huge challenge, but it's a worthy exercise. As a franchise, we will leave no stones unturned in our bid to provide players a safe environment," added Viswanathan.

Three-time champions Chennai Super Kings will be training at the International Cricket Council's Academy, located

next to the ICC headquarters in the heart of Dubai Sports City.

MASK EARNS MONEY FOR CSK

The most sought after branding spot on an IPL team jersey is the chest logo which is given to the prime sponsors. However, in the run-up to the tournament, teams could earn some money through a different avenue. In Covid-19 times, face masks will be a prominent branding area.

Eng vs Pak's 3rd Test to start early

Southampton, Aug. 20: England and Pakistan will be able to make up for lost time due to bad weather in the upcoming final Test in Southampton by starting a day's play 30 minutes earlier.

The newly adopted flexible approach to starting times was announced Thursday, a day before the start of the test, after the second match of the series was blighted by rain and bad light and ended in a draw.

Captains and coaches of both teams have agreed to the changes, with the England and Wales Cricket Board saying "further consideration will be given to applying these

changes at future series played in England."

England leads the series 1-0 after winning the first test in Manchester.

Cricket faced accusations of being stuck in its ways during the second test at the Rose Bowl, when each day's play was affected by inclement weather. The Tests are being played in empty stadiums for this series because of Covid-19 restrictions, so there were no concerns about spectators getting to the venues on time. For a 10.30 a.m. start, 98 overs can be bowled in the day and the morning session would last two-and-a-half hours. — AP

Live on TV

THIRD TEST

England vs Pakistan
from 3.30 pm on Sony Six, HD

EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL

Sevilla vs Inter Milan
from 12.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

NBA PLAYOFFS

Philadelphia 76ers vs Boston Celtics from 4 am (Saturday); **Dallas Mavericks vs Los Angeles Clippers** from 6.30 am (Saturday). All matches on Sony Six, HD

NATIONAL AWARDS

Ministry to raise prize rewards

New Delhi, Aug. 20: The Sports Ministry is planning a massive hike in the prize money for the National Sports Awards, a proposal which, once approved, will lead to Khel Ratna awardees getting ₹25 lakh while leaving the Arjuna winners richer by ₹15 lakh. Currently, the Khel Ratna comes with a cash prize of ₹7.5 lakh, while the Arjuna awardees get ₹5 lakh.

It has been learnt that the ministry is busy giving final touches to the proposal after which Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju will make a formal announcement by August 29 — the National Sports Day when the annual honours are given away every year.

"The prize money of National Sports Awards is set to be increased significantly. A proposal in this regard has already been made. The minister actively pushed for it after athletes complained that the prize money of sports awards is too less," a Sports Ministry source said.

"The proposal is still under consideration and if accepted by the government, the new cash rewards will be given from this year itself," the source added.

However, when contacted Sports Secretary Ravi Mittal, said he was not aware of any such development. "I am not aware. I don't know anything," Mittal said when reached for a comment.

The prize money for Dhyanchand and Dronacharya awards will also be increased from ₹5 lakh to ₹15 lakh.

According to the proposal, the cash reward for the regular Dronacharya award, which is currently the same as the one for lifetime achievement, is set to be increased to ₹10 lakh.

If implemented before August 29, the government will have to shell out a hefty amount as an unprecedented 62 have been recommended by the Sports Ministry's selection committee for this year's National Sports Awards. — PTI

MAINTAIN THE PRIDE OF SPORTS AWARDS: SUSHIL

New Delhi, Aug. 20: Double Olympic medallist wrestler Sushil Kumar on Thursday indicated that the selection committee runs the risk of lowering the dignity of the annual national sports awards by making too many recommendations.

An unprecedented five Khel Ratna and 29 Arjuna award recommendations have been made to the sports minister by the selection panel, raising eyebrows.

He said it is necessary to, instead, "maintain the pride" attached with these awards.

"I congratulate the ones who have been nominated but I feel people should work towards maintaining the dignity of these national sports awards. This is not even an Olympic year. I myself is an athlete, so I am happy for all, but we must maintain the pride attached with these awards," Sushil said. — PTI

Gnabry nets brace, Bayern make final

Lisbon, Aug. 20: Serge Gnabry struck a first-half brace and Robert Lewandowski also scored as a ruthless Bayern Munich taught Lyon a harsh lesson in their Champions League semi-final in Lisbon on Wednesday, winning 3-0 to set up a final against Paris Saint-Germain.

Gnabry had blasted Bayern into an 18th-minute lead in stunning style, and the Germany winger scored again just after the half-hour mark.

Gnabry has now scored nine in nine appearances in this season's competi-

tion. Lewandowski's inevitable goal, his 55th of the season, came two minutes from time. Bayern as a team have 42 goals in 10 Champions League outings.

SEVILLA FACE INTER FOR EUROPA CROWN

What is the point of the Europa League? If Inter wins Friday's final, it would be a milestone in its bid to dethrone Juventus in Italy and re-establish itself as a Champions League heavyweight. But Sevilla has a special affection for a competition it's won five times. — Agencies

PM lauds Dhoni, terms him an illustration of new India

New Delhi, Aug. 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the embodiment of a new India where family name does not make one's destiny in a letter to the enigmatic former captain, who retired from international cricket last week.

A thankful Dhoni shared the letter on his Twitter page on Thursday, his first social media post since the "consider me retired" note on Instagram that stunned the cricket fraternity on Saturday.

"You have been one of the important illustrations of the spirit of new India, where family name does not make young people's destiny but they make their own names and their own destinies," wrote the PM in his letter to the two-time World Cup winner. "Where we come from does not matter as long as we know where we are headed — this is the spirit that you have exuded and inspired many youngsters with," he said.

Dhoni, who is also an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army, thanked the PM for the appreciation. "An Artist, Soldier and Sportsman what they crave for is appreciation, that their hard work and sacrifice is getting noticed and appreciated by every-

● **"Where we come from does not matter as long as we know where we are headed — this is the spirit that you have exuded and inspired many youngsters with," Prime Minister Modi wrote to Mahendra Singh Dhoni.**

one.thanks PM @narendramodi for your appreciation and good wishes," he wrote.

In the lengthy note to the celebrated cricketer, the PM also lauded the calm demeanour with which Dhoni led the Indian team.

"No matter what hairstyle you sported, your calm head remained the same in victory or defeat, which is very important for every youth," he said.

Calling him one of the greatest captains and one of the best wicketkeepers the game has seen, Modi said, "Your dependability in tough situations and your style of finishing matches, particularly the 2011 World Cup final will forever be etched in the public memory for generations."

"The correct way to assess your impact is as a phenomenon."

"Rising from humble beginnings in a small town,

you burst onto the national scene, made a name for yourself and most importantly, made India proud," Modi wrote.

The PM said Dhoni's rise gives inspiration to youngsters who "like you haven't been to cushy schools or colleges, neither do they belong to illustrious families but they have the talent to distinguish themselves at the highest level."

"Many of your memorable on-field moments exemplify a particular generation of Indians. This generation of Indians does not hesitate to take risks and back each other's abilities in even the toughest of situations — seen in the way you took risks many times backing little known youngsters to deliver in high pressure situations. The 2007 World Cup final is a perfect example of this spirit," he noted.

Modi said Dhoni also displayed how to balance professional and personal priorities to perfection. "I remember seeing a picture of you playing with your cute daughter (Ziva) even as everyone around you was celebrating a victory in a particular tournament," he said, referring to the 2018 IPL when a picture of Dhoni playing with Ziva, while his Chennai Super Kings teammates celebrated the title triumph, went viral. — PTI



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