

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 15 MAY 2021

WEATHER

Max: 36.8°C
Min: 26.8°C
RH: 78%
Rainfall: 1.2 mm

Forecast: Rain or thunder showers likely
Max/Min temp. 37/25°C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarakaya
Tithi: Vaishakha Shuddha Tadiya till 7.58 am

Star: Mrigasira till 8.37 am
Varjyan: 5.55 pm to 7.41 pm
Durmuhurtam: 5.48 am to 7.31 am

Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HIJRI CALENDAR

Shawwal 2,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 5.37 am

Zohar: 12.22 pm

Asar: 4.43 pm

Magrib: 6.46 pm

Isha: 8.00 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.14 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.43 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 8.13 AM

MOONSET TODAY 9.48 PM

COUNTER POINT



Our study shows there is no oxygen in many parts of planet Earth!

SHORT TAKES

Monsoon to reach Kerala on May 31

New Delhi: The southwest monsoon is likely to arrive over Kerala on May 31, a day earlier than its normal onset date, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday. The normal onset date of the monsoon over Kerala is June 1. "This year, the onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala is likely to be on 31st May with a model error of plus/minus 4 days," the IMD said.

Cyclone Tauktak set to intensify

New Delhi: The depression in the Arabian Sea is likely to intensify into a "very severe cyclonic storm" on May 17 and cross the Gujarat coast a day later, the IMD said on Friday. It may intensify further into a severe cyclonic storm by Saturday night. From May 16-19, it may intensify into a "very severe cyclonic storm" with a wind speed of 150-160 kmph per hour gusting up to 175 kmph.

INSIDE

CITY... PAGE 2
Free counselling for Covid victims

CITY... PAGE 3
TS may have missed identifying 70 lakh cases

DEEPER REACH

Covid spreading to rural India: PM

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MAY 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday warned that the Covid-19 pandemic was rapidly spreading in rural areas, as he urged all citizens to take precautions, wear masks and keep social distancing in order to check the spread of the disease that has claimed over 2.6 lakh lives.

The Centre, he said, was working on a "war footing" to check the second wave of infections and was setting up new hospitals and oxygen generating plants while augmenting supplies of medicines and vaccines.



WORLD | 9
Masks off for fully vaccinated in US



SPORTS | 12
Coach Raman blasts star culture in women's team

TABLOID
Don't be influencers of insensitivity



deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle

YSRC REBEL MP RAJU ARRESTED FOR HATE SPEECH

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, MAY 14

Narasapur MP K. Raghu Rama Krishna Raju was arrested by the AP CID sleuths at his residence in Hyderabad on Friday. The MP has been allegedly promoting hatred among certain communities with his speeches and had also been continuously targeting state government, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and other leaders.

His criticism turned even personal against the CM and he was making unsavoury remarks on every activity, be it the implementation of several welfare schemes or Covid-19 management and vaccination.

Additional DG-CID, P.V. Sunil Kumar, ordered a preliminary inquiry against the MP and found that he was making speeches on a regular basis to create tensions among various communities.

Page 5: Minister Balineni justifies arrest



YOUTH CONGRESS CHIEF QUIZZED ON COVID HELP

New Delhi, May 14: Indian Youth Congress (IYC) president Srinivas BV on Friday said the Delhi Police's Crime Branch questioned him about the assistance being provided by him to people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Police called me this morning and came to my office around 11.45 am. They questioned how I was doing it," he said.

However, the Delhi Police said the questioning was done following a Delhi High Court order. The High Court has directed the city police to conduct inquiry into politicians involved in distribution of Covid-19 medicines and other items, and take steps for lodging of FIR in case of offence, a senior police officer said. In compliance with the directions of the high court, inquiry is being conducted into several people, the officer said. On May 4, the HC had asked the police to examine politicians allegedly procuring and distributing Remdesivir. —PTI

Greeting safely



Muslims exchange Id-ul-Fitr greetings near Macca Masjid in Hyderabad on Friday. Congregational prayers were barred due to Covid-19 norms. ■ More on Page 2

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Centre to let states import WHO approved vaccines

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

In a major relief to states facing acute shortage of vaccines, the Centre has hinted at allowing import of vaccines approved by WHO directly by the states.

In this context, Telangana would invite global tenders to procure vaccines while Andhra Pradesh has already called for quotations.

It is learnt that the states can directly release new vaccines without further trials to test efficacy in Indian environs.

Keeping in view the supply position in the next two months, Telangana State will complete the second dose vaccination to those above 45 years on a top priority basis in May and June.

An in-principle decision on this was taken by



Deepak Sapra, global head of custom pharma Services at Dr Reddy's Laboratories receives the first shot of Sputnik V vaccine against Covid-19 in Hyderabad on Friday.

the task force headed by minister K.T. Rama Rao here on Friday. Sources said TS will also focus on initiating a vaccination drive for super-spreaders like delivery personnel, banking staff and cab/auto drivers in these

FIRST DOSE OF SPUTNIK V ADMINISTERED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

The first dose of Sputnik V, Russian-made Covid-19 vaccine, was administered on Friday as part of its soft launch in Hyderabad, according Dr Reddy's Laboratories, which is partnering with the Russian Direct Investment Fund.

■ REPORT ON PAGE 2

two months itself depending on vaccine availability.

The vaccination for the 18-45 agegroup will have to wait till July.

■ Page 2: KTR seeks long-term vax policy

5 feared killed in lightning strikes across Telangana

T.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

At least five people are feared killed as thunderstorms accompanied with lightning lashed the state on Friday. While one person was reported dead at Chigurumamidi mandal in Karimnagar, two others were reported dead in Huzurabad mandal, and two in Munipalli mandal in Sangareddy district. The three victims from Karimnagar were reportedly taking shelter under a tree, when the lightning struck. The other two died while they were working

in the farm. A cyclonic circulation, which originated along the western coast of India, and is now travelling in the north-east direction, caused the rains that lashed parts of Hyderabad and rest of the state on Friday.

On Friday evening, the highest rainfall in the state was recorded at Renikunta in Thimmapur mandal in Karimnagar which had received 53.3 mm of rainfall.

In the city, however, it was the MMTS station at Lingampally which had received the highest rainfall, measuring 34.5 mm.

This was followed by spells of showers over parts of the state for the next 48 hours.

The IMD has also given a heavy rainfall warning for the next 48 hours in which it said, "Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) are very likely to occur at isolated places in all districts of Telangana."

— PTI

THE CENTRE, he said was working on a "war footing" to check the second wave of infections and was setting up new hospitals and oxygen generating plants while augmenting supplies of medicines and vaccines.

precautions are taken. Wearing masks properly and regularly is important."

Facing the world's worst health crisis, India has reported over three lakh daily infections for 22 consecutive days.

The health ministry said India logged 3,43,144 new

infections in the last 24 hours, taking the case tally to 2,40,46,809. The tally of total cases crossed 2.4 crores on Friday. With 4,000 more deaths, the toll stands at 2,62,317 since the pandemic first struck India over a year ago. While 2,00,79,599 people have recovered from the virus across India, the number of active cases is 37,04,893.

The bulk of new infections is said to be coming from rural areas.

On Friday, Mumbai reported 1,657 new cases, and over 2,572 recoveries and 62 deaths in the last 24 hours. Seeing a dip in the number of positive cases,

Delhi on Friday reported 8,506 new cases, the lowest since April 10, with the positivity rate falling to 12.40 per cent; and 289 more deaths.

The Kerala government on Friday extended the strict statewide lockdown to fight the pandemic till May 23.

The health ministry said Friday it would supply a total of 191.99 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccines — Covishield and Covaxin — to the states and Union territories free of cost from May 16 to May 31. These include 162.5 lakh Covishield doses and 29.49 lakh Covaxin doses.

The Centre, he said, was working on a "war footing" to check the second wave of infections and was setting up new hospitals and oxygen generating plants while augmenting supplies of medicines and vaccines.

— PTI

Vol. 84 No. 134 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

HC red-signals TS ambulance block

Stays circular stopping other state patients

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

The Telangana High Court on Friday stayed the implementation of a circular issued by the state government on May 11, with guidelines to streamline the influx of ambulances carrying Covid-19 patients from other states into Telangana for hospitalisation.

The court made it clear that the orders would come into effect forthwith, as against the police waiting for receipt of an order copy from the court.

The court directed the Advocate General and principal secretary, health, who was present, to immediately communicate the orders to the government and said the instructions should immediately be passed to the police authorities along the borders, as not to stop ambulances carrying Covid patients from other states.

The dead were reportedly from Kadapa and Nandyal towns. At least 60 ambulances have been returned since the midnight of Thursday, a source said.

It was a day of hope against hope at Pullur toll plaza. Ambulances carrying critically ill patients were stopped from going to Hyderabad as the cops at Jogulamba-Gadwal strictly implemented the TS Chief Secretary's orders which laid down entry norms like producing an e-pass and prior hospital bed confirmation for the patients-in transit.

Because of Id-ul-Fitr and other holidays the order copy could be delayed, the court directed them to pass necessary orders at the field level.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijay sen Reddy was dealing with an urgent case of PIL filed by Garimella Venkata Krishna Rao, who challenged the circular issued by the Telangana State government.

Justice Hima Kohli came down heavily on the government for issuing the circular, which indirectly restrained treatment to Covid patients of other states in hospitals in Hyderabad.

Chief Justice Kohli observed, "The Telangana

2 Covid patients die waiting at TS border

D.SIVA RAMI REDDY | DC
KURNOOL, MAY 14

Two Covid-19 patients died in ambulances as the Telangana state police stopped the vehicles at Pullur toll plaza, as against the police waiting for receipt of an order copy from the court.

The court directed the Advocate General and principal secretary, health, who was present, to immediately communicate the orders to the government and said the instructions should immediately be passed to the police authorities along the borders, as not to stop ambulances carrying Covid patients from other states.

Because of Id-ul-Fitr and other holidays the order copy could be delayed, the court directed them to pass necessary orders at the field level.

However, Kurnool SP Kagineili Fakkeerappa said no one died while waiting at the border checkpoint. He said out of 14 ambulances stuck there, 6 had patients and others were empty.

After the TS High Court issuing a stay of operation of the TS Chief Secretary's orders curbing ambulances, the Jogulamba-Gadwal SP Ranjan Ratan Kumar said the status quo continues at the Pullur toll plaza.

■ Page 4: Cops yet to get orders to back off

Court's recent orders, which clearly stated that no patient shall be refused admission in a hospital on the ground of his residence.

The Chief Justice further observed that the state had done indirectly what it could not do directly.

■ Page 4: HC warns TS against circumventing order

No lockdown on freshness.

Stay in, stay safe and get fresh, preservative-free Seafood and Meat delivered Fresh To Home.

500g Chicken + 500g Goat (Curry cut)

₹ 475

Prawns Whole ₹249/500g

Granny's Fried Chicken 1 (250g) on order above ₹799 Use code: GR8!

Offer valid only on 1 pack per user. GST applicable.

2000+ Products | 20 Lakh Customers | 100+ Quality Checks | No Antibiotic Residue | No Added Chemicals

Order online at: [Freshtohome.com](http://freshtohome.com) | 60 Minute Delivery

T&C Apply. All prices except for Granny's fried chicken are inclusive of taxes. Offers valid only for today and till stocks last. Images used are for representative purposes only and may differ from the actual products.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE AUTOMOTIVE

FOUR WHEELERS

2016 MERCEDES Benz S350 CDI, doctor owned, Black Exterior and Beige Interior, 1.25,000 KMs done and in mint condition. For more information, please call: 9550000339 (HYMM/2122/C01161)

FOR SALE PROPERTY

COMMERCIAL

MNC TENANTED office space 4,500 Sqft for sale at New Block Begumpet White House, Contact: 900033726 (W/2122/AT000140)

NEAR WONDERLALA, 1210sqyd with one bore, per sqyd @20,000/- only Negotiable, Opp Narayana College. Suitable for Residential/Commercial Complex/ Petrol pump. Ph: 9704416895 (HYMM/2122/C01120)

FLATS

DOUBLE BEDROOM

NEAR APPA, Junction: Bundlaguda Jagir 23-3BH FLATS For Sale E/N/W Face - Positive 6000/- in 12months @Gated Community, Ph: 9666998119/ 8121844748. (HYCL/2122/C00377)

2BR RESIDENTIAL Flat For Sale @New friends Colony Attapur View Villa, 2nd floor 202, +91 8790182027 WhatsApp - +91 556734795. (HYMM/2122/C01097)

SRINAGARCOLONY 1907 sft 3bhk fullyfurnished flat Residential and commercial clll undividedshape 85 sq.yards ph:9182384503 (HYMM/2122/C01104)

KONDAPUR 2 BHK Ready to move in Flats for Sale, Jagruthi Colony, West facing 1000 Sft, West Facing 1100 Sft, East facing 1300 Sft in 2nd Floor. For more details Contact: 9849660095. (S/2122/C00014)

THREE & MORE

BANJARAHILLS RD:1, New Flat 4BHK, 3130sft, West Facing, Modern Amenities, all ultra modern luxury interiors, all ultra modern furnished, Pooja Room& Servant Quarters @4.5cr. Ph: 9000303000 (HYMM/2122/C01163)

3 BHK Luxury flats @ 3700/ Sft in gated community with club house & amenities at Gajalaramam, Kukatpally 2 BHK starts from 29.71 Lakhs & 3 BHK from 59 Lakhs onwards. Modi Builders- 7677120120. (B/2122/C00129)

SEMI FURNISHED with modular kitchen at Surabhi Shudha Apartment, 3rd Floor Flat No-307, Alia Estate, Abids, Hyderabad 500001 Area -1855sqft +30sqft corridor My price- 1.35Cr slightly negotiable. Contact Number: 9966751152/ 8978468526. Genuine person Contact only (HYMM/2122/C01178)

3 BHK Luxury flats @ 3700/ Sft in gated community with club house & amenities at Mallampet, near Bachupally 3 BHK starts from 53.6 Lacs onwards. Modi Builders- 7677120120. (B/2122/C00124)

✓3BHk NEW Ready to Move in flat Perfect Vastu, East/West facing @Marredpally 24hrs Water Party Hall/Gym/ Generator Backup/ Play area. Details call: 9963814987/ 040-27803848. (HYMM/2122/C01136)

LUXURY VILLAS in Gated community @ 4450/ Sft with club house & other amenities starting from Rs.1.16 Crore onwards @ Rampally near New Infosys Campus on Warangal highway. Modi Builders: 7677120120. (B/2122/C00128)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

THREE & MORE

G+2 BUNGALOW FOR SALE @new Bowenpally, Secunderabad. 700sq.Yards. West facing, 3bhk each floor. 2km from paradise circle. Contact: 9109069218. (HYMM/2122/C01201)

LAND

640 SQ yards open plot east facing clear title for genuine buyers Miyapur x road towards Bachupally 200 meters from junction mobile no: 9848072753, 9849239347 (S/2122/C00291)

PLOTS

PLOTS IN gated community with excellent amenities & club house by Modi Builders @ Aushapur near Ghateswar Rs.11,500/- sq.yds. HMDA approved. Call: 7677120120. (B/2122/C00121)

