

DECCAN Chronicle

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

WEATHER

 **Max:** 29.8°C
Min: 24.0°C
RH: 75%
Rain: Trace

Forecast: Cloudy sky. A few spells of rain likely. Max/Min temp. 31/24 °C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana
Titthi: Ashada Shuddha Padyami till 7.45 am
Star: Pushyami till 2.19 am (Monday)
Variyam: 9.26 am to 11.07 am
Durmuhurtam: 5.06 pm to 5.58 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
HJRI CALENDAR
Zeeqad 29,1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 4.39 am
Zohar: 12.31 pm
Asar: 4.56 pm
Maghrib: 7.00 pm
Isha: 8.16 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.54 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.48 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 6.42 PM
MOONSET TODAY 8.11 AM

COUNTER POINT



Happy population day... more population, more voters!

SHORT TAKES

Eric Garcetti is US envoy to India

Washington: US President Joe Biden on Friday nominated Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, to be ambassador to India. Garcetti, who has led Los Angeles since 2013 with a focus on improving transportation and sustainability, declined to run for president but has been widely seen as seeking to burnish his credentials with a new job.

■ Report on Page 5

4 held with heroin worth ₹2,500cr

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Special Cell has arrested four men, including an Afghan, and recovered a record 354 kilograms of heroin worth over ₹2,500 crore from them, officials said. The accused have been identified as Rizwan Kashmiri, a resident of Ghitorni here and native of Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir, Gurpreet Singh and Gurjot Singh, both residents of Jalandhar in Punjab and Hazrat Ali, from Afghanistan, they said.

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Bonalu festival begins today

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Long Covid cases double during second wave



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EU vaccinates 70% of adults



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Aussie Barty is Wimbledon champ

TABLOID

A field day for Harleen



Sky no limit for Sirisha Bandla



An artist paints a portrait of astronaut Sirisha Bandla in Mumbai on Saturday. Sirisha, the Indian-origin aeronautical engineer who was born in Guntur and brought up in Houston, Texas, will join Sir Richard Branson, Virgin Galactic's billionaire founder, and five others on board SpaceShip Two Unity to make a journey to the edge of space from New Mexico on Sunday.

— PTI

UP to reward 2-child parents

Rule violators to be barred from jobs, sops, contesting local polls

Lucknow, July 10: According to a draft of the proposed population control Bill, anyone violating two-child policy in Uttar Pradesh will be debarred from contesting local bodies elections, from applying for or getting promotion in government jobs, and receiving any kind of government subsidy.

The UP State Law Commission (UPSLC) states that the provisions are part of the draft titled the Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilisation and Welfare) Bill,

2021. The UPSLC website says, "The State Law Commission, UP, is working on control, stabilisation and welfare of the population of the state and has prepared a draft Bill."

Suggestions have been invited from the public to improve the Bill and July 19 is the last date. Listing incentives for public servants who adopt the two-child norm, the Bill says, "Public servants who adopt the two-child norm will get two additional increments during their service, maternity or as

the case may be, paternity leave of 12 months, with full salary and allowances and three per cent hike in the employer's contribution fund under national pension scheme."

A State Population Fund will be constituted for the purpose of implementation of the Act.

Listing the government's duties, the draft Bill says that maternity centres will be established at all primary health centres. The Centres and NGOs will distribute contraceptive

pills, condoms, etc, spread awareness about family planning through community health workers and ensure registration of pregnancies, deliveries, births and deaths across the state.

The Bill also says that it shall be the duty of the government to introduce a compulsory subject on population control in all secondary schools. It seeks to revitalise efforts and provide for measures to control, stabilise and provide welfare to the population by enforcing the norm.

— PTI

CONGRESS TO KEEP SPEAKER POST, TURNS DOWN SENA

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, JULY 10

Veteran Maharashtra Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat has ruled out allocating the Speaker's post in the Assembly to Shiv Sena saying it will remain with his party.

Ever since senior Shiv Sena MLA Bhaskar Jadhav, acting as a presiding officer, suspended 12 BJP MLAs on the charges of unruly behaviour in Vidhan Sabha in the recently concluded Monsoon Session of the State Legislature, there have been talks of Sena interested in holding the Speaker's post by giving up the forest minister's post from its quota to the Congress. In the portfolio allocation within the Maha Vikas Aghadi government consisting of Sena, NCP and Congress, the Speaker's post was allotted to the grand old party. However, Jadhav has said the he will be happy to become the Speaker of Vidhan Sabha if given a responsibility.

Shah to empower all cooperatives

Minister meets leading figures in coop movement

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

The meeting came three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi reallocated the portfolios of his ministers in which Shah was given the charge of the newly-created Ministry of Cooperation. Those who met the Union home minister include chairman of the National Cooperative Union of India Dileep Sanghani, the chairman and the managing director of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) B.S. Nakai and U.S. Awasthi respectively and chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) Bijender Singh.

"Today met @ncuicoop chairman Dileep Sanghani ji, @IFFCO PR chairman B.S. Nakai ji, managing director U.S. Awasthi ji and @nafedindia chairman Dr Bijendra Singh ji.

"Under the leadership of Modi ji, we are determined to make cooperatives and all cooperative institutions more empowered," Shah tweeted in Hindi.

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

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



Home minister Amit Shah meets Iffco chairman Dr U.S. Awasthi in New Delhi on Saturday.

— PTI

Cong. furious at 'coup' in coops

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 10

The Congress on Saturday launched a scathing attack against the Centre for creating a new ministry of cooperation.

Senior Maharashtra Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan questioned the need for carving out a separate ministry when there was already a department of cooperation. He said, "Administratively it makes

no difference. Cooperatives are important for Gujarat and Maharashtra. Both states are important for the BJP." He said the benefit for cooperatives is not clear. "It is only to control cooperatives because cooperative institutions hold massive influence locally."

Several Opposition leaders feel that the move was to "hijack the cooperative movement" that currently falls under the State governments.

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

In the meeting, the minister desired that a conference with representatives

of state-level cooperatives should be organised by NCUI, IFFCO and other cooperatives for discussing issues confronting the cooperative movement.

The delegation apprised him about problems and challenges confronting the cooperative movement.

— PTI

TURNING | POINT

Telangana plans stench-free spots in order to attract tourists

14 dams, boating facilities on Musi

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 10

The state government in coordination with Hyderabad Road Development Corporation Limited and irrigation department has decided to construct 14 check dams on the Musi River, replicating the one on the Himayatsagar. The idea is to maintain water levels at sufficient levels so as to create boating facilities at 14 locations, all of which ought to be clean.

During a meeting chaired by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao,

instructions also given to the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) to lay emphasis on the construction of the 14 dams and ensure that the water would be stench-free given that the spots have the potential to attract tourists.

Officials were told that the state government would rope in bankers, financiers and agencies to undertake construction of the project. Besides, there is a proposal to construct several bridges across the Musi and the Esa, the idea was first proposed when the

● **THE GOVERNMENT** has now decided to construct 15 bridges across the Musi and the Esa, one of which would be the bridge near Salar Jung Museum

government decided to shelve the iconic bridge project near Salar Jung Museum for financial reasons. The government has now decided to construct 15 bridges across the Musi and the Esa, one of which would be the bridge near Salar Jung Museum that can provide space to about 300 hawkers who would be

displaced from Charminar. The authorities have also prepared a detailed project report and decided to take up the project at a cost of ₹231.5 crore.

The government later on asked officials to bring the cost of the pedestrian bridge down to ₹40 crore and prepare a proposal for another 14 across Musi. The officials prepared proposals to construct an iconic pedestrian bridge at Afzalgunj costing ₹40 crore and high-level bridges at the following places: missing link corridor no. 99 (cost: ₹30 crore),

Ibrahimbagh causeway (₹24.50 crore); Suncity to Chintalmet (power corridor) on the Esa river (₹19.10 crore) and one connecting Inner Ring Road (IRR) with Kismathpur road on the Esa at Bandlaguda Jagir (₹19.10 crore)

The project proposes high-level bridges at Moosarambagh and Chaderghat both costing ₹30 crore, as well as a new bridge parallel to the existing bridge at Attapur at ₹46 crore.

■ Page 2: Two bridges planned to Budvel



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IN BRIEF

Adulterated tea powder seized

Hyderabad: The East Zone Task Force police seized adulterated tea powder worth ₹1.4 lakh and arrested one Mahender Singh from Rajasthan state. Police said Singh procured the adulterated tea powder of a famous brand from another accused, Surrender from Rajasthan, who is absconding. Singh was arrested previously, police said.

Pollution Control Board hearing

Mahbubnagar: The TS Pollution Control Board (TSPCB) will conduct a public hearing on August 10 as part of the procedure to seek environmental clearance Phase-II of the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS). Nagar Kurnool collector L. Sharman said a notification to this effect has been issued and the public hearing will be held at 11 am on August 10 at Annam Venkata Reddy garden at Veldanda Mandal.

