

DECCAN Chronicle

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HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 6 JUNE 2021

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WEATHER

Max: 34.6°C
Min: 23.8°C
RH: 47%
Rain: 2 mm

Forecast: Rain or thundershowers in evening
Max/Min temp. 35/25°C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarakaya
Tithi: Vaishakha Bahula Ekadasi till 6.19 am
Star: Ashwini till 2.27 am (Monday)

Varjyam: 9.57 pm to 11.45 pm
Durmuhtaram: 5.01 pm to 5.53 pm

Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

HJRI CALENDAR

Shawwal 24, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 4.31 am

Zohar: 12.24 pm

Asar: 4.50 pm

Magrib: 6.54 pm

Isha: 8.10 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.49 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.41 AM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 2.18 AM

MOONSET TODAY 2.44 PM

COUNTER POINT



Do you have black money to treat black fungus? Your bank account has nil balance after Covid treatment!

SHORT TAKES**Farmer leaders court arrest**

Tohana (Haryana): Farmers leaders Rakesh Tikait and Gurnam Singh Chaduni along with scores of their associates on Saturday gathered at Sadar police station in Fatehabad here, demanding the release of fellow farmers. They also sought the registration of a case against local JJP MLA Devender Babli for allegedly hurling abuses against them.

Twitter gets 'last notice' to comply

Venkaiah, RSS brass 'blue tick' restored

New Delhi, June 5: The government on Saturday issued notice to Twitter, giving it one last chance to "immediately" comply with the new IT rules. The government warned that failure to adhere to the norms will lead to "unintended consequences" including the platform losing exemption from liability under the IT Act. The notice, however, did not mention a specific date to comply with the rules.

The ministry of electronics and information technology said that Twitter's refusal to comply with rules demonstrated the microblogging site's "lack of commitment and efforts towards providing a safe experience for the people of India on its platform". "Despite being operational in India for over a decade, it is beyond belief that Twitter Inc has doggedly refused to create mechanism that will enable the people of India to resolve their issues on the platform in a timely and transparent manner and through fair processes, by India based, clearly identified resources," the ministry said.

Meanwhile, another row erupted when Twitter removed the 'blue tick' or the verification badge from the personal accounts of Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and senior RSS functionaries, including sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat, only to restore it later on Saturday. — PTI

₹1.02L-crore GST netted

New Delhi, June 5: GST tax collections remained above ₹1 lakh crore mark for the eighth straight month in May, indicating that the impact of the devastating second wave of Covid infections on the economy may have been limited. Tax collections on sale of goods and rendering of services in May at ₹1.02 lakh crore were 27 per cent lower than April 2021, but 65 per cent higher than May 2020 when the nation was under complete lockdown, impacting economic activity.

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of May 2021 is ₹1,02,709 crore of which CGST is ₹17,592 crore, SGST is ₹22,653, IGST is ₹53,199 crore (including ₹26,002 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is ₹9,265 crore (including ₹868 crore collected on import of goods)," the finance ministry said in a statement. — PTI

Nadda gears up party for 6-state electionsDC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 5

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Saturday met the party's national general secretaries and heads of various wings, including youth, SC, ST, women and farmers to review the Covid-19 welfare and relief works undertaken under 'Sewa hi Sangathan' campaign by the party across India to mark the seventh anniversary of the Narendra Modi government.

Feedback of various activities undertaken by the morchas was

discussed with the party leadership. After the meeting, Mr Nadda and national general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh, it was learnt, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to apprise him about the initiatives of the party workers. Mr Nadda will meet state in-charges on Sunday.

With Assembly polls lined up in six states—Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa and Punjab—next year, the party leadership is likely to

seek feedback on state units' preparedness for elections.

During the meeting, various organisational issues were discussed. Morcha heads gave a presentation on works undertaken by them. The party workers were asked to reach out to at least 1 lakh jhuggi clusters across India to help and assist people and families affected by the global pandemic.

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During the

SHORT TAKES

DEFERRAL DUE TO ASTROLOGER ADVICE

From Page 1

Official sources in the Speaker's office said they had not received any request from Rajendar seeking the Speaker's appointment on Saturday.

The talk in Rajendar's camp is that the Huzurabad MLA deferred the submission of resignation letter on Saturday on the advice of his well-wishers and an astrologer.

They reportedly told Rajendar that Saturday was 'inauspicious' and asked him to wait till Monday.

DUTYBOUND TO OBEY KCR, SAYS HARISH

From Page 1

He asserted that he was duty-bound to obey the orders of the party president.

He declared that he was a committed, loyal and disciplined worker of the TRS and had been working to achieve the party's goals since the TRS was founded in 2001. He further said it was his duty as well as responsibility to complete any task assigned to him by the party and its leadership.

He said Rajendar might have many reasons to leave the party and it was his decision to stay or quit the TRS, but his absence would not make any difference to the party. "The opportunities given to Rajendar by the party were greater than the services he rendered to the party," he said, adding that resigning from the party membership and the MLA post was a decision taken by Rajendar himself.

134 ARRESTED FOR SELLING FAKE SEEDS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 5

The state police has arrested 134 persons who were selling spurious seeds so far this year, and seized around 851 quintals of spurious seeds.

Since January, the police have intensified raids against the spurious seeds sellers in coordination with agricultural officers.

Policing stated that in the last few years the menace of spurious seeds had grown. While 602 cases have been booked so far, in 2014, when the state was formed, the police booked only three cases.

Action against those selling fake seeds is being intensified. Last year, the highest number of cases were registered at 160. So far this year 86 cases have been booked. The number of cases might increase in the coming months.

Recently Telangana Director General of Police M. Mahendar Reddy conducted a video conference and directed police officers, including superintendents of police and police commissioners to take stern action against those who sell spurious seeds.

Special task forces were formed at the state, district and mandal level. Further, the DGP directed police personnel to act against such offenders by invoking strong legal provisions.

Neta's Natter

KTR's chicken leg retort has Twitter guffawing

A shrewd politician and an ace performer, IT minister K.T. Rama Rao is also known for his huge sense of humour when it comes to his responses on social media platforms to many comments by all and sundry. Now, amid the Coronavirus pandemic and tough times due to the series of lockdowns, the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) working president keeps giving some hilarious moments to his followers on Twitter.

Last week, a Twitter user complained to Rama Rao against the food delivery app Zomato for delivering him chicken biryani without 'extra masala and leg piece'. Rama Rao replied to him instantly, full of humour and sarcasm, saying "And why am I tagged on this brother? What did you expect me to do?" His tweet went viral on social media leaving netizens in

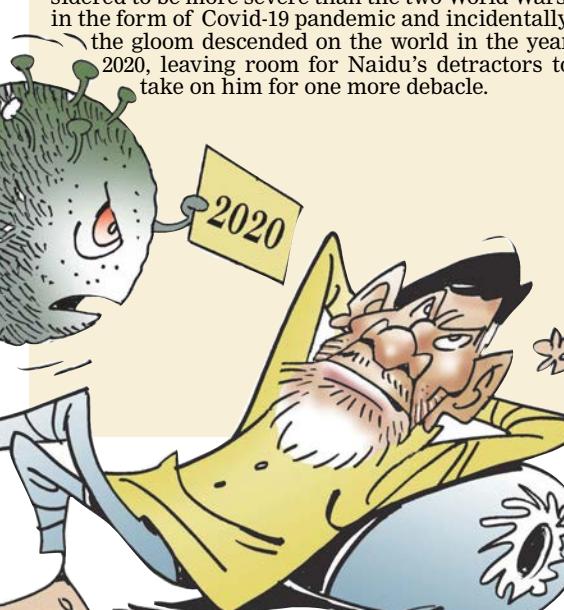


splits. They recollected Rama Rao's similar tweets made during the lockdown last year. A Twitter user asked Rama Rao, "Sir a sincere query: Any thoughts on opening barber shops or salons during lockdown? My wife is eager to try her hand on haircut and if that happens, I have a strong feeling I'll need to stay home even after the lockdown is lifted." Rama Rao replied, "Hey, when Virat Kohli could let his wife style his hair, why don't you?" Rama Rao's sister and MLC K. Kavitha swung in to add, "Annaya... Bhabhi ki kuda chance isthunnavaa" asking her brother if he was also giving chance his wife a chance to cut his hair, leaving netizens chuckling.

TWO FITNESS FREAKS TO HEAD AP DIST ADMIN

In a minor reshuffle, the Andhra Pradesh government posted Tourism Development Corporation managing director Pravin Kumar as collector of Prakasam district. He earlier served as Visakhapatnam collector during the TD regime. Leaving the administrative matters aside, Pravin, most likely, will give tough competition to the incumbent superintendent of police Siddharth Kaushal. A fit and good-looking Siddharth reminds us of a Bollywood hero particularly for his "filmi style" bike raids with scores of policemen following him. Of course, he has been hogging the lime-light not just for his looks but for playing

Good Samaritan and launching innovative policing too. Pravin is also a fitness freak and a tough official who acts more by his choice rather than the directions of political and administrative bosses. The two good-looking and fitness freaks may hopefully inspire the youth on staying fit and turn Prakasam, one of the worst Covid-hit districts initially, into a healthy district.



Naidu's 'Vision 2020' turns topsy-turvy

As the famous Telugu saying "Rojulu bagonapu daade paamai karichinatlu" goes, nothing seems to be going right for former chief minister and Telugu Desam president N. Chandrababu Naidu. The party got a severe beating in the 2019 Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh and the trend continued in the recent gram panchayat and urban local body elections. The party cadre was thoroughly demoralised following his call to boycott the zilla parishad elections. Now, it is time for old memories to haunt him and he has become a hot topic for trolling in social media. When international organisations started talking about a vision for 2020 in the late 1990s, Naidu picked up the phrase and went all out to champion it more than anyone in the country. He got a document prepared by an international consulting agency by spending crores of rupees and claimed that it was the greatest vision document though it received severe criticism. One of the famous observations was by a visiting foreign dignitary that people of his country would either jail the proponent of such a document or dismiss him as mad. Two decades later, the world found itself in the worst crisis, considered to be more severe than the two World Wars, in the form of Covid-19 pandemic and incidentally, the gloom descended on the world in the year 2020, leaving room for Naidu's detractors to take on him for one more debacle.

Police grew stronger during Covid: Anjani

The idea is to deal with crisis management, says top cop

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 5

Covid-19 has in some ways turned policing upside down. The most visible government apparatus for more than a year now, the police has evolved into something much more than an agency that chases criminals and maintains law and order.

Fifteen months ago, when Covid-19 made its presence felt in Telangana for the first time, not many were prepared, including the government, to deal with the disease that has come to become a scourge that has besieged the society.

Thrown into the battle as one of the frontline troops as the state grappled with containing an unseen enemy, the police force, over this period, has emerged as a much stronger force, particularly in terms of serving people.

Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar has seen much happen in these past 15 months as he led the force from the front.

In an interview, Anjani Kumar said while their training prepared them to face anything, the battle against the Coronavirus, has been something else, something that was not part of their training, and their strategies evolved and changed to match the reality on the ground.

The Covid-19 crisis, has been as much a period of self-discovery for the police, as it has been for the general public who suddenly realised that not all police officials and staff, were aloof to their concerns and were only interested in catching criminals.

Excerpts:

Did you, during your training as a young IPS officer, ever imagine that you would be spearheading any battle with a virus?

The nature of police training at the NPA or any pioneer training institute in the world, trains us to prepare and plan for contingencies. They could be of any kind, natural calamity or a man-made tragedy, our impulse and our focus is always on safety. The mindset of a senior police official is such that we are prepared to fight unforeseen circumstances. Even though we were not prepared for this, the core is to deal with crisis management. This applies to everyone in the force, from the commissioner to a constable.

How is policing different now compared to the pre-pandemic days?

There are various aspects to this. Policing consists of many issues and factors. Depending on



Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar leads a horse-mounted patrol of the Old City near Charminar, in this file picture. — DC



ONE OF the plus points of Covid crisis is that it has given a good opportunity for the police to show its humane side of true policing.

I would gladly say that social media is a great source of strength for all of us. Our access to community and vice versa has increased many folds. When I post a one-minute video on Twitter, it reaches about 25k people within a few hours.

The communication is seamless. The tone and the tenor, the letter and the spirit can be rightly conveyed to the community. Similarly, the feeling of the community reaches us directly in the shortest span of time on social media, helping us to serve them better.

Have the acceptance levels of police been less or more among people?

One of the plus points of Covid crisis is that it has given a good opportunity for the police to show its humane side of true policing. I can proudly say that each officer from Hyderabad city police has found a place in the hearts of the community.

How do you keep yourself safe being at the frontline day after day? Also, there is the pressure of keeping your families safe. How are you managing this?

It is a very challenging situation. Right from day one, there was no doubt that we all are exposed to the Coronavirus threat. So apart from taking the best personal precaution, we have to trust and believe in God to keep us safe from the pandemic.

Speciality tests done free at state centres

From Page 1

For emergency services, the government is running 428 ambulances under 108 services. Around 300 vehicles are earmarked for pregnant women under the Amma Vadi Scheme.

The government has ensured arrangements to send samples of poor patients undergoing treatment in PHCs to the nearest centre for speedy testing and reports.

The Chief Minister said, "Medical treatment is becoming costlier. The poor are forced to sell properties to get treatment. These days every other person is suffering from hypertension and diabetes and needs to get examined. Tests for the heart, liver, kidney, and lungs, cancer and thyroid have become a necessity for the poor. Corona has joined the list and it needs several tests.

Governments doctors write prescriptions but for diagnostic tests, people are forced to go to private clinics and spend thousands of rupees. This has become a huge burden on the poor. Our endeavour is to bring financial relief to those aggrieved sections."

RIVER UPGRADATION

13 unique bridges to be built across Musi, says development corp. chairman

Kaleshwaram done, beautifying Musi to be focus

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 5

The Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL) has grand plans to develop both flanks of the river with 13 unique bridges connecting two sides, including a hanging bridge, wooden bridge, twisted bridge, rope bridge, and a two-pole bridge among others.

In an exclusive chat with Deccan Chronicle on the banks of the Musi at Nagole on World Environment Day, MRDCL chairman D. Sudheer Reddy said that after he took over in February last year, the two lockdowns badly had hit the riverfront development project. Yet, in the five months available, the corporation has laid about three kilometres of walking track on either side of Musi.

"The current development is just the tip of the iceberg. After preparation of a detailed project report (DPR), the project will take proper shape. We have planned to construct 13 unique bridges connecting



— FILE PICTURE

Musi River.

both the banks. We have asked the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and HMDA to hand over the bridge project to MRDCL for state-of-the-art construction. Since the Kaleshwaram project is nearing completion, the government will fully focus on the Musi project, since the former does not require any investment," Sudheer Reddy explained.