HYDERABAD FIRST DTCP EMI Plots @Ibrahimpatnam,EMI Scheme:40 months, Each month-20,000/-pm.Looking Experienced Marketing Team Leaders with Good Team,&Required for Part Time Retired State, Central,IT, LIC Employees &Housewives. Offices:Gachibowli &LB Nagar- 7780698936 (HYMM/2122/C01196)

RENTALS

COMMERCIAL

16000SFT COMMERCIAL building in Autonagar signal, Autosanagar, MRR Restaurant backside, near Vanasthipuram, very near to NH-65 for rent, suitable for Hospitals, Diagnostic Centres, Schools, Corporate Offices. Contact: 9848974245, 9869696063. (HYCL/2122/C00373)

HIMAYATHNAGAR, ST.17, Backside of Kotak Mahindra Bank Q/F 2BHk 4 portions 3400 Sft, 1st Floor 2 portions 2BHk, 1portion 3BHk 3700 sft Suitable for Offices/ Hostels/ School/ Godowns. Contact: 9849194297/ 9849639502. (HYCL/2122/C00327)

FLAT/IND/COMM

3BHk, 1ST floor, 1200 Sqft at West Maredpally. Rent Rs. 19K per month. Negotiable. Contact Coll: 9811560160 between 9am to 7pm. (W/2122/AT000148)

FLATS

DOUBLE BEDROOM

RUKMINI DEVI Colony west facing 2nd floor couple or with one child only, 1 car Parking, 24 hours water, Contact: 9848796699. (S/2122/C00290)

THREE & MORE

3BHK FLATS Semi-furnished with wardrobes, false ceiling, east & west facing, located at Road No.16, Alkapuri Township available for rent. Newly constructed building with car parking, 24hrs water facility. Contact: 9848796646. (HYMM/2122/C01193)

BANJARA HILLS Road No.5, 3BHK 2400sft Perfect Vastu Semi Furnished Two parkings two lifts East facing Servent Quarter Generator Back Up 24hr water contact: 9963695094 (HYMM/2122/C00584)

BANJARA HILLS Rd.10, 3500Sft Fully Furnished Flat For Long Lease, 4BHK East Facing Perfect Vastu, Basic Facilities With Servant Quarters. Call: 7993418561 & 9866700021. (HYMM/2122/C01166)

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY for rent. Semi-furnished, 1400sft, 3bhk flat in Kondapur (behind chire public school). Perfect vastu. Contact: 9848579101. (HYMM/2122/C00107)

3BR RESIDENTIAL Flat 1800sft with 2parkings for rent near Wells Fargo centre, Prashanti hills cColony rent 32,000. 8790182027 whatssapp: +917556734795. (HYMM/2122/C01096)

PRASHANT HILLS Rайдргам 3 Bhk Flat 1850 sqft Semifurnished lift parking 24 hrs water close to Hitechcity Ph: 7337061511. (HYMM/2122/C01200)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

THREE & MORE

2 OR 3 Bedrooms, Padma Nagar Colony, Phase-I, Qutubullapur, Borewell / Municipal water, 2 Car pkgs, Details, Call: 9948226660. (HYMM/2122/C01199)

SITUATION VACANT

ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

URGENT HIRING by manufacturing unit in Hyderabad: Commercial Executive. Graduate with good communication skills and 2-3 years experience in Invoicing/ Logistics/ Documentation. Apply: Email Id: office@helsa.in Ph: 9652277563. (A/2122/C00106)

DOMESTIC

WANTED EXPERIENCED Cook/ Caretaker for a single woman. Preferably Muslim. Accommodation will be provided. Call: 9885802876 or apply lalitalcgc@gmail.com (HYMM/2122/C01124)

HOTEL

WANTED EXPERIENCED tandoori/ chinese/ mughalai executive chefs & commis 1.Send resume to: chinesetandoorichef100@gmail.com or whatsapp to 9849595242. (HYMM/2122/C01121)

MEDICAL

WANTED EXPERIENCED Pharmacist with B.Pharm/ M.Pharm and manager for an upcoming pharmacy. Send resume to: laitalcgc@gmail.com or whatsapp: 9849595242. (HYMM/2122/C01122)

THREE & MORE

10 Bedded Multi Speciality Hospital 24/7 with Accommodation provided. MBBS or any specialty Doctors urgently requirement. Contact: 9107821110, 9010574205. (HYCL/2122/C00342)

BLOOD BANK Technicians required with Min DMLT, with Minimum 2 yrs relevant experience. Interested applicants please send resume to: admin@ccdonline.in (or) Chiranjeevi Eye & Blood Bank, Road No.1, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad 500033. Cell No.: 9866012456. (HYCL/2122/C00375)

WANTED EXPERIENCED Medical Staff, B.Sc Nursing/ GN/M, ANM, DMO, MBBS, BHMS, BAMS. Contact: (Admin) 9849766296, HR Manager: 9866409792. (HYCL/2122/C00378)

LAND

640 SQ yards open plot east facing clear title for genuine buyers Miyapur x road towards Bachupally 200 meters from junction mobile no: 9848072753, 9849239347 (S/2122/C00291)

PLOTS

PLOTS IN gated community with excellent amenities & club house by Modi Builders @ Aushapur near Ghateswar Rs.11,500/- sq.yds. HMDA approved. Call: 7677120120. (B/2122/C00121)

HYDERABAD FIRST DTCP EMI Plots @Ibrahimpatnam,EMI Scheme:40 months, Each month-20,000/-pm.Looking Experienced Marketing Team Leaders with Good Team,&Required for Part Time Retired State, Central,IT, LIC Employees &Housewives. Offices:Gachibowli &LB Nagar- 7780698936 (HYMM/2122/C01196)

RENTALS

COMMERCIAL

16000SFT COMMERCIAL building in Autonagar signal, Autosanagar, MRR Restaurant backside, near Vanasthipuram, very near to NH-65 for rent, suitable for Hospitals, Diagnostic Centres, Schools, Corporate Offices. Contact: 9848974245, 9869696063. (HYCL/2122/C00373)

HIMAYATHNAGAR, ST.17, Backside of Kotak Mahindra Bank Q/F 2BHk 4 portions 3400 Sft, 1st Floor 2 portions 2BHk, 1portion 3BHk 3700 sft Suitable for Offices/ Hostels/ School/ Godowns. Contact: 9849194297/ 9849639502. (HYCL/2122/C00327)

MULTIPLE VACANCIES

WALK-IN INTERVIEW for Freshers/ Experienced Male/ Female, GM, AGMs, Sales/ Marketing Managers, Team Leaders Property Advisors, Tele Callers, Site Engineers, Salary (Min.20,000/- to 50,000/-PM) +2% Commission. On Sale value, for Real Estate &Constructions Company Office at ECIL Ph:9100995553, 9100886662, 912102227 Interviews on Sat to Sun from 10am to 6pm. (HYMM/2122/C01087)

WANTED AN experienced receptionist and a nurse for a scan center in Secunderabad. Fluency in English with basic computer skills and pleasant personality, is a must. Also wanted a cook/chef in Eastmaredpally Secunderabad. 8797333360, 9848624797 (W/2122/AT000151)

TEACHERS

UNICENT SCHOOL, reputed CBSE school at Komppaly requires Qualified, Capable and passionate teachers with experience and fluency in English, to handle High School Social & Hindi, Primary English &Middle School English &Social. Interested Candidates may email their resume to: uncent@unicentkomppaly.in or contact: 8500288338 or come in person to the Office. (HYMM/2122/C01139)

MATRIMONIAL

GROOM WANTED

CHRISTIAN

FAIR/ SLIM B.Tech, MBA, 5.3, 26, good looking working ADP seeks protestant born-again believer PG, good job. WhatsApp photo, data 9490166468. (A/2122/C00107)

BOREWELLS

SRI SIDDI Vinayaka Borewells 6 1/2"- 2100ft & 4 3/4"- 1000ft Drilling with Latest Technology compressor. Contact: 984824664, 9550552664. (HYCL/2122/C0006)

EDUCATIONAL

NO ADVANCE Fee. Contact For: B.Tech/ Engineering Diplomas in- Mechanical Engineering/Electrical/EE/ IT/Electronics &Communication/ Information Technology/Civil/ Refrigeration/ Diary Engineering/ Textile -from Government Universities/ Boards. ECA guidance -IQAS/WES available. Institutes only. Students please no call. Admission Guidance. Engineering Education Service. Lucknow, E-mail:eng.educationservice99@yahoo.com Mob:7753069493. (HYMM/2122/C01195)

POULTRY

VENCOBB CHICKEN rich in protein, meat in taste & enjoy. Vencobb's Broiler Hyderabad Zone price per kg Farm Gate Rs.82, Retail Live Bird Rs.104. Dressed with Skin Rs.151, Skins Rs.172. Ph:27992239. (HOPE) (S/2122/C00269)

PEST CONTROL

SPECIALIST PEST Control Cockroach Bite Treatment & Termites, New Construction Treatment, 10years Guarantee and Sanitizer Spray. Ph: 9989808181, 9989839849. (HYCL/2122/C00376)

PACKERS & MOVERS

SURYA PACKERS &Movers Professional in Packing &Moving of Household Goods, Cars for Local &Countrywide. Ph:9849783333, 040-27244117. www.suryapackersmovers.com, E-mail: suryapackers6@gmail.com (HYMM/2122/C01183)

SUMMER CAMP

THIS SUMMER let your child learn

IN BRIEF
Bhadrakali fest begins today

Warangal: In view of the Coronavirus pandemic induced lockdown, the Bhadrakali Kalyana Brahmotsavams are being held without devotees. The Brahmotsavam to be held from Saturday to May 26 marks the celestial wedding of Lord Bhadreshwara with Goddess Bhadrakali which would be held on May 17. Warangal West MLA Dasym Vinay Bhaskar attended the proceedings and also volunteered to bear the expenses of the rituals. Accordingly, he donated '51,000 to the temple chief priest.

Governor stops over at Kadapa

Kadapa: Telangana Governor Dr Tamilsai Soundarajan, who is also Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, made a transit halt at Kadapa airport on Friday morning while her on way to Puducherry from Hyderabad. Dr Soundarajan was received at the airport by district collector Chevuru Harikiran and superintendent of police Anbu Rajan on 10.25 am. She halted for 30 minutes before leaving for Puducherry at 11.05 am. Airport director Pusala Sivaprasad, Kadapa and Valluru tahsildars Shivaramreddy and Suhasini, and Kadapa DSP Sunil were present at the airport.

SHOP GUTTED IN FIRE AT JAGADEESH MART

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

A fire mishap was reported at the Jagadeesh Market area in Abids on late Thursday night. Police said that the place was empty due to the lockdown and nobody was injured in the fire.

According to an official, the fire broke out in a mobile phone and accessories shop.

"We suspect that a short circuit might have led to the fire," he said. Someone who noticed smoke coming out of the shop called the fire department and the police.

The burning gadgets and plastic in the shop produced thick smoke. Two fire engines were sent to the spot which doused the flames. The cost of the property damage was yet to be estimated.

141 IGNORE MASKS, FINED BY KHAMMAM COPS

DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, MAY 14

The Khammam police cracked the whip on the persons moving outside without wearing masks on Friday morning after the lockdown took effect in the town.

Commissioner of police Vishnu Warior visited different streets, stopped youths moving about on the streets and asked them why they were outside.

He told them that the government imposed a lockdown to check the spread of the Coronavirus and there is no sense in moving without wearing masks and not maintaining physical distance. He said that the police imposed a penalty against 141 persons for not wearing masks.

STATE RECORDS 4.3K COVID CASES, GHMC AREA 607

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

There are 4,305 new cases and 29 deaths in the state on Friday, taking the total number of Covid-19 cases to 5,20,709 and the fatalities due to the disease to 2,896.

There were 57,416 tests carried out in the state, the health department stated in its daily Covid-19 bulletin. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation area recorded 607 cases, Ranga Reddy district 293, Medchal Malkajgiri 291, Nalgonda 246, Karimnagar 229, Khammam 222, Siddipet 169, Vikarabad 158, Jagtial 125, Mancherla 139 Mahabubnagar 137, Bhadrakri Kothagudem 130 and Warangal Urban district 128 cases.

The state government states that total beds available for Covid-19 treatment in the state are 5,717. People are advised to wear masks, avoid unnecessary travel and stay at home.

TS may have missed out 70L Covid patients

Asymptomatic patients, those with mild symptoms not counted but they spread the disease

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

Telangana state may have missed identifying 70 lakh Covid-19 cases during the second wave of the infections. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research that did surveys for the different phases noted that for every single Covid-19 case detected in the state, as many as 33 have been either missed, not recorded, or not reported.

With 2.11 lakh cases registered in the state during the ongoing second wave, this meant Telangana missed counting as many as 6,96,300 infections that went unnoticed or not reported.

There are various reasons at the ground level for this. Those infected could

have suffered from mild symptoms and recovered soon. There were asymptomatic cases where the persons themselves did not know they were infected. Said Dr Santosh Kraleti, senior public health specialist: "The missed cases account for those who have not got tests done but suffered from the symptoms. They have not got tested for one or other reason. This section has taken medicines and recovered."

The other section was those who had the symptoms and took medicines under the fever survey but the testing has not been done to confirm Covid-19, Dr Kraleti said.

The biggest challenge is that these positive patients are shedding viruses even as they move around. The

THE BIGGEST challenge is that these positive patients are shedding viruses even as they move around. The virus could then infect others, some of whom could develop serious symptoms. It is likely the present large-scale spread is because of these missed cases.

virus could then infect others, some of whom could develop serious symptoms.

Carriers of the virus with symptoms but no quarantine shed the virus and drew others into the risk zone. It is likely the present large-scale spread is because of these missed cases.

An infectious disease specialist explained, "It is

EXPERTS SAY that conservative estimates based on the models of the first wave showed a case fatality rate of 1 to 2 per cent but that is not being reflected as real-time data is not being recorded. There is distrust about the numbers being released in the daily TS bulletin.

clear that one in five persons in the state was already infected. Of these, 2.11 lakh cases were detected, 2 lakh cases are a part of the fever survey of the GHMC who have been given medical kits; and 33 of those missed for every one that was detected could have been suffering from mild or asymptomatic Covid-19."

The total number of people infected till December last year was 24.1 per cent of the state's population, according to the sero-prevalence survey conducted by the Indian Council for Medical Research and the National Institute of Nutrition.

Public health specialists say that from December to February, sero-prevalence has increased by 5 per cent and from March to May, during the ongoing second wave of the pandemic, by 20 per cent.

The NIN, in its study published in February 2021, had warned that 75 per cent of rural Telangana is still susceptible to Covid-19 and the safety protocols of masks, social distancing and hand washing must be strictly followed.

Antibodies were found in

one among four people in Jangaon, Nalgonda and Kamareddy according to the sero prevalence study. Most of the infected were asymptomatic.

The case fatality rate is 0.55 per cent but experts doubt these numbers as there were many deaths that were "not being recorded."

Experts say even conservative estimates based on the models of the first wave showed a case fatality rate of 1 to 2 per cent but that is not being reflected, as real-time data is not being recorded.