Cops create green channel

Hyderabad: Traffic police created a green channel to facilitate the rapid transportation of live organs from the Shamshabad airport to KIMS Hospital, Begumpet. The ambulance took a mere 26 minutes to cover the 36.8 km distance on Saturday. Hyderabad traffic police said this is the 15th time they have facilitated organ transport this year. A medical team carrying the liver lungs and heart left the airport at 2.09 pm and reached the hospital at 2.35 pm.

2 BRIDGES PLANNED ON ESA RIVER

From Page 1

There will be two bridges to Budvel (IT parks and connecting roads parallel to Esa river), one costing ₹11 crore and another ₹41 crore.

In the proposals are a bridge connecting Uppal layout to south bank of Musi at ₹39.1 crore, high-level bridges connecting Manchirevula village and Narsingi (₹24.50 crore), Hydeshakote-Ramdevguda (₹11 crore), Pratapsingaram to Gowrelly (₹16 crore) and a link road to Manchirevula bridge costing ₹11 crore. According to sources, minister K.T. Rama Rao, while going through the proposals, asked officials to prepare plans to construct check dams underneath the 15 bridges. Officials replied that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had called for construction of floodwater dams and gates and to maintain water levels to facilitate boating. The nodal agencies were urged to coordinate with the irrigation department and come up with a detailed study.

A senior official, requesting anonymity, said that the nodal agencies, including HRDCL and HMWS&SB, have taken appointments with irrigation chief engineers to work out the modalities.

AP SAID IT WILL BE PUSHED INTO CRISIS

From Page 1

AP said it will be pushed into a irrigation and drinking water crisis.

The AP government dashed off several letters to Union Jal Shakti ministry and Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) urging them to direct the Telangana state government to stop hydel power generation. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy even wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi twice complaining against the TS government in the past 10 days. The KRMB too asked the TS government to stop hydel power generation to stop hydel power generation. Despite all this, the TS government refused to stop and continued hydel power generation all these days.

But on Saturday, it stopped power generation all of a sudden. Though no reasons were cited for this, it is learnt that the decision was taken to ease tension with AP after the KRMB agreed to cancel the three-member meeting on July 9 and instead hold a full body meeting after July 20 as demanded by the Telangana government. It is learnt that the KRMB has decided to hold full-body meeting on July 24 to resolve the Krishna disputes.

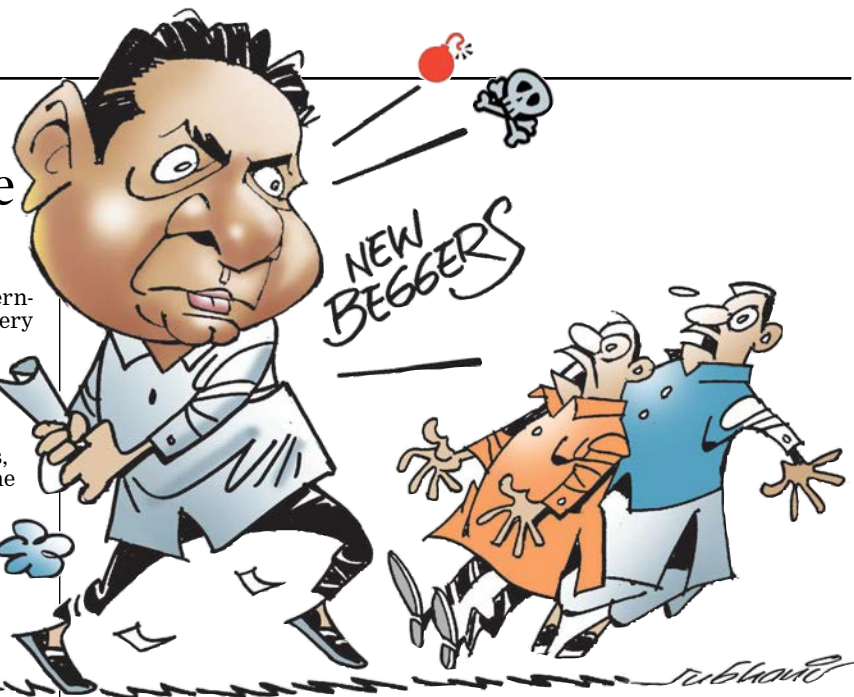
Neta's Natter**AP's move to increase revenue boomerangs!**

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

Babus propose, but the big boss disposes

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

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

**KTR joins foul-mouthed club**

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

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

Has the Covid-19 called it a day in Telangana state? Or may be gone on a vacation? It certainly appears so if one were to see various ministers, MLAs, MLCs, Opposition leaders and anyone and everyone, waltzing around the city and the rest of the state without wearing the mandatory face mask. Even the state's top bureaucrats do not seem to care much for the orders issued by the Chief Secretary for not wearing a face mask while in a public space, punishable by a fine of Rs 1,000. Such events can be seen every day in every news bulletin on television news channels, in videos forwarded by the PROs of the ministers and MLAs and Opposition leaders, and anywhere and everywhere. The other day, a minister

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

Bonalu spirit high despite Covid-19**City all set for month-long fest from today**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

Even as the deep wound caused by the Coronavirus pandemic yet to heal, the historic city of Hyderabad is all set to celebrate its annual festival of 'Bonalu,' a thanksgiving ritual to the Goddess Mahakali for fulfilling devotees' vows.

Prayers, devotion, animal sacrifices to the deity, 'Potharaju' processions, oracle's predictions and 'teen-maar' beats and dances will mark the traditional festivities at the Golkonda Fort on Sunday, followed by other parts of the city in the coming Sundays till the end of the month of 'Ashadam'.

The state government officially takes part in this festival. All arrangements have been looked after by the government officials of water works, electricity department, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and the police.

Sarvesh, the chief priest of Jagadambika Yellamma Thalli temple at Golkonda, explained the historic significance of the temple. "From the time of Kakatiya period, the deity has been offered with 'Bonam' at the temple which is on the top of the Golkonda Fort. Those who are unable to climb the steps to reach the temple, offer 'Bonam' at Yellamma Putta. Which is at the entrance of the fort," he said. Madhavi Poretti, a resident of Golkonda, said, "I am very excited for this years 'Bonalu' as we missed the festival last year because of the pandemic situation. After visiting the temple and performing regular rituals, our relatives in other parts of the city will visit us, and the feast will go on till late at night."

The main 'Bonalu' will be celebrated on August 1 at Simhavahini Sri Mahankali Devalayam, Lal Darwaza. The temple holds celebrations for eleven days, starting from July 23. K. Venkatesh, chairman of the temple committee, said, "All the preparations including painting of the temple, decorative lights works and patch works on roads



The Mahankali temple in Golkonda fort being decked up on Saturday, eve of the Bonalu celebrations on Sunday.

— P. SURENDRA

POLICE ISSUE TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS, PARKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR FEST

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

The traffic police said heavy traffic congestion was expected on three routes leading to Golkonda fort for the Golkonda Bonalu celebrations on Sunday — from Ramdevguda via Makkai darwaza; from Langer Houz via Fateh darwaza and from Seven Tombs via Banjara darwaza.

In view of this, commuters using these roads were advised to take alternative routes from 8 am to 8 pm on Monday.

The following parking arrangements have been made for devotees attending Golkonda Bonalu: From Ramdevguda via

Makkai Darwaza: Two-wheelers to be parked from Ashoorkhana to Military Sentry point; four-wheelers at Ashoorkhana parking place and thereafter on the main road at Ramdevguda junction.

From Langer Houz: Two and three-wheelers in HUDA Park; four-wheelers to proceed through Banjara darwaza via Seven Tombs and park at Salar Football Ground or Owaisi Ground.

From Seven Tombs: Two and three-wheelers at Priyadarshini School, area hospital and bus stop near Golkonda fort; four-wheelers at Salar Football Ground or Owaisi Ground.

are going on. This year, we have an additional arrangement of sanitisation of the temple and its surroundings. Marking

for queues to maintain social distancing is also being done. The GHMC authorities are supervising the works."

Service to humanity

Archbishop of Hyderabad, Poola Anthony distributes essential items and medical kits to guest workers at the launch of Pravasi Bandhu, a project for the welfare of guest workers, at the Holy Trinity Church in Begumpet, Hyderabad on Saturday.

— S. SURENDER REDDY

Paedophile held for abusing girls

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

A paedophile who sexually assaulted a three-and-a-half year old child was arrested by the Rachakonda police on Saturday. The arrest occurred after he tried to kidnap another minor girl.

