

Sonia to pick TS Cong. head amidst infighting

Many TS party leaders to get AICC postings

IREDY SRINIVAS
REDDY IDC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 3

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has finally concluded the exercise of finding the new Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president.

Sources state that the party high command will announce the name in the next few days. Several leaders from the state are likely to make it to AICC committees.

As per a leader's expectation, AICC president

Sonia Gandhi will take the final decision soon. Former minister D Sridhar Babu, CLP Leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and working president A. Revanth Reddy, MLC T. Jeevan Reddy are in the race.

But several senior leaders are opposed to the move as he came from a different party. V. Hanumantha Rao, T. Jayaprakash 'Jagga' Reddy and others openly commented against Revanth Reddy's candidature.

According to one AICC

secretary, who represents the state, all aspirants are lobbying for their respective candidature with their Delhi contacts. He stated that the decision was postponed in January due to the Nagarjunasagar by-election, but the actual reason was that some unhappy senior leaders sought postponement of the announcement.

An aspirant for the TPCC chief post stated, "There is no final decision about the next PCC chief".

Meanwhile, incumbent TPCC chief N. Uttam

Kumar Reddy is likely to be appointed general secretary of the AICC and also be made in-charge of one or two states.

Ponnann Prabhakar, Jetti Kusuma Kumar and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy are also likely to be appointed as AICC secretary. Shabbir Ali is likely to be appointed working president of the TPCC.

Party sources said that party in-charge Manickam Tagore is likely to be appointed as Tamil Nadu Congress chief.

Revanth threatening me: VH

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 3

Congress senior leader V. Hanumantha Rao alleged that Congress working president A. Revanth Reddy and his followers were threatening him over the phone and on social media.

Speaking to the media, Hanumantha Rao asked who would direct the party if Revanth Reddy is made PCC chief and then goes to jail. He demanded that the party high command pick a candidate

from the BC community to be PCC chief.

If a candidate from the Reddy community has to be picked, it must be Congress MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, who has been with the Congress since its inception. He warned against picking someone who had come from another party for the job.

Hanumantha Rao recalled that he fought the then Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy when he was in power but had not faced this

OBITUARY 6th Death Anniversary

PSALM 116:15
"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints"



K.R. Shankaran
(Former Intelligence Officer, Andhra Pradesh)
S/o Late K. Ramanathan
D.O.B: 7th May 1935 - D.O.D: 26th June 2021
Attained Lotus feet of Bhagawan at the age of 86 yrs on 2nd June 2021 At Puttaparthi.
In Grief: Vasantha Shankar (Wife)
Ambika and Subramania (Daughter & Son-in-law)
All Grand Children
Mob: 98452 72996, 97311 29600

13th DAY CEREMONY

"Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure"



Smt. Madasu Sridevi Reddy

(28.11.1969 - 23.05.2021)

13th Day Ceremony will be held on Friday June 4th, 2021
Venue : Plot No.24, Avanti Nagar Colony, Basheerbagh.
Time : 11:00am to 3:00pm

Fondly Remembered by :

Madasu Ravinder Reddy (Husband)

Madasu Puneeth Reddy (Son)

Madasu Manisha Reddy (Daughter-in-law)

Madasu Deepika Reddy (Daughter-in-law)

Grand Children

Madasu Raneeeth Reddy (Grandson)

Madasu Siddhani Reddy (Grand Daughter)

Charminar Service Station | Sai Priya Filling Station | Keshav Petro Fill
Nath Service Centre | Bachupally Filling Station | Balanagar Service Station
Ghangamdas Bros | Hyderabad Filling Station

Bangaru Sai Enterprises Vinay gas | Indo Arab Rubber Factory UAE

Congress demands free vaccination across state

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 3

Telangana Congress in-charge Manickam Tagore and TPCC President N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday called upon district congress committees to submit memorandums to their respective district collectors on Friday demanding universal free vaccination.

Addressing the DCC presidents and other senior party leaders online, they said that this was a nationwide programme.

They said that memorandums should be addressed to the President of India and they should be submitted to the collectors. They said that the main demands of the

CLP Leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that the Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao has gone back on his word on adding Covid treatment to Arogyasri scheme. He alleged that the private hospital-mafia is looting the people. PCC working president A. Revanth Reddy alleged that minister K.T. Rama Rao has stored Covid medicines with him and in the guise of supplying them to those requesting medicines on social media, he has been selling them. He said that a complaint should be made to the Governor on this issue since it was a crime.

MLC T. Jeevan Reddy said that the Congress should launch a movement against the looting.

Power demand for lift irrigation to cross 6.5 GW

L. VENKAT RAM
REDDY IDC
HYDERABAD JUNE 3

The power demand to operate lifts and pump houses under various lift irrigation projects in Telangana is all set to cross a record high of 6,500 MW this year.

The irrigation department has to submit the requirement indent to power utilities every year before the onset of monsoon to enable these utilities to make arrangements via pacts with power producers. This is required also to get approval from the TS Electricity Regulatory Commission by incorporating it in the annual aggregate revenue (ARR) for Discoms.

The irrigation department which submitted the power indent to power utilities last week has estimated the total power consumption this year at 6,520 MW, which is higher over the last year's estimate of 5,900 MW. Of the estimated 6,520 MW, a major chunk of 4,720 MW is required for the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project.

Official sources in the irrigation department said several pending lift irrigation projects are nearing completion. Besides, new reservoirs under Kaleshwaram would be ready soon and this would contribute to the surge in power demand this year.