There is a lot of confusion, doubt and distrust about the numbers being released in the daily TS medical bulletin.

A pulmonologist at a corporate hospital says, "The numbers released in med-

ical bulletin are no longer being sent to private hospitals, though they did this in the first wave. In first and second waves, we are reporting the daily cases of admission, recovery and death. But we don't know if these numbers are being incorporated in the medical bulletin. These cases will also become a part of the missed cases of Covid-19 as the state has not recorded them."

"This is causing more strain on the healthcare services as their preparedness is based on the available data. With improper data, the prediction of active versus mild, serious and critical cases becomes difficult to assess. This is leading to confusion, chaos and inability to retrieve those from avoidable deaths," it is said.

Some gain, much pain



People crowd a jewellery shop in Punjagutta at 9 am to purchase precious metal on Akshaya Tritiya, which is believed to be auspicious, on Friday. — R. PAVAN



A man with an oxygen mask, who fell on the steps of King Koti Hospital, is being helped, on Friday. — DC



Police stop vehicles seen at Moazzam Jahi market after 10 am, on Friday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Small hospital data brought in to boost Covid bed strength

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

There appears to be a lot of confusion over the actual number of beds available to treat Covid-19 patients in Telangana state.

Though the health department says that there are more than 53,000 beds in government and private hospitals to treat Covid-19 patients, this number is allegedly inflated by adding beds in medical facilities, many of them small, according to some members of a voluntary group that took a deep dive into this issue.

As of 7.30 pm on Friday, according to the state health department's Covid-19 hospital bed availability status report, the online dashboard that the department says anyone can check for bed data, listed 53,782 total beds which include regular and oxygen beds, those in ICUs with ventilators and CPAP machines.

This number, sources in the volunteer group said, was just not true. "When we checked through all the private hospitals listed on the website, we found that there are anywhere between 10,000 and 12,000 beds in private hospitals added to the Covid-19 bed strength. These hospitals have nothing to do with Covid treatment in the first place," a source explained.

According to the source, the main reason for the increase in beds was because the health department added poly clinics, various clinics specifically established for other purposes like fertility, dialysis, kidney, cancer, neuro, nephrology and many more with 10-15 beds and some basic health care facilities.

"We found that there was

NON-COVID HOSPITALS/ CLINICS INCLUDED IN COVID BED DASHBOARD

Children's hosp:	76
Neurology:	18
ENT:	22
Orthopaedic:	13
Maternity:	24
Eye:	12
Diagnostic centres:	9
Fertility:	5
Dialysis:	10
Cancer:	1
Vascular:	1
Nephrology:	1
Laparoscopy:	10
Nursing homes:	104

zero occupancy in 393 hospitals which between them have 6,023 beds. In more than 260 facilities that have one to 10 beds, the data appears to be randomly filled and these account for some 3,000 odd beds," the source explained.

"If anyone is caught violating the rules for trivial reasons, it will be deemed as a serious offence. Vehicles that are caught a second time will be seized," he said.

Bhagwat, along with senior officials visited police posts at Hayathnagar, Abdullapurmet, Uppal, LB Nagar and Meerpeta and enquired about the lockdown implementation.

The Cyberabad police booked 1,597 e-petty cases till Friday night. "We have booked 1,583 for not wearing a mask and 666 for not maintaining social distance and participating in mass gathering," an official said.

VACCINATIONS PUT ON HOLD TILL MONDAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

There will be no Covid-19 vaccination on Saturday and Sunday, the state health department on Friday night.

Director of Health Services Dr G Srinivasa Rao said the decision was taken following changes made by the Centre in the interval between first and second dose of Covishield vaccine to 12-16 weeks.

"Changes were made in the Covin portal such that it will be possible to administer the second dose only after a minimum of 12," he said.

There was no word on those seeking the second dose of Covaxin.

Teachers' body: Support kin of 225 Covid victims

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

of the more than 500 teachers who took part in election duties died of the deadly virus, they said.

The federation has appealed to the government to help the families of the deceased teachers and take steps to prevent Covid-19 infliction on teachers by giving priority to them in the vaccination process.

"Covid treatment costs 14 lakh to ₹20 lakh in private hospitals, but the state government is reimbursing no more than ₹1 lakh," the federation said.

"Even this is given only to those who have been treated in referral hospitals. Since all the hospitals

allowed for Covid treatment are not referral hospitals, there is no possibility of recovering from the infection even with that money," they said.

They pleaded that steps be taken to provide cashless medical care on health cards, ex gratia and financial assistance and employment opportunities to the families of the deceased contract teachers.

The federation has sent a representation on this to Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao and Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar.

state education ministries will hold a meeting to discuss the future of online education and the expenditure required to set up further facilities.

Sources said that education secretaries of all states, with Union education minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and education secretary Anita Karwal will hold an interactive session to discuss how to make online education the priority for all expenditure even under Samagra Shiksha programme.

COVID | TIMES

Academic session scheduled to start on June 1

Online schools till year-end

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

Online education is likely to continue for another academic year in the state, owing to the current pandemic situation, and in anticipation of a third wave of the Coronavirus in the country, government sources told this correspondent.

An official in the state education department said students and parents should be prepared to further adapt to the lack of physical, face-to-face classes at least until the

online education is the only way," said the official.

The new academic year in the state is so far scheduled to begin from mid-June, once schools reopen after summer vacations on June 1.

Some private schools' bodies like the Telangana Recognised Schools' Management Association (TRSMA) are demanding that the government releases an academic calendar soon so as to prepare teachers as well as students in time. On Monday, central and

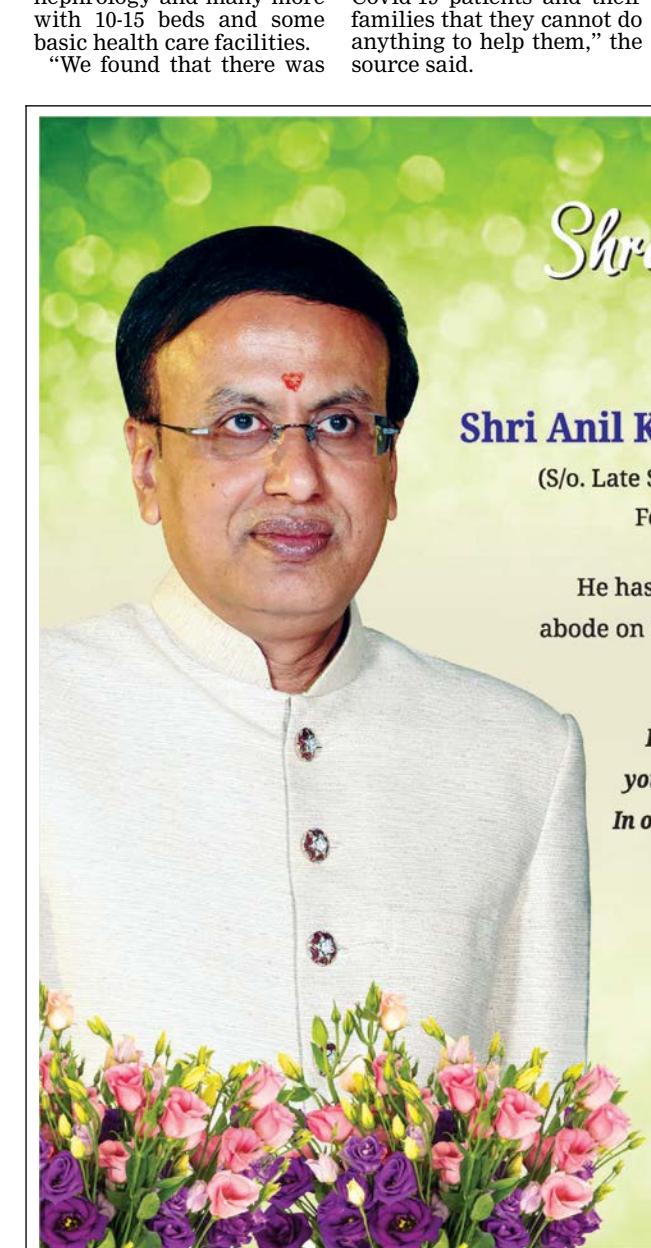
state education ministries will hold a meeting to discuss the future of online education and the expenditure required to set up further facilities.

Sources said that education secretaries of all states, with Union education minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and education secretary Anita Karwal will hold an interactive session to discuss how to make online education the priority for all expenditure even under Samagra Shiksha programme.

In life we loved you dearly, you've gone we love you still. In our hearts you hold a place, no one else will ever fill.

Deeply mourned by

YUG Developers & Constructions



He has left us for his heavenly abode on Tuesday, 11th May 2021

Deeply mourned by

YUG Developers & Constructions

SHORT TAKES

RESOLVE AMBULANCE ISSUE: KISHAN

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy expressed dissatisfaction over the issue of stopping ambulances on the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana State border by Telangana police.

The Minister released a video message to both state governments on Friday saying that they should amicably resolve the issue as it was affecting the lives of Covid patients. He suggested that the two Chief Ministers and their chief secretaries should talk immediately.

He urged the Telangana government to abide by the High Court orders and allow patients coming to Hyderabad for treatment. He said that the Union home secretary had already discussed with the chief secretary of Telangana about the urgent need to resolve the issue.

Kishan Reddy appealed to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao to withdraw the circular about not allowing ambulances into Telangana. A mutual agreement between the chief ministers can help contain the virus, he said.

UTTAM: ADD COVID TREATMENT TO AAROGYASRI

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday demanded the state government to add testing and treatment of Covid-19 to Arogyasri scheme immediately.

Speaking to the media after releasing as poster of 'Rahul Gandhi Cares', along with Telangana Youth Congress president Shivasena Reddy, he said that under the programme Youth Congress would take up several relief works for Covid patients across the state.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that neither Prime Minister Narendra Modi nor Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had bothered to control the second wave. He said that it was atrocious to note that testing kits were not available in the state. He said that Rapid Antigen Tests were failing to find the virus. He said that to overcome this problem, the government should take up RT-PCR tests.

Stating that expenditure on Covid treatment was increasing by the day, he pointed out that he was billed ₹3 lakh towards hospitalisation and medicines despite being a Member of Parliament and wondered how the common man could afford such heavy bills. He said that the government has devitalized 104 and 108 services in the state. As 108 Ambulance Service was not available, people were forced to hire private ambulances.

"KCR had announced in the Assembly that treatment of Covid would be added to Arogyasri. But it is yet to materialize," he said.

He lamented that many patients were dying in hospitals due to severe shortage of ventilators. He made it clear that the government should take responsibility for deaths in hospitals due to non-availability of oxygen.

AP cops find ways to help stranded patients

Police helps secure permits from TS Covid care centres

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, MAY 14

The Telangana state police yet again stopped ambulances carrying Coronavirus-infected patients from parts of AP at the border points, but help was at hand from the AP police to facilitate some of these to proceed to Hyderabad with a special nod from the TS Covid Control Centre.

The stoppage was done on the pretext that these ambulances were not having admission permits from the respective hospitals they were heading for in Telangana and from the TS Covid Control Centre (TSCC). Patients and their families were put to hardships from the week hours on Friday.

The Telangana state government had issued

a direction that the infected patients coming to Hyderabad for medical treatment must carry proof of bed confirmation from the hospital they were going to and nod from the TSCC. The Telangana state police turned away several of the ambulances and patients therein.

At the Garikapadu check post in Jaggaiaheta of Krishna district, nearly 15 ambulances arrived from the early hours on Friday from parts of Vijayawada, Guntur, East Godavari and West Godavari districts carrying the Covid-19 patients. The TS police allowed in three to four of these ambulances as they showed the permissions.

The AP police swiftly turned Good Samaritans by helping the critically ill patients to obtain

mandatory permission from the TSCC and to proceed to Hyderabad. A head constable was deputed by the AP police at the check post for the purpose. He contacted the TS authorities by phone and also sent necessary papers through WhatsApp to get permission in just a few minutes.

Krishna SP M. Ravindra Babu said, "We helped some critically ill patients to be admitted in hospitals in Hyderabad. However, some ambulances were sent back for want of necessary approvals by the TS police."

At Ramapuram cross-road checkpost in Kodad, TS police stopped nearly 30 ambu-



Telangana Police stop an ambulance near Ramapuram Crossroad at Telangana checkpost on Friday. — DC

BJP, CONG DECRY TS' BID TO STOP AMBULANCES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress leaders strongly reacted to the Telangana authorities' bid to stop movements of ambulances carrying Covid-19 patients on the interstate borders on Friday.

BJP senior leader and former MP Vijayashanti lashed out at the Telangana government for stopping Andhra Pradesh ambulances at the border. She said both the governments did not have humanity over those coming for treatment to Hyderabad from Andhra Pradesh.

She accused that the officials could not even give a proper answer to the High Court question as to whether there were any orders from the government to stop ambulances at the borders.

Vijayashanti said with the attitude of the Telangana government, many patients had reached the point of death near the borders. The leader demanded registration of a case of attempt to murder against Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

It was chaos at the Pullur toll plaza on Friday as TS police stopped ambulances.

The Gadwal police scrutinised ambulances for documents. At least 60 ambulances have been sent back from midnight till Friday afternoon. It is said two critically ill patients on oxygen support in ambu-

lances died at the toll plaza as they were kept waiting for permission to cross the border. One more critically ill patient, denied permission, was admitted in Kurnool GGH.

Kurnool MLA MA Hafeez Khan requested the border police to allow patients to proceed. The cops, in turn, cited the CS order. Jogulamba Gadwal district SP Ranjan Rathan

Kumar visited the toll plaza and reviewed the situation.

Hafeez Khan got to know in the morning that dozens of ambulances were stranded at the Pullur toll plaza. He rushed to the place and found patients in varying degrees of seriousness on the wait for entry to TS. He managed to send two ambulances to

Hyderabad based on the extremely serious nature of the condition.

Meanwhile, TD Kurnool unit president Somisetty Venkateswarlu and BD district president P. Rama Swamy reached the toll plaza and entered Telangana side and started a street protest. Demanding that the TS police allow all ambulances to go through, they said the restrictions must be withdrawn immediately.

The TS police drove them back to Andhra Pradesh's side. "You agitate from Andhra's side only. Not here," cops told them. YSRC MLAs Katasani Rambhupal Reddy and Arthur also reached the spot but failed to convince the cops to relax their stand.

The TS police had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

"It would be problematic for the patients residing under GHMC limits to get an emergency bed. Other states like Maharashtra and Delhi are prohibiting entry from other states. We didn't issue any such order. By considering the issues at ground level, the circular was issued," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

Dammalapati Srinivas, senior counsel representing the petitioner submitted that the state governments had the authority to issue Disaster Management Policy, but it should be in conformity with the national policy. "Here the Telangana state government is restricting the floating on its own, despite the Central policy being in force, which specifically mentioned that no inter or intra state borders be closed," Rizvi submitted.

Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Sriram, submitted that issuance of such a circular in these circumstances would further compound the problem as the patients needed timely medical help. Sriram further submitted that the so-called regulations issued in the circular under Epidemics Act and Disaster Management Act violating the Articles 19, 21 of Indian Constitution and the said Acts must be in harmony with the fundamental law.