Police said the accused, Abhiram Dass, 40, who migrated to the city from

Odisha, had abducted the first victim while she was on her way to a shop from her house on July 4. Dass allegedly took the victim into a nearby forest, raped the girl and abandoned her near a water tank at Venkateshwara Colony, Dammaiguda. The girl was found unconscious by onlookers on July 5. The police was called and began an investigation, said Rachakonda police

● **DASS ALLEGEDLY** took the victim into a nearby forest, raped the girl and abandoned her near a water tank.

commissioner Mahesh M. Bhagwat. On July 10, the Jawaharnagar police received information that an unidentified person had tried to misbehave with a nine-year-old girl at Pragathinagar. When the

victim screamed for help, the accused escaped. During investigation, special teams verified CCTV footage and could identify the accused. Dass was caught at the Katta Maisamma temple at the Nagaram Reserve Forest on Saturday.

When questioned the accused confessed to both the offences. He used to target children to fulfill his sexual desires.

SHARP | ATTACK Secular parties adopting majoritarian agenda, says MIM chief**Oppn. has no clear stand: Owaisi**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

The Opposition lacks a clear-cut stand on critical issues including the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Registry of Citizens (NRC). Hence, the common man is hitting the streets and playing the role of an effective Opposition, as seen in the protests by farmers and other groups, said MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday.

Speaking at an online event organised by the Indian School of Business (ISB) on Saturday, Owaisi said the country was in dire need of ideological

differences since the secular Opposition had failed to counter the BJP and safeguard the foundational principles of the Indian Republic and the Constitution. The secular Opposition was carrying the majoritarian agenda which is not a good sign and is a potential threat to democracy, Owaisi said.

Speaking on the topic, 'Does India lack an effective opposition?', Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said the Opposition lacked coherence. She said that due to the "aristocratic government" at the Centre, the four pillars of democracy were under serious threat and the implementation of the

Constitution was compromised on many occasions.

She said that the Opposition should have a common programme and the coalition Aghadi government in Maharashtra had shown the way to countering the BJP.

Former Union minister Manish Tewari, a Congress MP, pointed to the longer period of anti-incumbency. He said that due to the lack of an effective Opposition the BJP was in power for 15 years in Madhya Pradesh, the Congress had ruled New Delhi for 15 years, the UPA government was in power for 10 and the NDA dispensation is in its second term.

Tiwari said that 2014 had opened up a new phase in democracy, giving rise to a government with a strong ideology. The strong ideology has been weakening democratic values; the ideology is an onslaught to the Constitution, he said. Due to the failure of the Opposition, the judiciary played an activist role during the Covid-19 pandemic, Tiwari pointed out.

Sanjaya Baru, political commentator and policy analyst, emphasised on the role of effective Opposition. He recalled the role that the communists played during the Congress regime from 1950 to until 1980.

He said that the

Opposition is relatively weak now when compared to the Communists, though less in number. He saw the period between 1990 and 2014 as a consensual phase in India politics when Prime Ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao, Atal Behari Vajpayee and Dr Manmohan Singh carried forward the development agenda.

Baru said that from 2014, the radical policy-making changes and ideology have posed a greater challenges to the economic-political situation. Whether in power or not, political parties should work within the foundation principles of the Constitution for democracy to prevail.

Gudur: Speed up contempt cases

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

BJP senior leader Gudur Narayana Reddy on Saturday urged the Telangana High Court to speed up the trial of contempt cases being filed against the government officials.

In a media statement, he welcomed the admonishment of Telangana government by the Supreme Court of India regarding Prevention of Dangerous Activities Act. He said the Supreme Court had described this law as a draconian one.

He alleged that the ruling party had been using

the Act as an instrument to undermine the political activities in the state. He said under the Act, the police had been detaining the persons who got bail for an unlimited period of time. He said the Act had become an instrument in the hands of the ruling party to settle political scores. Narayana Reddy demanded Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao as to why he had been using this draconian Act.

He made it clear that it was completely unconstitutional and it should be abrogated immediately. He said the Act did not comply with democratic norms.

IN BRIEF

GHMC unveils monolith park

Hyderabad: The GHMC has developed an open plot of land in Jubilee Hills into a 'monolith park'. The 1,100-square yards land has been provided with a large stone crafted into a waterfall. The park was inaugurated by Mayor G. Vijayalakshmi and Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagendar. GHMC zonal commissioner (Khairatabad) P. Pravina and GHMC officials were present. Walkways, paintings of historic places in Hyderabad and seating made of wood are the other attractions.

NO TICKET, TSRTC DRIVER THRASHES TEEN

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, JULY 10

An TSRTC bus driver and conductor allegedly thrashed a 16-year-old minor on Saturday for travelling without a ticket in Nizamabad district. A video of the incident shot by co-passengers and put up social media went viral. According to sources, the boy along with his grandmother were travelling in a bus from the Armour depot bus. The conductor noticed that the duo was travelling without taking a ticket. He had the bus halted and together with the driver thrashed the boy. Other passengers tried to stop them and told them to action as per rules.

KCR GREETES PEOPLE ON BONALU EVE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao greeted the people on the eve of the Bonalu festivities beginning on Sunday. The CM said that the Bonalu festival, which starts with presenting a 'bonam' to Goddess Jagadamba at Golconda fort, is a symbol of the 'Ganga Jamuna tehzeeb' of the sabbanda varnas (artisan classes). With the blessings from the Goddess and the government's determination, the state had become Annappurna (giver of food) to the country.

The CM prayed that the people should lead a happy and contented life with prosperity, good health and wished that the Goddess' blessings should be forever on the people of Telangana state.

FILM CRITIC KATHI MAHESH DIES AT 43

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JULY 10

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

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

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

He found himself in controversies frequently. He faced trouble for his remarks on Lord Rama and Sita from religious institutions and the police had to exile him from Hyderabad in July, 2018 as his remarks could cause social unrest. Though he received flak for his remarks from several people and religious heads, he got support from those who believed that freedom of expression of the citizens should not be breached.

● **HE FACED** trouble for his remarks on Lord Rama and Sita from religious institutions and the police had to exile him from Hyderabad in July, 2018 as his remarks could cause social unrest.

Long Covid doubles in 2nd wave, symptoms persist

Nearly 20 to 30 per cent cases of long-term illness during second wave

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

The percentage of long Covid-19 cases stood at 20 to 30 during the second wave while it was 10 to 15 per cent during the first wave, according to initial data collated from private hospitals in Hyderabad. The burden of long Covid has been on lungs, heart, brain and gut.

It has been noticed that 40 per cent of patients develop persistent coughs and have difficulty in breathing and develop lung fibrosis.

The long-term consequences are noted in those who suffered from severe symptoms, persistent and long illness, requiring hospitalisation and underwent critical care.

In 10 per cent of the cases, it has been found that the illness was very mild and recovery from Covid-19 was quick but there were symptoms of long Covid after a month.

In five per cent of the cases of those who had no initial symptoms, it was found that long Covid manifested after one month, making them realise that they had already suffered from it.

COMMON SYMPTOMS REPORTED AFTER RECOVERY FROM COVID-19

- Difficulty in breathing and shortness of breath
- Tired if speaking for too long, standing and even sitting
- Fatigue and low on energy all the time
- Persistent cough
- Pain in the chest and stomach
- Severe headaches, sleeping problems and mood swings

- Pain in joints and muscles
- Diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting
- Rashes
- Pins and needles feeling in the body.

These are very few cases but they have been noted as they came back with problems in the gut, heart issues or persistent breathlessness.

In severe Covid-19 cases, it has been found that after six to eight weeks, the patients reported back with problems in heart, brain fog and lungs.

Dr Shyamala Iyengar, senior consultant of

internal medicine at Apollo Hospitals, says, "We are learning that the problems in the cardiovascular and neurological systems are severe chest pain, chronic fatigue, dyspnoea and scarring in parts of the heart which lead to myocardial injury. It has been noted that 60 to 80 per cent of the severe cases reported symptoms after 50 days of diagnosis."

In those with pre-existing cardiac conditions like hypertension, diabetes, obesity and high cholesterol, there has been severity of long Covid.

Dr Venkat Ramesh, senior consultant infectious diseases, explained, "The gut flora is altered because of the virus and subsequent treatment process. In some patients we have noted recurrent

diarrhoea, vomiting, loss of appetite and weight loss. There is also malnutrition observed in patients as they are not able to eat. These patients need to be put on probiotics."

The neurological symptoms in terms of delirium, brain fog, mood swings and sleep problems have also been documented. Experts state that they are still learning about the different types of long Covid.

The Telangana State Medical Council, along with Asian Institute of Gastroenterology, is compiling data of long Covid sufferers in Telangana state.

This is being done to understand the impact and also the challenges which have been faced by healthcare workers in identifying long Covid. Those people who have suffered after recovery are also not able to understand what is still wrong with them.