This year, the Mallana

Sagar reservoir of 50tmc capacity and the Basavapur reservoir of 11.39tmc capacity under Kaleshwaram project will be ready. It was also decided to fill the Konda Pochamma reservoir of 14tmc capacity under Kaleshwaram this year. This translates to the lifting of about 120tmc from Medigadda to Basavapur reservoirs. Added to this, the canal works under all major reservoirs are nearing completion. The Kaleshwaram water is being supplied to SRSP ayacut.

Taking all these factors into account, officials estimated that about 300tmc would be lifted under the Kaleshwaram project. To lift water of this magnitude, it requires operation of 71 motors from Medigadda to Yellampalli, for which 3,049 MW of power is required. Another 1,672 MW is required to operate 28 motors to supply water to downstream Basavapur reservoir.

Officials estimated that 607 motors would run for four months this rainy season, for which 6,520 MW of power is required. The other lift projects which contribute to increased power demand include the Devadula, Dindi, Palamur-Rangareddy, Kalwakurthy, Bima, Nettampadu, Alisagar, AMRP and Koilsagar projects, for which an estimated 1,500 MW is required.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven and the dead in Christ will rise first. 1Thessalonians. 4:16

100th Day Remembrance

Late Shri K.B.R. NAIDU
S/o Late K. Balaihan Naidu
D.O.B: 04-06-1921 - 23-06-1986
Your memory shall always remain A blessing.
By: Sons, Daughters, Daughters-in-law,
Son-in-Law, Grand Sons &
Grand Daughters and
Great Grand Sons & Great Grand Daughters

IN LOVING MEMORY
3rd ANNIVERSARY

Mr. B.J. CHRISTOPHER
(Retired Manager H.M.T.)
S/o Late Smt & Sri. B. John Joseph
D.O.B: 25.12.1944 D.O.D: 04.06.2018
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so then also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.
1 THESS 4:14

IN FOND MEMORY
27TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Late Justice GOPAL RAO EKBOTE
D.O.B: 01-06-1912 D.O.D: 04-06-1994
Inserted by:
Mrs. B. Pramodini Christopher (Wife)
Mr. B. Samuel Krupakar &
Mrs & Mr John Wycliff & Fly (U.S.A)

43RD ANNIVERSARY

Late Sri Athmakur Ananthram Goud
Excise Contractor
Philanthropist
Laid 1000 km of roads
marriages, 101 Govdans, 100 acre
bhudaan, Eye camp for about 5000
people, constructed temples, dargas,
Donated for Educational institutions etc.
With esteemed respects A.R.G. Family

21ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

KARLAPUDY KAMALAIAH GARU
DOB: 29-5-1924 DOD: 4-6-2000
Those whom we respect don't go away, they walk
beside us everyday and are always near us'.
Fondly remembered by :
K. SUNDARI KUMARI & FAMILY MEMBERS

2ND ANNIVERSARY

B. MARY RATHNAM
DOB: 14-07-1947
Promoted to glory 04-06-2019
You will always be in our hearts.
Inserted by: Husband - B. J. Dick Paul,
Daughter-in-law - B. Sarah Ezekiel,
Grand Son - B. Sreyas Kevin Ezekiel &
FAMILY MEMBERS

17TH ANNIVERSARY
(AS PER THITHI PUJA TODAY)

Dr. SREEDHAR REDDY MOTHE
SCIENTIST AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY
BOSTON, U.S.A.
Expedited On: 12-05-2004.
"You were a symbol of
Love, Affection & Knowledge.
You are ever in our hearts."
Inserted by :
Mrs. & Mr. M. Gopal Reddy (Parents)
Sister - Brother-in-Law
Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Anthony Richard Francis
DOB: 04th June 2020
"Safely missed along life's way,
quietly remembered every day...
No longer in our life to share, but
in our hearts, you're always there."
Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS

21st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

KITTAKADAPA SOLOMON
DOB: 12-08-1963 D.O.D: 04-06-2015
"We miss you every moment in our life.
Your presence continues to surround us."
Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS

SHORT TAKES

**BHOOPAL REDDY
PROTEM COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 3

Senior TRS MLC V. Bhoopal Reddy has been appointed Protem Chairman of the Telangana Legislative Council until a new chairman is elected. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan issued a notification to this effect on Thursday.

This is for the first time in the history of the Legislative Council that a Protem Chairman was appointed since it was restored in March 2007 in Undivided AP and since it was bifurcated to form the TS Legislative Council in June 2014.

The appointment of a Protem Chairman was necessitated as both incumbent Chairman Guha Sukender Reddy and Deputy Chairman Nethi Vidya Sagar retired on Thursday. Normally, the Deputy Chairman acts as the Chair if the Chairman retires, until a new Chairman is elected. But that is not to be in this case.

An MLC vacancy under the Governor quota will arise on June 16, when incumbent MLC Madireddy Srinivas Reddy's term will end. The Election Commission of India had recently deferred elections to six MLC seats under MLA's quota but left out the Governor quota.

Following this, the CM has reportedly decided to convene a Cabinet meeting to approve nomination of Sukender Reddy as MLC under the Governor quota and bring him back as Chairman.

THIS IS for the first time in the history of the Legislative Council that a Protem Chairman was appointed since it was restored in March 2007 in Undivided AP.

THE APPOINTMENT of a Protem Chairman was necessitated as both incumbent Chairman Guha Sukender Reddy and Deputy Chairman Nethi Vidya Sagar retired on Thursday.

Rush hour after lockdown

Motorists get stuck in slow-moving traffic as they try to rush home on the Osmangunj-Afzalgunj route at 1 pm, in Hyderabad on Thursday. Vehicles found outside after 2 pm without reason are being seized.