SHORT TAKES

**DIRTY, IMPURE
WATER FLOWS IN
KHAMMAM TAPS**DC CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM, MAY 14

Residents of 56 and 57th divisions were shocked after noticing the colour of the drinking water coming from their taps. It was muddy and full of dirt and not fit to even have a bath, leave alone for cooking purposes.

The state government has claimed several times that it would ensure safe water to the people of Khammam through Mission Bhagiratha. It also built four tanks and got water from Palair reservoir. The issue was taken to the notice of 57th division corporator Rafida Begum.

**30-YR-OLD TECHIE
ENDS LIFE BY
SUICIDE AT HOME**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

A 30-year-old techie working for a software firm in HiTec City allegedly died by suicide at his residence in Alwal on Friday morning. The reason for the alleged suicide is not yet known.

According to police, the deceased, M. Srinivas Reddy, was a software employee and resident of Chetan Colony at Alwal.

As per statements received from the family, Reddy was reportedly depressed over the last few weeks, said police.

Alwal police reached the spot following call and are investigating the case. The body has been shifted to Gandhi Hospital morgue for post-mortem.

**IMAMS, MUEZZINS
TO GET ENCHANCED
HONORARIUM**DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, MAY 14

The AP government has enhanced the remuneration/honorarium to imams and muezzins as a Ramzan *tifaq*, by issuing an order recently.

"As the state government is committed to promote communal peace and harmony and wanted peaceful coexistence of people of all castes and religions, it enhanced the financial support to three important religious communities," an official release said.

Accordingly, Imams serving in mosques would get monthly honorarium of ₹10,000 as against the present ₹5,000. Muezzins would get a raise to ₹5,000 from ₹3,000.

Archaka in category-1 would get a raise to ₹15,625 from ₹10,000 and those serving in category-2 would get ₹10,000 instead of the present ₹5,000.

Pastors serving in churches would get ₹5,000.

Muslims celebrated the festival of Id-ul-Fitr with traditional gaiety and fervour on Friday, though on a low key this year as in 2020, in view of the prevalence of Covid-19 pandemic in the state.

Muslims in new clothes offered special prayers at their homes -- and some in mosques after getting permission from the local authorities in limited numbers.

All idghas and open places of worship were closed to prevent congregational prayers. No mass prayers were offered in any part of the state unlike regular practice of hundreds of Muslims gathering together to offer festival prayers. The heads of families donned the role of imams to perform Id-ul-Fitr namaz in their homes.

Run for cover

Police personnel rush to take shelter as heavy rains lashed parts of the city on Friday. With the 10-day lockdown in place, police were deployed across the city to restrict unwanted traffic movement.

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, MAY 14

The adviser (Public Affairs) to the state government, Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, called it unfortunate on the part of Telangana government not to allow ambulances with Coronavirus-infected patients from parts of AP to reach Hyderabad for treatment, even as the Telangana High Court issued directions to the Telangana government earlier not to stop ambulances coming from other states at inter-state borders.

He told media persons here on Friday that it was time everyone worked with humanity and called upon the TS government to allow ambulances from AP into Telangana on humanitarian grounds, stating that the entire country was going through an unprecedented

health crisis due to Coronavirus pandemic.

Reacting sharply to the TS government insistence on letters from hospitals and also passes for entering their state to get medical treatment, Reddy said that it was not possible to follow them, given the prevalence of an emergency situation.

Maintaining that people prefer to visit cities having better medical infrastructure, he said that AP patients were facing trouble to reach Hyderabad, while there were no restrictions on reaching Chennai and Bengaluru.

Referring to the post-bifurcation scenario, he slammed the former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for failing to develop a super specialty hospital in AP during his five-year regime and opined that if any such facility was developed, the people should not have faced

such an ordeal as there were facing at present. He castigated Naidu for giving up AP rights on common capital Hyderabad up to 2024 by involving in cheap politics.

Reddy said that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was holding talks with the Telangana government to resolve the issue at the earliest and added that the state government had been making all efforts to contain the spread of the virus, provide better medical facilities, vaccinate all people and also deliver welfare schemes without any hindrance even during the peak Covid times.

He also said that the state government had spent ₹68,000 crore for welfare farmers in the last 23 months and even directly credited ₹89,000 crore into the accounts of beneficiaries under various schemes.

**PM salutes Dalit farmer
for nature-inspired agri**

Hails her initiative to train 170 colleagues in natural farming

DC CORRESPONDENT
ANANTAPUR, MAY 14

through a video conference and he interacted with a few farmers from different parts of the country on the occasion.

Vannuramma, a woman farmer from Durakunta village in Kalyanadurgam mandal, was among those who had the opportunity to interact with the Prime Minister.

She had four children and lost her husband a few years ago. Though the family had four acres of dry land, she eked out a living as a farm labourer till two years ago, leaving the land for nearly 10 years as they could not bear losses.

Her life took a positive turn after she started practicing natural farming in 2 acres. She succeeded to get yields throughout the year. She also showed the PM the vegetables grown in the land.

"The government gave me four acres of assigned land. That land had been barren for ten years. I did nature farming in 2 acres. I grew three types of crops - millets, peanuts and vegetables. The total investment for the 3 crops was ₹27,000 and I could make a profit of ₹1.07 lakh per acre," a beaming Vannuramma briefed Modi.

Collector Gandham Chandradu specially congratulated Vannuramma on briefing the Prime Minister on her successful journey as a progressive farmer.

Impressed by her successive story, the Prime Minister appreciated her for taking to natural farming. "The country is getting a boost of confidence from the farmers. The nature farming you have done as a Dalit woman stands as an ideal for other farmers. I sincerely salute you," Modi said.

Collector Gandham Chandradu specially congratulated Vannuramma on briefing the Prime Minister on her successful journey as a progressive farmer.

around 170 tribal women from the Tanda (tribal village) next to her village in nature farming.

Medical experts at Medicover Hospitals using hemodynamic support successfully placed a novel percutaneous LV assist device - Impella CP - in a 49-year-old male, who had suffered multiple failures in heart transplants due to complex blockages in blood vessels of his heart.

Post-procedure, the patient was observed for one-and-a-half days before being discharged with regular medication. Post-recovery he has been able to sleep without any interruption at night.

Dr Sharath Reddy, director, interventional cardiologist, said, "Impella is the only US FDA-approved non-surgical heart pump technology. It is mainly indicated in patients with severe heart disease with other health conditions. It is the most safe and effective heart pump for critical individuals".

Dr Sharath maintained that Impella ensures good blood flow to all organs including the heart, enabling hassle-free operation during the procedure.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

Medical experts at Medicover Hospitals using hemodynamic support successfully placed a novel percutaneous LV assist device - Impella CP - in a 49-year-old male, who had suffered multiple failures in heart transplants due to complex blockages in blood vessels of his heart.

Post-procedure, the patient was observed for one-and-a-half days before

being discharged with regular medication. Post-recovery he has been able to sleep without any interruption at night.

Dr Sharath Reddy, director, interventional cardiologist, said, "Impella is the only US FDA-approved

non-surgical heart pump technology. It is mainly indicated in patients with severe heart disease with other health conditions. It is the most safe and effective heart pump for critical individuals".

Dr Sharath maintained that Impella ensures good blood flow to all organs including the heart, enabling the operator to perform a procedure without any hassles. It also reduces need for prolonged hospitalisation and multiple procedures," he added.

Medicover treats heart patient with new device

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

Medical experts at Medicover Hospitals using hemodynamic support successfully placed a novel percutaneous LV assist device - Impella CP - in a 49-year-old male, who had suffered multiple failures in heart transplants due to complex blockages in blood vessels of his heart.

Post-procedure, the patient was observed for one-and-a-half days before

being discharged with regular medication. Post-recovery he has been able to sleep without any interruption at night.

Dr Sharath Reddy, director, interventional cardiologist, said, "Impella is the only US FDA-approved

non-surgical heart pump technology. It is mainly indicated in patients with severe heart disease with other health conditions. It is the most safe and effective heart pump for critical individuals".

Dr Sharath maintained that Impella ensures good blood flow to all organs including the heart, enabling the operator to perform a procedure without any hassles. It also reduces need for prolonged hospitalisation and multiple procedures," he added.

Only three board members for SCBDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 14

Pradesh Sub Area Commander, Chief Executive Officer B. Ajith Reddy and a nominated civilian member will take charge. The board would be endowed with the powers that are vested in a full board of elected representatives.

The term of eight elected representatives of the SCB had ended in February this year as per the norms of the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

While no election notice has been issued by the board till date keeping in mind the pandemic, the 'varied board' will consist of the ruling party at the Centre,

said former SCB vice president Ramakrishna.

Following Covid norms

Customers stand in a queue maintaining social distance to enter a supermarket in Hyderabad on Friday morning.

— R. PAVAN

292 cases in Sircilla for flouting curbsDC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, MAY 14

Sundaraiahnagar, B.Y. Nagar, Indiranagar and new bus stand in Sircilla town of Rajanna Sircilla district.

Most cases were booked in Ambedkar chowrasta region against people being outside without reason despite the lockdown. Cases were lodged against shop owners for not closing their establishments by 10 am.

Jagan urges Modi to allot more O2 to stateDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, MAY 14

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will write a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to enhance allocation of medical oxygen to AP.

Principal secretary (transport) M.T. Krishna Babu said here on Friday that the centre had allocated three additional ISO containers and 110 metric tonnes of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) from Reliance, Jamnagar,

to AP, and added that the three containers would be handed over at Durgapur on Saturday.

The official said that two cryogenic containers carrying 20 tonnes of LMO each had started from Durgapur Steel Plant in a train and it would reach Krishnapatnam Port in Nellore district by 4 pm on Saturday.

Another train carrying 60 tonnes of LMO would start from Durgapur on Saturday and would reach Guntur station by Saturday night.

Nellore in 24 hours. The two trains would be running in opposite direction to ensure supply of 60 tonnes of LMO to Rayalseema districts and also to Nellore district.

The principal secretary looking after supply of storage of medical oxygen said that one more train carrying six ISO containers with 110 tonnes of LMO from Reliance, Jamnagar, had started and would reach Guntur station by Saturday night.

Reacting to the incident, minister Balineni Srinivasa Reddy justified his arrest, saying that it should have been done earlier. The people would not tolerate it if the state government and the CM were commented

Minister Balineni justifies arrest

From Page 1

ANOTHER MINISTER Ch. Srirangatharaju asked for disciplinary action by the party leadership against the MP and also felt the need for taking up an inquiry into the cases booked against him in Narasapur limits.

upon badly. He found fault with the MP for failing to visit his Lok Sabha constituency to inspect developmental works.

Another minister Ch. Srirangatharaju asked for disciplinary action by the party leadership against the MP and also felt the need for taking up an inquiry into the cases booked against him in Narasapur limits.

Raju has for long been carrying out a campaign against the state government. The state government, after taking his personal attacks on the CM and the state government in good faith, finally said enough was enough and submitted a requisition to the Lok Sabha to disqualify him from its membership as he had been indulging in anti-party activities despite getting elected on the ticket of YSR Congress.

Reacting to the incident, minister Balineni Srinivasa Reddy justified his arrest, saying that it should have been done earlier. The people would not tolerate it if the state government and the CM were commented

**KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Undertaking)**

Tender No.: KR/KW/OL/W/2021/05-CB

The Konkan Railway Corporation Limited has invited following open tender on ireps.gov.in system. Name of the Work: Protective works inside Permen tunnel between Km 1384.6-7 for 63 mtrs. length under SENMAO section. Priority Work (Excluding ongoing work portion). Cost of the Work: ₹ 249.07 Lakhs Excluding GST. Closing Date & Time: 04/06/2021 at 15:00 Hrs. For further details, contact Office of Sr. Regional Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., Karwar. For more details visit (<https://www.ireps.gov.in>)

NMDC Limited

(A Government of India Enterprise)

'Khanji Bhavan', 10-3-31/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028.

CIN : L13100TG198G01001674

CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT

Tender Enquiry No: H0/Contracts/Services/Ref-GFNW/2021/244, Dt. 15-05-2021. MSTR Ref. No.: NMDC/H0/2/21-22/ET/68

NMDC Limited, A "NAVARTANA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids from prospective bidders for the work of "Refurbishment of Ground Floor North Wing (Half Portion) at NMDC Khanji Bhavan Building, Hyderabad".

The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and / or downloaded from 15-05-2021 to 01-06-2021 from following website links :

1. NMDC website - <https://www.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender/default.aspx>
2. Central Public Procurement portal - <https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublis/app> and search tender through tender enquiry number.
3. MSTR portal - https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp For further help refer to 'vendor guide' given in MSTR website.

The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through NMDC Limited website. The details of submission of bid through online are given in NIT. The Bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website / CPP Portal / NMDC website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, the following can be contacted - General Manager (Contracts), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, Fax No. +91-040-23534746, Tel No. +91-040-23532800, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in

General Manager (Contracts)

Door-to-door survey for fever from today in APDC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, MAY 14

Andhra Pradesh government will take up a door-to-door survey for fever from Saturday as part of its efforts to check spread of Coronavirus in the state.

DECCAN Chronicle

15 MAY 2021

Opp. letter key first step govt must take on board

Leaders of 12 Opposition parties have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding that his government rework its vaccination policy and announce a universal free vaccination programme against Covid-19 and provide immediate financial relief to the people who have been hit by the second wave of the pandemic. The Union government must procure vaccines centrally from all available sources for the purpose and fully spend the budgetary allocation of ₹35,000 crores for vaccination and the money in the PM-Cares Fund in the fight against the pandemic, they said.

India is now witnessing the more fatal second wave of the pandemic and is left with no option but to declare an all-out war against the coronavirus. The steps the Opposition has listed invariably could be part of the strategy even an expert would lay out. On the other hand, the vaccine policy the government now follows is deeply flawed: It has left the job to the state governments and the private sector to source doses from Indian or foreign

manufacturers to inoculate people aged between 18 and 45 years. The government has also given the vaccine manufacturers the freedom to fix the price of the life-saving vaccine. These are not steps any government would dare take in the face of a pandemic. The government has also faced uncomfortable questions from various high courts and the Supreme Court on the question of availability of vaccines, oxygen and life-saving drugs.

The government must see the Opposition leaders' letter to the Prime Minister as an invitation to open a joint front in the war against the virus. The government now says the country will get 216 crore doses by December-end. This is a welcome announcement as the quantity is enough to inoculate all the eligible persons in this country. With an assured supply of the doses, the government must now set a practical deadline for vaccinating at least 70 per cent of the population which, experts say, is a necessary condition to attain herd immunity, and roll out a programme with definite milestones. The state governments and the private sector can be drafted for the success of the mission. The programme should work in a reverse engineering mode and ensure that every bottleneck is cleared.

The Opposition has called for the postponement of the Grand Vista project as well as scrapping of the three laws that would govern the agriculture sector in this country. We find these demands are a digression. This nation has far too many issues left unaddressed for centuries, but the challenge the virus poses eclipses them all.