● THE LB NAGAR MLA said the Musi corporation is focussing on arresting the stench emanating from the river, curbing mosquito menace, removing encroachments in buffer zones and preventing new encroachments by setting up a centralised command control room.

● THE MRDCL chairman said the corporation has planned 63 sewage treatment plants (STPs). Tenders for 14 STPs have already been invited.

would all go once MRDCL initiates its drive. He disclosed that the CM has assured funds for the project once the DPR is ready by December.

The MRDCL chairman said the corporation has planned 63 sewage treatment plants (STPs). Tenders for 14 STPs have already been invited. He explained

that primarily, MRDCL will address sewerage issue, followed by removal of encroachments, shrubs, weeds, installation of CCTV cameras all along Musi, and landscaping.

Sudheer Reddy said he has held meetings with surveyors from revenue department to fix the boundaries of the river.

So far, the state government has not even completed two per cent of the Musi Rejuvenation and Beautification Project over the years. Neither nodal agencies, including HMDA, GHMC, Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB), and revenue department, nor the newly formed MRDCL have prepared a detailed project report for the flagship project over the years.

The government is unhappy with earlier designs prepared by international firms claiming they are impractical considering the city's topography. All eyes are now on the new DPR that is expected to be ready by December. The government is unhappy with earlier designs prepared by international firms claiming they are impractical considering the city's topography. All eyes are now on the new DPR that is expected to be ready by December.

Officials informed that such an equipment can produce 400 to 800 reports in an hour. Based on individual requirement, CT scans will also be provided.

Elaborating, Rao said, "There are four types of expenses for treatment. Transportation costs to reach the hospital, doctor's fee, medicines, diagnostics, expenses on inpatient, and transportation charges to carry deceased and funeral expenses."

SHORT TAKES

HYD POLICE BOOK 7,360 LOCKDOWN VIOLATORSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 5

The Hyderabad commissionerate police booked 7,360 cases on Saturday for violation of lockdown rules and other issues.

As the Hyderabad police strictly enforced the lockdown to ensure the safety of the public, 5,528 lockdown violation cases were booked. In addition, 1,412 cases were booked for not wearing masks at all or wearing one in an improper manner.

The police booked 294 cases for not maintaining physical distance. Besides, 4,829 vehicles were seized for venturing out without proper reason.

During the day, the SR Nagar police shifted a pregnant woman, Swathi, who was in labour, to hospital in a patrol car from her residence in Rajivnagar, Borabanda, to Niloufer Hospital as there were no vehicles on the road due to the lockdown.

40-BED ISOLATION CENTRE SET UP IN RAJENDRANAGARDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 4

A 40-bed Covid-19 isolation centre has been set up by three voluntary groups in a school at Rajendranagar. Of the 43 patients admitted there in eight days, it successfully treated 13 of them. These patients have been discharged.

The centre was set up in the school in a mosque by the Rotary Club of Hyderabad Deccan, SEED USA, and Helping Hands Foundation.

While 10 patients have been referred to higher medical facilities, those at the centre are being taken care of under the supervision of a senior internal medicine consultant, and are being provided medicines including Remedesivir injections as needed, along with chest physiotherapy and counselling, and hygienic meals.

CS INSPECTS ICU, INFRA OF TWO CITY HOSPITALSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 5

The paediatric intensive care unit ward and infrastructure facilities in Niloufer Hospital and MNJ Cancer Hospital were inspected by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, health secretary A.M. Rizvi and Director of Medical Education Dr Ramesh Reddy.

With projections of children being re-infected after Covid-19 recovery, the government is taking all steps to ensure that hospital infrastructure and other facilities are available. The Chief Secretary said that government was taking all measures to tackle any outbreak due to the pandemic.

Medical equipment, medicines and human resources will be made available to all hospitals treating children in the state. Civil works in the hospital will be carried out quickly in the hospital premises to ensure that there is proper upkeep.

POLICE CONSTABLE KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENTDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 5

A 27-year-old police constable died in a road accident early on Saturday morning under Malakpet police station limits. He was identified as G. Praneeth Kumar, a 2020 batch constable, working at the DCP North Zone office as system operator. He was attached from the Mahankali police station.

Police said he was travelling on a scooter from his residence in Ramnagar to Moosarambagh to meet some friends. "When he reached near a school at Moosarambagh, another driver, Murali Manohar Rao, came on a bike in a rash manner and hit Praneeth's vehicle. The constable fell on the road and died on the spot," a Malakpet police official said.

Police shifted Praneeth's body to the Osmania General Hospital for autopsy and took Murali into custody. Further investigation is underway.

Fever Hosp. logged 85 Covid deaths in May

Hospital has fewer patients, hopes death rate falls

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 5

● THIS 330-BED hospital, of which close to 50 per cent are allotted to Covid-19 treatment, had seen a surge in admissions since the second week of April.

ing up for admission, sources at the hospital said they now hoped that the number of people losing their lives at the facility would decrease.

Popularly known as

Fever or Coranti Hospital, the Sir Ronald Ross Institute of Tropical Diseases, is a specialised facility that treats seasonal illnesses. However, it has been designated as a Covid-19 treatment facility when cases began increasing in the state.

This 330-bed hospital, of which close to 50 per cent are allotted to Covid-19 treatment, had seen a surge in admissions since the second week of April, lasting

till the third week of May. "Every bed in the hospital was full then but now we have many vacant," a hospital official said.

Also in April, the hospital saw up to 400, or on some days more, people lining up daily to get RT-PCR tests done, of which close to 30 per cent were found to be positive, a hospital source, who disclosed the Covid death numbers in May, said.

authorities never bothered to re-erect either blue sheets, barricades or a warning board.

Heart-wrenching scenes were reported when the boy's parents took his body to Osmania Hospital for post-mortem. A police case was registered against contractor Srinivas and the investigation is on.

Surprisingly, no SCB official responded to the incident. They neither reached the spot nor provided information about the contractor.

Meanwhile, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) neglected the widening and capping works of city nallas despite minister K.T. Rama Rao's instructions last September. He gave these instructions after a 12-year-old Sumedha Kapuria, who was riding on

her bicycle near her house at Neredmet, fell into the nala that was flooded with rainwater and was washed away.

The minister instructed officials that capping works should be executed on nallas which were less than two metres wide.

Officials were asked to prepare a time-bound action plan. He also accorded administrative sanction of ₹300 crore to take up capping works to avoid any untoward incidents in the city. However, his instructions fell in deaf ears.

As on date, corporation authorities have only managed to complete 15 per cent of a total of 382 works. Some officials are hand-in-glove with contractors. Despite inviting tenders thrice, 90 per cent of contractors did not even participate in the bidding process.

Doctors questioned the couple as congenital disorders could also lead to formation of gangrene in children. They found that the couple suffered from Covid-19.

The baby's case is a very rare event. But it has been observed in a few cases in the past.

● WITHIN 24 hours of the child being born, the baby developed severe vomiting and diarrhoea.

Paediatricians scanned its abdomen to find gangrene in the small intestine.

● DOCTORS QUESTIONED

THE COUPLE AS CONGENITAL DISORDERS COULD ALSO LEAD TO FORMATION OF GANGRENE IN CHILDREN.

They found that the couple suffered from Covid-19.

DURGA PRASAD
SUNKU | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 5

The body of a seven-year-old boy who fell into an open nala and drowned, was retrieved out after two hours of search and rescue on Saturday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Anand Sai alias Chinmu (7), a second class student.

According to Bowenpally police, at around 9.40 am, Anand who was playing in the neighbourhood fell into the Chinna Thokkata nala in Bowenpally. His parents were informed. After searching for some time, his family informed Bowenpally police around 10.30 am.

Speaking to the media, Chandrakala, mother of Anand, said "One of our neighbours saw when my son fell in the nala. He immediately informed my husband who jumped into the water to rescue him but in vain. For some time his hands were visible to us. If authorities had acted swiftly my son would be alive now."

She added although they had informed authorities regarding the neglect of precautionary measures, they remained silent.

"We sought help from police, Disaster Response Force (DRF), and fire officials. After two hours of search and rescue, the body was found

200 metres from the spot he had fallen," said the Bowenpally police.

Based on a complaint by Chandrakala, the Bowenpally police booked a case against the Secunderabad Cantonment Board contractor who failed to take measures to avoid such accidents and didn't even put sign boards.

It was a few days back that the contractor had started expansion works and didn't take proper care to erect a fence.

Meanwhile police shifted the body to Osmania General Hospital for autopsy. Further investi-

gation is underway.

It is to be noted that the contractor had started expansion works and didn't take proper care to erect a fence.

Total cases in Telangana state in the second wave are 2,88,305 till date while they were 2,99,254 during the first wave, according to the medical bulletin.

Total deaths in the state in the second wave are 1,713 till date while they were 1,635 in the first wave.

It is an everyday feature in intensive care units and oxygen wards where the conditions of

patients on the road to recovery suddenly deteriorates, leading to a lot of stress among the medical fraternity too.

A senior doctor at the King Koti Hospital explained, "We are seeing less mild cases but the serious cases which lead to aggressive treatment and fatality are still there. Till these serious cases come down, challenges will remain."

Increase in cases in May is due to 90 per cent spread of Delta variant B.1.617.2, according to the database gathered by GISAID. The genome sequencing is carried out at community level and also at the airport level which in April had

50 percent cases at community level and 8 per cent cases at airport level. In the month of May, it was 90 per cent at the community level and 11 per cent at the airport level.

The Delta variant is highly infectious and this is the prime reason for families being infected although the infection duration is shorter.

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Queuing for jabs



Students travelling abroad for higher education queue up to take the jab at the special Covid-19 vaccination centre set up for them at the Institute of Preventive Medicine, Narayanguda.

— P. SURENDRA

KCR to open 12 dist complexes

Collectors told to get collectorates ready

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 5

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao is all set to soon embark on tours of 12 newly formed districts for inaugurating the new integrated collectorate complexes constructed there.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar on Saturday held a video conference with collectors of various districts. He issued them instructions to keep the new collectorate complexes ready for inauguration within a week.

Although the Chief Minister's tour to districts is not yet officially

● THE CHIEF Secretary told collectors to identify land for medical colleges in seven districts

confirmed, the CS informed collectors to be prepared for inauguration of the collectorate complexes any time.

The Chief Secretary also spoke to collectors of seven districts, where the state Cabinet had recently approved establishment of government medical colleges. He directed collectors to identify suitable land parcels for setting up the medical colleges. He asked them to speed up the process as the gov-

ernment wants to lay foundation for new medical colleges and launch their construction by July.

The Cabinet had on May 30 approved setting up of medical colleges in Nagaarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Mancherial, Jagtial, Sangareddy, Mahbubnagar and Kotagudem. Each college is estimated to cost nearly ₹700 crore, with the total project involving an expenditure of nearly ₹5,000 crore.

The state government's aim is to make these new medical colleges operational from academic year 2022-23.

JABS FOR BANKERS

Hyderabad: Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar met with representatives of banks on vaccination of bank employees. He directed the officials to coordinate with bankers to ensure that all bank employees are vaccinated against Covid-19.

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



Shri Gollapudi David Prabhakara Rao

In loving Memory of

Shri Gollapudi David Prabhakara Rao

D.O.B: 25.03.1932 D.O.D: 29-05-2021

You will always remain in our hearts By Children & Grand Children

(S/2122/D00283)

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan plants a sapling at Raj Bhavan along with her husband Dr Soundararajan (centre) and TRS MP Santosh Kumar (left) on World Environment Day. — DC

Gov. leads state green festivities

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 5

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan led the World Environment Day celebrations in the state on Saturday by planting saplings at Raj Bhavan, and calling on people to follow sustainable development models to ensure the well-being of future generations.

Dr Soundararajan was joined at the event by Rajya Sabha member J. Santosh Kumar, who launched, and steers, the Green India Challenge. He also planted a sapling at Raj Bhavan. The Governor said every-

one must join hands to increase the tree cover and greenery in the state.

"Protecting, promoting, and restoring our ecosystem is vital for the health of the mother Earth. We must give the healthier ecosystem to future generations for their well-being," she said.

On the Green India Challenge, Dr Soundararajan lauded Santosh Kumar's efforts saying the planting of more than 10 crore saplings, involving different sections of the people and taking the greenery challenge on a massive scale will go a long way in improving our tree cover."

"I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6



Mrs. LEELA SIMON

DOB: 06-06-1938 DOD: 25-02-2020

Inserted by: FAMILY MEMBERS

Ph: 98663 95383, 70930 18670

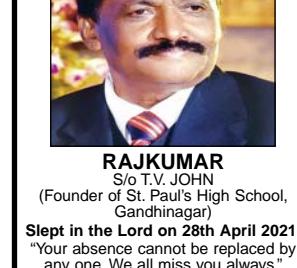
(B/2122/D00043)

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

"I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Psalm 23:6

In Loving Memory of



RAJKUMAR

S/o T.V.JOHN

(Founder of St. Paul's High School, Gandhinagar)

Slept in the Lord on 28th April 2021,

"Your absence cannot be replaced by any one. We all miss you always."

Inserted by: Family Members

Ph: 9840553134

(B/2122/D005134)

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

"Our's for a Little While, with Jesus Forever"

SHORT TAKES
INTER, CLASS X EXAMS IN AP WILL BE HELD

DC CORRESPONDENT
 KAKINADA, JUNE 5

The state government has no intention of cancelling Class 10 and Intermediate examinations and these have only been postponed, said education minister Adimulapu Suresh while participating in several programmes in East Godavari district on Saturday. He, along with ministers K. Kannababu, P. Viswaroop and Ch. Venugopala Krishna, Kakinada MP Vanga Gita, Kakinada MLA Dwarampudi Chandrasekhar Reddy, special chief secretary (education) Satish Chandra, and collector D. Muralidhar Reddy, unveiled a bronze statue of Dr B.R. Ambedkar at JNTUK premises here.

Suresh said that keeping in view the concerns of parents and health of teachers, the exams were postponed due to the Covid-19 second wave. It was expected that in July the intensity of the virus would come down and then the exams would be considered. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is of the view that the exams should be conducted to maintain educational standards and enable the students to fare well in competitive exams. Therefore, under any circumstances, the exams will not be cancelled. But all the protocols and guidelines will be followed and all steps taken to safeguard the health of students and teachers, Suresh assured.

The Minister also said that the education infrastructure would be strengthened in JNTUK, JNTU-A, SV University and Andhra University to enable them to compete for the top-10 ranks in the National Institutes Framework. He said the state government was taking steps to introduce the CBSE syllabus in the state schools and a majority of the schools were being converted into English Medium schools.