Many patients are confused as they do not want to go to hospitals or undergo treatment again. But they require medication and care and that is leading to financial burden for many of them.

Covid positivity rate falling to record low, stands at 0.008%

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

A low positivity rate of 0.008 per cent in the state is leading to a decline in cases and fading of the Coronavirus. There is still some caution because the more virulent Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 is around.

According to GISAID, 400 samples were tested in April of which 199 attribute it to 50 per cent prevalence.

In May, 777 samples were tested of which 743 showed presence of the Delta variant showing 94 per cent prevalence. In June, 174 samples were tested of which 166 showed the Delta variant.

Dr Kiran M., senior government doctor at

DAILY COVID BULLETIN DATA

Update: Cases | Deaths

Fresh Cases	704
Deaths	5
Tests Done	1,00,632
Active Cases	10,724
Total Cases	6,31,218
Total Deaths	3,725

Most New Cases	
GHMC (Hyderabad)	77
Nalgonda	64
Karimnagar	55
Warangal Urban	47
Mancherial	46

Fewest New Cases	
1. Narayanpet	0
2. Kamareddy	1
3. Nirmal	2
4. Jogulamba Gadwal, Adilabad	4
5. Komarambheem Asifabad, Vikarabad	5

Government Medical College in Nizamabad, said that despite the small number of cases, "if Covid appro-

priate behaviour of masks and social distancing is not followed there will be emergence of new variants."

Monsoon preparation



Workers drill the sides of a hillock and place nets to prevent rocks from hurting down on to the ground during the monsoon season, in the IT corridor at Raidurg in Hyderabad on Sunday.

— R. PAVAN

ANGRY VOICES

Govt should hire us for permanent jobs, demand nurses

Covid over, we are forgotten: Nurses

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

More than 1,600 nurses, who were recruited as outsourced employees and posted in government hospitals, to fight the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, were shunted out of their jobs without any notice on Tuesday.

The nurses, who have been on protests since then, were on Saturday barricaded from entering Dharna Chowk, to continue their protests.

Incidentally, immediately after getting the termination notice, when they



Nurses met TPCC president Revanth Reddy and submitted a memorandum to pressurise the government to give their jobs back.

— DC

went to question the Director of Medical Education, whose office had recruited them, they were detained. The fol-

lowing day they tried to enter Pragathi Bhavan to meet the Chief Minister, but were met with similar treatment. When they

took the protest to Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday and Friday, they ended up in the police station. Undeterred by the setbacks to their protest programmes, they are demanding the government to take them back and that too as permanent employees.

Ajay Ellandula, one of the 1,620 whose services were terminated, said, "After giving a letter to the police commissioner seeking permission, we went ahead to gather at Dharna Chowk on Saturday but the police did not allow us to stage the protest." Another

nurse, Gurram Ruth, said "We demand that the services of all 1,620 nurses should be restored. This time not on an outsource basis but on permanent rolls. There are over 1,800 permanent posts that remain vacant."

Nurse Perumalla Madhavi told this correspondent, "The government should reconsider our case. Our diligence as frontline warriors, and putting our lives in peril, has won the appreciation of ministers and higher authorities. We deserve to be treated compassionately."

Govt. yet to approve age hike for Aasara

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

People who are rushing to mandal revenue officers to apply for the Aasara pension scheme after the announcement of reducing the age limit from 65 years to 57 years are facing disappointment as the officials are refusing to accept their applications stating that specific orders have not yet been received.

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao announced last Sunday in Sircilla that the government would provide old-age pension to people aged above 57 years from August 2021, an assurance he had given during the 2018 elections.

Sai Prakash, a resident of Kurmaguda, is 62 years old and runs a small business. As his income is not sufficient, he wants to get an old-age pension. He said when he tried to submit an application form at Saidabad mandal office seeking pension under Aasara pension after the announcement of relaxation in age, officials advised him to approach them after two or three

● **OFFICIALS AT** the Bandlaguda mandal revenue office refused to accept applications from those below 65 years for the Aasara pension.

weeks as they had not yet received orders from the government. Officials at the Bandlaguda MRO office also refused to accept applications from those below 65 years.

Hafeeza Begum of Hafiz Baba Nagar said initially she tried to obtain a widow pension but failed as she did not have the death certificate of her husband. Now she went with a hope that at least she would get monetary aid under the Aasara scheme when she learnt that the government had relaxed the age.

Abdul Aleem of MBT asked the government to issue appropriate orders immediately as several people were visiting tahsil offices daily. Poor people were approaching with hope, but they were disappointed when they were asked to come after a few days, he added.

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ADDENDUM

In continuation of this office Advertisement No. IGCAR/02/2021 for filling up 337 posts in various categories, considering the difficulties faced by the aspiring candidates in submitting the online application form, the closing date for the receipt of online application is further extended upto **31/07/2021 (11:59 PM)**.

Reservation for PwD

Further, 03 posts in Technical Officer/C (Group A), 04 posts in Work Assistant/A (Group C) and 04 posts in Canteen Attendant (Group C) are reserved for PwDs as follows:

Post Code	Post Name	Benchmark Disabilities Considered
TOC-02 to TOC-08, TOC-11 & TOC-12 (Excluding TOC-01, TOC-09 & TOC-10)	Technical Officer / C	a) Hard of Hearing (HH) b) One Arm (OA) & One Leg (OL) in Orthopedically Handicapped c) Dwarfism (Dw) & Acid Attack Victim (AAV)
AUX-03	Work Assistant / A	a) Low Vision (VH) b) Hard of Hearing (HH) c) Orthopedically Handicapped (OH), Dwarfism (Dw) & Acid Attack Victim (AAV)
AUX-04	Canteen Attendant	d) Autism Specific Disability (ASD), Intellectual Disability (ID), Specific Learning Disability (SLD) & Mental Illness (MI)

Though the last date is being extended upto 31/07/2021, the online application portal will be available for PwDs only from 15/07/2021 due to technical reasons. All the other terms and conditions including the crucial date for determining the age remains unchanged.

KISHORE VAIGYANIK PROTSAHAN YOJANA

किशोर वैज्ञानिक प्रोत्साहन योजना

KVPY

KVPY Fellowship-2021

- **Stream SA:** Students enrolled in/planning to join XI Standard (Science Subjects) during the academic year 2021-22 and aspiring to join an undergraduate program in basic sciences (B.Sc/B.S./B.Stat./B.Math./Int. M.Sc./Int. M.S.) during the academic year 2023-24.
- **Stream SX:** Students enrolled in/planning to join XII standard (Science Subjects) during the academic year 2021-22 and aspiring to join an undergraduate program in basic sciences (B.Sc/B.S./B.Stat./B.Math./Int. M.Sc./Int. M.S.) during the academic year 2022-23.
- **Stream SB:** Students enrolled in/planning to join First Year B.Sc/B.S./B.Stat./B.Math./Int. M.Sc./Int. M.S. in basic sciences during the academic year 2021-22.

Rank certificates will also be available to an extended list of candidates.

1	Start of online submission of Application	12 th July 2021@ 1700 Hrs.
2	Last date for closing of online Application	25 th August 2021
3	KVPY Aptitude Test	7 th November 2021

For more details please visit: <http://www.kvpy.iisc.ac.in>

Convener, KVPY, IISc, Bengaluru-560 012

SHORT TAKES

CONG. MP SEEKS SUPPORT FOR BIBINAGAR AIMS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

Congress MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy met Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi on Saturday and urged him to improve infrastructure facilities at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bibinagar. In view of admissions for the third batch of MBBS students, additional buildings and other resources should be provided, he said.

The Bhuvanagiri MP also met the secretary of the union health ministry and discussed AIIMS Bibinagar. Venkat Reddy said that the health secretary directed officials to call for tenders for a new building complex.

COURT ALLOWS SUJANA TO TRAVEL ABROAD

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

Imposing conditions on his overseas travel, Justice K. Lakshman of Telangana High Court granted interim relief to BJP Rajya Sabha member Y. Sujana Chowdhary and allowed him a 30-day visit to the United States, from July 12 to August 11, to discuss technology transfer for manufacturing oxygen concentrators, which are crucial in treatment of Covid-19 patients.

A look out circular (LOC) has been issued against Chowdhary in a case related to cheating banks for getting Letters of Credit and loans after submitting fake and duplicate transactions by Best and Crompton Engineering Pvt Ltd, which is related to the Sujana group. Chowdhary had challenged the LOC last year. However, he was stopped by immigration authorities when he was to board a flight to the USA from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad citing the LOC. Meanwhile, in November, the court permitted him to travel to New York for 15 days as he wanted to call on his ailing uncle.