The nation is going through one of the most difficult phases in its history, and it's time all the people joined together and fought off the enemy, a microorganism, as one man. Shorn of the political points in it and the rhetoric, the Opposition leaders' letter can be seen as a first step. The government should drop the recalcitrant attitude it has shown towards the earlier Opposition positions and instead take this as an opportunity to work together to save the nation from further devastation.

Courting transparency

The Chief Justice's idea of live-streaming and telecasting live proceedings of the Supreme Court is to be welcomed. The CJI is seeking a consensus within the court to try and take forward a path breaking concept, which can bring transparency and openness that can reinforce the faith of the public in the judicial system. The idea was mooted in a 2018 case in the top court and experiments were conducted in the Gujarat high court, which telecast proceedings on the YouTube channel. The pandemic may have enforced virtual hearings on the judiciary but it does appear the experience can prove beneficial if it leads to telecasts and live-streaming from the Supreme Court of India.

Progress in the form of open media access was seen recently in online media portals being able to hear court proceedings. In fact, it was the reporting in online portals of the observations of Madras high court judges on the Election Commission of India that brought out the severity of issues surrounding polls in the time of the pandemic. Contentious though the comments were and also frowned upon by the top court, such access to reporting of court proceedings by the media allowed the matter to come out in the public domain.

There may be much that is opaque in the manner in which the wheels of justice move, especially in areas like the process of nomination of judges to the higher judiciary. While such matters should be confidential and handled between the collegium and the executive branch of government in power, there is no reason why the proceedings in celebrated cases cannot be telecast live so that the wider legal fraternity as well as members of the public can witness them. Of course, the matter of what is live-streamed or telecast should lie strictly in the control of the highest judiciary so that issues like those that popped up in the famous O.J. Simpson case in the US do not crop up.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

K. SUDHAKAR
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256
Vijayawada: No.C 3 & 4 Puttama, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234
Visakhapatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-255233/255234; Fax: 0891-7755285
Rajahmundry: Venagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208
Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904
Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2229098; Telefax: 0878-2220433
Nellore: Survey No.52/2, Burrampalli Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chemmudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348518/2; Telefax: 0861-2348580
Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/48/50/51; Adv/Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325
Coimbatore: 77, Vivekananda Road, Ram Nagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255
Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

Farrukh
Dhondy
Cabbages & Kings



"It's called hiding and running
Or Silence, Exile and Cowering
All with Capital letters
To unchain Envy's fetters

Always beat about the Bush
Suspense keeps hearers Khush
Language and idiom mix
The ideal poetic fix!"

— From Chowpatty Repartee by
Bachchoo

Why is Labour, once a force in British politics, on the rocks?

Apologies! Heres' a political quiz: Question 1: In which democracy is the party, which has been in power since the late 1940s, now on the brink of collapse? Question 2: In which democratic country has the governing party come to power through an appeal to irrational or non-rational factors? Question 3: Which government was slow to react to the Covid pandemic and caused as a consequence an avoidable number of deaths? Congratulations, gentle reader — perhaps the questions were too easy and the answers obvious: But you got it — the answer to all three questions is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland!

The Opposition Labour Party has lost its appeal and is falling apart; the Tories appealed not to rational material advance of classes but to emotional xenophobia and BoJo's government will be castigated in the forthcoming inquiry into the handling of the Covid-19 emergency, for not implementing lockdown measures in the face of rampant public contagion.

So, why is the Labour Party, a force in British politics since its formation in 1906, on its uppers if not on the rocks? Last week, on May 6, the UK held elections for several local council seats — control of the municipalities. Labour lost 267 of them while the Tories gained 294. The biggest disaster for Labour on May 6 was the single by-election for the Westminster Parliament held in the northeastern port of Hartlepool. For seventy years this town has voted Labour. This time it changed to Conservative. What the media in Britain characterise as another brick in the red wall" turning blue!

In 2019, under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour Party lost disastrously to Boris Johnson's Brexiteer buccaneering Tories. BoJo's 80-seat majority in the House of Commons was made up substantially of MPs from constituencies in this red

wall — the towns and cities of the Midlands and the North who were traditionally Labour, as they had vast populations of the working class. Did these "natural" Labour voters have a change of heart or even of DNA?

No, gentle reader, they voted with a change of allegiance towards the party that promised to "Get Brexit Done" and so ban European citizens from coming into the country, whether they came into their own red wall constituency or not.

Why? Go back a few governments and we have the Tory government of Margaret Thatcher who closed down the mines and mills, destroyed swathes of traditional manufacture and opened up Britain's markets, for example, to Polish coal and Asian

It left millions of people in the red wall territories unemployed. Subsequent Labour governments did very little to make the economic revival of these towns and cities their priority. Albeit there was a lot else to do and the 2008 world financial crisis didn't assist those Labour governments either.

Membership of the European Union gave European citizens — Poles, Hungarians, Spaniards and others

from the 27 countries — the right to come to Britain and work. These workers brought skills which had become scarce or prohibitively expensive in UK cities. For instance, in London, if you needed a plumber or a builder, the most convenient, cheapest and reliable one to do the work would be Eastern European.

Apart from an innate xenophobia, which no columnist can honestly quantify, there was the definite canard in the British working classes that these "foreign" workers were undercutting British wages. There were other more nebulous reasons — a faux-nostalgia for a supposedly vanishing British culture, eroded by the presence of other languages, religions, cuisine etc. "Keep Johnny Foreigner out" was the unspoken credo of the Brexiteers.

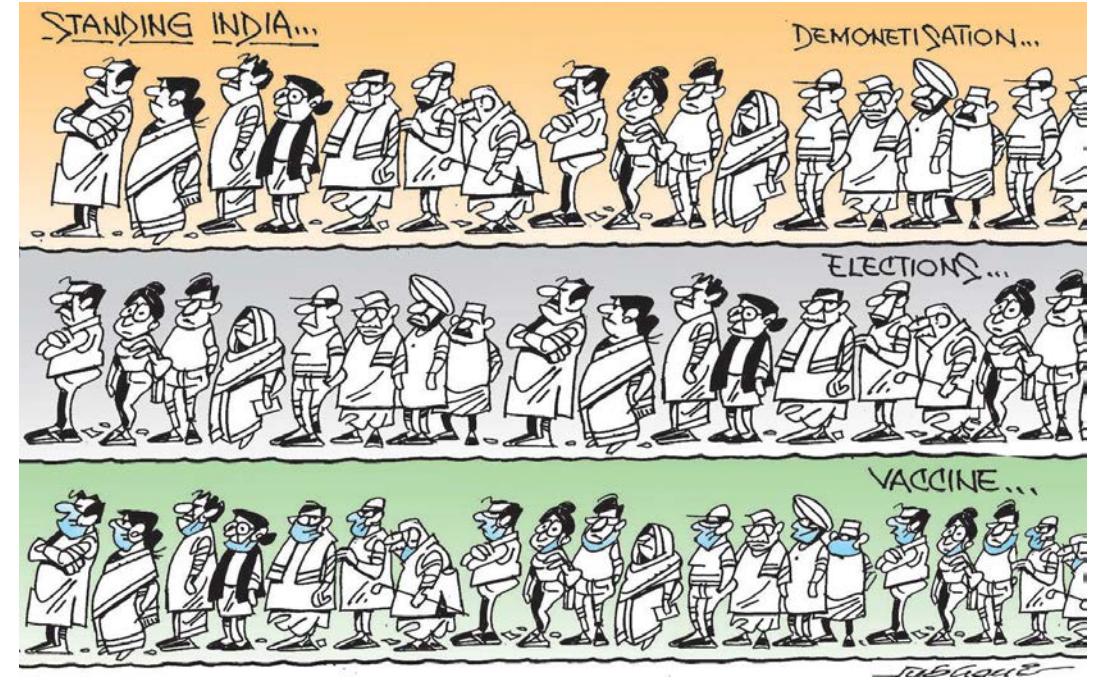
And the Labour Party was split on the issue. Jeremy Corbyn and several leftist infiltrators and open "Trotskyists" (Yes, gentle reader, in 2019) were wholehearted Brexiteers. They made no assessments of the damage to Britain and to its working classes or to its security. They were following the 1960s and 1970s' contention of their hero Tony Benn who called the EU a "capitalist club". They would leave it and join Russia, China, the United

States, India and other great "socialist" nations and with them defeat previous capitalist clubs. No, gentle reader, this is not an extract from Monty Python or any other satirical show. These advocates, some of them my friends, really believed and preached this.

What had started out in 1906 as a party of workers, mostly unionised, has, a hundred years on, become the political vehicle of an urban elite who would support Jeremy Corbyn's plans to nationalise the railways and take its ownership away from French and Dutch capitalist companies. They would support taxing the very rich, plugging the tax-dodge holes that the Tories and Rishi Sunak have left gaping. What they would also support is what has come to be known as the "woke" agenda. And most important, they (including yours truly) are decidedly anti-Brexit.

Labour has become two factions — the red wall xenophobes and the liberal, partially if dedicatedly, "woke" (not quite yours truly) urban membership. These are political enemies and can't present the country with a unified Opposition. Kali's heads can look both ways and manifest her powers — the Labour Party's can't.

Subhani



What'll it take for Modi to stop playing ostrich?



Shobhaa's Take

The Hindi word for the two-toed, flightless largest living bird known as the ostrich is "shuturmurg". I bet you didn't know that! Well, India is full of shuturmurs right now, most of them working for the government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi can't seem to make up his mind — to be a peacock or an ostrich. Which is maybe why he plays both, depending on the occasion. Of course, the ostrich in him makes sure he sees nothing and says nothing, while he watches India being turned into the world's biggest funeral pyre. Ostriches are known to run really fast when they are being chased by enemies (real or imaginary). Since our PM is staying put and not running, it's safe to assume he has zero enemies chasing him. The peacock in him makes sure his rare public appearances are perfectly colour coordinated and his flowing snowy beard well-groomed. He is now beginning to resemble the biblical Moses rather than Tagore or an Indian sage. But, unfortunately for citizens, he doesn't bear tablets in his hands nor an iPad with 10 or 20 or even 100 commandments. He says nothing at all. For a man known to like the sound of his own voice (six years of Modinama), one wonders about the stony radio silence.

Meanwhile, home minister Amit Shah stays in purdah as meme-makers go into overdrive ("Students' union files a missing person's report for Amit Bhadra"). With two of the most important men in India not around during the country's biggest crisis, we are stuck with a headless chicken (the absentee government) in charge. In

charge of WHAT, you ask. Hello! In charge of us: the hapless citizens of this great nation. Guys — get this clearly — we are adrift, minus life jackets. There is no sighting of the captain who seems to have abandoned the ship. So please don't stress over minor issues and keep asking: "Where's the roadmap for the future? How do we tackle the acute vaccine shortage? What happens when the third wave hits India?"

Bhagwan ka naam lo — and hope for the best. The roadmap doesn't exist. A distraught friend from Jaipur was close to tears when he said: "People are dying on the streets. But the government reports only six deaths, while the funeral homes report 57 — that's how wide the gap is." From all corners of India, citizens are sending out pathetic appeals for oxygen cylinders, beds, oximeters, vaccines — anything to save their loved ones. There is only a stone wall in front of them. Isn't it unbelievable and horrifying that our PM keeps mum through such an unprecedented tragedy? Why? It's an absolute mystery! Why has the "Great Communicator" not expressed sympathy, reassured citizens and calmed an agitated nation? Forget an apology. Forget owning up his responsibility. Forget taking charge. Such a cavalier and heartless attitude speaks of bad politics and terrible image management. Here's a man who rose to the pinnacle of power through image manipulation. He understands the impact of optics, he's the master of the social media game — and yet he refuses to pacify his countrymen and countrywomen. Unless we are overlooking the arrogance of megalomani-

All along, India wasted precious time and resources not enforcing Covid-19 protocols strictly. An old clip of Assam's then BJP health minister (who is now chief minister) Himanta Biswa Sarma is doing the rounds. In that he tells a persistent reporter that masks are "not necessary" as there's not even a single Covid-19 case in his state. That's the level of brazenness, plus a lack of education of our elected representatives. This week former Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Rawat said: "Corona is also a creature and has the right to live." Insane! D.V. Sadananda Gowda, another brilliant minister

These are humanitarian issues. Our leaders lack humanity. They don't have to be scientists or Covid experts. They just need to tell people that no matter what, help will reach them. Instead, all energies are focused on completing the ₹20,000-crore Central Vista construction in New Delhi: Prime Minister Modi's pet project. Imagine a man the world admired for rising to the highest position in the country after starting his life as a humble *chaiwalla* and sleeping on a hard floor now wants to reside in an opulent multi-crore palace, financed by us!

Today, there are any number of Indians who are demanding the Prime Minister's resignation (as would happen in any other civilised country) and holding him directly responsible for this unspeakable tragedy.

Others are seriously nominating an actor (Sonu Sood) for PM, in recognition of his sustained work during the pandemic.

Rather an actor who delivers and feels the pain of his fellow citizens than a wannabe superstar who has forgotten his dialogues.

Kuch na Kaho... Kuch bhi na kaho...

Instagram handle:
@ShobhaaDe; Twitter:
@DeShobhaa

LETTERS

CARING KTR

IT minister K.T. Rama Rao has shown that he cares about his people (*Covid-19 warrior KTR says he will donate plasma*, DC, May 14). I request KTR to add Covid-19 treatment in Aarogyasri as it will be helpful for poor people.

Naresh B.
Hyderabad

CLUELESS CENTRE

The government is criminally incompetent at all levels and caused thousands of preventable deaths. Now, it is clueless and ignoring advice of experts on vaccine (200 cr jabs by December to boost India vax drive, DC, May 14). To claim that we will have 200 crore vaccines by December is shocking. Experts said the longer it takes to vaccinate people, the greater the risk of new variants among the unvaccinated and reinfection even in those vaccinated. We should have vaccinated the whole population in 30 to 60 days on a war footing.

Sandeep
Secunderabad

The Centre is contemplating to import vaccines. The better option is to increase the availability of indigenous Covaxin by allowing Public Sector companies to start production. This will be cost effective and generate employment too.

P.R. Ravinder
Hyderabad

DEATH OF INDIAN

It is laughable, if it was not so tragic, that India is worried about the death of a 30-year-old Indian woman in Israel (*India worried as citizen loses life in Israel*, DC, May 14). Here thousands are dying due to casual attitude of the Centre's mishandling of Covid-19, lack of oxygen and vaccines, pathetic hospital facilities, dead bodies floating down our holy rivers, etc.

N. Prabhakar
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Govt. takes charge of insurance

NEW DELHI, MAY 14. Officers of the Controller of Insurance in the Union Finance Ministry today formally assumed charge of the general insurance companies whose management was taken over by the Government through an Ordinance last night.



SHORT TAKES
PARENTS GRIEVE AS COVID-19 SNATCHES KIDS

New Delhi, May 13: Nine-month-old Krishu, the only child to his blind parents, succumbed to Covid-19 at a Delhi government-run hospital on Thursday, while his father, battled the deadly virus at another hospital.

On Thursday evening, Jitender Singh 'Shunty', a former BJP MLA, buried Krishu in a corner of the Old Seemapuri cremation ground.

This was the second time in two days that Singh was burying a child so young.