AP GOVT TO PAY ₹1.5 CRORE TO TREAT DOCTOR

Clearances from State Animal Welfare Board must

ATHER MOIN | DC
 HYDERABAD, JUNE 5



A pet shop on Lal Bagh Road, Mahbub Chowk.

DC CORRESPONDENT
 VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 5

In order to curb anomalies as well as ensure better healthcare services to the people in private hospitals, the Andhra Pradesh government intends to set up a 16-member state-level advisory committee with special chief secretary/principal secretary, health, as the ex-officio chairman. It will have 10 nominated members from stakeholder associations like IMA, Consumer Forum and others in the state.

The state government has issued an order recently to constitute the panel. It will have an additional secretary, law, deputy secretary, women development and child welfare, and deputy secretary, social welfare, as members and commissioner, health and family welfare, as the member-convenor.

Among 10 nominated members, there will be two each will be deputed by Indian Medical Association and AP Nursing Homes Association, two eminent doctors, one from District Consumer Forum, a social activist, a health professional and a professional from women welfare. The term of office of all nominated members will be three years.

The YSRC government will implement the AP Allopathic Private Medical Care Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2002 as amended twice in 2006 for the first time since the bifurcation of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, to ensure accountability in the functioning of all private establishments rendering health care and services.

The state government faced a tough time during the outbreak of the first wave of Coronavirus pandemic as patients complained about a series of irregularities including overcharging for Covid care at the private hospitals, and so is the case in the second wave of the pandemic as well. Following a spate of complaints, the vigilance and enforcement authorities have booked 89 private hospitals and penalised 66 hospitals to the tune of Rs 9.90 crore by June 3, indicating the enormity of violation of norms.

There are nearly 8,825 private medical care establishments under 11 categories including hospitals, diagnostic labs and others in the state at present. The upcoming state-level panel has to regulate them all, from registration to day-to-day functioning to implementation of acts, health schemes and directions from the state government.

AP GOVT TO PAY ₹1.5 CRORE TO TREAT DOCTOR

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, JUNE 5

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has announced that the state government will bear the cost of treating Dr N. Bhaskar Rao, a government doctor, who has been battling for his life at Care Hospital in Gachibowli, Hyderabad.

Dr Bhaskar Rao, 38, had been working as medical officer at the primary health centre in Karamchedu of Prakasam district. He tested positive for Covid-19.

His wife, Dr Bhagyalaxmi, 38, who had been working as assistant professor in Guntur Medical College also tested positive for Covid. Both of them had been admitted to Government General Hospital, Guntur.

The court directed Ravindranath to cooperate with the investigating officers by furnishing information and documents sought by the probe team.

Adilaxmi, on June 2, had filed a complaint before the Jubilee Hills police alleging that Dr Ravindranath had tried

to kill her when she asked him to stop his alleged extra-marital relationships with other women.

She alleged that Dr Ravindranath, aged 65, had "sadistic sexual demands" and was paying women to have relationships with him, including a woman from Chennai.

When she started questioning him about extra-marital relationships, her husband had started ill-treating and manhandling her, Adilaxmi alleged in the complaint.

She also made allegations with regard to the disbursement of the amount that was generated with the sale of a 70 per cent share in Global Hospital.

The court directed the public prosecutor's office to get instructions and notice was issued to her or their children.

In their 41 years of their marriage, she had never complained to anybody against her husband considering the future of their children and grandchildren, Adilaxmi said in the complaint.

Based on the complaint, the police registered an FIR and investigation was initiated.

With that, Dr Ravindranath approached the High Court to quash the FIR registered against him and direct the police to not initiate an investigation.

While declining his plea to stop the investigation, the High Court directed the police to not arrest him till June 11.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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FOR SALE

AUTOMOTIVE

FOUR WHEELERS

CHEVROLET CAR for Sale, 2.95 Lacs. Valid Registration upto 2029. 2014 Model. Delivery after Registration. Contact 9100030140. (B/2122/C0018)

HYUNDAI I-10 1.2, 2011, Sportz, Gray, A/C, Power Steering, Four Power Windows, Music System, Remote Control, Petrol. 80 km. Petrol. Call: 9849056716. (S/2122/C00360)

VERNA 1.6 vvti Auto(O) 2017 Model, Petrol, Polar White, Fully Loaded, Excellent Condition, no Brokers. Call: 9849056716. (S/2122/C00360)

MULTIPLE-FOUR WHEELERS

AUDITT BENZ GLE-350, GLA, C220, E220, BMW 320, 730L D, X5, X3, Jaguar XF, Fortune, Jeep, Compass, Brio, Celero, Terrano, Brezza(3), XUV(2), Verna, SX4, Swift, City, Kwid, Gypsy, Polo, Creta AT, SCross, i10, Mini Cooper, Certified Cars, upto 90% Finance Available, Over 120 Cars in Stock. Contact: Mohans Motors: 8977502222, 8977540222, 9603410222, 8975030222, www.mohansmotors.com (HYMM/2122/C01395)

FOR SALE

PROPERTY

AGRICULTURE

✓ 2 TO 10 acres land & 3000 sq yards farm plot for sale at JANWADA near kopalpet IT SEZ Gachibowli Contact directly Mr.Singh@966661361. (W/2122/AT000182)

IMMEDIATE SALE 3.25 acres agricultural land located at Talukondapet, kothadil 100 meters from the road. Contact: 9959799888 (HYMM/2122/C01390)

COMMERCIAL

LAND AT Balanagar, Kukatpally, Hyderabad Industrial area 1600sqds for sale with power, shed. Contact srikanth Agarwal. Ph:9849013260. (HYMM/2122/C01119)

COMMERCIAL COMPLEX for Sale/Lease, including 2 AC MOVIE THEATERS, 2 AC FUNCTION HALLS, and 2 FLOORS RETAIL SPACE, 115,000 sqft, including cellar parking. Located on NH 16, Chikalakuripet, Contact: +9109901838 (USA) (HYMM/2122/C01337)

COMMERCIAL BUILDING For Sale around 9000 SqFt Main Road near Diamond Point Hotel, Secunderabad. Ample Parking facility, Cellar, GF, First floor. Contact: 9573633986, 8978504286. (B/2122/C00150)

✓ COMMERCIAL COMPLEX for Sale on Main Road PVR Express, Highway Rejindernagar, Ameerpet, East, near 13500 Sq. ft. 6 floors + two cellars, Total Area 81000 SqFt. Self. Madhina Ring Road. Suitable for Hotel, Offices, Hospital, Colleges etc. Contact 9000087652. (B/2122/C00016)

✓ JUBILEE HILLS Road: no: 45 1400 North, 150 south Road no:11 Komppala main road 3000 yards west east corner contact .85201555, 9704222345 (W/2122/AT000201)

✓ PRIME COMMERCIAL Plot 700 Sq.yds facing main road, very good frontage & very good premium location, near Cyber Towers, Madhupur for sale. Ph:9381577547. (A/2122/C0012)

✓ MALKAJIGIRI @JAINS Balaji Big Bldg, G+5 floors Commercial Property in Prime Location at Malkajigiri, East 4th & 5th Floor Best suitable office spaces available. Size 2000sqft to 4000sqft Handover in 3 Months. Ph:8110755522. (HYCL/2122/C00413)

JAIN'S FRIENDS Square, G+5 Floors Commercial Property in Prime Location at Sushila City, East 4th & 5th Floor Best suitable office spaces available. Size 2000sqft to 4000sqft Handover in 3 Months. Ph:8110755522. (HYCL/2122/C00413)

SUNCITY (P&T) Colony near Richmond Villas beautiful Apartment (18 flats) G+6 floors, Lift, parking, marble flooring, 24hr water in posh Colony for sale. Fetching 2Lakhs per sqft. Just 4Cr per sqft. genuine cash buyers. Ph:8309328372. (HYMM/2122/C01418)

1800SF COMMERCIAL space for office use, or Banquet Hall with cabins on 5th floor opposite RTA Office Beside Petrol Pump, Yusufi Tekri, Tolihowi, Hyderabad. Ph:917577776, 901365195. (HYMM/2122/C01417)

FARM HOUSES-SITES

2ADJACENT 2X555 sqyds 22trees boundary 2sides open green area next to clubhouse/ swimming pool survey 165 Happy Estates Kethireddyapally Moinabed Mandal Rangareddy District Contact: 9910303638, brikandan@gmail.com (HYMM/2122/C01382)

OFFER 2DAYS. A gated community of 100acres farm houses, customizes villas, resorts, organic fruits, sandalwood, starts @36acres or plot 17acrs. 303sqyds, dasadhipuri, Mumbai, H.W. Ph:944663102. (W/2122/AT000197)

FLATS

SINGLE BEDROOM

HIGH RENT yielding upto Rs.17000/m per month. One BHk fully furnished flat for sale at Habsiguda, 555 sqft UDS 27 sqyds. Excellent location. Rate Rs.26 lakhs. Fixed. Only genuine cash parties welcome. Contact owner Ramani: 944063102. (W/2122/AT000197)

DOUBLE BEDROOM

AMBERPET, 10YEARS Old 2BHK+Carparking for Sale, 1000Sf, 1st Floor, W.Face, Sri Mahalaxmi Tirumala Sappires Apt, Near Ali Cafe X Road. Ph:849807924, 852291763. (HYMM/2122/C01370)

2 BHK Luxurious Flats, car parking, all amenities, heart of the City, near to Bharati Vidy Bhavan, Shergarh Colony. Ph:8688982640. (B/2122/C00154)

MASABTANK, NMDC Road Vijaynagar Colony, Royal Castle hills, Road No.1, 2BHK, 1063sqft, 5th floor with cupboards, G/F, w/facing, carparking, lift. Rs.65lacs negotiable. Ph:9870790488. (HYMM/2122/C01180)

2 BHK 1000 sf, Second Floor East facing, Double car parking, at Ghori Nagar, Kothadipet Bowpenny, Secunderabad. Contact: 8121062328. (A/2122/C00093)

MY HOME Avatar Gated Community, Puppalaguda / Narsini, 2BHK, 1314 sf, Fully Furnished Flat for Sale. Contact: 8008208800 8096698800. (HYMM/2122/C00404)

2BHK FLATS under construction 1000sqft built-up area, near Hospital next to Sathya Colony. Car parking, 24hrs water, CCTV, wash and slaughter area. Ph:7075964522, 9951710495. (HYMM/2122/C01202)

YAPRAL (4500 From HPU) 2BHK 960, 1030, 1160 Stl Flats For Sale E/N Facing. RERA Approved. Ph:9666988119 www.sgbuilders.com (HYCL/2122/C00358)

THREE & MORE

3 BHK Luxury Flats @ 3600/- Sft in gated community with club house & amenities @ Pocharam, near New Infosys Campus from Rs.48.96 lacs onwards. Modul Builders 7/2012/C00144

3 BHK Luxury Flats @ 3750/- per Sft in gated community with club house & amenities @ Haynagar or LB Nagar 2 BHK starts from 27.2 lacs & 3 BHK from 44.85 lacs onwards. Modul Builders 7/2012/C00145

FOR SALE 250sf 2-Carparking Marble Flooring 8-year old @ Sri Hari Vasanthi Nilayam Atapur Near Pillar-123, Behind Spencer's Ph:8008943297, 9963878493 (HYMM/2122/C01413)

BAGH AMBERPET- New Nallakunta, opp to Papaji Da Dhaba, Sivam Road, Sai Tulips aptts, 4 BHK 2860 sf Deluxe flat- Possession in 6 months. Contact: 900024280. (A/2122/C00121)

SUPER LUXURY Gated Community 4bhk Apartments for Sale in Banjara Hills Ready to Occupy with all Amenities. Price: 1.2 Cr. Per Sq.Ft. Sizes 3350-4400sqft at 5cr onwards. Contact: Agent- 7093184957. (HYMM/2122/C00356)

BANJARAHILLS- SRI Chakra Apt, Road no.14, B.N.Reddy colony main road, facing 2 BHK 2354 sf Deluxe flat with Interiors- Possession ready. Contact: 900024280. (A/2122/C00123)

JUBILEEHILLS LUXURIOUS 3 BHK 2360 Stl Flat, Brand New Construction, Ready to Move (Only 1 Flat available) LED, Lighting, false ceiling, all done with best of world class amenities, excellent location, premium standalone building only 10 flats, having indoor swimming pool, gym, 100% vaastu, power backup. Call for Details @7331108869. (HYMM/2122/C01393)

PRAKASHAM NAGAR Begumpet-Hills, House 175Square Yards Opp To Airport 3Floors With 2 Side Road 520SF Builtup Area. 300Meters From Main Road, Good Rental Income. 2.55Cr. Contact: 9949339415. (HYMM/2122/C01344)

DIAMOND POINT near Gunrock 420, 3BHk, R&G colony 360sqy 4BHk, 1st floor, 700sf, 2nd flr, 800sf, Enclave 240sqy, 3BHk, Deen faruq 167sqy, 2BHK, Bowpenny 170sqy 2nd, Old or new houses, Plots available Deepika Real Estate, 0509545904. (HYMM/2122/C01301)

2400 SQ.YDS East Facing Prime Location House at Plot No.29, Boni Colony, Secunderabad. Contact: 9989140333. (HYMM/2122/C00347)

CHIKKADPALLI BUILDING on Approx. 2000SqYds on Tyagaraya gana sabha main road G+2 floors 6650sqft 2bhk 30ft. North west Corner. Semi Commercial with Good Return Returns is for Sale 4.80Cr. Persons Seriously interested may Contact 9704064463, 9715130130. (HYMM/2122/C01351)

4BHk DUPLEX Villas 2500sf Built up @1km radius 2 super specialty hospitals, @2km radius 5 int Schools, 3 Engg. Colleges. Ph:8801000880. (HYMM/2122/C01331)

URGENT HOUSE for sale one year old construction 6 bedrooms, 5bathrooms or 2000sqyds. @Officers colony. Rs.39lakhs negotiable. Ph:9963554516, 8919835521. (HYMM/2122/C01415)

HIMAYATHNAGAR -3BHk Apartment, Brand New Flat 4BHK, 3190sf, North facing, each floor 2flats only, 2car parks. Contact: Jeet 888509009, Time 10am-8pm. (HYMM/2122/C01147)

3BHk FLAT in 3rd floor Prithvi block, Sree Venasai Towers Kompalli for sale. Contact: 940414264. Broker excuse. (W/2122/AT000160)

KOMPALLY, READY to Move-in Premium 2 & 3BHK Flats sizes from 1075 sf- 1500 sf, 2500 sf, No GST. Near Asian Cine Planet. RERA Approved. Ph:9794847777. (HYCL/2122/C00422)