— P. SURENDRA

IMD says monsoon will cover state by mid-June

Light to moderate rains expected in next 48 hours in state

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 3**GHMC issues rules to prevent rain-related damage in city**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 3

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has announced that the southwest monsoon has set in over Kerala and is expected to cover the state by mid-June. "In the state, the monsoon is expected set in by June 11-13 and cover the state by June 15," said A. Sravani, a meteorologist with IMD-Hyderabad.

It is expected to advance into parts of Kerala, coastal Karnataka and Rayalseema over the next two days.

"Under the influence of the wind shear brought on by the monsoon, the state on Thursday had received spells of rain. The highest rainfall of Thursday was at Pochampally which received 13 cm of rain," said IMD-H director K. Nagarathna. The prediction for the next 48 hours is light to moderate rains.

Until 8.30 pm on Thursday, the highest rainfall in the state, after Pochampally, was record-

the balance structures carried from the previous year, must be finalised.

In case there are perilous structures in the area, advance precautionary measures must be taken, it told its officers, who have been asked to maintain vigil on alerts issued by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) regarding rainfall.

The reports made by the officials would be sent to the head office.

It has decided not to allow any cellar excavation during this season. In case work has already begun, it would be stopped

ed at Amangal in Mahbubabad, at 119.8 mm.

This was followed by Upparigudem which received 87 mm, and Ayyagarpalle 83.3 mm. In

the city, Machabolaram received 11.5 mm.

Under the influence of the rains, the temperature in the city fell to 31.6°C Celsius, which is a good

7°C below normal for this time of the year. The IMD said maximum temperature across the state would be between 33°C and 40°C.

'Uncertainty' looms over 25 former orphanage inmatesATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 3

Around 25 inmates of the Anees-ul-Ghurba orphanage, who were handed over to the Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS)'s facility four years ago under certain situations, are left to their fate.

The shift took place when the dilapidated orphanage owned by the Wakf Board was demolished to make way for a new building. These inmates had been sent back 'home' from TMREIS schools following the Covid-19 lockdown imposed in March 2020.

Anees-ul-Ghurba was established in 1921 by philanthropist Mir Khaja Badruddin Chishti. The institution was under the control of the ecclesiastic department in the Asaf Jahi dynasty. Later, it was put under the control of the Endowment Department. In 2009, the management was transferred to the Wakf Board via a government order.

In 2017, the government sanctioned ₹20 crore and an adjacent piece of government land, a one-acre plot, to construct a building with the facility designed to accommodate 600 inmates (320 girls and 280 boys), and a provision for commercial leasing of part of the land for generating income.

At that time, 60 inmates were living in the orphanage. But as per TMREIS, only 25 children were admitted to its institutions and these children were later shifted to the TMREIS-run Musheerabad Girls School.

While officials in the Wakf Board say they did not have any information on the whereabouts of the Anees-ul-Ghurba inmates, TMREIS functionaries say the children were handed over to their families.

ACCORDING to information provided by TMREIS under RTI to Kareem Ansari of Yungantar, 25 children (15 boys and 10 girls) were shifted from Anees-ul-Gurba in 2017. Among them, 15 students dropped out while 27 students (12 boys and 15 girls) were admitted to the orphanage in later years. Among them, 10 students dropped out.

lies last year, following imposition of the lockdown and closure of hostels.

According to information provided by TMREIS under RTI to Kareem Ansari of Yungantar, 25 children (15 boys and 10 girls) were shifted from Anees-ul-Gurba in 2017. Among them, 15 students dropped out while 27 students (12 boys and 15 girls) were admitted to the orphanage in later years. Among them, 10 students dropped out.

While some officials of the Wakf Board were not in a position to furnish any details about these children and admitted that they were not even sure of the number of children handed over to TMREIS custody, Wakf Board chairman Mohammed Saleem said:

"These children were handed over to the TMREIS at the instance of government adviser on minorities welfare A.K. Khan. I will discuss with our CEO and the TMREIS about the children tomorrow."

He said, "We will take over these children" when construction of the new Anees-ul-Ghurba complex is completed.

TMREIS secretary B.S. Shafullah stated that, during the first lockdown in March 2020, these students were handed over to their families "as we shut all our hostels." These stu-

dents "had even attended our online classes. We have the tracking records of these students. Our principals and teachers are in touch with them and their guardians. These students will be accommodated again at the time of reopening of the hostels," he said. Speaking to this correspondent, Choti Begum, a mother of two inmates at the orphanage, said her two daughters — Mohammad Begum (10) and Hajira Begum (7) who were boarding at Musheerabad School — were handed over to her in March last year. She said these children were admitted to the orphanage after the demise of their father as she was not able to provide education and take care of them.

She said her daughters were very happy in the hostel as they were getting proper education and care. When asked if anyone was in touch with them from TMREIS or the Wakf Board, she replied that initially teachers from TMREIS were in touch for a few days. "Now no one calls or contacts us," she said.

Meanwhile, Abid Rasool Khan, former chairman of the Human Rights Commission, addressed a letter to CEO of the Wakf Board, expressing concern about the safety and well-being of the inmates. He said TMREIS should have contacted the Wakf Board before asking the guardians to take their children back.

He also said that since many of the children came from families that were in turmoil, the Wakf Board should have taken better care when the TMREIS shut its hostels,

and taken the children back and taken care of them in alternative accommodation.