The 59-year-old humanitarian, who has given dignified cremations to over 2,000 strangers during the second wave of Covid-19, buried five-month-old Pari on Wednesday evening, near the spot where Krishu now rests.

A relative of Krishu said his boy was the only child to his parents who live in Dilshad Garden in East Delhi.

"Both the parents are blind," he said, choking on his tears.

Krishu's mother contracted the infection around 18 days ago and since she breastfed the child, he also became ill, the relative said.

A few days ago, Krishu was admitted to the Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital, where he died in the early hours of Thursday.

His father, Shashank Shekar, 26, is battling for his life in the Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital in Tahirpur.

"He doesn't know he lost his beloved Krishu today. Now, I don't want to lose his father too," the mother, Jyoti, said, as she broke down over the phone.

BJP LEADER'S KIN BOOKED FOR OPENING SHOP

Budaun (UP), May 14: The brother of a BJP leader here was booked for allegedly opening his garment shop in the local market amid the Covid-19 lockdown, an official said on Friday.

The police identified the accused as Jyoti Prakash, the brother of Badaun district's BJP president Ashok Bharti.

An FIR was lodged against Prakash under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code for disobeying duly promulgated public servant's order after he was found having opened his garment shop, City ASP Praveen Singh Chauhan said.

Prakash was found having opened his shop by city magistrate Amit Kumar and Circle officer Chandrapal as they were patrolling the city to enforce the lockdown, the ASP said.

As the two officials entered the shop, they even found customers sitting inside it purchasing different articles, Chauhan said.

As the two officials questioned the BJP leader's brother, he entered into an argument with them with his son and employees too joining them in a bid to browbeat them, following which an FIR was lodged against all the accused.

Chauhan said a probe is on in the matter.

COVID CONTINUES TO WREAK HAVOC ON LIVES IN J&K

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, MAY 14

Id-ul-Fitr was celebrated in a subdued manner in Jammu and Kashmir as Covid-19 continues to wreak havoc upon lives. As many as 115 more people fell prey to the deadly virus whereas about 7,500 new positive cases surfaced in the twin Union territories of J&K and Ladakh during the past two days.

The local religious groups and the mosque committees in J&K had around midnight on Wednesday endorsed Pakistan Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee's testimony of the sighting of the Shawwal (Eid) moon. However, no big Eid congregations could be held anywhere in the UT due to the restrictions imposed to contain Covid-19 pandemic. Only small groups of Muslims offered Id prayers in locality mosques or in the lawns of residential houses with complete adherence to the Covid Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines. Eid was celebrated similar fashion in Kargil and most other parts of Ladakh with rest of the country on Friday.

The local police and Central armed police forces have continued to enforce the 'corona curfew' in twin capitals of Srinagar and Jammu and all other major cities and towns.

Over 2,000 bodies found in Ganga river

Health ministry is in close touch with UP, Bihar govt to ensure immediate check to stop the spread

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MAY 14

The Union home ministry has received inputs that nearly 2,000 bodies have been retrieved from the Ganga by various district administrations in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in the last one week or so, according to sources.

Officials say that these bodies are most likely of Corona patients who died in remote villages along the Ganga.

Since most of the villagers are extremely poor and not able to finance the last rites of their family members, they have been dumping the bodies in the river. Both UP and Bihar share a long river bank of the Ganga of more than 1,400 km.

The Union home ministry is in close touch with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar governments to ensure that dumping of bodies in the Ganga is checked immediately as this could lead to further spread of the Corona pandemic in the two states.

Ministry sources said the trend of dumping bodies was being noticed largely in four districts of Kanpur, Ghazipur, Unnao and Balia from where bodies were also going further downstream to Bihar. Both states have been asked to take immediate corrective steps.

After the discovery of the dead bodies floating in the Ganga, almost all bodies were disposed of with proper religious rituals. Local police have been directed to start intensified patrolling along the river and spread awareness among the villagers not to dispose of bodies in the river as this could lead to fresh health issues.

Earlier, Bihar had also raised this issue saying that most dead bodies floating in the Ganga were coming downstream from UP and were getting piled up near Balia.

Both states have mobilised massive resources as the home ministry has cautioned them that dumping of Corona victims in the Ganga can lead to massive contamination of river water which in turn will lead to greater health issues in the coming days.

There is considerable concern among Central agencies over the spread of the Corona virus in rural areas, particularly in the populous states of UP and Bihar.



Jama Masjid wears a deserted look on the occasion of Id-ul-Fitr, marking the end of the fasting month of Ramzan, during the ongoing Covid-induced lockdown, in New Delhi, on Friday. — PTI



96-year-old Pushpa Sharma poses for a photo with her family, after she recovered from Covid-19, at her residence in Shahdara area of New Delhi. — PTI



A paramilitary personnel punishes women for breaking Covid-induced curfew rules in Guwahati, on Friday. — PTI

48 UNDERTRIALS IN BERHAMPUR JAIL TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, MAY 14

Forty-eight under-trial prisoners (UTPs) lodged at Odisha's Berhampur Circle Jail have tested positive for coronavirus.

The jail authorities on Friday informed that swab samples of 84 UTPs were sent for RT-PCR test two days ago and reports of 48 came out positive.

Currently, a total 927 prisoners are lodged in the jail, he added.

Earlier in the first phase of the pandemic, several inmates of the jail had contracted the virus.

A few other jails, including Jharparka Circle Jail in Bhubaneswar and Choudwar Circle Jail in Cuttack, had also reported some Covid cases.

The state government, meanwhile, on Friday issued advisory for children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women against infection. Hand washing with soap and water must be advocated for at least 40 seconds instead of 20 seconds.

All children above two years advised to wear masks as per recommendation of Indian Academy of Pediatrics mandatorily before stepping out.

New Delhi, May 14: A total of 10,796 oxygen concentrators, 12,269 oxygen cylinders, 19 oxygen generation plants and about 4.2 lakh Remdesivir vials received as global aid were delivered or dispatched through road and air to various states and union territories from April 10 to May 13, the health ministry said on Friday.

The major consignments received on May 12/13 from Indonesia, Luxembourg, Oman, South Korea, the UK, USISPF, Finland and Greece include oxygen concentrators (1,506), oxy-

gen cylinders (434) and ventilators/BiPAP/CPAP (58).

Cumulatively, 10,796 oxygen concentrators, 12,269 oxygen cylinders, 19 oxygen generation plants, 6,497 ventilators or BiPAP; about 4.2 lakh Remdesivir vials have been delivered or dispatched through road and air from April 27 to May 13, the ministry said.

"Effective immediate allocation, and streamlined delivery to the recipient states and union territories and institutions is an ongoing exercise," it said.

The Union health min-

istry is comprehensively monitoring this on a regular basis.

A dedicated coordination cell has been created in the ministry to coordinate the receipt and allocation of foreign Covid relief material as grants, aid and donations. This cell started functioning from April 26.

Through a streamlined and systematic mechanism, various ministries and departments of the government of India have seamlessly collaborated for expeditiously delivering the incoming global aid to states and union territories, the ministry said.

— PTI

10.7K O2 concentrators sent to states

'Havan' to ward off Covid: Min

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
Bhopal, May 14

when she exhorted people to perform yagya, describing it an 'ancient practice' going on since ages, to purify our environment for keeping the third Covid wave away'.

"We all have the responsibility of purifying our environment. The practice of performing yagya to end a pandemic has been prevalent since time immemorial. This is yagya treatment (to ward off the virus). It is not bigotry or ritualism. If we cleanse the environment by performing yagya, then the third pandemic wave will not even touch India", she had said while inaugurating a Covid care Centre in Indore on May 12.

The minister a couple of days ago created a flutter

ment for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) under the commerce ministry, said that excess LMO was available with Delhi, but authorities there could not ensure smooth supply from manufacturers as well as availability of tankers. As per the findings conducted by PESO, Since May 9, the Delhi government has been trying to get alternate storage space in nearby states, especially at the LMO manufacturers' premises, to store excess LMO in their storage tanks.

It is also revealed that on May 10, the Delhi government lifted only 150 MT of LMO from their plants at Panipat and Roorkee against the allocated quota of 190 MT and then returned the remaining back to the plant due to non-availability of storage space or less demand in Delhi and requested not to release 42 MT of LMO from Panipat and Roorkee Plant and rather store the remaining amounts in their storage tanks.

Seeing a high-pitched battle for liquid oxygen last week, by Delhi government, Dr Samit Patra, BJP National Spokesperson, on Friday addressing a press conference said that Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), failed to build storage facility (LMO) and now are seeking help from neighbouring states.

Taking note of the inci-

Now, Delhi seeks help to store excess oxygen

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MAY 14

After demanding adequate supply of oxygen from the Centre last week, Delhi now seeks help to store excess stock of liquid medical oxygen (LMO), from other states. Owing to the logistical hurdle which supposedly resulted into the increased turnaround time for the tankers and paucity of space to store the liquid medical oxygen, Delhi is now seeking help for storage facilities from neighbouring states.

On May 11, The Indian government's Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) had written to the additional secretary at the depart-

ment for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) under the commerce ministry, said that excess LMO was available with Delhi, but authorities there could not ensure smooth supply from manufacturers as well as availability of tankers. As per the findings conducted by PESO, Since May 9, the Delhi government has been trying to get alternate storage space in nearby states, especially at the LMO manufacturers' premises, to store excess LMO in their storage tanks.

It is also revealed that on May 10, the Delhi government lifted only 150 MT of LMO from their plants at Panipat and Roorkee against the allocated quota of 190 MT and then returned the remaining back to the plant due to non-availability of storage space or less demand in Delhi and requested not to release 42 MT of LMO from Panipat and Roorkee Plant and rather store the remaining amounts in their storage tanks.

Seeing a high-pitched

battle for liquid oxygen last week, by Delhi government, Dr Samit Patra, BJP National Spokesperson, on Friday addressing a press conference said that Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), failed to build storage facility (LMO) and now are seeking help from neighbouring states.

The deceased inmates have been identified as Anshu Dixit, Merazuddin alias Meraj Ali and Muqeem Kala, officials said in Lucknow. "Dixit shot dead Ali and Kala, and held some of the other prisoners at gunpoint and threatened to kill them. He was later killed in the exchange of fire with police," IG, Chitrakoot Range, K Satyanarain said.

Taking note of the inci-

— PTI

Mucormycosis cases increasing in Maha post Covid

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, MAY 14

has been found in some coronavirus patients, both recovering and recovered. Its symptoms include headache, fever, pain under the eyes, nasal or sinus congestion and partial loss of vision.

Black fungus is mostly found among coronavirus patients who have diabetes, fluctuation in sugar level or increased iron level in the blood. However, it is not found to be infectious like the Covid.

Mucormycosis, also known as black fungus, has been found in some coronavirus patients, both recovering and recovered. Its symptoms include headache, fever, pain under the eyes, nasal or sinus congestion and partial loss of vision.

"All the deceased have been the coronavirus patients, who had recovered from the viral infection, but later they succumbed to the black fungus infection. The immune system of such patients is weak which makes them more susceptible to this fungal infection," said an official from the state health department.

Maharashtra health minister Rajesh Tope had said there could be more than

2,000 cases of black fungus in the state. In Mumbai alone, 111 mucormycosis patients have been found so far.

"A mucormycosis patient needs to be seen by various experts such as ENT, ophthalmologists and neurologists among others. The medicines of the disease are expensive.

Hence, patients hit by the disease will be treated for free at 1,000 hospitals covered under the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya

Yojana, the state's flagship medical insurance scheme," Mr Tope said.

There are complaints about the injections used for treating Mucormycosis patients being sold at higher than the actual price and their rates will be capped, he added.

The Maharashtra Government will also undertake a campaign to spread awareness among people about the fungal infection,

said health officials.

Yojana, the state's flagship medical insurance scheme," Mr Tope said.

There are complaints about the injections used for treating Mucormycosis patients being sold at higher than the actual price and their rates will be capped, he added.

The Maharashtra Government will also undertake a campaign to spread awareness among people about the fungal infection,

said health officials.

Yojana, the state's flagship medical insurance scheme," Mr Tope said.

There are complaints about the injections used for treating Mucormycosis patients being sold at higher than the actual price and their rates will be capped, he added.

The Maharashtra Government will also undertake a campaign to spread awareness among people about the fungal infection,

said health officials.

Yojana, the state's flagship medical insurance scheme," Mr Tope said.

There are complaints about the injections used for treating Mucormycosis patients being sold at higher than the actual price and their rates will be capped, he added.

The Maharashtra Government will also undertake a campaign to spread awareness among people about the fungal infection,

said health officials.

Yojana, the state's flagship medical insurance scheme," Mr Tope said.

There are complaints about the injections used for treating Mucormycosis patients being sold at higher than the actual price and their rates will be capped, he added.

The Maharashtra Government will also undertake a campaign to spread awareness among people about the fungal infection,

said health officials.

Yojana, the state's flagship medical insurance scheme," Mr Tope said.

There are complaints about the injections used for treating Mucormycosis patients being sold at higher than the actual price and their rates will be capped, he added.

SHORT TAKES

FADNAVIS: GOVT ONLY PASSING ON MARATHA QUOTASONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
MUMBAI, MAY 14

A day after the Centre moved the Supreme Court seeking review of the May 5 majority verdict setting aside Maratha reservation, BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said that the state government should also file a review petition. He accused the Uddhav Thackeray government of not taking any responsibility. On the other hand, Congress leader Ashok Chavan said that the Centre's petition is its attempt to shift the blame on states.

The Union Government on Thursday moved the Apex Court seeking review of its ruling that after the 102nd amendment of the Constitution, only the President will have the power to identify and notify the SEBC (Socially and Economically Backward Class) in a state or Union Territory.

Mr. Fadnavis said that the central government's stand was clear from day one that it is the state government's power. "After the amendment of Article 102, the Central government had made it clear in the house that the state will have its power with them only and similarly the Central government will have its power. Despite this stand, there were two opinions in the Apex Court's judges.

CONG. MLA BOOKED FOR CIRCULATING 'FAKE' VIDEO IN MPRABINDRA NATH CHOURHURY | DC
BHOPAL, MAY 14

A Congress MLA was booked for sharing a 'fake' video in social media to expose mismanagement in the Covid care Centre opened in Vidisha Medical College hospital in Madhya Pradesh, police said on Friday.

Shasank Bhargav, who represented Vidisha assembly constituency, posted the video in a WhatsApp group as well as his Facebook wall alleging mismanagement of the Covid care Centre.

The local BJP leader Surendra Singh Chouhan took strong exception to it and lodged a complaint in the Civil Line police station in Vidisha claiming that the video clip had no link with Vidisha Medical College hospital and the 'fake' video was circulated to tarnish the reputation of the institution and the district.

"A thorough scrutiny of the video clip has established that the hospital captured in the video was not the Covid care Centre of Vidisha Medical College hospital. It was circulated to defame Vidisha Medical College hospital. It is highly objectionable," he said.

State home minister Narottam Mishra said police has started probing the matter and action would be taken against the guilty.