KONDAPUR READY to move 3BHK Corner Flats, 1657 sf, 1702 sf, East & West Facing, 100% vaastu. Ph:9100774959. (HYCL/2122/C00436)

KUKATLALY- NEAR Siva Parvathi and Arjun Theatre, Sri Krishna Residency Apt, 3 BHK 1672 sf & 1480 sf Deluxe flats- Possession in 15 months. Contact: 900024280. (A/2122/C01204)

INDUSTRIAL LAND

FOR SALE Industrial Land, IDA S-5 1365sf Ready to Move In @Sangam City Colony, Gandhinagar New TSPA Junction Price 30Lakhs Contact: 9246573700. (HYMM/2122/C01340)

HIMAYATHNAGAR, SUPER Deluxe, Brand New Flat 4BHK, 3190sf, North facing, each floor 2flats only, 2car parks. Contact: Jeet 888509009, Time 10am-8pm. (HYMM/2122/C01402)

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CLASSIFIEDS

MULTIPLE VACANCIES

WANTED FEMALE Tele-callers & MS-Office (Excel) Experts to Work at Begumpet Office. Contact Urgently: Ph:9912301136. (HYMM/2122/C0134)

JURGEN REQUIRED Fresh experience, Free Training, Good looking Female Beautician, Massage Therapist, Telecaller, Ameerpet, Banjara Hills. Salary 9K to 30K. Ph:9912919105. (A/2122/C0009)

RECRUITING OFFICE Boy, Counselor, Receptionist with min. Experience in Overseas Consultancy. For more details contact Ph:9676364626. (HYMM/2122/C0136)

WANTED : Faculty for Commerce, Management, Science (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Statistics) Languages. Qualifications: Min. 55% in PG, Non-Teaching: Administrative officer, Accounts officer, Controller of Examination, System and Network Admin, Marketing and DTP with graphic designer. Apply before 20 June. Email: Ph:9912919105. Nallakunta, Hyderabad. (HYMM/2122/C0142)

OTHER VACANCIES

WE ARE Looking for Female Caretaker For 24hrs and 12hrs Who Know Cooking. Do All Home Work. Serve 73 Years Old Lady Near Charminar, Old City. Interested Candidate Call Anjum at 9676889774. (HYMM/2122/C0132)

MEDICAL

WANTED ANN Sisters, OT Assistants, Male Nurse 0-3 Years experience for Anand Hospital, near Ramnagar, Hyderabad. Contact: 8074571350. 9609933661. (S/2122/C00361)

RISE HOSPITALS for Women & Children, B.N.Reddy & Champatap (coming soon)-Wanted Consultant Obstetrician, Gynaecologist, Pediatric Intensivist and Neonatologist. Contact: 7780563129. (HYMM/2122/C01366)

WANTED OBSTETRICIAN and Gynecologist. Salary: 1 to 1.5Lakh At Tirumala Hospital, Kodad. Contact: 9603366200/ 738692824. (HYMM/2122/C01433)

WANTED EXPERIENCED Lady DMO Sisters and Infertility specialists, Paediatricians, General Physician Partnership is invited. Contact: Dr.Krishna Reddy. Vivek Hospital, Sadabahad. Ph:9246566988, 8885816167. (HYMM/2122/C01365)

RECEPTION-CUM-TEL-OPTRS

A LEADING Engineering Company requires a Telecaller (Female only) who can work closely in the field of Sales & Marketing Products or Services. Candidates with 3+ yrs. radius will be appreciated. Walk-in interview. Perfect Engineers and Consultants, Flat 102, Shilpa Residency, Street-8, Habsiguda. Send your CV to: mamatha@perfectengineeringers.com. Ph: 9951403873. (HYCL/2122/C00405)

SECRETARIES

WANTED FEMALE office Assistant fresh or with one/two yrs. experience good knowledge of office essential/part timers, retired also welcome. To apply to rajeswari@zetamarketing.com (HYMM/2122/C01363)

SECURITY

WANTED SECURITY Guards and Office Attenders to work in Aziz Bagh Colony, Tolichowki, Hyderabad. Good salary. Contact 9949026369. (A/2122/C00162)

REQUIRED 50 Male/ Female Sales Executive for Prepaid Sims& 1 Female Office In Charge. Sal16k for Executives. Cell: 9059414782. (HYMM/2122/C01365)

WANTED MARKETING Manager for Security Organisation at Hyderabad. Ph:9440478224. Email: keshacconstructions@gmail.com (HYMM/2122/C01419)

TEACHERS

SARATHI SCHOOL, Habsiguda. Hires Accountant, Cashier, Telugu, Computer and Science Teachers. Walkin With Resume on 07/08/09 June 2021. Contact: 040-27151385, 27151610, (HYMM/2122/C01369)

SHANTINIKETAN INTERNATIONAL School requires a Physics Teacher for Senior Secondary School. Send resume to: 10th floor, 2nd floor, G.K. Colony, Neredmet, Sainikpuri, from 9.00AM-11.00AM. Ph:9371195559. (HYMM/2122/C01420)

WANTED THE Following teachers for Shiny School, Madhapur, Hyderabad. Maths & Science, English, Telugu, Hindi & Computers (For Primary). Lady Teachers with online Teaching experience are preferable. Call: 9247847744. (HYMM/2122/C01326)

TECHNICAL

WANTED EXPERIENCED Centralize AC Technicians, AC Technicians & Trainee. Contact 8055572339, 910591980. (B/2122/C00411)

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDE WANTED

CASTE NO BAR

PUNJABI PARENTS invite Alliance for their handsome son M.TECH.B.TECH. 30.57,MNC Engineer, seeks minimum intermediate girl. Contact:8309693003,8309671237. (HYMM/2122/C01267)

CASTE NO Bar 44years Boy, Munjur Kapu, Late Marriage, Monthly Salary 14K, 1st or 2nd Match also wanted. Ph:7569395076. puvvulalakrishna@gmail.com. (S/2122/C00348)

HINDU

DOCTOR BRIDE below 41 req for Kamma Naidu/T.N based, well settled Non-medico Professional. Any Caste in FC. Bo. Ok. Ct. 8667715474. (HYMM/2122/C01294)

MUSLIM

V Urgent SM. Parents seek alliance for their Son 34yrs, 5'9", software engineer. From 10 to tall, V.fair graduate Girl. Boy is abroad & coming in the last week of this month. Parents who are ready to perform early marriage may send, photo, biodata. W/A:9515579192. (HYMM/2122/C01386)

SIMP INVITES alliance for their 2nd Marriage Son Ht.5'8" US Citizen BE. MS (Businessman) Settled in USA. Looking for V.V.Fair, Beautiful, Goddess/ PG/ Hafiz/ Aalim, Educated & unmarried from Decent, Educated & Religious family. No Demands. Call&W.A: 9391100922, n e w y o r k 8 2 4 4 @ g m a i l . c o m (HYMM/2122/C01440)

AYESHA MARRIAGES Telangana/ Andhra/ Rayalseema 28, 5'9" MBBS, 30, 5'10" Orthopedic, 30, 5'6" General Surgery, 30, 5'9" General Medicine, 33, 5'6" Pediatrics, 26, 5'8" BE/ MS Australia, 27, 5'11" BE MS USA, 28, 5'9" BE MS USA, 29, 5'11" B.Tech MS USA, 33, 5'10" B.Tech MS USA. Seeking Brides. Ph:9912919105. (B/2122/C00017)

B.TECH. M.E Engineer Boy SM parents well settled & highly educated nuclear family, invites alliance for their son, ht.5'10", age 27 yrs, fair, B.Tech, M.E (Stru) Potential Engineer, Girish should pursue M.B.B.S, M.D/ MS/B/E/tech, age 20 to 26 yrs. WI photo biodata @ 9846498574, Brokers excuse pl. (HYMM/2122/C01291)

GROOM WANTED

HINDU

WEDDING BELLS- Padmashali 25, 169cms, smart beautiful professional, M/O(BG), lives in Hyderabad. Family with food worth cooking, a boy in OBC/OC strictly from Ultra Rich family. Contact: 9515844920 (HYMM/2122/C01377)

MUSLIM

SUNNI BRIDE Age 21yrs, Ht.5'7". Qualification:Pursuing Law 4th Year. Required Engineer, M.B.A., Working in Hyderabad or Abroad. Fresh Law Graduate and Advocate also Preferred. Contact: 9849133281. (HYMM/2122/C01250)

GROOM WANTED: Alliance invite from SM parents for their daughter B.Tech, MBA 30 Slim, 5'3", 30ys, working in US H1B visa holder, Green Card processing. Looking for grooms working in US 952509040, other.han@gmail.com (HYMM/2122/C01378)

GROOM WANTED: Alliance invite from SM parents for their daughter MBBS, 29yrs, 5'4" working in central govt. Looking for grooms who are medics & good professionals. 952509040, other.han@gmail.com (HYMM/2122/C01379)

SM GIRL B.E. (CSE) 1994 born, Very fair, Slim, Ht.5'3", val B1 visa and F1 visa to USA under process. Masters in Rice University, Houston. Parents bear expenses for studies in USA. Seeks boy, B.Tech/MS, from educated family below 29years living in USA/Canada on F1/H1/1. Contact: +919989306666/+919866013187/ a j s 1 2 7 @ y a h o o . c o m . (HYMM/2122/C01371)

SM PARENTS invite alliance for their Practicing Muslim daughter MBBS 25 years, 5'5". Looking for a Practicing Muslim boy MBBS - M.D. Pls. Send Biodata with latest photograph to: WhatsApp +91 966-545-8725 (W/2122/AT00199)

REQUIRED SUITABLE match for BDS DOCTOR girl, 25yrs, Ht.5'6". Wheatish Complexion from religious educated decent sunni family. Contact: 98470562570. (HYMM/2122/C01407)

TELEGU

READY 41YEARS, PG, Late Marriage. Wanted Ready Groom. WhatsApp: 6304281625 (Marriage Delay? Don't Worry Find Perfect Match With Us) (HYMM/2122/C01272)

MARRIAGE BUREAU

#SINCE-1983- GHAR Sansar-The Most Trusted Muslim Matrimonial Service with Thousand's of Verified Profiles of Businessmen, Engineers, M.S. Doctor's, Graduates and also Remarriages. From Hyderabad/ Secunderabad/Districts/Gulf/ western Countries.- 8186997509... (HYMM/2122/C01248)

3M MUSLIM Matrimony "Soule Mates Are Made in Heaven and we help you to Find here", Decent Family and Well Educated Proposals. Doctor Engineers, M.S. Doctors, Graduates, Undergraduates, U.S. UK & Gulf. Contact 3M Muslim Matrimonial Best & Suitable Proposals. Ph:9908686009/ 9676813525. (HYMM/2122/C01432)

SINCE 1989 Munuru Kapu, Naidu, Hyderabad. Specialist Late Second Marriage. Veipulu, Bikkanapalli, Ph:9347009998, 9396617778, 9849027778. (S/2122/C0031)

FINANCE

WITH/WITHOUT INCOME proof & Building permission plan, plot or House purchase/Construction/Mortgage/Takeover/Teripu/NRI/Existing Industry. With lands/roofs/rods & Without old link rods/links can be processed. Ultimate. FIn'Ser's. 9246578746 (HYMM/2122/C01306)

REQUIRED

WANTED LOAN of 30Cr against 70Cr Property. Contact: 9171556669/ 8096222246 Not from Banks, B.C.B.S. Only from Private Financiers/ Lenders. (S/2122/C00330)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, FASIURO Rahman (Given Name) Quraishi (Surname) S/O, Ataur Rahman Quraishi R/O: 3-18 Plot No.107, Kapila Nagar Colony Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, Hyd. Has Been Changed Name To Mohammed Fasius Rahman (Given Name) Quraishi (Surname) For All Records Purpose. (HYMM/2122/C01398)

FINANCE

WITH/WITHOUT INCOME proof & Building permission plan, plot or House purchase/Construction/Mortgage/Takeover/Teripu/NRI/Existing Industry. With lands/roofs/rods & Without old link rods/links can be processed. Ultimate. FIn'Ser's. 9246578746 (HYMM/2122/C01306)

CONSTRUCTION/FABRICATION

BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS

978SQ.YDS PLOT divided into each 163sq.yds with all the permissions of plots of 22x2 villas @ Fatulahadu, near Nagole for development. Contact: 7842156346. (HYMM/2122/C01359)

WANTED

✓ 24 HOURS Live in Experienced Baby Care nanny/nurse required for 2.5yr baby girl on urgent basis. We require someone young, slightly educated and active. Ph: 9959903223 (W/2122/AT00166)

TUITION

MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS, Chemistry I-XII, C.B.S.E/ ICSE/ SSC/ ISC/ Inter) IX- XII IT/JEE/ NEET, Weak @ Funda? Super Methodology. B2B Right Approach. Ph:9947933011. (B/2122/C00015)

NOTICE

✓ NO ADVANCE Fee Contact For: B.Tech/ Engineering Diplomas in Mechanical/Electrical/ Civil/ Electronics & Communication/ Information Technology/Civil/ Referigeration/ Diary Engineering/Textile/ from Government Universities Boards. ECA guidance - IQAS/WES available. Institutes only. Students please no call. Admissions Guidance. Engineering Education Guidance. Education. Mumbai. Email: engg.educationservice99@yahoo.com. (HYMM/2122/C01329)

EDUCATIONAL

DISTANCE EDUCATION

✓ NO ADVANCE Fee Contact For: B.Tech/ Engineering Diplomas in Mechanical/Electrical/ Civil/ Electronics & Communication/ Information Technology/Civil/ Referigeration/ Diary Engineering/Textile/ from Government Universities Boards. ECA guidance - IQAS/WES available. Institutes only. Students please no call. Admissions Guidance. Engineering Education Guidance. Education. Mumbai. Email: engg.educationservice99@yahoo.com. (HYMM/2122/C01329)

EDUCATIONAL

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DECCAN Chronicle

6 JUNE 2021



Shashi Warrier

Off the beaten track

The joys, perils and disasters of cooking

Some years ago, my wife and I shifted to our present house near the beach. It's some distance from Mangalore city, and we had trouble finding domestic help from the day we moved in here; we had to fend for ourselves, and we began to share household chores. As a result, I started learning to cook, something I'd put off for a quarter-century. I have since learned to fend for myself, and even enjoy cooking sometimes, to the extent that my wife can take a month-long holiday, leaving me to take care of the house and our pets.

But this is the story of why I put off learning to cook.

The year was 1989, the place Melbourne. I was unmarried, and had a small flat a few hundred metres from the beach, and, being a programmer, worked from home. That meant, unfortunately, that I also ate at home. Given a kitchen, I could produce only tea (bags please), coffee (instant), boiled eggs, and, after I learned to use a knife without cutting off a finger or two, rudimentary salads.