SHRADHANJALI**CHINTAPATLA PANDIT RAO GARU**

(Born 25.01.1933 - Breathed last on 19.05.2021)

Expired due to sudden heart attack at his residence on 19.05.2021

A honest, self made person

'A' Class Civil Engineering Contractor, Industrialist & Builder

Mob: 9391029189



DECCAN Chronicle

4 JUNE 2021

Vaccines for all: SC has put Centre squarely on the mat

The demand for a review of the Union government's liberalised vaccine policy that handed over the responsibility of vaccinating people aged between 18 and 44 years to the state governments and private hospitals is gaining strength what with the Supreme Court questioning its very logic. In its interim order in a suo motu case on Tuesday, the apex court wondered why the Centre cannot procure the vaccines for the states as well if it gets the doses cheap because of the size of its order. The court pointed out that the Union Budget for 2021-22 has earmarked ₹35,000 crores to vaccinate people unlike the cash-strapped states, and asked the latter whether they have plans to vaccinate their people for free. After digging out data which said there are about 13,000 villages with no common service centres, the court flagged the issue of digital divide and reminded the government that accessibility barrier could have serious implications on the fundamental rights to equality and health of the marginalised sections of society as registering themselves on the CoWin app is mandatory to get the jab.

The government should take the court's intervention as an opportunity to make a course correction and take charge. It should go in for a thorough review of the botched policy.

Some could find the court's directive to produce the data of the purchases the Centre has made till now and the documents and file notings reflecting its thinking on the policy a bit of judicial overreach but the court, as the defender of fundamental rights including the right to life, has little option but to put its foot down and hold a delinquent government accountable. The same sense of duty could have driven it into asking the government to produce an outline for how and when it seeks to vaccinate the remaining population by the end of 2021.

The court's views apart, the vaccine policy has come under criticism from several state governments, experts and epidemiologists as it refuses to address the challenges the pandemic poses to the nation. The latest to join the chorus is Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik who wants the Centre to procure vaccines for all the states.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on record saying vaccination is an important tool in the fight against the virus but the government he heads does not seem to understand its import, lest it should not have forced state government and private companies to fight with one another for a life-saving product in a market where the supply is limited. The Centre should have long ended the charade of the state governments floating global tenders for vaccines only to get poor response when it, as it stated the other day, had known that there is a global shortage of the doses and that manufacturers are unlikely to deal with state governments. It should have taken an early decision on making the Integrated Vaccine Complex at Chengalpet in Tamil Nadu functional instead of sitting on the repeated reminders by chief minister M.K. Stalin.

The government should take the court's intervention as an opportunity to make a course correction and take charge. It should go in for a thorough review of the botched policy and come out with a comprehensive one which will inoculate every citizen whether a third wave hits the nation or not. Better late than never.

Osaka's prerogative

Sport mirrors the society it is played in but in the modern age that society has got unimaginably more complex. Take for instance the walkout from the French Open by one of the most talented players in women's tennis—Naomi Osaka, four time Grand Slam winner. Facing mental health issues as in dealing with a psychosis over media conferences, which she thinks only induce doubts in players' minds, she decided to abandon the Grand Slam rather than face up to her demons. But what did sport do but throw the book at her in pedantic action and which proved so unpopular, with public opinion swinging hugely in sympathy with her condition, that the sports administrators were running for cover.

Professional sport can no longer be run like a circus ring into which athletes are corralled to perform while taking home fat pay and endorsement cheques. The finest athletes are subjected to extreme anxieties, which their skills help tame sometimes. But they all suffer the same human frailties as John Doe and that calls for empathy rather than stentorian diktats from the keepers of the codes of behaviour. Ironically, the men running the most from the press and media were the admin men of the Grand Slams just when they were required to come clean and act in the interest of inclusivity in sport by explaining themselves.

The mental well-being of sportspeople is also important for the entertainment they offer through their artistic skills that please the aesthete and the aficionado as well as the common man. The complexities of individual behaviour under competitive pressures in young people may seem administratively difficult to handle. But sport must endure all that besides taking a stand against so much else that is wrong with the world, such as racism, sexism and jingoism. They made the debutant England Test cricketer Ollie Robinson apologise cringingly and in public for tweets of 2012 and 2013 that were racist and sexist. It is in addressing sympathetically the issue of his career that sport can show it has the equanimity and the empathy when it comes to dealing with sportspeople.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

K. SUDHAKAR
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284-2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234
Visakhapatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285
Rajahmundry: Venagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208
Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904
Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433
Nellore: Survey No.52/2, Burrapur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemmudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580
Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/48/50/51; Adv/ Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325
Coimbatore: 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255
Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

Pranay Sinha,
Amita Sudhir,
Tania A. Thomas and
Scott K. Heysell

Why is medical care making Covid-hit sicker, poorer in India?

Jugaad" is a Hindi word which refers to using resources frugally yet creatively. From low-cost space flights to cost-efficient cardiac surgery, India has pioneered ways to maximise its limited resources. And yet, as front-line emergency physicians and infectious diseases physicians, we have seen a wasteful misuse of healthcare resources in India during the Covid-19 pandemic, which threatens the health and wealth of millions.

Emboldened by falling Covid-19 cases, the Indian government loosened restrictions by October 2020. By March 2021, there were signs that the virus was resurgent. According to the Johns Hopkins database, India has seen more than 2.8 crore cases of Covid-19 and more than 3.2 lakh deaths by May 31, 2021. More than 50 per cent of deaths have occurred during the second wave and models suggest that these numbers may be underestimates. Heroic Indian healthcare workers, many of them still unvaccinated, are persevering despite the unprecedented shortages of hospital beds, oxygen, and even fever-reducing acetaminophen. Unfortunately, clinicians are using government guidelines based on tenuous or even counterfactual medical evidence, that are resulting in systematic errors.

Anti-bacterial drugs like

azithromycin and doxycycline are commonly prescribed despite a lot of evidence that they have no plausible benefits for the viral infection of Covid-19. In addition to monetary costs, patients also face health risks from unnecessary antibiotics. For instance, azithromycin may promote dangerous and even fatal changes in the heartbeat pattern.

Antibiotic overuse also propagates anti-microbial resistance, already a major concern in India.