BODY OF KERALA WOMAN TO BE BROUGHT TODAY

Idukki (Kerala), May 14: The body of Soumya Santhosh from Kerala, who was killed in a Palestinian rocket attack in Israel on May 11, will be brought here on Saturday.

Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan said on Friday that the mortal remains were being repatriated from Israel to Kerala via New Delhi.

"The mortal remains of Ms Soumya Santhosh, who was killed in rocket attacks from Gaza, are being repatriated today from Israel to Kerala through Delhi. They will reach her native place tomorrow." Muraleedharan, who is also from the southern state, said in a tweet.

"I will personally be receiving the remains in Delhi. May her soul rest in peace," he tweeted.

Soumya, 30, hailing from Keerithodu in Idukki district, had been working as a housemaid in Israel for the last seven years.

She was killed on Tuesday when the rocket fell on her residence in the city of Ashkelon while she was talking to her husband Santhosh, who is in Kerala, over video call, her family has said.

MINISTER OF STATE for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan said on Friday that the mortal remains were being repatriated from Israel to Kerala via New Delhi.



People pull a boat ashore, which sailed away amid strong winds, after a red alert in view of a cyclonic formation in the Arabian Sea, in Thiruvananthapuram, on Friday.

— PTI

Cyclone Tauktae to intensify into 'very severe storm': IMD**Storm to hit states of Maha, Gujarat, Kerala, some places of Goa**

New Delhi, May 14: The depression in the Arabian Sea is likely to intensify into a "very severe cyclonic storm" on May 17 and cross the Gujarat coast a day later, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

The weather condition has intensified into a deep depression. It is very likely to further intensify into cyclonic storm "Tauktae" by Saturday morning. It is very likely to intensify further into a severe cyclonic

storm by Saturday night. From May 16-19, it is very likely to intensify into a "very severe cyclonic storm" with a wind speed of 150-160 kilometres per hour gusting up to 175 kmph,

Cyclone Warning Division of the IMD said. It is likely to reach Gujarat coast by the morning of May 18. The IMD has alerted the state along the western coast. It said the Lakshadweep Islands will receive heavy to very

heavy rainfall at isolated places on May 15 and heavy falls at isolated places on May 16.

Heavy to very heavy falls are expected at a few places on May 15 and heavy to very heavy falls at isolated places on May 16-17.

The ghat districts of Tamil Nadu are expected to witness light to moderate rainfall at many places with heavy to very heavy falls and extremely heavy falls at isolated places on May 15-16.

The coastal districts of Saurashtra in Gujarat are

very likely on May 14 and 15. Karnataka (coastal and adjoining ghat districts) are likely to receive light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy falls at a few places with extremely heavy falls at isolated places on May 15 and heavy falls at isolated places on May 16. Konkan and Goa are expected to receive heavy to very heavy falls on May 15-16.

The coastal districts of Saurashtra in Gujarat are

likely to receive rainfall from May 16 and heavy to very heavy falls are expected on May 17.

Heavy to very heavy falls at a few places, extremely heavy falls at isolated places over Saurashtra and Kutch are likely on May 18, the IMD said. The name 'Tauktae' has been given by Myanmar which means 'gecko'. This is going to be the first cyclonic storm of this year along the Indian coast.

— PTI

Heavy rain lashes parts of Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram, May 14: As the low-pressure area in the south-eastern Arabian Sea intensified into a severe depression on Friday, heavy rains lashed many parts of Kerala and huge tidal waves started hitting low-lying coastal areas.

Anticipating massive tidal flooding, the authorities have started shifting to safety people living in the low-lying seaside regions of the southern part of the state.

Even though Kerala is not in the predicted path of the cyclone, heavy rains, strong winds and strong sea gusts are expected till May 16. The Chief Minister said. We should exercise utmost caution in districts and adjoining districts where the Meteorological Department has issued red and orange alerts.

Northern districts, inc-

luding Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod, would be on red alert on Saturday. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the State has taken steps to deal with any calamity arising out of the cyclonic storm.

According to the Central Meteorological Department, the low-pressure area in the south-eastern Arabian Sea has intensified into a severe depression.

In some coastal pockets, tidal waves entered the seaside areas, exposing coastal villages to high tides and flooding.

Authorities have sounded red alerts in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Ernakulam districts on May 14.

Northern districts, inc-



A man takes cover under an umbrella from strong wind and heavy rain, at the Kovalam coast in Thiruvananthapuram, on Friday

— PTI

142 boats return to shore amid warning

Alibaug, May 14: As many as 142 fishing boats returned to the shore on Friday amid Indian Meteorological Department's (IMD) warning about a cyclonic storm that is likely to hit parts of Mumbai and Konkan by May 16, an official said.

According to the IMD, a low-pressure area formed

over the Arabian Sea is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm by May 16,

which may bring heavy rainfall to Mumbai, some places in Goa and south Konkan region and also Gujarat. It is expected that the wind speed will be between 40 to 60 kmph, said Suresh Bharti, assistant commissioner of the fishing department of Raigad.

Following the weather

advisory, the department had alerted fishermen to return to the shore, he said. At least 142 fishing boats from Alibaug, Murud and Uran talukas, which were at sea till Thursday, returned to the shore in the morning, the official added.

The IMD has said that Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg

districts are very likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall on Sunday and Monday, while Mumbai, Thane and Raigad would receive very heavy rainfall on Monday. Raigad is also expected to witness thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds from Saturday onwards.

— PTI

FIGHTING ODDS Forest minister asks officials to submit preliminary report of inquiry within 3 days**Assam min orders probe into death of elephants**DC CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI, MAY 14

Assam forest minister Parimal Suklabaidya who on Friday visited the remote hills where at least 18 elephants were killed said that preliminary investigation indicates that wild elephants were killed due to electrocution caused by lightning, however the exact reason will be known once the post-mortem report comes.

Mr. Suklabaidya expressing deep concern and grief over the unfortunate incident told reporters, "An

enquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of exact death. The preliminary report of inquiry has been asked to be submitted within three days and a detailed investigation report within 15 days."

In what has left the wildlife lovers and activists into tears at least 18 wild elephants were found dead atop Bamuni Hills in Assam's Nagaon district on Thursday after lightning struck them during the showers in the area probably on Wednesday night.

The state forest department officials said that as

● A FOREST guard claimed that this herd of wild elephants had never harmed the human habitation and was considered to be harmless for the nearby villages.

per preliminary investigation, the animals appear to have been killed in a lightning strike. The incident took place in Kandoli Proposed Reserved Forest (PRF) in Kathiatoli range of Nagaon forest Division.

"Local villagers informed us about the death of

the elephants. We rushed to the spot and found them lying on the ground. We have sent the carcasses for post-mortem," said a forest official.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) Amit Sahay who also accompanied the forest minister said, "The area is very remote and our team could reach here on Thursday afternoon. It was found that carcasses were lying in two groups. Fourteen were lying atop the hill and four were found at the bottom of the hill."

Meanwhile, forest guards

and wildlife activists engaged in wildlife conservation works also reached the incident site and were in tears to see the carcass of 18 wild elephants who frequented the areas. A forest guard claimed that this herd of wild elephants had never harmed the human habitation and was considered to be harmless for the nearby villages.

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has also expressed concern over the incident and said that he was deeply pained by the unfortunate incident.



A village woman pays tribute a wild elephant which is believed to have died after Thursdays lightning strike, at Bamuni hills in Nagaon district, on Friday.

— PTI

Dhankhar slams Mamata's silence on poll violenceMANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, MAY 14

matter of concern for me," he said.

The governor also alleged that Ms Banerjee, at her election campaigns, had "provoked her supporters, especially women, to oppose Central forces by various means". "Such words do not befit a chief minister. It is extremely painful for me to see a chief minister do this. It is antithetical to the rule of law," he said and added that a state government should be positive and progressive in its approach, but "I don't understand this dispensation's constant conflict with all — the Centre, governor, Election Commission and the Central forces. This is against the very soul of the Constitution".

Dhankhar, who visited a camp in Dhubri where several families from Bengal's Cooch Behar claiming to be BJP supporters are taking shelter, said, "Nothing can be more shameful for us than people of West Bengal taking shelter in neighbouring states of Assam."

He alleged, "Even the media did not do anything. It is an open secret who the perpetrators were." Asked about the law and order situation in the state, the Governor said that he was not in favour of confrontation but believed in cooperation.

"We are heading in the wrong direction and there can be a point of no return... the state of West Bengal is witnessing two big issues — Covid pandemic and post-election retributive violence. There was bloodshed and genocide in the state. I should not say much as the cases are under investigation but the chief minister's silence is a rule of law?" he asked.

Grenade blast in Assam kills twoDC CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI, MAY 14

expressed concern over the grenade blast and asked DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta to deal with the incident sternly and nab the miscreants at the earliest.

Security sources said that preliminary reports suggest that it was an extortion related incident as Ulfa-I rebels have intensified extortion drives in upper Assam's Tinsukia district.

The incident comes days after newly appointed Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's appeal to Ulfa-I commander-in-chief Paresh Baruah to shun the path of violence and join the peace talks for the development and prosperity of the state.

Police said that miscreants lobbed a grenade in front of a hardware shop owned by a person named Puramal Agarwala.

According to reports, among those injured in the grenade attack was one Surajit Talukdar who succumbed to his injuries at the Assam Medical College and Hospital Dibrugarh. The other deceased person has been identified as Sanjiv Singh (25).

It is significant that two days ago, on May 12, a 14-year-old boy was also killed in a grenade explosion in a village in Tinsukia district.

Police reached the spot immediately after the incident and an investigation has begun. The Army and Police have cordoned off the area.

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

SHORT TAKES
TURKISH TOURISM VIDEO TAKEN DOWN AFTER BACKLASH

Istanbul: A video promoting tourism in Turkey amid the pandemic has caused an uproar on social media for showing tourism employees wearing masks that read "Enjoy, I'm vaccinated."

The video was published on the social media accounts of official travel guide Go Turkiye on Thursday and was taken down later that day. It aimed to promote travel to Turkey as a "safe haven" for foreigners and showed unmasked tourists being served in hotels on the Turkish coast.

Opposition parties and critics on social media said the promotional video was an insult to Turks. A hashtag calling for the tourism minister to resign was trending on Twitter on Friday. Tourism workers have been prioritised to receive their vaccinations and the country's foreign minister promised "we will vaccinate all people tourists may see by the end of May."

AS A GESTURE, MYANMAR FREES JAPANESE SCRIBE

Bangkok: An arrested Japanese freelance reporter left for home on Friday after being released by Myanmar's ruling junta in what it called a gesture of friendship to Japan, Japanese officials and Myanmarese state media said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said Yuki Kigazumi was released after efforts by Japanese diplomats and others. The reporter boarded a plane at Yangon's airport and was expected to arrive in Japan on Friday night.

Myanmar's army-run *Myawaddy TV* said Kitazumi was arrested on April 18 for "inciting" anti-military civil disobedience and riots. "Although the journalist is a lawbreaker, the case will be closed and he will be released at the request of the Special Envoy of the Japanese Government for National Reconciliation in Myanmar, in view of the close ties and future relations between Myanmar and Japan," the junta said in a statement read on TV.

UN ENVOY ASKS THAI AID IN ENDING MYANMAR CRISIS

Bangkok: The United Nations' special envoy on Myanmar met with Thailand's prime minister on Friday as she continues efforts to end violence in Myanmar sparked by a military takeover in February.

The envoy, Christine Schraner Burgener, told Prayuth Chan-o-cha in Bangkok that she hopes Thailand will find ways to work with Myanmar's military to ease the unrest, the prime minister's office said in a statement. The army's seizure of power has been opposed by a broad cross-section of Myanmar's population, and the junta has responded with a violent crackdown that has cost hundreds of lives.

The escalation of violence and the junta's failure to restore order has led to fears the country could become a failed state, impacting neighboring Thailand and the whole region. Prayuth told Schraner Burgener his government is ready to listen and exchange information that could be beneficial, according to the statement, which said the two also discussed humanitarian assistance for affected people.

PUTIN ALLY, OPPN MIN. UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN UKRAINE

Kyiv (Ukraine): A top Ukrainian opposition politician with close links to Russian President Vladimir Putin was placed under house arrest on Thursday, days after being charged with treason.

Viktor Medvedchuk, who heads the Opposition Platform for Life party, the largest opposition force in parliament, denies the charges brought against him last week and says they're politically motivated.

Medvedchuk, who has close personal ties with Putin, the godfather of Medvedchuk's daughter, could face 15 years in prison if tried and convicted.

Prosecutors had asked a court in Kyiv to put Medvedchuk in jail, but a judge ordered house arrest instead.

Medvedchuk, 66, is accused of transferring oil and gas production licenses from one of the fields in Crimea to Russian authorities. Russia annexed the Black Sea peninsula in 2014, weeks after Ukraine's former Moscow-friendly president was ousted by protesters.

Medvedchuk is also charged with allegedly disclosing secret data on the deployment of Ukrainian military units last year.

U.S. VOWS TO STAND BY ALLY AUSTRALIA AGAINST CHINA

Washington, May 14: The Biden administration has vowed to stand by Australia in its worsening trade and other disputes with China.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken told his Australian counterpart on Thursday that the US will not leave Australia alone on the field or maybe I should say alone on the pitch in the face of economic coercion by China.

That's what allies do," he said. "We have each other's backs so we can face threats and challenges from the position of collective strength.

Like the United States and China, Australia and China are in the midst of several major disputes as Beijing seeks to apply pressure over commerce and influence. Blinken said the United States and Australia are bound together by deeply held shared values that no other nation, including China, can uproot.

Blinken and Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne both said that presenting a united front to China is key. — AP

HONG KONG FREEZES JIMMY LAI'S ASSETS

Hong Kong, May 14: Hong Kong authorities on Friday announced that they had frozen the assets of billionaire pro-democracy tycoon Jimmy Lai, including shares in his media publications, for breaching the city's national security law.

The security bureau said it had issued an order to freeze Lai's shares in Next Digital media group and "the property in the local bank accounts of three companies owned by him".

A rags to riches billionaire, media tycoon Lai has long been a thorn in Beijing's side thanks to his caustic tabloids and unapologetic support for democracy.

His *Apple Daily* newspaper has staunchly backed Hong Kong's pro-democracy cause, including the huge and often violent protests that swept the international financial hub in 2019. — AFP

UN ENVOY ASKS THAI AID IN ENDING MYANMAR CRISIS

Bangkok: The United Nations' special envoy on Myanmar met with Thailand's prime minister on Friday as she continues efforts to end violence in Myanmar sparked by a military takeover in February.

The envoy, Christine Schraner Burgener, told Prayuth Chan-o-cha in Bangkok that she hopes Thailand will find ways to work with Myanmar's military to ease the unrest, the prime minister's office said in a statement. The army's seizure of power has been opposed by a broad cross-section of Myanmar's population, and the junta has responded with a violent crackdown that has cost hundreds of lives.

The escalation of violence and the junta's failure to restore order has led to fears the country could become a failed state, impacting neighboring Thailand and the whole region. Prayuth told Schraner Burgener his government is ready to listen and exchange information that could be beneficial, according to the statement, which said the two also discussed humanitarian assistance for affected people.

