

State’s fast-track approach to bolster medical infra

CS asks officials to expedite process of filling vacancies, procuring drugs and essentials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

As part of strengthening the medical infrastructure, the State government has decided to expedite the process of filling vacancies, besides positioning adequate stocks of medicine, diagnostic and biomedical equipment, testing kits and others.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar held a meeting here on Saturday to review the status of medical infrastructure in the State and directed the officials to speed up the process of filling vacant posts besides procuring and posi-



Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar in a meeting with officials at Burgula Ramakrishna Rao Bhavan, the State administrative headquarters, on Saturday. ■ ARRANGEMENT

tioning other essentials. Officials of the Medical and Health Department briefed the Chief Secretary about the measures being taken on strengthening the infrastructure. IT Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, Secretaries S.A.M. Rizvi

(Health), Rahul Bojja (Disaster Management), Ronald

Rose (Finance), Director of Public Health G. Srinivasa Rao, Director of Medical

Education D. Ramesh Reddy and Engineer-in-Chief (R&B) I. Ganapathi Reddy were among those who attended the meeting.

Installation of pressure swing adsorption (PSA) technology oxygen generation plants, making all beds in go-

vernment hospitals into oxygen facility beds, ramping up of additional storage capacity of liquid medical oxygen, increasing paediatric oxygen and ICU beds and strengthening and upgrade of district hospitals were discussed during the meeting.

The Chief Secretary also enquired about the progress in respect of the seven new medical colleges, which were sanctioned recently.

Managing Director of Medical Infrastructure Development Corporation, MD of Industrial Infrastructure Corporation E.V. Narasimha Reddy, Commissioner and Inspector General of Registration and Stamps V. Sheshadri, Officer on Special Duty (Health) to Chief Minister Gangadhar also participated in the meeting chaired by Mr Kumar.

Karimnagar sees gradual spike in COVID cases

Logs 76 of 647 new infections in TS

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

COVID-19 cases in Karimnagar are on a gradual upsurge. From 59 cases on Thursday and 68 on Friday, the district reported 76 new infections on Saturday. This is the first time in the month of July that Karimnagar's daily case burden has crossed 70.

A total of 647 coronavirus cases were recorded in the State on Saturday, taking the total to 6,40,659. The highest of 81 cases were from Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation region fol-

lowed by 76 from Karimnagar, 58 from Khammam, 47 from Warangal Urban and 42 from Pedapalli. The lowest of one case each was detected in Narayanpet and Nirmal.

Two deaths

During the day, a total of 1,20,213 samples were examined and the results of 1,180 were awaited. The death toll stands at 3,780 with two more patients succumbing to the infection.

As of Saturday evening, the State's active case load was 9,625.

Hyderabad police hold job mela

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Anjani Kumar inaugurated a job mela programme organised by the city police on Saturday.

4,000 jobs

The mela saw the participation of a total of 24 companies. Around 4,000 jobs were on offer.

Co-promoter and executive director of Granules India and chairperson of FICCI FLO Uma Chigurupati, TMI Group chairman T. Muralidharan and COO Peter Ballem, Joint Commissioner of Police (Central Zone) P. Viswa Prasad and Additional DCP-Central Zone Ramana Reddy attended the programme.

Plantation programmes, vehicle donations mark KTR's birthday

TRS leaders, well-wishers honour Minister's request for meaningful celebrations



Transport Minister P. Ajay Kumar participating in a plantation programme in Khammam to mark K.T. Rama Rao's birthday on Saturday; (right) a group of children taking a selfie after planting saplings in Sangareddy. ■ G.N. RAO & MOHD. ARIFF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) cadres and well-wishers of K.T.Rama Rao celebrated the Minister's birthday on Saturday by planting saplings and announcing donation of vehicles.

TRS Ministers, MLAs and the cadre participated in several programmes held across the State to wish Mr Rama

Rao a long and healthy life. TRS MP Santosh Kumar Joginapally and founder of Green India Challenge had made arrangements for distribution of three crore saplings to mark the celebrations. They were planted across the State.

The Minister himself announced that he would donate 100 customised two-wheelers to physically chal-



lenged persons on his birthday and called upon others to do the same, within their capacity. Responding to his call, TRS MPs and MLAs announced their contribution - Chevella MP Ranjith Reddy (101), Minister E. Dayakar Rao (105), Labour Minister Ch. Malla Reddy (50), Transport Minister P. Ajay Kumar (50), Balka Suman (50), MLC Naveen Ku-

mar (100), MLCs Shambipur Raju and Pochampally Srinivas Reddy (60 each), and TRS Malkajigiri Parliamentary constituency in-charge Marri Rajashekhar Reddy (24).

Last year, the Minister had announced donation of ambulances during the peak of COVID-19 pandemic first wave. Ministers and MLAs had followed suit.

Fuel prices soar, so do citizens' concerns

In past 55 days, prices of petrol, diesel have risen by 7.75% and 5.25%, respectively

SYED MOHAMMED
HYDERABAD

With the cost of fuel climbing higher by each passing day, the prices of diesel and petrol per litre in the city since June 1 have risen by approximately 5.25% and 7.75%, respectively.

In terms of rupees, diesel, which cost ₹93.08 on June 1, rose by ₹4.88 to touch ₹97.96 in a matter of 55 days. One litre of petrol, which was priced at ₹98.20, has shot up by ₹7.63 to be sold at ₹105.83 during the same period.

According to those familiar with fuel price trends, it was on June 14 that the petrol per litre breached the ₹100-mark, touching ₹100.26. They portended that the price of petrol could reach, or even breach the ₹106 mark in a day two.