I struck up an acquaintanceship with a neighbour, a Greek called George. Over the weeks, he became my friend, guide, and confidant. And when I confessed to him a month after we met that I often missed spicy Indian food, he told me of the only Indian restaurant he knew: one in Flinders Street run by ISKCON. I had lunch there next afternoon, and discovered that its food was Indian but bland, being intended for Australian palates.

George then took me to a suburb called Dingley, and a warehouse full of foods from all over the subcontinent. So I stocked up on rice and spices from Punjab and coconut oil from Sri Lanka and papad — pappadam, actually — from Kerala. and, one day shortly after, decided to try my hand at cooking lunch. Being a lover of pappadam in all forms, I thought I'd start with deep-frying some.

I'd never done it before, but I'd seen my mother at it often. She used to heat oil in a wok, drop a pappadam into the oil, wait for it to cook, and fish it out with what was called in Malayalam a pappadam-stick, a stiff wire with a point at one end and a bulb-shaped wooden handle at the other.

I didn't have a pappadam-stick, but a barbecue skewer instead, a stiff wire with a point at one end and a ring at the other. The first pappadam came out fine, and as I ate it I dropped the next in the oil, and then the next. Just when I was done with the third, though, the phone rang, and I went to answer it, leaving the skewer in the oil.

I came back to the kitchen after a twenty-minute chat with a client, thinking I'd continue with the pappadams, and picked up the skewer, burning my finger and thumb. With a loud yell of pain, I dropped the skewer on my foot, and, naturally, let out another, louder yell. So when George, who heard the second yell, came running to investigate, he found me nursing small burns on my finger and thumb, and a three-inch-long one on my right foot. The burns on the hand were minor, but the one on the foot looked nasty: nasty enough for George to insist that I went to a doctor.

The doctor, who, like all doctors, had no qualms about prying into the private lives of his patients, asked how I got the burn. When I told him, he managed to disguise his laughter as a cough. But when I was leaving, he grinned, telling me that I'd made his day.

A few weeks later, I felt a strong urge to eat meat, cooked Indian-style. I called up a Malayali friend, got a recipe and some recommendations on what kind of meat to buy at the supermarket: go for the best, and since it lasts in the freezer, buy a large cut. That evening, I bought a two-kilo chunk of meat along with my regular groceries. George popped in to invite me home as I was putting away my purchases, so I put the meat in the freezer and went over to his place.

Next morning I took the meat out, thinking I'd cut off a bit to cook for lunch: my Malayali friend had instructed not to thaw meat out and put it back in the freezer without cooking it, and I didn't have cooking pot big enough to hold all the meat I'd bought. That was when I discovered how hard frozen meat gets. None of the knives in the kitchen made the slightest impression on it. By now it had become a matter of honour (how could a frozen lump of meat get the better of me!?) so I cleaned a chisel and tried to hammer a little lump off the big lump. The handle broke at the third blow. I considered borrowing George's chainsaw to cut it but gave up the idea because George was out.

That left me no choice. I thawed out the whole lump of meat and cooked it in two rounds. Both rounds tasted terrible. I ate all of it because, like I said, it had become a matter of honour. And, honour intact, I decided to give up cooking, a decision I reversed only a quarter-century afterwards. Now that I'm old and my honour is in tatters anyway, here's some advice for bachelors: learn to cook. It's a useful skill, and if you're willing to forgive yourself a few mistakes, it can be a lot of fun.

And when you buy a large lump of meat, cut it up before you put it in the freezer!

Shashi Warrier has written fairy tales, thrillers, a semi-fictional biography, satires, and a love story. Besides writing, he teaches strategic communication at a business school.



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Arieh Kovler

In April 2019, Naftali Bennett received an unpleasant surprise. As the votes were counted in Israel's general election, it became clear that his New Right party had not passed the 3.25 per cent electoral threshold needed to stay in the Knesset, Israel's parliament. Mr Bennett lost his seat, his new party failed and his political career seemed over.

Two years, three more elections and a global pandemic later, Mr Bennett is on the verge of ending Benjamin Netanyahu's 12-year rule. Barring a spectacular reversal, he may become Israel's Prime Minister. He has found himself in the right place at the right time, heading (though not leading) an eclectic coalition of parties from the left, right and centre. He will be forming a national unity government with Yair Lapid, leader of the centrist Yesh Atid party. Mr Netanyahu was once Mr Bennett's mentor and patron; now he's about to be replaced by him.

Born in Haifa to American immi-

Subhani



Acche Din: No one ever said it would be this hard



Manish Tewari

State of the Union

The NDA/BJP government's seven years tenure has been underpinned by a hodgepodge of grandiloquent pronouncements, if one were to ostensibly believe the NDA/BJP then India has eradicated the scourge of a parallel economy post demonetisation. Is now "Atmanirbhar" courtesy a new wave of production by the domestic industries that has put an end to excessive foreign dependence. All the "wolf warriors" of the Chinese have been exterminated and the war against the Covid-19 pandemic was won in January 2021 itself in Davos.

ECONOMY
The Indian economy has tanked to its worst performing levels. Even pre-pandemic growth had halved to four per cent in 2019/20. In 2013-14, the size of the Indian economy was 1.86 trillion dollars. In 2020-21 it stands at 1.85 trillion dollars. By way of comparison China is a 16.64 trillion economy. All the fundamentals namely savings, consumption investment and employment are severely stressed. The unemployment rate is at a 45-year high. Per capita income is expected to dip by an unprecedented 5.4 per cent, from 1.34 lakh in the previous year to 1.27 lakh in the current year. The Cumulative Fiscal Deficit of the Union government for 2019/20-20/21 is 33.55 lakh crores. With seven of the largest PSUs being valued below par and put on the chopping block, the government now plans to sell the family silver to bridge an unparalleled deficit budget.

SOCIAL COHESION
It has now become clear how completely hollow all the tall claims of Atmanirbhar were. India now ignominiously depends on foreign assistance to surmount health emergencies. We have even accepted food aid from Kenya. One can but help recall that even in the wake of a cataclysmic tsunami in 2004 Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh refused to accept any

foreign relief.

INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY

Erosion of institutional integrity has been the hallmark of the NDA/BJP government. From the CBI and the Election Commission to the Reserve Bank of India and even the higher judiciary, all face a crisis of credibility further widening the state-citizen trust deficit. The worst sufferer of this has been the temple of Indian democracy — India's Parliament. No Indian Prime Minister has ignored Parliament so contemptuously as Prime Minister Modi has.

In order to circumvent Parliament, the NDA/BJP government has often followed the ordinance route. In its seven years the current government has pushed more ordinances than any other government in a five-year term since 1952. Even the number of bills that have been referred to parliamentary committees have shrunk dramatically with zero bills being recommended in 2020. If that was not enough, government found egregious ways of further undermining the remit of Parliament by "classifying" key pieces of legislation as money bills.

Al this while the government wallows in quantifying parliament productivity by passing several bills in a single day. What value do these quantifications hold when the essence of democracy, i.e. serious deliberations and questioning of the government on key issues has been severely proscribed.

INTERNAL SECURITY
This government had projected itself to be a strong decision-making government, which would accord national security number one priority. But in terms of action the nation has not seen anything substantive.

The Naga Accord, in the doldrums and one knows if it exists or has vanished. Left-wing extremism has grown by leaps and bounds. Maoism and militancy, besides claiming lives of our jawans is also eating into the finances of the country. Mob lynchings and anti-religious conversion laws have attacked the very fundamental rights of citizens. Even the abrogation of Article 370 has had little positive impact on Jammu

The worst sufferer of this has been India's Parliament. No Indian Prime Minister has ignored Parliament so contemptuously as Prime Minister Modi has.

Bail petition for Thakur rejected

HYDERABAD, JUNE 5.

The Sixth City Magistrate, Mr. Y. Venkateswara Rao, today rejected the bail application of Thakur V. Hari Prasad, Honorary Secretary of A.P. Welfare Fund, who was arrested and remanded to judicial custody for 15 days.

The bail application of Diwakar Shetty, joint secretary of Kanna Natya Ranga, who was also arrested and remanded to judicial custody for 15 days, was also rejected.

Thakur Hari Prasad was arrested on June 2 on charges of cheating, misappropriation and falsification of accounts and remanded to judicial custody yesterday.

called New Right positioned right of Likud.

Mr Bennett insisted lead this rainbow coalition of nationalists, left-wingers and Arabs. Mr Lapid agreed to allow Mr Bennett to be PM for two years. After that, Mr Lapid in theory will replace Mr Bennett. But Mr Lapid is wise enough to know two years is a lifetime in politics, specially Israeli politics. Still, who knows for sure if this government will ever really take charge? The pressure placed on Mr Bennett and his colleagues by Mr Netanyahu and his supporters is immense. There are protests at his home chanting "traitor", even death threats. If it comes to power, the coalition will be Israel's broadest so far. It will have just a one-seat majority in the Knesset.

Mr Bennett could be in the Prime Minister's chair within days. The question is for how long.

By arrangement with the Spectator

LETTERS

LPG GAS PRICE

During the 10-year UPA rule, the domestic gas cylinder cost around ₹400 to ₹475 with subsidy directly paid to gas agencies. In the NDA rule, consumer is paying full amount to gas agency and subsidy credited to consumers directly. This subsidy is now around ₹41 with all of us paying ₹820 for a gas cylinder.

T. Kailash Ditya
Hyderabad

ETALA QUILTS TRS

It is not advisable for former minister Etala Rajendar to leave the TRS at this time and join the BJP (*Etala leaves TRS, to resign as MLA, DC, June 5*). It is better to take some time and clear his name rather than go for a confrontation with Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

Dr Mohammed Abdul Mujeeb Siddique
Hyderabad

RYTHU BANDHU

I am a small farmer with land in Nizamabad. I request the government to keep Rythy Bandhu payments pending wherever applications for mutations are pending. The payments can be released to actual pattadar after grievance for mutation is disposed. When the scheme was unveiled in year 2018, cheques were issued with 3 month validity. They could not be encashed later. Such cases must be entertained.

Lalith Doba
Hyderabad

MUSI RIVER

All the credits due to Hyderabad is being overshadowed by dirty Musi river (*Musi stays dirty despite 'cleaning', DC, June 6*). Banaru Telangana will be ineffective if its capital has dirty and foul smelling river in the middle. It is surprising why the TRS is not serious about cleaning it.

Dr O. Prasada Rao
Hyderabad

GRADING CLASS XII

The government could consider best of Class XI marks and average of Class X and XI marks when grading Class XII students. In schools or junior colleges where online classes and periodic internal assessments did take place, 50 per cent weightage can be given to internal assessment scores and 50 per cent to the earlier option. Those who are not satisfied with these two options can be given the choice to appear in a proctored online assessment at home or physical assessment at designated centres when the situation is conducive.

Narendra Agrawal
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

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By arrangement with the Spectator

Naftali Bennett: The millionaire who might be Israel's next PM



IN BRIEF

NO PLUS TWO EXAMS IN TAMIL NADU

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JUN 5

Chief Minister M K Stalin announced that there would be no Plus Two examinations for the State Board this academic year but made it clear that the policy for admissions to colleges and universities would remain the same, demanding the cancellation of all national level entrance examinations, including NEET.

Admissions for higher studies in the state would be based on marks alone, Stalin said, adding that a committee would be formed to decide on the modus operandi to be followed to award marks for the students.

The committee, which would be headed by the State School Education Secretary and have the Vice Chancellor of Madras University and school heads as members, would present its report to the government, he said in a statement.

Stalin also said that he had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to cancel NEET and all other entrance examinations this year in view of the prevailing Coronavirus threat that forced the cancellation of the board examinations.

The decision taken on the basis of the report submitted by the State Minister for School Education Anbil Mahesh Poyamozhi on Saturday evening, took various issues relating to the conduct of examinations into account.

HIMACHAL GOVT CANCELS CLASS 12 BOARD EXAMS

Shimla, Jun 5: The Himachal Pradesh government on Saturday cancelled the class 12 board examinations for 2020-21 and also extended the 'Corona curfew' till June 14, Education Minister Govind Singh Thakur said.

He said that the ongoing coronavirus curfew, which was to end on June 7, has now been extended till 6 am on June 14 with all the existing restrictions.

The decisions were taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur here.

The Cabinet decided to cancel 10+2 examinations for the year 2020-21 in line with the decision of Central government in this regard, he said.

He said that for calculating the awards for class 12 students, the HP Board of School Education would devise a formula taking a cue from the one being prepared by the CBSE, which had recently announced to cancel its class 12 exams due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In case some students are not satisfied with the results arrived at so, they would be allowed to appear in a special examination to be conducted once the situation is conducive for holding the exams, he added.

TN FARMERS BURN COPIES OF 3 FARM LAWS

Chennai June 5: Members of the Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, a farmers body, on Saturday burned copies of the three farm laws introduced by the Centre a year ago, demanding their repeal.

The protests were held in various parts of the state with the farmers assembling in small groups wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing owing to the pandemic.

Recalling the year-long protest by farmers across the country and their sacrifices during the New Delhi stir, the Sangam's state general secretary P. Shanmugam urged Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin to take steps to pass a resolution against the farm laws in the Assembly.

Our Chief Minister wrote to the Union government recently seeking the withdrawal of the three farm laws for the welfare of the farming community. Stalin should pass a resolution against these legislations in the state Assembly soon, he said. At Tambaran, near here, 15 people led by Shanmugam gathered to burn copies of the laws.

The farmers have been protesting against the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation), Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.



Women queue up to collect fruits and ration distributed by Delhi BJP under its 'Sewa Hi Sangathan' programme in New Delhi on Saturday. - PTI

Worst-hit Mumbai and Delhi start to unlock

Delhi shops in markets, malls to open on an odd-even basis

VINEETA PANDEY | DC with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, JUNE 5

With the Covid-19 situation gradually coming under control and daily positivity rate falling below five per cent, Delhi and Mumbai are all set to open gradually from Monday.

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Saturday that markets will re-open and Metro services will resume from Monday, June 7, with conditions.

"Lockdown will continue with more relaxation in other activities. Shops in markets and malls to be opened on an odd-even basis from Monday. The standalone shops, however, will be allowed to open daily from 10 am to 8 pm.

Home delivery through e-commerce platforms has also been okayed. Private offices will be allowed to function with 50 per cent staff," Mr Kejriwal said.

"In government offices, Group A staff will be allowed to function with 100 per cent capacity while Group B with 50 per cent staff," Mr Kejriwal said.

Essential items shops and chemists will remain open on all days. But restaurants, theatres, gyms, swimming pools, water parks, salons, educational and coaching institutes, cinema halls, weekly markets will remain shut.