He once again approached the High Court, challenging the extension of LOC issued against him. Chowdhary mentioned that it was necessary to go to the USA as wished to discuss technology transfer for supply of critical raw materials and manufacture of oxygen concentrators.

ONGC has planned to purchase one lakh oxygen concentrators, which it would supply to hospitals across the country. ONGC placed an initial order with MIC Electronics Limited (MIC), Hyderabad, seeking 5,000 concentrators of 10 LPM capacity. Chowdhary is directly connected to MIC Electronics Limited, it was stated.

The CBI contention was that though the former Union minister was not presently related to Best and Crompton Ltd, documents seized from his residence reveal that shell companies of Sujana Group, had money transactions and fake LCs with Best and Crompton Ltd. Chowdhary appeared before the investigation authorities for two days, but evaded answers to some probing queries, the CBI counsel submitted.

● **ONGC HAS planned to purchase one lakh oxygen concentrators, which it would supply to hospitals across the country. ONGC placed an initial order with MIC Electronics Limited (MIC), Hyderabad, seeking 5,000 concentrators of 10 LPM capacity.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned Schedule of Property from its owners viz., (1) Sri T.Ravi Kumar, S/o Sri T.Venkataiah and (2) Smt. T.Anupama, W/o Sri T.Ravi Kumar.

If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her their objections / claims / details of disputes within (7) Seven days from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owners as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that the Residential House Property bearing Municipal H.No.15-2-742/2/1 (PTIN: 1041620807) totally admeasuring 7806.15 Sq.ft. of plinth area comprising of Ground Floor admeasuring 1856.56 Sq.ft., First Floor admeasuring 2590.22 Sq.ft., Second Floor admeasuring 2541.42 Sq.ft. and Third Floor admeasuring 817.95 Sq.ft. together with the land admeasuring 444 Sq.yds or 371.22 Sq.mts. in Sy.Nos.318 & 318/1, within the limits of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation [in Ward No.16, Block No.2] situated at Venkateswara Nagar, Asmangah, Gaddilannam, Saidabad Mandal, Hyderabad-500036, Telangana is bounded by: NORTH: 30' wide Road, SOUTH: 40' wide Road, EAST: Neighbours Property, WEST: H.No.16-2-742/2/2 belongs to (1) Sri T.Pavan Kumar, S/o Sri T.Venkataiah and (2) Smt. T.Shobha Rani, W/o Sri T.Pavan Kumar. Sd/- **B.VENKAT REDDY, Advocate** H.No.12-13-705/10/A&B, Balaji Residency Flat No.406, Gokulnagar, Tarnaka, Secunderabad-500017, Telangana, Cell: +91-9848712442 Email: baddamv@gmail.com

Justice for victims



Activists of the BJP Medchal Rural Mahila Morcha demonstrate in front of the Malkajigiri DCP office against the kidnap and rape of young girls in Jawaharnagar, Dummaiguda, on Saturday. One man was arrested during the day for the rape of a young girl.

—R. PAVAN

Special focus on Palamur: KTR

Vows to fight for state's share of water

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

IT minister K.T. Rama Rao said that the TRS government will fight not just with Andhra Pradesh government but even God to get its justifiable share of water from Krishna river.

Rama Rao on Saturday launched a slew of development programmes in Narayanpet district. Addressing a public meeting, he stated that the state government will speed up Palamur-Ranga Reddy lift irrigation scheme for utilising Krishna water to irrigate the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district.

He said that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has laid special focus on completing the Palamur RR project within a year. "The CM focussed on the Kaleshwaram project in the past three years. Due to his untiring efforts, the world's largest lift irrigation project Kaleshwaram could be completed in a record time. Now, he has shifted his focus to the Palamur RR project. This will meet irrigation and drinking

Jagga slams KCR over water issue

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

TPCC working president and Sangareddy MLA T. Jayaprakash 'Jagga' Reddy criticised Chief Ministers K. Chandrashekar Rao and Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for spreading hatred among people from the two Telugu states.

The TRS and YSRCP governments created Krishna water issue for gaining political

mileage, he said. The hatred was such that now reference letters by elected representatives from Telangana were being summarily dismissed by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) authorities, he opined.

Speaking to reporters, Jayaprakash Reddy said that tension is escalating between the two states as Chief Ministers had failed to sort it out amicably.

water needs of the south Telangana districts," Rama Rao said. He pointed out that Narayanpet district borders Karnataka and asked people whether any of the schemes being implemented in Telangana were being implemented in Karnataka. "BJP leaders criticise the TRS government day in and day out. Neighbouring Karnataka is ruled by BJP. I challenge the

BJP leaders to show at least one scheme that is being implemented in Karnataka, which is better than Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, 24x7 free power to agriculture, uninterrupted supply to all sectors, Mission Bhagiratha, Mission Kakatiya, 2BHK scheme. Even if they show one scheme better than Telangana, I will never comment against BJP," Rao said.

Cong. protest against fuel price hike today

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

TPCC working presidents J. Geetha Reddy and Anjan Kumar Yadav demanded that the Union and state governments reduce cess and taxes on fuel prices so as to give relief to the people. Even as people bear the brunt of Covid-19 pandemic, the NDA and TRS governments have added to the problems with hikes in fuel prices, they said.

● **THE UPA government had stabilised the petrol price at ₹71 and diesel at ₹59 per litre, they reminded.**

Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, they said that the BJP-led NDA government had increased petrol and diesel prices 43 times in seven years. The price of an LPG cylinder had increased up to ₹200. The UPA government

had stabilised the petrol price at ₹71 and diesel at ₹59 per litre, they reminded.

They said that anti-fuel prices protests on bullock carts will be organised across all districts on Monday. A rally will be taken out from Indira Park to Raj Bhavan on July 16, they said.

They demanded action against minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao for his objectionable comments against a woman officer.

TRS GOVT IS THE MOST CORRUPT, CLAIMS SANJAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, JULY 10

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar alleged that Telangana was recognised as the most corrupt state in the country during the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) rule. TRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao was involved in several scams as union minister in the UPA government, he said, adding that the BJP would definitely send Chandrashekar Rao to jail on corruption charges in near future.

Addressing the BJP district executive committee meeting at Chittapur in Balkonda mandal on Saturday, Sanjay Kumar said Chandrashekar Rao had met union home minister Amit Shah after the GHMC polls and had shown willingness to work with the NDA government. Chandrashekar Rao himself told his Cabinet colleagues about his induction into the union Cabinet as agriculture minister and offered the Chief Minister's post to other family members.

The BJP state unit chief said Amit Shah did not encourage Rao and was firm to bring the BJP into power in Telangana. TRS ministers and MLAs should realise the credibility of Chandrashekar Rao after union cabinet rejig, he said. He reiterated that the BJP was not against Islam and Christianity, and it worked for all. The AIMIM won six MLAs in Bihar purely on religious lines, then why could BJP not polarise votes of majority people in Telangana, he questioned.

Sanjay Kumar said Muslim intellectuals realised that MIM was using the community for vote bank politics and it was not sincere in development and welfare. Triple talaq Bill provided justice to Muslim women, he said, adding that the kin of Telangana martyrs and separate statehood movement leaders were ignored by the TRS government.

MP Dharmapuri Arvind, former MLA and BJP state vice president E. Lakshminarayana, party senior leader G. Premender Reddy, and others were present.

TRS MLA GETS NOTICE FOR REMARKS AGAINST CONG. LEADER

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, JULY 10

TS incharge sent legal notice to TRS MLA D. Sudheer Reddy for making defamatory charges against him in the appointment of TPCC president A. Revanth Reddy. Sudheer Reddy had alleged that Revanth Reddy had got

the TPCC post by paying ₹25 crore bribe to Manickam Tagore at a press conference at the TRS Legislative Party office on July 3.

Reacting to this, on behalf of Tagore, his advocate R. Aravindan sent legal notice asking the TRS MLA to tender unconditional apology within a week for the allegation.

He said that a ₹1 crore damage suit would be filed against Sudheer Reddy for his defamatory and malicious remarks.

The TPCC president was appointed by the Congress central leadership based on various factors including merit and capability of Revanth Reddy, he said.