The latest Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recommendations from May 18 still include repeatedly debunked drugs like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine. These inclusions are entirely inconsistent with the current scientific consensus and should be removed promptly to avoid all confusion. We are heartened that nationally well-known medical leaders like Dr Ranjeet Guleria, the head of New Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences, have publicly opposed the use of these discredited Covid therapies. The ICMR guidelines should also be purged of these ineffective drugs to avoid confusion.

The ICMR guidelines also suggest use of remdesivir for in-patients. This drug has not been found to have any mortality benefit, and its benefit in shortening

hospitalisation is studied only in the background of adequate supportive care, which is currently available to most Indians. And yet, many Indians are paying \$65 (Rs 5,000) for a five-day course and even higher costs on the black market. Similarly, we are concerned about the recent premature emergency use authorisation given to 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG). Although the government cites success for this drug in clinical trials, these data have not been made available to the public.

Steroids, a cornerstone of Covid-19 therapy, are also being used improperly. The evidence on steroids is clear—they should be given to patients who need oxygen, at a specific dose, and for up to 10 days. In India, steroids are being given early in the disease—before oxygen needs are apparent, at higher doses, and for much longer periods.

They can weaken the immune system, worsen diabetes, a disease one in eleven Indians have, and may be implicated in an alarming number of Indians developing a range of fungal infections, including deadly mucormycosis (which is being called black fungus). Fungal infections are not inevitable with steroid use—we did not observe such high rates of invasive fungal infections in the United States when using steroids as recommended

by clinical trials. Indians with Covid-19 are advised to take a large assortment of minerals and vitamins that again have not been shown to be effective. As physicians who cared for patients in the early days of the pandemic in the US, we understand the impulse to "do something" in the midst of so much death, devastation, and desperation. However, having also seen our relatives confused by interminable lists of drugs, we know that seemingly harmless nutritional supplements have opportunity costs—they draw attention away from what is essential. Additionally, given that more than a billion Indians subsist on less than \$5.50 (\$40) daily per capita, each addition to their medication list must be evidence-based and serve a clear purpose.

We have the utmost empathy for the Indian healthcare workers who are stretched beyond belief and lack the time to research their recommendations and follow the rapidly growing Covid-19 literature. We exhort the Indian public health leadership to promptly take three specific steps to support Indian clinicians.

First, increase public awareness of what to do for care for loved ones at different stages of the disease and keep patients out of hospitals when possible.

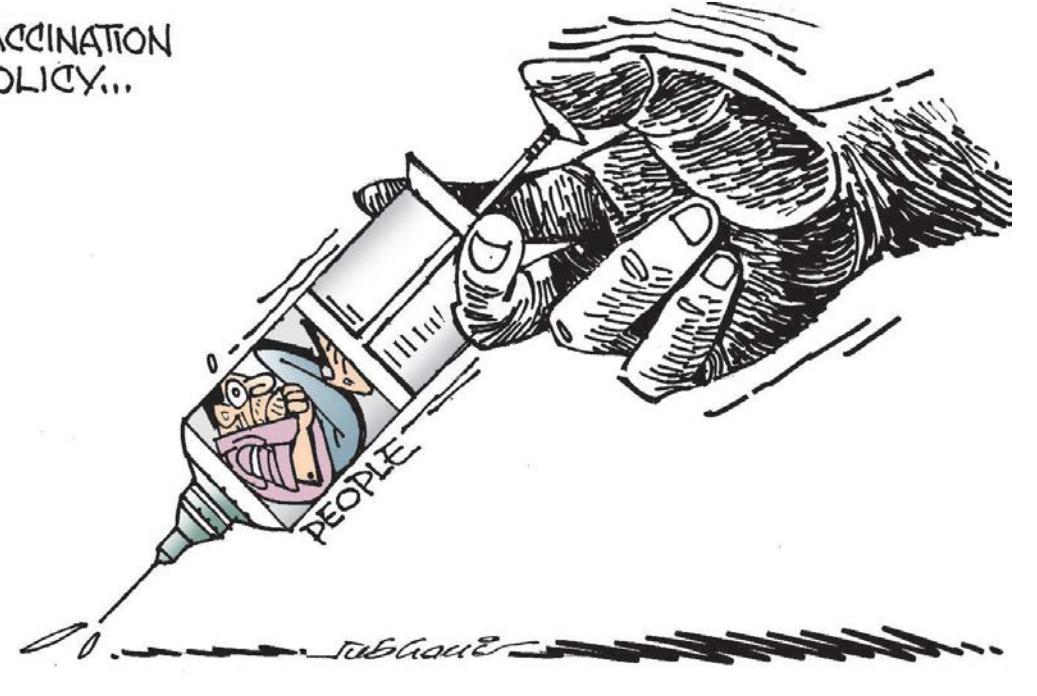
NGOs like Swasth and volunteer groups like India COVIDSOS have already developed accessible protocols that can empower Indians to care for sick family members at home, and community organisations to care for patients in Covid-19 care centres, an essential option when hospitals are overwhelmed. Second, the ICMR guidelines must be purged of any therapies that do not stand up to hard-nosed scientific scrutiny. Lastly, the Indian leadership should ensure regular clinical updates to support beleaguered Indian healthcare workers. These updates should come as digestible recommendations straight to the healthcare providers' phones. Clinicians should be made aware of the cost and the effectiveness of the drugs they prescribe so they can personalise care and share decision-making with patients struggling with the financial burden of Covid-19.

Adversity is the mother of frugal creativity, and it is hard to imagine a time more adverse. Though despondent, we nourish the hope that India can mitigate further misery with *jugaad*, delivered with clear communication, and backed by scientific rigour.

The writers are doctors working in different hospitals in the United States

VACCINATION POLICY...