Domestic traders body CAIT on Saturday welcomed the Delhi government's decision to allow markets to open from



A health worker inoculates a dose of the Covid vaccine to a woman at a vaccination centre in Jammu on Saturday. - PTI

Monday but opposed the odd-even formula, claiming that it does not suit the business character of the city.

"The odd-even formula is never suited for the business character of Delhi because being the largest distribution centre of the country, Delhi has a totally different business format where one trader is dependent upon the other for procurement of goods and in many cases, both these formats of trade will adopt different day for opening the shops due to the odd-even formula," said Praveen Khandelwal, secretary general, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT).

"It would have been better if the Delhi government would have adopted staggered timings between different markets of Delhi," he suggested.

In its earlier letter to Lieutenant

Governor Anil Baijal and Kejriwal, the CAIT had suggested staggered timings for the wholesale markets - 10 am to 4 pm and 12 pm to 7 pm for retail markets.

Maharashtra too

announced a five-phased unlock plan under which cities and districts having positivity rate less than 5 per cent and oxygen beds occupancy less than 25 per cent - categorised as Level 1 - will see lifting of restrictions.

Here all restaurants,

malls, salons etc will open.

Under Level 2, districts

having less than 5 per cent positivity and oxygen beds occupancy of 25-40 per cent, can reopen

shops but malls, restaurants, gyms, salons etc will get partial relaxations.

Level 3 are districts

with 5-10 per cent positivity rate and 40-60 per cent oxygen bed occupancy.

In Mumbai, which falls under Level 3, film shoots have been allowed and buses can operate at full capacity but with only sitting passengers.

Mumbai local trains, that remain overcrowded during peak hours, will be out of bounds for local passengers and only essential workers are permitted to use these trains.

In Maharashtra, districts having 10-20 per cent positivity rate more than 60 per cent occupancy rate will be under Level 4 and here no movement of people will be allowed on weekends and after 5 pm on weekdays. Level 5 will consist of districts with a positivity rate over 20 per cent and oxygen bed occupancy over 75 per cent. Here no movement of people will be allowed.

India on Saturday recorded lowest daily cases in nearly two months with 1.21 lakh cases in the last 24 hours.

The deaths - 3,380 - however, still remain high. Country's weekly positivity rate is currently at 6.89 per cent while the daily positivity rate was 5.78 per cent on Saturday.

It has remained less than 10 per cent for 12 consecutive days now.

Delhi on Saturday had a positivity rate of 0.53 per cent with 414 fresh cases, and 60 deaths. Its hospital beds and patients dependent on oxygen have reduced drastically.

However, Mr Kejriwal has set up a task force to prepare for a possible third wave.

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TN EXTENDS LOCKDOWN TILL JUNE 14

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JUNE 5

The Tamil Nadu government on Saturday decided to extend the total lockdown till June 14 while announcing some relaxations in districts other than Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Karur, Namakkal, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai.

More restrictions have been imposed in the 11 districts where the rate of Covid-19 infection has been high while and Chennai and the other districts that have shown remarkable decline in the number of new cases will witness more activities from Monday, a release issued by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said.

However, shopping complexes, malls, tourist spots, cinemas and salons will remain shut, while standalone provision shops, groceries, fish and meat shops will be allowed to be opened between 6 am and 5 p.m. all over the state.

Pavement shops selling vegetables, fruits and flowers are allowed to function between 6 am and 5 p.m. Fish markets and slaughterhouses can conduct only wholesale trade. The district administrations would make arrangements to open more wholesale markets to maintain physical distancing.

Government offices would work with 30 per cent attendance.

Match box industries can function with 50 per cent workers but should follow the standard operating procedure.

Rumours are shared

Lockdown in Odisha leaves over 7L jobless

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 5

IT HAS BEEN observed that the districts that had a higher share in Odisha's employment chart had been the worst hit by the second Covid-19 wave.

Over 7 lakh people in Odisha have lost their jobs since the lockdown was re-imposed on May 5 to cut the rapid transmission of coronavirus.

As per the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's (CMIE) latest data, the unemployment rate in Odisha was merely around 2 per cent (1.9 per cent) in April. However, by May-end, following the enforcement of the lockdown, it shot up to 7 per cent.

Among the list of 28 states, Odisha has been among the top-5 states where the rate of unemployment has posted a sharp rise vis-a-vis the previous month.

Due to this sharp rise in the rate of unemployment in May, an estimate reveals that in the last month (May) a whopping over 10.09 lakh had no jobs at hand as against mere 2.76 lakh in April.

Significantly, such a blow to job creation has come at a time when during the first quarter of the year that ended in April, the number of unemployed in the state had increased by nearly 1.24 lakh vis-a-vis the previous quarter of September-December 2020.

Historically seen, Odisha always recorded a double-digit unemployment rate in the age group of 15 to 24 years. The rates in the beginning of 2020 stood at 12.62 per cent in the age group of 15 to 19 years and 18.09 per cent in the age group of 20-24 years.

Of the fresh cases detected across 30 districts in the state on Sunday, a total of 4,169 cases were reported from quarantine centers, while the rest 3,226 were local transmission cases.

Not many takers for tests, jabs in rural India

Kalwa, June 5: When health worker Neelam Kumari knocks on doors in villages the occupants sometimes run out the back, terrified that she wants to vaccinate them against Covid-19.

With India's devastating recent virus surge easing in cities, the deadly pandemic is ravaging the vast poverty-stricken rural hinterland. But here, ignorance and fear rule.

"A lot of people in my village don't want to take the vaccine. They fear that they will die if they take it," Kumari told AFP in Dharath, a collection of two-storey buildings in Haryana with buffaloes wandering the streets.

"One of the villagers was so angry that he beat up a (health) worker who was trying to convince him to take the vaccine."

Just 15 percent of people in rural areas, compared with 30 percent in towns and cities, have received at least one vaccine dose so far - even though two-thirds of cases are being reported in the countryside, according to an analysis in a newspaper.

"Even after opening up a vaccine centre here, nobody is ready to take it," villager Rajesh Kumar, 45, told AFP.

"I won't take the vaccine because it has many side effects. People get sick after getting vaccines."

- AFP

HEALTH SCARE A lioness in Tamil Nadu died of coronavirus while nine others in the pride tested positive at Vandalur

All felines in Ranchi Zoo put to mandatory Covid test

Ranchi, Jun 5: All 21 felines in Jharkhand's Ranchi Zoo - right from 1.3 years tiger cubs to 14-year-old Malik - are undergoing Covid-19 test to rule out chances of infection in the wake of death of tiger Shiva among felines, we have decided that all will undergo mandatory coronavirus tests.

The decision for mandatory Covid test of felines was taken amid coronavirus scare though 10-year old tiger Shiva, who died Thursday night tested negative in RAT but results of RT-PCR are awaited.

"So far swabs could be taken of 11 animals as

SHORT TAKES
ABOUT 100 KILLED IN BURKINA FASO

Ouagadougou, June 5: Around 100 civilians were killed in the deadliest attack in Burkina Faso since jihadist violence erupted in the country in 2015, security and local sources said Saturday.

The attack occurred during the night of Friday to Saturday when "armed individuals staged an incursion" into the northern town of Solhan, a security source said. "The toll, which is still provisional, is about 100 dead, men and women of different ages", the source said.

FREE OPPN FIGURE CHAMORRO, U.S. TO NICARAGUA

Managua, June 5: The US State Department on Friday called on Nicaragua to free opposition figure Cristiana Chamorro, who is being held incommunicado at her home after her laptops and cellphones were taken away.

Chamorro is a potential presidential candidate in the November 7 elections and the daughter of former President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. Her detention is the latest in a series of moves by President Daniel Ortega that his critics say are to prevent candidates from running against him.

On Tuesday, the government charged her with money laundering involving alleged financial irregularities related to the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro Foundation for Reconciliation and Democracy.

CYBERCRIME: LATVIAN WOMAN CHARGED IN U.S

Washington, June 5: A Latvian woman has been charged with developing malicious software used by a cybercrime digital network that infected computers worldwide and looted bank accounts of millions of dollars, the Justice Department said Friday.

Alla Witte is charged as part of a 47-count indictment with participating in a cybercrime organisation known as the Trickbot Group, which authorities say operated in Russia and several other countries.

The group is accused of infecting millions of computers worldwide with malicious software that targeted hospitals, schools, governments, businesses and other entities.

Witte, who authorities say previously lived in Suriname, was arrested in Miami.

ASEAN ENVOYS MEET MYANMAR JUNTA LEADER

Bangkok, June 5: Representatives of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations met with Myanmar's junta leader on Friday, six weeks after an emergency regional summit on the coup in the country drew promises of progress toward a solution but produced no tangible results.

State broadcaster MRTV showed Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing meeting with Brunei Second Foreign Minister Erywan Yusof and ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi, but provided only a broad outline of their discussions.

Earlier this week, an Indonesian diplomat said the delegation's purpose was to seek Myanmar's nod of an ASEAN special envoy for the crisis, who is yet to be named. He said the choice involved both sides, making progress slow. The meeting received a cool response from Myanmar's opposition shadow government.

CLASH WITH PKK REBELS KILLS 5
IRAQI KURD TROOPS

Arbil, Iraq, June 5: Five Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga troops were killed Saturday in a clash with fighters of Turkey's outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), a senior Iraqi Kurdish official said. The PKK maintains rear-bases in northern Iraq which have come under renewed assault by Turkish forces since April.

Two peshmerga troops were also wounded in Saturday's clash in the Mount Matin district of Dohuk province, said Serbast Lazkin, deputy minister for peshmerga affairs in Iraqi Kurdistan's autonomous regional government.

The PKK's agenda has often put it at odds with Iraq's autonomous Kurdish government, which has sought to maintain good ties with Ankara. The peshmerga affairs ministry has called on "everyone to respect the borders of Kurdistan and to refrain from endangering its security and stability."

JOB REPORT BOLSTERS GOVT SPENDING: BIDEN

Washington, June 5: President Joe Biden portrayed the May jobs report as a jumping off point for more spending on infrastructure and education to keep growth going — essentially an argument for his agenda. But the employment numbers issued Friday also hinted at the possible limits of how much government aid can be pumped into the world's largest economy.

"We're on the right track," Biden said.

"Our plan is working. And we're not going to let up now. We're going to continue to move on. I'm extremely optimistic."

The May jobs report showed the complexity of restarting the economy after a pandemic shutdown and the mixed signals that can result when an unprecedented surge of government spending flows through the economy.

— AP

Bosnian church razed


Bosnian authorities have demolished a Serbian Orthodox church illegally built on the land owned by a Bosniak woman in Konjevic Polje, the village next to Srebrenica in Bosnia, on Saturday, after a 20-year-long legal battle that reached the European Court of Human Rights.

FATF APG retains Pak on 'enhanced follow-up' status

Islamabad, June 5: The Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering has retained Pakistan on "enhanced follow-up" status for outstanding requirements, and Islamabad will continue to report back to it on the country's progress to strengthen its implementation of anti-money laundering and combating financing terror measures, according to a media report on Saturday.

Pakistan was put on the grey list by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in June 2018 and the country has been struggling to come out of it. The Asia Pacific Group (APG) is a regional affiliate of the FATF. The second Follow-Up Report (FUR) on Mutual Evaluation of Pakistan released by the APG also downgraded the country on one criteria. The report said Pakistan was re-rated to 'compliant' status on five counts and on 15 others to 'largely compliant' and on yet another count to 'partially compliant'.

In the first FUR of February last year, Pakistan's progress was largely found unchanged — non-compliant on four counts, partially compliant on 25 counts and largely compliant on nine recommendations. Since then, the government worked aggressively and improved its effectiveness on the AML/CFT system.

Minister for Energy Hamid Azhar, who is also head of the task force on FATF, welcomed the re-rating, saying the results proved the sincerity along with resolve of the government in complying with the FATF requirements.

FATF's Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) of jurisdictions is assessed in two domains — technical compliance or legal instruments (40 FATF recommendations) and demonstration of effectiveness (11 immediate outcomes). Pakistan's MER was adopted in October 2019 in which the country was rated compliant and largely compliant in 10 out of 40 recommendations. All in all, Pakistan is now compliant or largely compliant with 31 out of 40 FATF recommendations. The reporting date for this evaluation was October 1, 2020, which means Islamabad may have made further progress since then that would be evaluated at a later stage.

Pakistan will move from enhanced (expedited) to enhanced follow-up, and will continue to report back to the APG on progress to strengthen its implementation of anti-money laundering and combating financing terror measures.

— PTI

G7 FMs pledge 15% global corporate tax

Hope to reach final deal at the July gathering of G20 group

Germany, US laud wealthy nations' tax commitment

London, June 5: Finance ministers from wealthy G7 nations on Saturday pledged to commit to a global minimum corporate tax of at least 15 percent, rallying behind a US-backed plan.

"We... commit to a global minimum tax of at least 15 percent on a country by country basis," said a statement at the conclusion of their London meeting.

The G7 hopes to reach a final agreement at the July gathering of the expanded G20 finance ministers group, it added.

"I'm delighted to announce that G7 finance ministers... have reached a historic agreement to reform the global tax system," said British finance minister Rishi Sunak, who chaired the two days of talks held in person after an easing of Covid-19 restrictions.

Enterprises can no longer shy away from their fiscal obligations by cunningly transferring their

GLOBAL MINIMUM tax would end the race-to-the-bottom in corporate taxation.

JANET YELLEN,
US Treasury Secretary

profits to countries with opaque tax structures," he said, calling the move "bad news for tax havens". Yellen on Saturday hailed

an "unprecedented commitment" by the G7 wealthy nations to achieve a global minimum corporate tax rate of at least 15 percent. "That global minimum tax would end the race-to-the-bottom in corporate taxation," she said in a statement after the other G7 nations backed US President Joe Biden's plan to get tech giants in particular to pay more.

NIGERIA SUSPENDS TWITTER AS PREZ TWEET DELETED

Lagos, June 4: Nigeria's government said Friday it was suspending Twitter indefinitely in Africa's most populous nation, a day after the company deleted a controversial tweet President Muhammadu Buhari made about a secessionist movement.

It was not immediately clear when the suspension would go into effect as users could still access Twitter. Many said they would use VPNs to maintain access to the platform. Others mocked the government for using the platform to announce the action. "You're using Twitter to suspend Twitter? Are you not mad?" one user tweeted.

— AP

Zawahiri in Af-Pak border area, alive but too frail: UN

United Nations, June 5: A significant part of the Al-Qaeda leadership resides in the Afghanistan and Pakistan border region, including the group's elusive leader Aiman al-Zawahiri, who is probably alive but too frail to be featured in propaganda, according to a United Nations report.