SHRADHANJALI
20th June 1964 - 7th July 2021
Shri Rajkumar Lalwani
An ardent devotee of Lord Krishna. May his soul attain eternal peace.
Hare Krishna
Inserted by:
MUKUNDLAL-PREMLATA DOBA & FAMILY

13th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
A. ANANDAM GOUD
DOB: 24.03.1957 DOD: 11.07.2008
Inserted by: Wife: A. Yadamma
Son: A. Raghavanandam Goud
Daughter-in-law: A. Shruvathi
Grand Daughter: A. Dhanasree
Grand Son: A. Kiyaanandam Goud & Aelugani Family Members
Ph: 9868072133

CENTENARY YEAR OF BIRTH
Late GEORGE ANTHONY FRANCIS (G.A. Francis)
Retd. Stores & Purchase Officer Indian Airlines
D.O.B: 12-07-1921
In Commemoration of Centenary Year of Birth, A Holy Mass is offered at Our Lady of Good Health Church, Khairatabad, On 12th July 2021 at 4 p.m. May His Soul Rejoice with the Lord.
Inserted by: Family Members
(S/2122/D00427)

OBITUARY
Mr Rex Thomas
DoB: 03/11/1930 DoD: 10/07/2021
The Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet, deeply mourns the sad demise of Mr. Rex Thomas, Former Mathematics Teacher of The Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet. Our prayers are with the bereaved family.
The Principal, Staff and Students of HPS Begumpet

SHRADANJALI
10th DAY CEREMONY
PADMAVATHI SHELLY
DOB: 19-08-1941 DOD: 02-07-2021
10th Day Ceremony on 11-07-2021 at our Residence:
Madhu Park Ridge
Flat No: 2/1, "A BLOCK", Tipu Khan Bridge, Langer House, Suncity Road, Hyderabad-500031.
All Family Members:
Ph: 9704132609, Ph: 8374452035.

OBITUARY
Smt. JANAPAREDDY SAVITA RAO
D.O.B: 07.02.1946 D.O.D: 09.07.2021
You were ever smiling loving, guiding light for all of us and God recalled you abruptly, leaving us orphans.
RAO JANAPAREDDY FAMILY
(S/2122/D00433)

OBITUARY
Sri Pulipati Ramanaiyah
S/o Late Pulipati Govindulu & Late Lakshmi Narasamma
Left for his heavenly abode on 29th June 2021.
11th day ceremony on Sunday, 11th July 2021 at 11:30 AM onwards Venue: PAPADAMS BLUE, Beside PVT Market, Kothapet, Hyderabad.
Tribute from Wife: Mrs. Pulipati Mahadevi
Children: Mrs. D. Neelapala, Mr. P. Manoharan, Mrs. S. Munali, Daughter-in-law: Mrs. P. Sushmitha, Son-in-law: Mr. D. Srinivas & Mr. S.V. Rao Grand Children: Pramodh, Vinay, Prashanth, Eshan, Harshika & Shreshtha

SHRADHANJALI
Shri Rajkumar Lalwani
20th June 1964 - 7th July 2021
An ardent devotee of Lord Krishna. Your memories remain in our hearts forever.
Inserted by:
Mahender - Sunita Vijayvargiya & Family

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
PALLAY JAIRAM GOUD
DOB: 11-07-1948 DOD: 10-9-2020
Dearest Papa to hear your voice and see Your smile and just to sit and talk to You would be my dearest wish Today on your Birthday.
Wife: P. Swaroopa
Son: Dr. P. Satya Prasad
Dr. P. Anitha, Dr. P. Mayura, Dr. Sreenath Grand Sons: Swakash, Snehal, Anesh Pally Family
(S/2122/D00414)

"And we know for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28
We are full of sorrow to announce the passing of
Shri Rex S Thomas
DOB: 3 Nov 1930 DOD: 10 July 2021
He is deeply mourned by his wife **Theresie Thomas and family**

1st Death Anniversary
Smt. Sita Bai Baji
W/o Late Ramachander Rao Baji
Date of Death: 11th July, 2020
Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.
Inserted by: Son: Krishna Baji (Retd. HMDA)
Daughter-in-law: Indumathy Baji (Retd. AG Office)
Daughter: Geeta Rao, Grand Children & Great Grand Daughter
Mob.: 9885859009, 9441405888

OBITUARY
Mr Rex Thomas
DoB: 03/11/1930 DoD: 10/07/2021
The Jagirdars College and The Hyderabad Public School, Old Students Association, deeply mourns the sad demise of Mr. Rex Thomas, Former Mathematics Teacher of The Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet. Our prayers are with the bereaved family.
Jagirdars College & The Hyderabad Public School Old Students Association

The memory of the Righteous is Blessed Ps:10:7
40th Day Memorial Service of
Late VELLORE BHASKER
DOB: 08.08.1947 DOD: 02.06.2021
Today @ 11:30 AM At Hastinapuram Residence.
"Your memories remain in our hearts forever"
NELSON & FAMILY
(S/2122/D00429)

13th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
A. ANANDAM GOUD
DOB: 24.03.1957 DOD: 11.07.2008
Inserted by:
SRI RAGHAVENDRA SPORTS ESTATE SRI RAGAVENDRA STEEL SRI RAGHAVENDRA CEMENTS

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
Smt SHOBHA EMMANUEL
GOD has created her on 11th Feb 1953
GOD has chosen her on 09th Feb 2017
As the Heaven celebrates your birthday, we all miss you down here.
With lots of love from
Mother, Husband, Sons, Daughter in law, Grandsons
Plot No 71, Gunrock Enclave, Sec-bad
Ph: 9885275966

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Late SAGAR ROSHAN SINGH JI
Ex. Senior Manager - IOB
DOB: 03-07-1960 DOD: 07-07-2020
"We can no longer see you with our eyes, or touch you with our hands, but we will forever feel you in our hearts."
FIRST death anniversary is being performed at our residence TODAY
Inserted by: Wife: Smt. Gadowal Jayothi, Son-in-Law: Dr. Notam Sai Krishna
Daughter: Dr. Shruti Sagar and Grand daughter Chi Amoha
Cell No. 9451844359, 8147144859

OBITUARY
Smt. JANAPAREDDY SAVITA RAO
She left us on July 9, 2021
Funeral on 12.07.2021
Time: 11:00 AM
at Vaikunta Mahaprasthanam, Shaikpet, Jubilee Hills Hyderabad.
Dr. J. Narasimha Rao (Husband) & FAMILY MEMBERS
Phone No.: 9908728347
(S/2122/D00432)

OBITUARY
Mr Rex Thomas
DoB: 03/11/1930 DoD: 10/07/2021
We deeply mourn the sad demise of Mr. Rex Thomas, an inspiring teacher and mentor to generations of students of The Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet. Our prayers are with the bereaved family.
Inserted by:
Mr Gusti J Noria

2nd ANNIVERSARY
Shri Kamal Singh Ji Sethia
S/o Late Ganesh Mal Ji Sethia
DOD: 11.07.2019
We miss you every moment in our life.
Rajkumari Sethia (Wife)
Manoj Sethia (Son)
Swetha Sethia (Daughter-in-law)
Arihant (Grand Son)
Deepal (Grand Daughter)
Ph.: 9948799000

10th DAY CEREMONY
PETERU RAGHAVENDER
S/o Late: P. Yadagiri
DOB: 25-07-1954 DOD: 01-07-2021
(11-07-2021 10th day & 14-07-2021 Lunch)
At Residence H.No: 61-10/71-20, Flat No 313, Jaya Chandra Enclave, Padmarao nagar, Sec-Bad-500025.
Inserted by: Wife, Son, Daughter-in-law, Daughters, Son-in-laws, Grand Children, Near & Dear
Call: 9493659840, 9347054084

REMEMBRANCE
Mrs. P. SULOCHANA
I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. PS. 23:6
Inserted by:
Children & Grand Children
(S/2122/D00428)

8th ANNIVERSARY
T. HARI VITTAL RAO
DOB: 15-06-1982 DOD: 11-07-2013
You will be there in our hearts forever.
Grieved by: Family & Friends
M/s. K.R. Super Choice
General Bazar, Secunderabad
Ph: 09032770011
(S/2122/D00388)

13th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
A. ANANDAM GOUD
DOB: 24.03.1957 DOD: 11.07.2008
Inserted by:
ANAND WINES VIDYA NIKETAN HIGH SCHOOL
Ph: 9866072133

15th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
KALAPATI MITILDA SAROJINI
Retd. Nursing superintendent
Slept in the Lord on 11.7.2006
Children & Family Members

IN LOVING MEMORY
Late T.B. PURBIAH
Retd. Head Master
DOD: 10-07-1962
T. YASHODA BAI
W/o T.B. Purbiah
DOD: 11-07-2000
Inserted by:
T.P. Mohan Raj (Son), T.P. Sai Raj (Son), Grand Children & THORLIKONDA FAMILY
(S/2122/D00420)

SHORT TAKES

NIA RELEASES LIST OF 20 WANTED NAXALS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC RAIPUR, JULY 10

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

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

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

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

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

AYURVEDA DOYEN DR P.K. WARRIER DIES AGED 100

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

D.K. SHIVAKUMAR SLAPS MAN FOR EMBRACING HIM

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

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

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

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

Tweeting the video of the incident, BJP national General Secretary C. T. Ravi, asked Congress national leader Rahul Gandhi whether he had given "licence for violence" to Shivakumar, whom he referred to as a follower of Kotwal Ramachandra, one of the underworld dons of Bengaluru in the 1970s and 1980s.