Subhani



Why China needs to pay reparations to the world

Abhijit
Bhattacharyya

In an article in August last year, I had argued that the "world needs to seek reparations from China" for the all-round harm it had caused. "Covid-19 has done more damage to the global economy in six months than the two world wars did in 10 years. The Chinese origin virus has already claimed over six lakh lives, while more than 16 crore cases have been recorded. There is debt worth billions, perhaps trillions, of dollars and over 200 countries are on the road to ruin", I had written.

Today, in June 2021, the casualty figures have not only multiplied several hundred times in just 10 months, but skyrocketed to astronomical levels, battering all 223 countries, minus China. Therefore, I reiterate that the world, including India, must compel the Communist Party of China's government in Beijing to pay suitable reparations or damages to all nations that have been left devastated by the China-conceived Third World War, which is still raging. No one has been left untouched. The effects are starkly visible all over: with India's economics, society, industry, public health, trade, commerce, security, territorial integrity and 1.3 billion people's lives turned upside down.

No one is quite sure what lies in store for the world's second most populous country six months from now, except to helplessly stare at the stark reality of New Delhi being in cusp of an unprecedented period of economic turbulence, caused wholly by the Chinese chemical and biological warfare germ, known to the world as Covid-19, which originated from Wuhan in 2019. The WHO and international bodies have now, belatedly, started an investigation into the origins of the virus, but its credibility has already hit

the story doesn't end here. The quantity and quality of universal damage, maliciously inflicted by the CPC since 2019, indisputably qualifies China as the principal destroyer which must be compelled to pay reparations to the world at large, and India in particular.

Just as vanquished Germany was compelled, by 40 odd nations by the Treaty

of Versailles (June 28, 1919) to pay reparations, especially to France, for starting the First World War and ravaging its neighbours. In comparison to the universally destructive 2021, 1919 appears minuscule, as China has set the whole world on fire with its lab created CBW airborne germs; killing, maiming, numbing, crippling soldiers to factory workers; farmers to college students; doctors and nurses on duty to a host of service industry personnel.

Beijing's single-point agenda is to monopolise the world economy. In India-China bilateral trade alone, Beijing has so far profited by over \$483 billion in 20 years, starting 1999-2000. In other areas too, like Chinese banks operating in India, and sub-standard Chinese automaker MG, is on a profiteering spree through high prices and poor service. India's roads, railways, telecoms, tech are all being targeted, and the aim is to bolster China and destroy India.

Let's translate \$483 billion standing third behind America's \$738 billion and China's \$193.3 billion. The outcome of a one-way \$483 billion Chinese profit implies loss of the same amount to India—which is equivalent to seven and a half years of India's defence budget! That's just one segment, not to speak of several other sectoral losses worth millions/billions. One, therefore, fails to comprehend why a battered India shouldn't demand reparations from the CPC. After all, the world has already entered

the twenty-first century is, so far, a "war without gunshots" (except in Ladakh), but its airborne destruction far outweighs the twentieth century firepower of the two world wars. The CPC must be forced to pay reparations, if the world is not to capitulate to the dictates of Emperor Xi Jinping. Incidentally, Xi will turn 68 on June 15, the day he killed 22 Indian soldiers in 2020 to mark his 67 years!

The writer is a Supreme Court advocate. The views expressed here are personal.

LETTERS

LAND SURVEY

The digital land survey is a welcome move (*KCR orders digital land survey, DC, May 3*). Land ownership will become exclusive and eliminate land-grabbing. It can be given a unique digital identity instead of complex municipal/survey numbers. This will ease the burden on the judiciary and bring relief to the litigants too.

P.R. Ravinder
Hyderabad

The cause of land disputes is unwanted elements getting involved to earn easy money. Spending ₹400 crore to make a land dispute free state at this juncture is not a wise decision when the government is struggling to fund development programmes and is forced to sell its lands to raise funds.

M.G.Sai Baba
Hyderabad

RELIEF TO PATIENTS

Kudos to the Telangana High Court for capping hospital charges (*HC orders cap on hospital charges, DC, May 3*). It is a welcome relief to all those who are undergoing the Covid-19 treatment at these private hospitals. The pressure of huge bills in addition to facing the disease is a big mental stress and torture. The government must also consider waiving bills for those who lose their lives.

Fatima Zafar
Secunderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Hari Prasad remanded to custody

HYDERABAD, June 3. Thakur V. Hari Prasad, Honorary Secretary of A.P. Welfare Fund, who was arrested by the State Crime Branch CID yesterday, was today remanded to judicial custody for 15 days.

He was charged with cheating, misappropriation, falsification of accounts and embezzlement of amounts of the A.P. Welfare Fund. The State Crime Branch CID in the meantime have also arrested Mr. Diwakara Shetty, Joint Secretary of the Kannada Natya Ranga, this evening on charges of cheating and misappropriation. He has been accused of producing a false resolution purported to have been passed by the Kannada Natya Ranga.

SHORT TAKES

VALIDITY OF TET CERTIFICATES EXTENDED

New Delhi, June 3: The validity of the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) qualifying certificates has been extended from seven years to lifetime, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhrayal said.

"The government has decided to extend the validity period of the Teachers Eligibility Test qualifying certificates from seven years to lifetime with a retrospective effect from 2011," the minister said in a statement.

"The respective state governments and UTs will take necessary action to revalidate and issue fresh TET certificates to those candidates whose period of seven years has already lapsed," he added.

Pokhrayal said this will be a positive step to boost employment opportunities for the candidates aspiring to make a career in the field of teaching.

Possessing the TET qualifying certificate is one of the essential qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a school teacher.