The report, issued on Friday, said that large numbers of Al-Qaeda fighters and other foreign extremist elements aligned with the Taliban are located in various parts of Afghanistan. Member states reported that a significant part of Al-Qaeda leadership remains based in the border

region of Afghanistan and Pakistan, where the core is joined by and works closely with Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, the twelfth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team said.

Al Qaeda leader Aiman Muhammed Rabi al-Zawahiri, is believed to be located somewhere in the border region of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Previous reports of his death due to ill health have not been confirmed.

"One member stated that he is probably alive but too frail to be featured in propaganda,

the report said, without identifying the country.

It said Al-Qaeda's strategy in the near term is assessed as maintaining its traditional safe haven in Afghanistan for the Al-Qaeda core leadership.

The Monitoring Team noted assessments that have suggested a longer-term Al-Qaeda core strategy of "strategic patience for a period of time before it would seek to plan attacks against international targets again".

This scenario is untested against stated Taliban commitments to prohibit such activities.

Al-Qaeda is reported to number in the range of several dozen to 500 persons.

— PTI

British FM hails historic tax deal

FB WELCOMES G7 MOVE ON TAX

London, June 5: Facebook welcomes a G7 pledge to commit to a global minimum corporate tax rate despite the social media giant risking paying more, its vice president of global affairs said Saturday. "We welcome the important progress," Nick Clegg tweeted after the agreement by the G7 group of wealthy nations.

— AFP

'Tank Man' photo vanishes from Bing search engine

San Francisco, June 5: Searches for the famous Tiananmen Square "Tank Man" protest photo came up empty on Microsoft search engine Bing on Friday, raising censorship concerns on the anniversary of the deadly crackdown. The award-winning photo from 1989 was not served up in image or video searches using Bing even outside China, a country known for strictly controlling what is available online.

"This is due to an accidental human error and we are actively working to resolve this," a Microsoft spokesman said in response to an AFP inquiry prompted by US press reports.

Meanwhile, searches for Tank Man using Google, which has some 92 percent of the global market for online queries according to StatCounter, turned up an assortment of pictures along with the iconic one by photographer Charlie Cole and others. Google search is not offered in China, where censors have purged Tank Man from the internet. Baidu is the dominant search engine in China.



Candlelights lit in the windows of the Consulate General of the US in Hong Kong, Friday, to mark the 32nd anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown in Beijing. A member of the committee that organises Hong Kong's annual candlelight vigil for the victims of the crackdown was arrested early Friday.

— AFP

Tiananmen candles: China blasts US, EU

Hong Kong, June 5: China on Saturday berated the US and EU consulates in Hong Kong for displaying candles to commemorate the June 4 Tiananmen crackdown, slamming it as a "clumsy political show". Candles were seen lit in the windows of the US consulate building, which is next to the resid-

ence of Hong Kong's Beijing-appointed leader Carrie Lam, and the European Union's office. "Any attempt to exploit Hong Kong to carry out infiltration or sabotage activities against the mainland... is absolutely intolerable," a spokesperson for the Hong Kong office of China's foreign ministry said. — AFP

Knife, the popular AR-15 rifle is a perfect combination of home defence weapon and homeland defence equipment," he wrote.

"Guns and ammunition in the hands of criminals, tyrants and terrorists are dangerous; guns in the hands of law-abiding responsible citizens are better," he argued.

Benitez said he would give the state 30 days to appeal the decision, which Governor Newsom said posed a "direct threat to public safety" and which he

"Like the Swiss Army

vowed to challenge.

"We're not backing down from this fight, and we'll continue pushing for common sense gun laws that will save lives," he said in a statement.

The decision comes as gun violence surges across the United States — and just over a week after a disgruntled, heavily-armed California public transit worker shot and killed nine people.

A search this week of the shooter's home — which was set ablaze shortly

before the attack — turned up 12 guns, around 22,000 rounds of ammunition and suspected Molotov cocktails. Mass shootings have also taken place in Florida, Indiana, California, Colorado and Georgia, in a surge in violence that President Joe Biden has branded an "epidemic".

The US Supreme Court is also due to hear a challenge backed by the gun lobby to a New York law that restricts the carrying of firearms outside the home.

— AFP

CRYPTO HOTSPOT

It was moved out of LA due to Covid curbs

Miami hosts huge bitcoin event

Miami, June 5: Thousands of people have descended on Miami for a massive two-day bitcoin conference that opened Friday — a sign that the US city, in the midst of a tech boom, is hoping to become the next cryptocurrency hub. "I don't think there's anything more important in my lifetime to work on" than bitcoin, given the flexibility it offers, billionaire entrepreneur Jack Dorsey, the co-founder of Twitter and payments firm Square, told a crowd

ed auditorium.

"We don't need the financial institutions that we have today. We have one that is thriving, that is sound, that is owned by the community, that is driven by the community," said Dorsey, one of the keynote speakers at Bitcoin 2021.

Dorsey tweeted Friday that Square was considering making a hardware wallet for safely storing bitcoin. With 12,000 participants and all speaker sessions sold out, the Bitcoin 2021 trade show features exhibits from crypto mining companies, crypto traders and bitcoin exchange networks.

The conference was originally scheduled to take place in Los Angeles, but was moved due to tougher Coronavirus restrictions in California.

The line to get into the Mana Convention Center in Miami's trendy Wynwood neighborhood wrapped around the building.

Everyone was in high spirits and there were no face

masks to be seen.

Beyond Dorsey, two of the other speakers were Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss, twin Harvard classmates of Mark Zuckerberg who sued him over claims he stole the idea for Facebook from them, and now run cryptocurrency exchange Gemini.

"We think bitcoin is gold 2.0," Tyler said at a panel discussion. "When we get to Mars, what is the currency going to be in Mars? Dollars? No. Bitcoin?"

— AFP

SHORT TAKES
FLOODS AND MUDSLIDES KILL 6 IN SRI LANKA

Colombo, June 5: Flash floods and mudslides triggered by heavy rains in Sri Lanka have killed at least six people and left five missing, while more than 5,000 are displaced, officials said Saturday.

Rains have been pounding six districts of the Indian Ocean island nation since Thursday night, and many houses, paddy fields and roads have been inundated, blocking traffic.

Four people died in floods while another two lost their lives in mudslides, according to the government's Disaster Management Center. Another five people are missing in floods and mudslides.

A mound of earth crashed onto a house and buried four members of the same family.

FLIGHT DIVERTED DUE TO UNRULY PASSENGER

Albuquerque, June 5: A flight from Los Angeles to Nashville was diverted to New Mexico on Friday afternoon after a passenger tried to break into the cockpit, Delta Air Lines said.

The unruly man made the unsuccessful attempt on the locked cockpit aboard Delta Air Lines Flight 386 but other passengers and crew managed to detain him, the airline said.

Video taken aboard the plane shows the zip-tied and shoeless man surrounded by passengers and crew members as he repeats over and over again: "Stop this plane!" He finally was picked up and hauled to the back of the plane, which was diverted to Albuquerque International Sunport.

BIDEN AIMS TO RESTORE SPECIES PROTECTIONS

Washington, June 5: The Biden administration said Friday it is cancelling or reviewing a host of actions by the Trump administration to roll back protections for endangered or threatened species, with a goal of strengthening a landmark law while addressing climate change.

The reviews by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service are aimed at five Endangered Species Act regulations finalized by the Trump administration, including critical habitat designations and rules defining the scope of federal actions on endangered species.

The Fish and Wildlife Service also said it will reinstate the so-called blanket rule, which mandates additional protections for species that are newly classified as threatened.

BOMB-SNIFFING RAT RETIRES IN CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh, June 5: A giant African pouched rat called Magawa who spent years sniffing out landmines in the Cambodian countryside has stopped working and will enjoy a well-earned retirement eating bananas and peanuts, his employers said. Magawa, originally from Tanzania, was trained by the Belgian charity APOPO which says the rodent helped clear mines from 225,000 square metres of land in his five-year career, the equivalent of 42 football pitches.

But after detecting 71 landmines and 38 items of unexploded ordnance "he is getting a bit tired", Michael Heiman, the charity's programme manager in Cambodia, said on Saturday. "The best thing to do is to retire him."

MEXICO MINE COLLAPSE LEAVES SEVEN TRAPPED

Mzquiz, Mexico, June 5: Rescuers were trying Friday to free seven mine workers trapped after an accident in a coal-producing region in northern Mexico, authorities said.

Initial investigations suggest the collapse was due to a flood at the mine in the municipality of Mzquiz, the state of Coahuila's labor department said.

"Some people who were working were trapped inside the mine," it said in a statement.

Police and civil protection authorities were at the scene for the rescue effort, it added.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said he had sent personnel from the security, labour and civil protection ministries to the area.

"We are watching and in coordination with municipal and state authorities," he tweeted.

"We hope that the rescue is favorable for the families and for everyone."

UK's highest daily cases in 60 days

The govt says it is considering options around a planned end to the lockdown on June 21

London, June 5: The United Kingdom government on Saturday said it is considering "options" around a planned end to lockdown on June 21 after the country recorded the highest number of daily Covid-19 cases in just over two months.

The UK recorded a further 6,238 Coronavirus cases on Friday as England's R number, or the rate of infection, continues to rise and the latest government numbers also show another 11 Covid-19 related deaths. "Of course officials are drawing up other options but we are still expecting to be in a place to go ahead on June 21," a UK government figure told Sky News.

Options under discussion are said to include retaining the wearing of masks in certain settings and continuing the work from home advice, even as the hospitality sector opens up. However, the government maintains that there is "nothing in the data" to suggest ending lockdown should be delayed.

The number of Covid-19 cases in the country is now at its highest since March 25, when 6,397 were recorded, and the spike is largely down to the Delta variant — or the highly transmissible B1.617.2 variant of concern (VOC) first detected in India. UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock said that a rise of cases was to be expected as the country came out of lockdown.

"We always expected cases to rise as the country was opened up, the critical thing is the impact on the number of people who end up in hospital for any given number of cases," said Hancock.

This week, we will see over two billion doses we will probably pass the two billion doses landmark in terms of the number of doses of the vaccines and new Covid vaccines that have actually been developed. These have been dis-



Afghan doctors check a Covid-19 patient's files at the Afghan-Japan Communicable Disease Hospital in Kabul, on Sunday. Afghanistan is battling a third wave of infections, while health officials plead for vaccines, expressing deep frustration at the inequities of the global vaccine distribution. — AP

US, India, China account for 60% of vax distributed globally: WHO

United Nations, June 5:

Of the two billion Covid-19 vaccine doses distributed globally till now, about 60 per cent have gone to just three countries — the US, India and China, a senior adviser at the World Health Organisation said.

Senior Advisor to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Bruce Aylward made the comments at a press briefing on Friday.

This week, we will see over two billion doses we will probably pass the two billion doses landmark in terms of the number of doses of the vaccines and new Covid vaccines that have actually been developed. These have been dis-

tributed now in over 212 countries, Aylward said.

If we look at that two billion doses, over 75 per cent of it has gone to just 10 countries. And in fact three countries — China, the US and India — account for about 60 per cent of the world's population.

Aylward noted that at the other end of the spectrum, only about 0.5 per cent of doses globally have gone to the lowest income countries that account for about 10 per cent of the world's population.

And even if we look at the lower middle income countries, it's only fractionally higher than that in terms of the coverage that we're getting. So we're increasingly seeing a two-track recovery and rollout of the vaccines, he said.

While there is high vaccine coverage deep into the high risk populations and younger populations in high income countries, we are still struggling to get sufficient product just

to be able to vaccinate the health care workers, older populations in low income countries who are really the key to getting out of the health, societal and economic crisis that we are in the midst of.

Aylward said about 80 million doses have been distributed through COVAX so far and the global alliance for equitable vaccine distribution is about 200 million doses behind where it should be due to the disruption in COVAX supplies as a result of the devastating second wave in India.

The problem now is the supplies are being interrupted. — PTI

a new study, which surveyed 16,610 people from a nationally representative sample. According to the findings, 63 per cent would definitely get the jab, with a further 21 per cent likely to accept.

Anyone aged 30 and above is now eligible for a vaccine and the NHS said more than half of people in their thirties have already been jabbed. — PTI

Germany is removing Italy, the Czech Republic and much of Austria from its list of "risk areas", meaning most remaining travel restrictions will ease.

The change of status announced by Germany's disease control centre, the Robert Koch Institute, takes effect on Sunday.

Austria is being removed with the exception of its two westernmost provinces, Tyrol and Vorarlberg.

Some parts of Croatia and of Switzerland, including Zurich and Basel, are also dropped.

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Countries classified as "virus variant areas" — Germany's highest risk category — must quarantine for 14 days.

Travel is restricted to German citizens and residents.

Britain remained the only European country in that category on the list published Friday.

It also includes India, Nepal, Brazil and the addition of Uruguay. — AP

Cruise ships back in Venice

Venice, June 5: The first cruise ship leaving Venice since the pandemic is set to depart Saturday amid protests by activists demanding that the ship be rerouted out the fragile lagoon, especially Giudecca Canal through the city's historic centre.

They say the enormous vessels — weighing over 90,000 tons and carrying thousands of passengers at a time — pose environmental and safety risks to the canal and the city.

Another protest is also planned Saturday by pro-cruise activists whose jobs depend on having thousands of visitors flowing through one of Italy's top tourist destinations.

Italian Premier Mario Draghi's government pledged this winter to get cruise ships out of the Venice lagoon, but it

will likely take years to reach that goal. The government says it is organizing bids for a viable alternative outside the lagoon, which should be posted any day now. Still, even an interim alternative route to the Giudecca Canal won't be ready until next year, Italy's Ministry for Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility told The Associated Press in an email. "Meanwhile, in 2022, as a temporary solution, a certain number of ships can dock in Marghera, relieving the traffic through Venice," the ministry said.

Marghera, an industrial port west of Venice that is still within the lagoon, will require lengthening existing piers to accommodate larger vessels as well as dredging a canal on the approach, cruise

which I think were... AstraZeneca, those were 200,000. They're already being put to use," he said.

India, one of the largest

contributors to UN peacekeeping missions, gifted 200,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccines for UN peacekeepers across all UN missions.

As of March 31 this year, there are 87,889 personnel serving in 12 peacekeeping operations around the world.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had announced in February that India will gift vaccine doses for UN peacekeepers.

"Keeping in mind the welfare of others always in mind."

The 200,000 doses essentially meant that it would be possible to administer the required double doses of Covid vaccines to all UN peacekeepers across missions.

The AstraZeneca vaccines had left Mumbai via

Qatar Airways on March 27.