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

LA Mayor is US envoy to India

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

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, JULY 10

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

Mr Juster's term had ended a few months ago. In between, after his departure, the US had appointed Daniel Smith as Chargé d'Affaires (CdA) to head the US embassy in

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

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

As Mayor, Garcetti oversees the busiest container port in the Western Hemisphere, the largest municipal utility in the



Eric M. Garcetti

country, and one of the busiest airports in the world.

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

He currently chairs LA

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

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

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

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

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

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

People's plight



Police personnel detain Youth Congress activists during their agitation outside Governor House to protest against hike in the fuel and LPG prices in Kolkata, on Saturday.

— PTI

ANANTNAG GUNFIGHT: 3 LeT MILITANTS KILLED

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR JULY 10

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

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

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

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

BJP claims win in UP local polls

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

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

However, claiming an outstanding show by the

BJP in the polls to the posts of block and district panchayat chiefs, Adityanath said almost 85 per cent seats went in favour of the ruling party.

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

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

people schemes.

All party workers deserve congratulations for this win, he said.

The CM also praised the state Election Commission for the peaceful and fair polls.

Conducting such a massive election process peacefully, in a state where democracy was mortgaged before professional criminals and mafia on the basis of caste religion and sect, is praiseworthy, he told reporters at the BJP headquarters here.

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

Yogi Adityanath and other BJP leaders for the party's victory in the elections to posts of block and district panchayat chiefs and said it happened due to people's faith in the state government's welfare programmes.

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

— PTI

AIKSCC: Maha govt betrayed farmers

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, JULY 10

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

tion in connection with revocation of all the farm laws, the MVA government has acted under pressure from the corporate lobby and the Union government, the AIKSCC said.

Dr. Ajit Nawale of the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) said that if the state government did not stop from implementing the proposed three bills, the farmers would protest in Mumbai on the lines of

the Delhi protests.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra agriculture minister Dada Bhuse denied the allegation that the state government is working under anyone's pressure.

The bills were drafted after several rounds of discussion and deliberations, he said. "Accordingly, the bills were tabled in the state Assembly. The farmers' body can give their suggestions to the

proposed bills," the minister said.

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

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

DRUG | PEDDLING

Afghan national among four arrested, 354 kg of drugs recovered

Delhi cops seize heroin worth over ₹ 2,500 cr

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, JULY 10

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

The accused have been identified as Rizwan Kashmiri, a resident of Ghitori and native of Anantnag in J&K, Gurpreet Singh and

Gurjot Singh, both residents of Jalandhar in Punjab, and Hazrat Ali, a native of Kandahar in Afghanistan, they said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gurpreet and Gurjot revealed that they were operating the drug racket on the instructions of one Navpreet Singh, presently based in Portugal. Gurpreet met Navpreet in

Kapurthala Jail, Punjab, when they were in judicial custody in different NDPS cases, the DCP said.

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

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

WHO to decide on Covaxin inclusion within 4-6 weeks

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

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

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

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

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

At present, the WHO has approved vaccines by

INDIA RECORDS 42,766 NEW COVID-19 CASES

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI JULY 10

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

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

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

Pfizer/BioNTech, AstraZeneca-SK Bio/Serum Institute of India, AstraZeneca EU, Janssen, Moderna and Sinopharm for emergency use. — PTI

India, Georgia to work jointly

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, JULY 10

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

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

Russia.

But it is Georgia's troubled relations with Russia that has been viewed with a lot of interest by foreign policy watchers. Georgia claims that 20 percent of its territory comprising the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia has been illegally occupied by Russia. It is an issue on which India is expected to tread carefully, given New Delhi's close ties with Moscow, even though Georgia is understood to have thanked India for "strong and steadfast support" for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Georgia was part of the erstwhile Soviet Union that broke up in 1991.

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

SHIVRAJ, NATH RIVALRY SPILLS TO RAJ BHAVAN

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JULY 10

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

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

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EU hits goal of delivering vaccines for 70% of adults

Brussels, July 10: The European Union has hit its target of delivering enough Coronavirus vaccine to cover 70 percent of the adult population, EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Saturday.

The 27 EU member state governments are responsible for administering the vaccines to citizens — and some are working much faster than others — but von der Leyen stressed that: “The EU has kept its word.” The EU joint vaccine purchasing scheme, run by von der Leyen’s European Commission, has delivered 330 million BioNTech-Pfizer shots, 100 million AstraZeneca, 50 million from Moderna and 20 million Johnson & Johnson.

All but the J&J jab require two doses to achieve full efficacy, and the EU is home to an estimated 366 million adults.

“This weekend, we delivered enough vaccine to member states to fully vaccinate at least 70 percent of the adult population this month. By tomorrow, some 500 million doses will have been distributed to all regions of Europe,” von der Leyen said.

“Covid-19 is not yet defeated. But we are prepared to continue supplying vaccines — also against new variants. Now the member states must do everything they can to ensure that vaccinations move forward. Only then will we all be safe.” When the Coronavirus epidemic hit Europe last year, the European Commission — which previously had little role in health policy — stepped in to coordinate a joint buying programme for members.

This was criticised at first by some for having been slow to get into gear and to negotiate contracts with drug suppliers, and the plan was hampered later when some firms — notably UK-based AstraZeneca — fell short in deliveries. But, as industry raced to boost production of the newly developed vaccines, purchases started flowing in, and von der Leyen will see meeting the European Commission’s self-imposed July deadline for 70 percent coverage as vindication.

“The EU is delivering,” she said. “Our vaccination campaign has accelerated tremendously since the beginning of the year. The joint approach is a success. Only together can we come out of this crisis well.”

—AFP



People wait in a queue to register for the Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine at a convention hall building in Banda Aceh on Saturday.

— AFP

Delta variant cases mark 32% weekly surge in UK

London, July 10: UK health officials said the Delta variant of Covid-19 continues as the dominant strain of Coronavirus and marked a sharp increase in the UK with 54,268 more cases logged on Friday, which marks a 32 per cent increase over the previous week.

Public Health England (PHE) said its weekly analysis shows the continued rise in infections is not followed by a similar increase in hospitalisations and deaths, which reflects a high protection

● **DATA SHOWS** that the sharp rise in cases that we are seeing is not being followed by a similar increase in hospitalisation and death, said Dr Jenny Harries, Chief Executive of the UK Health Security Agency.

offered by both doses of a Coronavirus vaccine.

In a separate study, PHE also found that all the vaccines being administered are as effective at preventing symptomatic disease

in the majority of people with underlying health conditions as the rest of the population.

The data continues to show that the sharp increase in cases that we are seeing is not being followed by a similar increase in hospitalisation and death, said Dr Jenny Harries, Chief Executive of the UK Health Security Agency.

This is because two doses of the available vaccines offer a high level of protection against the Delta variant.

—PTI

Tencent game merger blocked China to remove 25 Didi service apps

Beijing, July 10: China’s financial regulator has blocked a merger of the nation’s two largest video game live-streaming sites planned by tech giant Tencent over antitrust concerns, it said Saturday.

Beijing has launched a major crackdown on the biggest players in its tech sector after years of runaway growth and lax regulation, partly due to fears over their growing influence and the security of troves of sensitive consumer data.

Analysts have estimated the planned merger of live streaming services Huya and Douyu could have brought the combined platforms’ domestic market share to between 80 to 90 per cent. “If Huya and Douyu merged, that would... further strengthen Tencent’s dominant position in the video game live-streaming market,” Beijing’s State

Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) said in an online statement.

“This has the effect of eliminating or restricting competition, is not conducive to fair market competition ... and is not conducive to the healthy and sustainable development of the online gaming and video game livestreaming

market.” The blocked merger comes shortly after regulators abruptly announced a cybersecurity review into ride-hailing app Didi Chuxing on the heels of a US IPO that raised \$4.4 billion.

Plans for the deal were initially announced by Tencent last October, but SAMR said it would undertake an antitrust review into the merger in December. The same month, it announced an antitrust investigation into e-commerce giant Alibaba, whose fintech arm Ant Financial’s bumper IPO was shelved at the last minute by regulators in November.

The company was later slapped with a record 18.2 billion yuan (\$2.78 billion) fine for anti-competitive practices. Tencent currently has a majority stake in Huya and a 38 per cent stake in Douyu.

—AFP

HISTORIC | DEAL Final agreement not expected until the run-up to the leaders’ meet in Oct G20 finance ministers endorse global tax reform

Venice, July 10: G20 finance ministers on Saturday gave their backing to a “historic” global deal to tax multinational companies more fairly and urged hold-out countries to sign up.