The guidelines dated February 11, 2011 of the National Council for Teacher Education laid down that TET would be conducted by the state governments and the validity of the TET certificates was seven years from the date of passing TET.

ED ARRESTS RJD MP IN MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

New Delhi, June 3: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested RJD MP Amarendra Dhari Singh in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged fertiliser scam and payment of kickbacks to the tune of ₹685 crore, officials said on Thursday.

The 61-year-old Rajya Sabha member and businessman was arrested under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) from his residence in Defence Colony here, the officials said. They did not specify when he was taken into custody.

The case relates to illegal commissions worth over ₹685 crore allegedly given to the NRI sons of IFFCO Managing Director and CEO U S Awasthi and Indian Potash Ltd Managing Director P S Gahalaut as well as others by overseas suppliers from 2007-14. This was done through transactions facilitated by AgustaWestland case VVIP choppers deal accused Rajiv Saxena, officials said.

Dhari, who was sent to the Rajya Sabha by the Bihar-based party in March last year, is stated to be the senior vice president of a Dubai-based firm, Jyoti Trading Corporation, involved in the case, officials said.

CVC SAYS COOLING OFF PERIOD FOR BABUS MUST

New Delhi, June 3: The Central Vigilance Commission on Thursday said retired officials accepting jobs in private sector organisations without the mandatory cooling off period constitutes "serious misconduct".

In an order, it also said that all government organisations should mandatorily take vigilance clearance before offering post-retirement jobs to babus.

"It has been observed that on some occasions, immediately after their retirement from government organisations, retired officials are taking up full-time job/contractual assignments in private sector organisations," the CVC said in the order issued to secretaries of all central government departments and chiefs of public sector banks among others. Quite often, cooling off period, as prescribed under the rules of organisations concerned, is not observed before taking up such offers, it said.

"Post retirement acceptance of offer by retired government officials without observing cooling off period, constitutes a serious misconduct on their part," it said.

All government organisations may, therefore, formulate appropriate rules and guidelines for its employees to ensure that post retirement, the cooling off period is mandatorily observed by them before accepting any offer from private sector entities, the order said. The rules and guidelines should incorporate the procedure for seeking or obtaining permission before accepting offer from private sector entities during the cooling off period if not in existence, it said.

Intel hints at PLA challenge now along Himachal border

Massive deployment, mobilisation of security forces has started

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

Following specific intelligence inputs that China was planning to open up yet another front against India this time along the Himachal Pradesh border, alert Indian security forces have gone for massive mobilisation of troops to deal with any potential Chinese threat in the near future.

Top security sources in New Delhi claimed that they had specific intelligence inputs, including satellite images and even visual footage, that Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) was going for massive construction activity this time close to the Sino-Indian border in the Lahaul Spiti region of Himachal. Similar activity was also noticed along the remote areas of Kinnar region along the Indo-Chinese border also.

Officials said the PLA was constructing roads and settlements including permanent concrete structures very close to the borders. In fact, in some areas China has even settled people from other parts in these newly constructed villages close to the border in the Himachal sector. Some of these newly constructed buildings are being used for housing of the PLA troops as well.

Following these reports, massive deployment and mobilisation of security forces has been done. Though so far sources added, that Chinese soldiers have not made any attempt to transgress into India territory, as a precautionary measure security has been beefed up considerably.

Security forces have been extremely alert all along the Indo-China border ever since People's Liberation Army entered India territory in the Ladakh sector and tried to occupy it which led to clashes between security personnel from both sides and resulted into casualties during September October last year.

Senior security officials claimed that both ITBP and the Army had intensified patrolling the Himachal sector also. Even though the Chinese activity was going on it was largely within their own territory as of now.

"If Chinese forces try any misadventure to cross over into the Indian side now like the did in Ladakh region they would be dealt with very severely," a senior official said.

Meanwhile, India on Thursday reiterated that the process of military disengagement with China in the Ladakh sector "remains unfinished" and that both sides should maintain stability on the ground, avoid new incidents and ensure that no action is taken in violation of the previous bilateral agreements.

He said, "After being briefed by the (Army) commanders here on the prevailing situations, both along the LoC and hinterland, I'm glad to say that



General M.M. Naravane interacts with troops and compliments them for their high morale and high state of operational preparedness. - PTI

Army chief: If situation permits number of troops can be reduced

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, JUNE 3

Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane, said on Thursday that the onus for sustaining the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) and other sectors in Jammu and Kashmir lies with Pakistan.

He did not rule out the possibility of reduction in the number of troops for active deployments in the erstwhile state if the situation on ground permitted it.

General Naravane said, "There've been decades of mistrust between Pakistan and India and the situation can't change overnight. If they continue to observe ceasefire, stop and desist from pushing terrorists across India then these steps will incrementally build up trust."

The current Vice Chief Air Marshal H.S. Arora will superannuate on June 30.

In Air Force, Vice Chief is in-charge of the operations and therefore is a critical position.

Currently, Air Marshal Chaudhari is heading the Western Air Command in

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

Indian Air Force (IAF) which is at a high alert due to ongoing tension with China, is going to see changes in top commanders.

Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari will be the next Vice Chief of Air Staff. He will take charge on June 30.

The current Vice Chief Air Marshal H.S. Arora will superannuate on June 30.

In Air Force, Vice Chief is in-charge of the operations and therefore is a critical position.

Currently, Air Marshal Chaudhari is heading the Western Air Command in

IN AIR FORCE, Vice Chief is in-charge of the operations and therefore is a critical position.

Delhi, which looks after both the crucial borders, with China in Ladakh and along Pakistan from Ladakh up to Bikaner in Rajasthan.

Air Marshal Ballabha Radha Krishna would be succeeding Air Marshal Chaudhari at the Western Air Command.