The shipment went to Copenhagen, where it was safely stored in a facility, re-packed and quickly distributed to all peacekeeping missions for the peacekeepers. On a question on the offer of vaccines to the UN from China, Dujarric said "we continue to be in touch with the Chinese authorities, as we are with the Russian authorities. Some of that had to do with which vaccines were already approved by the WHO (World Health Organisation) because we do not use vaccines that are not approved by the WHO."

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SHORT TAKES

Footballer Thapa tests +ve in Doha

New Delhi: India midfielder Anirudh Thapa has tested positive for Covid-19 and is under quarantine in a separate room in the team hotel in Doha. Thapa tested positive on Wednesday, a day before India lost 0-1 to Asian champions Qatar in their joint World Cup and Asian Cup qualifiers in Doha. "Yes, Thapa tested positive and he is isolated (from other team members)," All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Kushal Das said. The 23-year-old Chennaiyin FC player will be tested again for the virus in a few days. He has played more than 20 matches for India.

India are already out of contention for a World Cup berth but remain in the reckoning for the 2023 Asian Cup. — PTI

Docs say Milkha stable and better

Chandigarh: Legendary Indian sprinter Milkha Singh, who is battling Covid-19 in the ICU of PGIMER here, is stable and his condition is "better than yesterday," the hospital said on Saturday. The 91-year-old, who is being closely monitored by a team of three doctors, is still on oxygen support. "On the basis of all the medical parameters today, that is June 5, his condition has been observed better than yesterday," Prof Ashok Kumar, official spokesperson of PGIMER, said in a statement.

The top hospital had on Friday said that Milkha was "better and more stable." Milkha's family also issued a statement through a spokesperson that the iconic athlete "is stable and doing well, but still on oxygen."

"Please ignore the rumours floating around. It's false news," the spokesperson said. — PTI

Indian-origin girl shines at US Open

San Francisco: Megha Ganee, an American teen amateur with Indian parentage, continued to hold the spotlight with an even par round on the second day to sail into the weekend rounds in tied-third place at the US Women's Open golf here. The 17-year-old Ganee, who came into the Major after battling through a 3-for-1 play-offs in the qualifiers last month, had three birdies and three pars. She also had three bogeys in the last seven holes on 12th, 15th and 18th at The Olympic Club. Yuka Saso of the Philippines took the 36-hole lead with rounds of 69-67 and if she wins on Sunday, she will be of the same exact age as the tournament's youngest all-time champion Inbee Park. Park was 19 years, 11 months and 17 days old when she captured this title 13 years ago. — PTI

Ex-umpire persists with racism claims

London: Former English umpire John Holder has hit out at England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) over the latter's statement that he and his colleague Ismail Dawood have withdrawn their claim of institutional racism. Holder accused the ECB of being "disingenuous" and "misleading" following their racial discrimination claim. The duo had announced their intention to sue the ECB in December after alleging that their careers as umpires had been affected by institutional racism. "Our case against the ECB has been beaten on a legal technicality. I haven't withdrawn any of the claims I made," Holder said.

"The tone of the ECB's statement would give the uninvolved reader the impression that we have accepted their version of events and backed down. This is not the case at all." — PTI

LA Clippers force game 7 vs Dallas

Los Angeles: Kawhi Leonard tied his postseason career high with 45 points as the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Dallas Mavericks 104-97 on Friday to stave off elimination and force game seven in their Western Conference NBA series. The Clippers kept their season alive by winning in front of an almost full house at Dallas' American Airlines Center, marking the first time in NBA history that the road team has won the first six games in a best-of-seven series. Game seven is Sunday at Staples Center arena in downtown Los Angeles where the Mavericks have won three games. "I didn't want to go home," said Leonard of facing elimination in front of 18,300 Dallas fans in the first-round of the playoffs. — AFP

CZECH POUNCE

Krejcikova of Czech Republic stuns 5th seed Svitolina

Paris, June 5: Novak Djokovic moved effortlessly into the French Open fourth round for the 12th successive year on Saturday, setting up an intriguing duel against Italian teenager Lorenzo Musetti. In women's, Elina Svitolina (fifth seed) went down to Barbora Krejcikova of Czech Republic.

World number one Djokovic, the champion in Paris in 2016 and chasing a 19th Grand Slam title, brushed aside 93rd-ranked Ricardas Berankis of Lithuania 6-1, 6-4, 6-1.

Djokovic is bidding to be the first man in more than half a century to win all four majors on multiple occasions.

DJOKOVIC TO MEET TEEN SENSATION

Next up for the Serb is 19-year-old Musetti after the 76th-ranked Italian fired 50 winners past compatriot Marco Cecchinato in a 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 victory.

He becomes just the sixth man since 2000 to make the fourth round of a Slam on debut.

"I have practised with Novak so I know a little bit about his game. There will be more tension, but it's what I have been working for since childhood," said Musetti.

"I really like how he plays. He's got a lot of fire-power from both forehand and backhand," Djokovic said ahead of a first meeting with Musetti.

Fellow Italian teen Jannik Sinner, a quarter-finalist in 2020, also made it to the second week, easing past Sweden's Mikael Ymer 6-1, 7-5, 6-3.

NADAL IN FOURTH ROUND FOR 16TH TIME

Defending champion Rafael Nadal reached the fourth round for the 16th time with his third win of 2021 over Britain's Cameron Norrie.



Czech Republic's Barbora Krejcikova serves to Ukraine's Elina Svitolina during their third round match of the French Open at Roland Garros in Paris on Saturday. Krejcikova won 6-3, 6-2. — AFP

Nadal, chasing a 14th Roland Garros title and record-setting 21st Grand Slam, won 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 and goes on to face Italian teenager Jannik Sinner for a place in the quarter-finals.

The third-seeded Spaniard, who now has a record in Paris of 103 wins against just two losses since his 2005 debut, defeated Sinner in the quarter-finals at last year's tournament.

ONLY THREE TOP-10 WOMEN LEFT

Krejcikova of the Czech Republic reached the last 16 for the second successive year with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over three-time quarter-finalist Svitolina (fifth seed).

World number 33 Krejcikova goes on to face former US Open champion Sloane Stephens for a place in the quarter-finals.

"I am super happy, most of my shots were amazing," said the Czech who is on an eight-match winning streak after capturing a maiden singles title in Strasbourg last week.

Stephens, the 2018 runner-up in Paris, defeated Czech 18th seed Karolina Muchova 6-3, 7-5.

Fourth seed Sofia Kenin, the runner-up in 2020 and the highest seed left, came back to beat fellow American Jessica Pegula 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

The top three seeds, Ashleigh Barty, Naomi Osaka and Aryna Sabalenka all failed to get

beyond the third round. In all, only four of the top 10 made the third round, the fewest in 20 years.

Serena Williams, seeded seventh, plays her last 16 match on Sunday.

Eighth seed and defending champion Iga Swiatek has made the third round for the loss of just seven games. — AFP

THE RESULTS

Men's singles third round:

Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) bt Ricardas Berankis (LTU) 6-1, 6-4, 6-1; Rafael Nadal (ESP x3) bt Cameron Norrie (GBR) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; Lorenzo Musetti (ITA) bt Marco Cecchinato (ITA) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Jannik Sinner (ITA x18) bt Mikael Ymer (SWE) 6-1, 7-5, 6-3; Diego Schwartzman (ARG x10) bt Philipp Kohlschreiber (GER) 6-4, 6-2, 6-1; Jan-Lennard Struff (GER) bt Carlos Alcaraz (ESP) 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 6-2.

Women's singles third round:

Ons Jabeur (TUN x25) bt Magda Linette (POL) 3-6, 6-0, 6-1; Sloane Stephens (USA) bt Karolina Muchova (CZE x18) 6-3, 7-5; Barbora Krejcikova (CZE) bt Elina Svitolina (UKR) x5) 6-3, 6-2; Sofia Kenin (USA x4) bt Jessica Pegula (USA x28) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; Marta Kostyuk (UKR) bt Varvara Gracheva (RUS) 6-1, 6-2; Iga Swiatek (POL x8) bt Anett Kontaveit (EST x30) 7-6 (7/4), 6-0.

Samba boys on a roll



Brazil's Neymar (right) celebrates with Lucas Paqueta after scoring his team's second goal against Ecuador during a World Cup qualifying match at Beira-Rio stadium in Porto Alegre. Brazil won 2-0. — AP

Ecuador were their usual physical selves but showed little of the attacking verve that had seen them score 13 goals in their previous three matches.

But it wasn't until 20 minutes that they first threatened with Richardson millimeters away from turning home a whipped inswinging Neymar freekick.

Moments later Richardson played Gabriel in on goal but Dominguez was out quickly to smother his poked effort.

Behind a rasping long-range drive from Neymar, Ecuador chances were few and far between, with fullback Preciado blazing over from 20 yards on 58 minutes.

Brazil thought they'd gone in front three minutes before the break when Gabriel converted a right wing cross from Danilo but Ecuador were saved by a narrow offside call. A minute later Dominguez had to scoop

After

Dominguez saved low to his right from Neymar; he was poorly beaten on 64 minutes at his near post by a shot from Richardson.

It was one-way traffic and Marquinhos headed over the bar before Dominguez made partial amends for his earlier clanger, saving low to his right to deny Gabriel Jesus and then blocking a shot from Gabriel with his foot. — AFP

ITALY CRUISE PAST CZECH IN WARM-UP

Bologna, June 5: A week before they kick off Euro 2020 in Rome, Italy crushed the Czech Republic 4-0 in Bologna on Friday, keeping an eighth straight clean sheet.

Ciro Immobile Nicolo Barella Lorenzo Insigne and Domenico Berardi all scored for the hosts who will open the Euro against Turkey next Friday.

In the absence of Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Marco Verratti, who is nursing an injured knee, Jorginho, a Champions League winner with Chelsea, and Barella quickly set the tempo for Italy. Italy's strikers Lorenzo Insigne and Ciro Immobile wasted early chances, before Immobile of Lazio broke the deadlock in the 3rd minute. — AFP

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL IN DULL DRAW

Madrid, June 5: Spain and Portugal drew 0-0 in a friendly warm up for the European Championship in a friendly at the Metropolitano in Madrid on Friday.

The match was both an occasion to officially launch the two nations launching a joint bid to host the 2030 World Cup and the hosts to test out a new look defence.

Cristiano Ronaldo had a frustrating night on his first game in Madrid since leaving Real in 2018 and came close to scoring twice and set up a good chance Diogo Jota filed to take advantage of.

Backed up by Joao Felix, Ronaldo was largely neutralised by Barcelona pair Sergio Busquets and Thiago Alcantara in a tight home midfield in front of a remodelled defence. — AFP

LECLERC CLAIMS POLE IN CRASH-LADEN QUALIFYING

Baku, June 5: Ferrari's Charles Leclerc claimed pole for the Azerbaijan Grand Prix after a crash-laden, red-flagged qualifying session in Baku on Saturday.

Mercedes' world champion Lewis Hamilton will start alongside Leclerc, who is looking for quick redemption after taking pole in Monaco only to retire from the race when his car broke down on the warm-up lap.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen leads Hamilton by four points in the drivers' championship after winning in Monaco last time out, and is on the second row of Sunday's race with the Alpha Tauri of Pierre Gasly for company.

Q3 was halted with a minute remaining when Gasly's teammate, Japanese rookie Yuki Tsunoda, crashed at turn three, with Carlos Sainz in the following Ferrari taking quick avoiding action, locking his wheels and smashing into a safety barrier. — AFP

WORLD | T20

Cup to be shifted to UAE & Muscat

New Delhi, June 5: The marquee T20 World Cup in October-November is set to be shifted to the UAE and Oman (Oman) with the BCCI having internally intimated the ICC to go ahead with its preparation due to a tricky Covid-19 situation in India.

While the UAE was always the first back-up option, Oman's capital Muscat has been added as the fourth venue, apart from Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah, for the tournament that will start in the last week of October.

in Oman," he said.

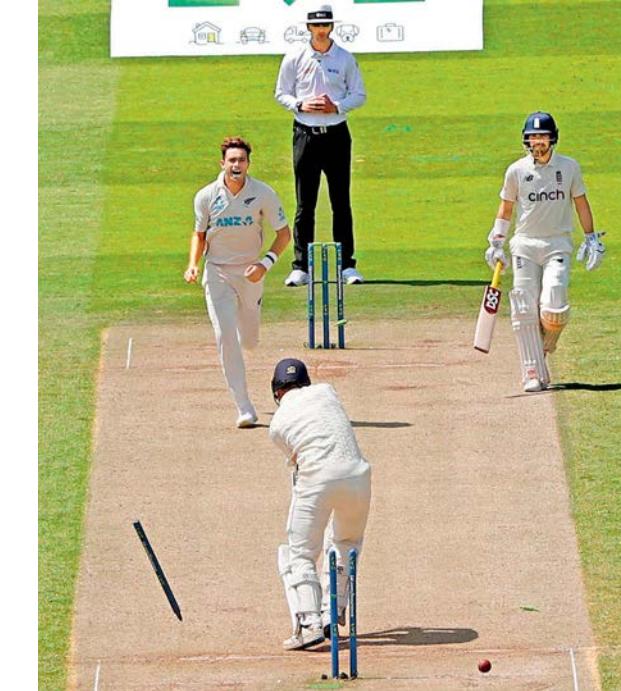
A majority of the ICC board members believe that India is trying to bide time as they take stock of the situation at a time when it is very difficult to predict how things pan out in October-November.

"If you think about it practically, India is now reporting around 120,000 plus cases which is close to one third of what was being reported at the end of April and start of this month.

"But sitting on June 28, if you say 'yes' to holding the World T20 in India, how can you predict the health situation in October if there is a third wave," the seasoned official asked.

The second question is if the BCCI is wary of resuming the eight-team IPL in September in India, how can it hold a 16-team event in the country within a month's time.

— PTI



New Zealand pacer Tim Southee celebrates after dismissing England's James Bracey for a duck on the fourth day of the first Test at Lord's on Saturday. — AFP

Southee's six-for puts Kiwis on top

London, June 5: Rory Burns hit a gutsy century to help England recover from a collapse on the fourth day of the first Test against New Zealand on Friday.

Burns was still nine runs shy of his third Test century when he was joined by last man James Anderson.

But their entertaining stand of 52 delayed the tea interval before Southee's 132 meant they avoided that embarrassment, although a total of 275 all out was still 103 adrift of nearly eight hours that saw the Surrey left-handed opener face 297 balls including 16 fours and a six. Anderson's presence encouraged Burns, 91 not out when joined by the No 11, to go for his shots, including an extravagant slog-swept six off left-arm quick Neil Wagner. — AFP

BRIEF SCORES (DAY 4, AT TEA)

New Zealand 378 vs England 275 in 10.1 overs (Yours 132, Joe Root 42, Ollie Robinson 42, Tim Southee 6/43).

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