With the State lifting all restrictions on movement, those who have started going to office said that the commute has become expensive. Zadrán, a private company



Autorickshaw owners, under the aegis of All India Trade Union Congress, pull their vehicles using cycle rickshaws to protest hike in petrol and diesel prices, earlier this month. ■ FILE PHOTO

employee, said that daily commute on his motorcycle is long, and that he is looking for more economically viable and alternative modes of transport.

"I stay near RTC Crossroads. From here to Cyber Towers junction, and back, the journey is around 36 km. This means I have to spend over ₹100 per day on the

commute. And invariably, I will have errands to run. This increases the expenses for petrol. I am now looking at taking the metro train, despite the station being at a distance. That too costs me around ₹100 a day," he said.

Others like Nikhil Tandulwadikar, a certified financial planner, said while increasing fuel prices are indeed a

There seems to be an undercurrent which suggests that relying on petrol in the long run is not feasible, and electric vehicle adoption should be looked at.

NIKHIL TANDULWADIKAR,
financial planner

cause of concern, and that the cost component has increased, there is a need to look at the 'larger picture'. "From paying ₹70 per litre to ₹105, there is definitely an increase. But there seems to be an undercurrent which suggests that relying on petrol in the long run is not feasible, and electric vehicle adoption should be looked at. The government has been giving incentives and has even increased subsidies. While this may seem like a point of view from a position of privilege, I am looking at the larger picture," he said.

Governor presents motorised tricycle to fluorosis survivor

Woman gifts hand-made portrait to Soundararajan

STAFF REPORTER
NALGONDA

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Saturday appreciated Ramavath Suvarna, a fluorosis survivor of Marri-guda, Nalgonda, for her artworks and handed over a motorised tricycle to her at Raj Bhavan here.

The 25-year-old woman, who is bed-ridden for her chronic fluorosis condition, cannot move her limbs and the maximum movement between her wrist and the fingers is just about five centimetres.

Suvarna grabbed attention three years ago, when she drew pictures of popular national and State personalities, and various media outlets published her story.



Token of appreciation: Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan interacting with Ramavath Suvarna at the Raj Bhavan on Saturday. ■ ARRANGEMENT

On Saturday, accompanied by local leaders K. Subhash and J. Sudheer, who had amplified her work

through various platforms, Suvarna presented a framed sketch that she had made of the Governor.

Pregnant women moved out of flood-risk areas

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Pregnant women residing in rural areas that are at high risk of receiving floods were shifted to Primary Health Centres or other government health facilities as their delivery date is just days away.

Health officials said such precautionary measures have been taken in Adilabad, Mancherial, and other districts which are at risk of getting inundated due to heavy rain.

Health officials from the two districts said there have been no incidents of pregnant women getting stuck in inundated localities.

"They were shifted out the first day it started to rain this week," health officials in Mancherial said. In Adilabad, the women were shifted from the localities which

usually get inundated during monsoons.

Since water keeps flowing in flooded localities, officials are expecting complaints of water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea. After a few weeks, when water becomes stagnant, chances of people contracting dengue, malaria, or other vector-borne diseases increase as virus-carrying mosquitoes breed in stagnant water.

Adilabad's District Medical and Health Officer Narendra Rathod said that Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) are already stocked with ORS packets, and medicines used to treat water borne diseases. "ANMs regularly speak with ASHAs to take stock of the situation. Medical Officers are also holding virtual meetings regularly," Dr Rathod said.

Pre-historic tools discovered from cave in Asifabad

Cave sediment with volcanic ash as evidence shows it dates back to 2,50,000 years, says geologist

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The discovery of pre-historic tools in a limestone cave in Asifabad forest will further advance the understanding of human habitation in Telangana region, say historians.

"The cave was possibly inhabited. We discovered pre-historic tools including a hand-axe and a cleaver that can be dated to early paleolithic period years. The other cave of similar history in Telangana is in Bhupalpally district," informed M. Srinivas, a historian who led the search team.

Located deep inside the Kawal Tiger Reserve, only a mud path that can be navigated by a four-wheel drive

The cave is deep and only portions of it have been explored. We are hopeful of making more discoveries and add to information about Telangana.

M. SRINIVAS,
historian

from the mandal headquarters of Tiryan leads to the cave. The stalagmite inside the cave, known locally as Arjun Loddi, were being worshipped by Gond and Gordi tribes on celebratory occasions like harvest and other festivals.

"The cave sediment with volcanic ash as evidence shows that it dates back to

2,50,000 years. With the help of erosion cycle, we can surmise that the caves must have been formed during the middle pleistocene. They belong to the same period as the Kurnool caves," said Venugopal Rao, a geologist who earlier worked with the Geological Survey of India.

While the Kurnool caves have been dated using fossil content including remnants of rhinoceros, no fossils have yet been discovered in the Arjun Loddi caves, according to researchers. "The cave is deep and only portions of it have been explored. At some places we had to crawl. We are hopeful of making more discoveries and add to information about Telangana," said Mr. Srinivas.



Members of the search team at the pre-historic limestone caves located inside the Kawal Tiger Reserve. ■ ARRANGEMENT

Interaction on solutions to Army problems

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

The Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry on Saturday organised a seminar on 'Industry Interaction on solutions for Problem Statements of Indian Army'. The

Army's inputs helped industry representatives to understand better prospects for collaborating with this wing of the armed forces better.

It entailed presentations from industry representatives on niche technological domains and solutions to various problem statements of the Indian Army. During the

product display session, MCEME and civil industry displayed certain innovative solutions to attendant problem statements.

Industry experts expressed confidence that the proposals which were discussed during the seminar would soon become solutions for the armed forces.

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