He has flown various aircraft and is experienced on MiG-21, MiG-23MF and MiG-29 and has flown over 3,800 hours.

He has undertaken numerous Air Defence missions during Op-Meghdoot and Op-Safed Sagar. Previously Air Marshal Chaudhari has also served as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

In another major

appointment, Air Marshal R.J. Duckworth would be taking charge of the Central Air Command in Prayagraj.

Air Marshal Chaudhari was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on December 29, 1982. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy.

He has flown various aircraft and is experienced on MiG-21, MiG-23MF and MiG-29 and has flown over 3,800 hours.

He has undertaken numerous Air Defence missions during Op-Meghdoot and Op-Safed Sagar. Previously Air Marshal Chaudhari has also served as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

civil administration. The yatra is scheduled to begin from both traditional Pahalgam and shorter Balal routes on June 28 but in view of the surge in the number of deaths and positive cases in the second wave of Covid, the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) last month announced temporarily suspension of the registration of pilgrims for the event.

Reiterating his call for putting an end to violence and confrontation in J&K, the Army Chief said the people of the Union Territory should shun the path of violence for a better future.

IMD had earlier forecast that monsoon would make an onset over Kerala around May 31

Southwest monsoon makes onset over Kerala

New Delhi, June 3: After a delay of two days, the Southwest Monsoon made an onset over Kerala on Thursday marking the commencement of the four-month rainfall season in the country, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The Southwest Monsoon has made an onset over southern parts of Kerala, said IMD Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra.

The normal onset date for Southwest Monsoon over Kerala is June 1.

Southwest Monsoon is likely to advance into remaining parts of south Arabian Sea and some parts of central Arabian Sea, remaining parts of Kerala, Lakshadweep,

some parts of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, coastal and south interior Karnataka, Rayalseema, and south and central Bay of Bengal during the next two days, the IMD said.

This is the third time in the last six years that monsoon arrived late. In 2016 and 2019, Southwest Monsoon made an onset over Kerala on June 8.

The IMD had earlier forecast that monsoon would make an onset over Kerala on May 31.

Skymet, a private weather forecasting station, said Southwest Monsoon made an onset over Kerala on May 30. However, the IMD said conditions were not ripe for declaring the onset of monsoon.

be declared on the second day, provided other two criteria are also in concurrence.

This has to be supplemented by the wind speed.

The depth of westerlies should be maintained up to 600 hectopascals (hPa), in the box equator to Latitude 10-degrees north and Longitude 55 degrees to 80-degrees east.

The zonal wind speed over the area bounded by Latitude 5 to 10-degrees north, Longitude 70-80-degrees east should be of the order of 15-20 knots at 925 hPa, the IMD said.

The Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) should be below 200 watt per square meter (wm-2) in the box confined by Latitude 5-10

degrees north and Longitude 70-75 degrees east, it added.

The IMD said these parameters were fulfilled on Thursday, it said.

The Southwest Monsoon is likely to be normal in north and south India, above-normal in central India and below-normal in east and northeast India, the Met department had said in its second-long range forecast for Monsoon 2021 on Tuesday.

A good monsoon is critical to the Indian economy which is still largely based on agriculture and its allied activities. Most parts of the country are expected to receive normal to above normal rainfall during the season. — PTI

MEA says efforts are on to bring Choksi to India

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 3



A DOMINICA magistrate has denied bail to Mehul Choksi, who was arrested on May 23 for alleged illegal entry to the Caribbean island country, the local media reported.

Friendship Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment.

The Dominica High Court, which was hearing a habeas corpus petition filed by Choksi, had ordered him to be presented before the magistrate to face charges of illegal entry.

"Our stand that Mehul Choksi is in illegal detention as he was required to be produced within 72 hours before the magistrate and was not so produced has been vindicated.

In order to remedy this, he has been asked to be produced before the magistrate. This establishes the illegal detention of Choksi as pleaded by the defence. Contrary to numerous media reports, there was no discussion regarding the Government of India," Choksi's lawyer Vijay Aggarwal said here.

During the hearing before Magistrate Candia Carrette-George, the Dominica prosecution cited two main arguments to keep Choksi under detention - the RCN against him and the ongoing extradition proceedings in the courts of Antigua and Barbuda, about 100 nautical miles away. *Dominica News Online* reported.

The 62-year-old wheelchair-bound diamantaire, who has a pending Interpol Red Corner Notice against him, arrived before the presiding Roseau Magistrate Court in a black pair of shorts and a blue T-shirt from the Dominica China

Decide on criteria to award marks to CBSE students: SC

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, JUNE 3

the decision to cancel exams has been taken. List after two weeks," the court ordered.

The court also said that it will not give any further time for deciding on the objective criteria for awarding marks to Class XII students whose board examinations were cancelled on June 1 in view of the intensity of the second wave of Covid pandemic.

"We are happy to note that the government has taken the decision to cancel Class XII board exams, but we want that the objective criteria fixed for assessment of marks be placed before us," said Justice A. M. Khanwilkar heading a bench also comprising Justice Dinesh Maheshwar.

"As requested by the Attorney General and counsel for ICSE, a request has been made to defer the matter for two weeks to place on record the objective criteria to assess the students since

"Have some patience", Justice Khanwilkar of Supreme Court told lawyers raising the board matters, assuring that they will protect the interests of all class XII students.

crore have been damaged in the natural disaster.

The chief secretary informed that the damage to the power department in the natural calamity was estimated at ₹150 crore while school buildings, Anganwadi centres and panchayat roads suffered damages to the tune of ₹277 crore.

Chief minister Naveen Patnaik, who reviewed the post-cyclone relief and restoration work on Wednesday evening, has directed for the documentation of the government's steps towards the same.