A framework for international tax reform, including a minimum corporate rate of 15%, was agreed this month by 131 countries. But the endorsement

by the 19 biggest economies plus the European Union will help ensure it becomes a reality following years of negotiations.

“After many years of discussions and building on the progress made last year, we have achieved a historic agreement on a more stable and fairer international tax architecture,” the final statement said. “We endorse the key

components of the two pillars on the reallocation of profits of multinational enterprises and an effective global minimum tax.”

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire was quick to hail the agreement, saying it was a once-in-a-century opportunity for reform. “There is no turning back. We are putting an end to the fiscal race to the bottom and the digital giants will now pay their fair share of taxes,” he said.

The reforms aim to prevent countries competing to offer the lowest tax rates to attract investment, which has often resulted in multinationals paying derisory levels of tax.

Final agreement is not expected until the run-up to the G20 leaders’ summit in Rome in October. The 15% minimum tax

Afghans try to retake crossing

Taliban has captured a vast swath of violence-hit nation

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

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

The “complex and severe domestic security situation” prompted the evacuation warning, the foreign ministry said,

adding that 22 of those flown out tested positive for Coronavirus on arrival in China.

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

The Afghan government has repeatedly dismissed the Taliban’s gains as having little strategic value, but the seizure of multiple border crossings and the taxes they generate will likely fill the group’s coffers with new revenue. In a clear sign fighting was getting closer to major urban centres, an official at one hospital in Kandahar said Saturday dozens of wounded had been admitted in the past 24 hours.

—AFP

Cyberattack hits Iranian ministry

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

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

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

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

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

NO CASUALTIES FROM TEHRAN BLAST: OFFICIALS

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

Tehran deputy police chief Gen. Hamid Hodavand said the case was under investigation and details would be provided later. He accused foreign media outlets of exaggerating the reported blast. At 12:52 a.m. Iranian media reported an explosion in northern Tehran.

—AP

on Saturday that “there has been no disruption or cyber attack for passenger, cargo or intercity trains.” The company had said in a statement late Friday that trains were arriving and departing on schedule with “no problems”.

—AFP

B’desh factory owner nabbed

Dhaka, July 10: The owner of a factory where 52 people died in a fire was arrested for murder Saturday along with seven others, as it emerged that children as young as 11 had been working there.

Police said Abul Hashem and four of his sons were among eight people detained over the inferno, which broke out Thursday and raged for more than a day. A separate inquiry has been launched into the use of

child labour at the food factory.

Jayedul Alam, police chief for Narayanganj district where the factory is located, said the entrance had been padlocked at the time of the blaze and the factory breached multiple safety regulations.

“It was a deliberate murder,” the police chief said. All eight people detained face murder charges.

—AFP

SHORT TAKES

India-Lanka series
now from July 18

New Delhi: The Indian team's six-match limited-overs series in Sri Lanka will now start from July 18, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Saturday, a day after a Covid-19 outbreak in the home team camp forced the postponement. The series, which was originally scheduled to start with the three ODIs on July 13, had to be rescheduled after Sri Lanka's batting coach Grant Flower and data analyst G.T. Niroshan tested positive for the dreaded virus on their return from the UK tour. It also meant an extended quarantine period for the squad members. While the tentative date that was originally being discussed was July 17, but Shah confirmed that it will start from July 18. — PTI

Sciver shines as
England beat India

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

Brief scores: England 177/7 (Sciver 55, Jones 43, Pandey 3-22) bt India 54/3 (Mandhana 29, Deol 17*, Glenn 1-6) by 18 runs (DLS method)

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IT'S BARTY TIME!
Aussie Ashleigh wins emotional Wimbledon title

London, July 10: Ashleigh Barty won her first Wimbledon title on the 50th anniversary of fellow indigenous Australian Evonne Goolagong Cawley's maiden crown, beating Karolina Pliskova 6-3, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3 in the final on Saturday.

The 25-year-old Australian — who wore a specially-designed dress in tribute to Cawley's iconic scallop one she sported in 1971 — adds the Wimbledon crown to her 2019 French Open title. "It took me a long time to verbalise, to dare to dream it and say it," said Barty. "I didn't sleep a lot last night, I was thinking of all the what-ifs. I hope I made Evonne proud," she added.

It was the first women's Wimbledon final to go to three sets since 2012 when Serena Williams beat Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska. Barty had looked like cruising to victory after soaring into a 4-0 lead over her opponent — the Australian's start so blistering that she won the first 14 points.

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

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

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

— AFP



Ashleigh Barty of Australia holds the Wimbledon trophy after winning the women's singles final against Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic at the All England Tennis Club in London on Saturday. — AP

Djokovic into 30th Slam final

London, July 10: Novak Djokovic reached his 30th Grand Slam final on Friday with a straight sets win over Canada's Denis Shapovalov to move one victory away from a sixth Wimbledon title and record-equalling 20th major.

The world number one triumphed 7-6 (7/3), 7-5, 7-5 in a tense semi-final in which he crucially saved 10 of 11 break points.

Shapovalov was so dis-

traught that he left Centre Court in tears. In his seventh Wimbledon final, Djokovic will face Matteo Berrettini after the world number nine became the first Italian to reach a Wimbledon singles final by beating Hubert Hurkacz 6-3, 6-0, 6-7 (3/7), 6-4.

"I don't think the scoreline says enough about the performance or the match. He (Shapovalov) was serving for the first

set and was probably the better player.

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

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

He will also just need the

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

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

Athletes brace for
long airport wait

New Delhi, July 10: IOA President Narinder Batra on Saturday highlighted fresh concerns that India's Olympic-bound athletes may face on arrival in Tokyo, including spending long hours in immigration without food and water.

Batra was informed of the inconveniences the athletes from other countries are facing on landing in Tokyo by the Indian Chef De mission B. P. Baishya on Friday. He has raised the issue with the Games' organisers ahead of the Indian contingent's departure. "Important issues brought to my notice from Chef De Mission meeting on July 9. Same issue was highlighted in the meeting by different countries including Czech, those who arrived at Narita airport," Batra said in a statement.

"They have to wait for 4 HRS, before the immigration process to begin and they waited for three hours to board the transport. No food and no water was pro-

vided. Germany highlighted the Volunteer services are almost non-existent," the statement read.

The first batch of India's Olympic-bound athletes is set to depart for Tokyo on July 17. More than 120 athletes are bound for the Games.

"Sharing with all of you so that you are mentally prepared for what you may very likely expect at the airport until you reach the Village, these Games are being held under extra ordinary circumstances and we should try to support Japan and go through everything with a smile," Batra said.

Baishya said the athletes need to be prepared for spending long hours at the airport after landing in Tokyo for testing, immigration and other clearances. "...we have raised the problems we are facing and likely to face in Tokyo and the organisers have promised to look into them," he said. — PTI

SOHAIL SLAMS FIRST TON OF
SEASON; RAHUL, ROHIT TOP

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 10

Shaik Sohail of EMCC became the first batsman to score a century this season when he slammed 108 against Deccan Chronicle in the Hyderabad Cricket Association's top division league match on Saturday.

Batting at one-down, Sohail struck nine boundaries and three sixes in his 149-ball knock which saved his side's blushes as it was all out for 168. A. Rahul Reddy (5 for 26) bowled well for Chronicle.

In another match, Jai Hanuman's K. Rohit Rayudu took 5 for 21 as Ensonse were bowled out for 154.

THREE-DAY LEAGUE
■ EMCC 168 in 51.5 overs (Shalk Sohail 108 — 149b, 9x4, 3x6, 1 Ravi Teja 3/43, A. Rahul Reddy 5/26 — 7.5-0-26-5) vs Deccan Chronicle 54/2 in 18 overs.

■ Jai Hanuman 295 in 61.5 overs drew with Ensonse 154 in 49.2 overs (Shiva P 54, K. Rohit Rayudu 5/21 — 10-3-21-5). Points: Jai Hanuman 3, Ensonse 0.

■ R. Dayanand 64 in 13.5 overs & 152/9 in 40 overs (Gaddam Sankarsh 30, Samith Reddy 35) lost to Budding Stars 243/8 decl in 72 overs

(Bhavesh Seth 49, Rishi 51, Aaleem Dhanani 4/53). Points: Budding Stars 8, R. Dayanand 0.

■ MP Colts 212 in 71.5 overs (G. Gireesh Goud 71, TP Anirudh 3/39, G. Sadhan 4/40) vs Central Excise 148/2 in 34 overs (Ibrahim Siddiqui 65 batting, Sumanth Kolla 54).

■ Jai Bhagwathi 245 in 77.3 overs drew with Apex CC 204 in 53.2 overs (Arbaaz Baig 63, M. Mahendara 39, Akshay 3/23, Rishab 3/59, Advait 3/36). Points: Jai Bhagwathi 3, Apex 0.



Sohail

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