PUTIN ALLY, OPPN MIN. UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN UKRAINE

Kyiv (Ukraine): A top Ukrainian opposition politician with close links to Russian President Vladimir Putin was placed under house arrest on Thursday, days after being charged with treason.

Viktor Medvedchuk, who heads the Opposition Platform for Life party, the largest opposition force in parliament, denies the charges brought against him last week and says they're politically motivated.

Medvedchuk, 66, is accused of transferring oil and gas production licenses from one of the fields in Crimea to Russian authorities. Russia annexed the Black Sea peninsula in 2014, weeks after Ukraine's former Moscow-friendly president was ousted by protesters.

Medvedchuk is also charged with allegedly disclosing secret data on the deployment of Ukrainian military units last year.

Beirut, May 14: Ibrahim al-Dika had raised his Belgian shepherd Lexi since she was a tiny pup, but then Lebanon's economic crisis made him jobless and he had to sell her to repay a bank loan.

"It got to the point where I was no longer able to feed her the bank was pressuring me, and I hit a wall," said the 26-year-old, devastated beside her empty kennel outside his Beirut home.

"I didn't sell a car or a telephone. I sold a soul. I sold a part of me." Can you afford to keep your pet? Animal activists say this is a dilemma a growing num-

No mask for fully vaccinated in US

Covid test, quarantine waived for travel; Biden says Americans can now greet with a smile

Washington, May 14: In the biggest indication that the United States is fast returning to pre-pandemic life, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has said that fully vaccinated people are no longer required to wear masks. The recommendation holds true for both indoors and outdoors, the CDC said.

Following the announcement on Thursday, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris appeared before reporters at the Rose Garden of the White House without wearing masks.

"I think it's a great milestone. A great day. It's been made possible by the extraordinary success we've had in vaccinating many Americans so quickly," Biden said.

He said 250 million vaccine shots have been given in 114 days. "We are seeing the results. Cases are down in 49 of 50 states. *New York Times* has reported that hospitalisations are the lowest they've been since April of 2020, over a year ago, right after the start of the pandemic. Deaths are down 80 per cent and also at their lowest level since April of 2020," Biden said.

He said that the virus tragically rages in other countries. "In less than four months, we've gone from 5.5 per cent to nearly 60 per cent of the adults in America with at least one shot in their arm. We've gone from stagnation to an economy that is growing faster than it has in nearly 40 years. We've gone from an anemic job creation, to a record for job creation for a new administration," Biden added.

The CDC said fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

Those travelling within the United States need not get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel. The CDC said the vaccines are effective at preventing the Covid-19 disease, especially severe illness and death.

Biden spoke about the thousands of deaths and the lives upended for millions more as they missed family gatherings and important rituals.

He heaped praise on ordinary Americans who, he said, had met the challenge head on — and better than in some other countries.

"Take your mask off. You've earned the right to do something that Americans are known for all around the world: greeting others with a smile," he said. — Agencies



Ahead of the tightening of restrictions due to the surge in Covid-19 cases in the country, people dine at a restaurant in a shopping mall in Singapore on Friday. — AFP

Indian strain doubles in 1 week in UK

London, May 14: The case numbers related to the B1.617.2 variant of Covid-19, first identified in India, have more than doubled within a week in the UK, resulting in further surge testing and enhanced vaccine measures to be deployed in parts of the country where the strain is beginning to spread "increasingly rapidly".

Public Health England (PHE) said on Thursday

UK HEALTH
 Secretary Matt Hancock said that the health authorities are monitoring the situation "very carefully" and will not hesitate to take further action if necessary.

that its latest analysis shows the number of cases of the highly transmissible variant first

detected in Maharashtra has risen from 520 last week to 1,313 cases this week. Most cases are in the northwest of England, with some in London, and additional measures are being put in place to "rapidly break chains of transmission".

UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock said that the health authorities are monitoring the situation "very carefully" and will not hesitate to take further action if necessary.

OZ RESUMES RETURN FLIGHTS FROM INDIA

Melbourne May 14: The repatriation flights facilitated by the Australian government for its stranded citizens in India resumed from Friday, according to foreign minister Marise Payne.

Payne said that a flight on Friday departed from Sydney to pick up Australian passengers in New Delhi before arriving back in Darwin on Saturday. "It has also carried life-saving oxygen equipment to India to support its Covid-19 response," she said. Payne said the passengers would have to undergo a strict quarantine to make sure they are not carrying the variant of the Coronavirus first identified in India.

These passengers will quarantine at the Centre for National Resilience at Howard Springs in the Northern Territory," she said, adding all passengers would undergo PCR and Rapid Antigen Testing before they travel.

This would be the first flight after the Australian government imposed a temporary ban recently with a threat of criminal sanctions for people who try to return from India. — PTI

Washington state schools to resume full-time classes

Olympia (Washington), May 14: Washington authorities said on Thursday all schools in the state must provide full-time, in-person education for students for the 2021-22 school year and that students and staff will still be required to wear masks.

The Washington state Department of Health released guidelines that included mitigation efforts they said were

designed to stop the spread of the Coronavirus. The mask directive could prove controversial, as the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday moved to ease indoor mask-wearing guidance for fully vaccinated people.

Currently people over the age of 12 are eligible for Covid-19 vaccines in Washington state. About 1.1 million students attend

public schools in Washington state. The mask directive could prove controversial, as the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday moved to ease indoor mask-wearing guidance for fully vaccinated people.

State authorities are recommending Covid vaccinations and testing programs but are not requiring them in person instruction in the fall. — AP

2 detained Indians freed after outrage in Scotland

London, May 14: Two Indians detained by British Border Force officials on suspicion of immigration offences in the Scottish city of Glasgow have been released after residents swarmed the street for eight hours to block their van from leaving, according to media reports.

The two were released on bail pending further investigation. Hundreds of residents had surrounded the Border Agency van in the Pollokshields area of Glasgow to try to prevent

HUNDREDS OF residents had surrounded the Border Agency van in Glasgow to try to prevent immigration officers from removing the men.

immigration officers from removing the men. One person lay underneath the van, according to the reports. The protesters chanted "Leave our neighbours, let them go" and "Cops go home" being heard as a ring of police stood around the van, local Scottish newspapers said.

Officers said they were

freeing the men for the safety of everyone involved following a stand-off in Glasgow. The protest prompted Scottish first minister Nicola Sturgeon to accuse the Home Office of creating "a dangerous and unacceptable situation".

"Doing this on Id, in the heart of our Muslim community, and in the midst of a serious Covid outbreak was staggeringly irresponsible — but the even deeper problem is an appalling asylum and immigration policy," she said. — PTI

12 killed in Kabul bomb blast

THE EXPLOSION
 comes on the second day of a three-day ceasefire announced by the warring Taliban and Afghan government.

heard the sound of screams, including children, as smoke filled the mosque. Sahebzada said he saw several bodies on the mosque floor and at least one child was among the wounded.

It appeared the explosive device had been hidden inside the pulpit at the front of the mosque. "I was afraid of a second explosion so I came immediately to my home" he said.

A worshipper at the mosque, Muhibullah Sahebzada, said he had just stepped into the mosque when the explosion went off. Stunned, he

said. An image circulating on social media showed three bodies lying on the floor of the mosque, which showed minor damage.

The explosion comes on the second day of a three-day ceasefire announced by the warring Taliban and Afghan government. The pause was for the Islamic festival Id-ul-Fitr, which follows the fasting month of Ramadan. Until now many of the attacks in the capital have been claimed by the local Islamic State affiliate, but both the Taliban and government blame each other.

The most recent attack last week killed over 90 people, many of them pupils leaving a girls'

school when a powerful car bomb exploded. The Taliban denied involvement and condemned the attack.

The relentless violence comes as the US and allied NATO forces continue with their final withdrawal from Afghanistan after nearly 20 years of war. Just this week the last of the US troops left southern Kandahar Air Base, while some NATO troops still remained. At the war's peak more than 30,000 US troops were stationed in Kandahar, the Taliban heartland. Kandahar was the second largest US base in Afghanistan after Bagram north of the Afghan capital.

— AP

With over half of Lebanese population in economic crisis, people depend on NGOs for pet food

Poverty takes toll on the lives of pets in Lebanon

his ability to support his mother and brother.

He had spent around a year caring for Lexi, and training her to sit, heel, give him the paw, and play dead. But when the bank started calling, he saw no option other than to sell her. He drove over a few days later to check in on her, and Lexi thought he had come to take her home. "She leapt straight into my car," he said. "She broke my heart the way she looked at me."

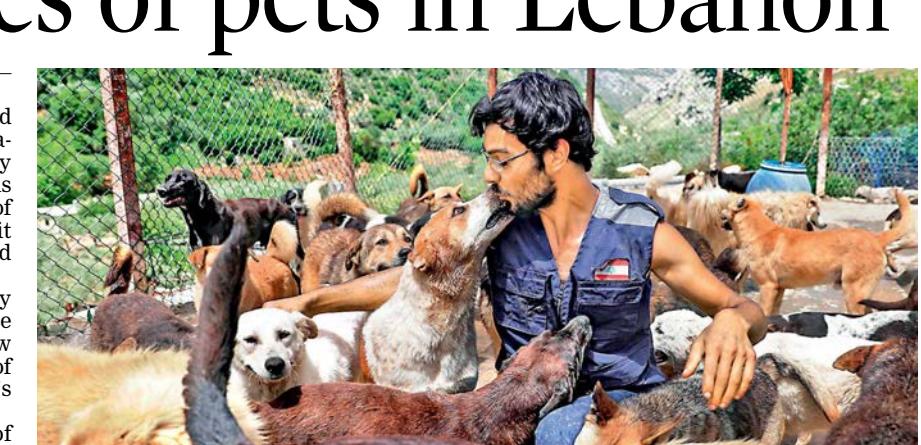
With more than half of Lebanon's population now living in poverty, many Lebanese have to depend on non-governmental organisations to get by — even to feed their pets.

Amal Ramadan, 39, said she used to make donations to animal charity PAW. But these days it is her receiving free bags of food from them for her pit bull and bichon, Nelly and Fluffy.

Her monthly salary working in car rental, once equivalent to \$1,000, is now worth just \$120 because of the Lebanese currency's sharp devaluation.

But as the price of imported pet food, meat and veterinary care soars, activists say some other animals have not been so lucky.

— AFP



Founder of Woof N Wags shelter Joe Okdjian plays with rescued dogs in the shelter on the outskirts of the village of Kfar Chellal in south of Beirut. As people struggle economically, activists say more pet owners are asking for help to feed or re-home their animals, selling them, or in the worst cases abandoning them. — AFP

SHORT TAKES
COURT DECLARES
MISSING GERMAN
BILLIONAIRE DEAD

Berlin: A German court on Friday officially declared billionaire Karl-Erivan Haub dead, more than three years after the head of retail group Tengelmann went missing in the Swiss Alps.

Haub, who was 58, was training for a ski mountaineering race when he disappeared under Switzerland's famous Matterhorn peak located on the southern border with Italy. He was last seen on the morning of April 7, 2018, as he headed up a mountain lift with skis and a daypack, and was reported missing to police the following morning after he failed to show up at his hotel in the Swiss resort of Zermatt.

Haub's family gave up hope of finding him alive after a week and the search for him was officially called off in October 2018. The district court in Cologne, where Haub lived, said on Friday it has now formally declared him dead.

NINE INJURED IN SHOOTOUT AT RHODE ISLAND CAPITAL

Providence: Nine people were wounded in a shooting in Rhode Island's capital in what police there believe to be the largest shooting in city history. Of the nine, three were critically wounded in the shooting just before 7 pm on Thursday. Providence Police Chief Col. Hugh T. Clements told reporters at the scene. He said multiple guns were used and it involved an "ongoing feud" involving groups known to authorities.

He said the shooting began with gunfire emanating from a vehicle, targeting a home. A person or people inside the home then returned fire. The shooting took place in the southeastern neighbourhood of Washington Park, which Clements described as a typically private neighbourhood. Witnesses at the scene said multiple shots were fired outside a home; Clements later said an estimated several dozen shots were fired.

Evidence markers showing where more than a dozen shell casings littered the ground could be seen in the distance.

PICASSO PAINTING SOLD FOR \$103 MN IN NEW YORK

New York: Pablo Picasso's "Woman sitting by a window (Marie-Therese)" sold Thursday for \$103.4 million at Christie's in New York, the auction house said.

The painting, completed in 1932, was sold for \$90 million, which rose to \$103.4 million when fees and commissions were added, after 19 minutes of bidding, Christie's said.

The sale confirms the vitality of the art market despite the Covid-19 pandemic — but also the special status of Picasso, who was born in 1881 and died in 1973.

The same painting was acquired only eight years ago at a London sale for 28.6 million pounds, or about \$44.8 million, less than half the price offered Thursday.

Five works by the Spanish painter have now crossed the symbolic threshold of \$100 million. Even before this sale, he was already alone at the top of this very exclusive club with four paintings, including "Women of Algiers," which holds the record for a Picasso, at \$179.4 million in 2015.

TEXAS TO BAN ABORTION AS EARLY AS 6 WEEKS

Austin: Texas would ban abortions after as early as six weeks — before many women even know they are pregnant — and allow private citizens to enforce the rule through civil lawsuits against doctors and others under a measure given final approval by state lawmakers.

The Senate vote sends the bill to Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who is expected to sign it into law. That would bring Texas in line with about a dozen other GOP-led states that have passed so-called "heartbeat bills" that federal courts have mostly blocked.

The Texas measure is also likely to draw a swift legal challenge from abortion rights groups. The bill would ban abortions after the first detection of an embryonic "heartbeat." Advanced technology can detect an electric signal flutter as early as six weeks into a pregnancy, even though the embryo isn't yet a fetus and doesn't have a heart. An embryo is termed a fetus beginning in the 11th week of pregnancy, medical experts say. A unique provision in the Texas bill prohibits state officials from enforcing the ban.

Israel pounds Gaza as conflict intensifies

Palestinian toll crosses 100 as Israel rules out ground incursion; Jews, Arabs engage in deadly clashes



Israeli troops prepare to launch a mortar on the Gaza Strip, from the southern Israel along the border with the Palestinian enclave, on Friday.

S.LEBANON FIRES THREE ROCKETS TOWARDS ISRAEL

Gaza City (Gaza Strip), May 14: At least three rockets were fired on Thursday from southern Lebanon toward Israel, Lebanese security officials said, an attack that threatened to open a new front in the escalating fighting between Israel and the militant Palestinian Hamas group in Gaza.

It was unclear who was responsible for the attack or where the rockets landed, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Fleeing families arrived in pickup trucks, on donkeys and by foot at schools run by the UN, hauling pillows and pans, blankets and bread.

Men lugged large plastic bags and women carried infants on their shoulders, cramming into classrooms. One mother who fled to a downtown school with her children said "nothing remains for us" back home in the northern town of Beit Lahiya.

— AP

GAZA FAMILIES FLEE INTENSE BOMBING

Gaza City, May 14: Palestinians living along Gaza's northern and eastern borders are fleeing intense Israeli bombardment.

Families totting supplies sought refuge on Friday in temporary shelters in central Gaza City as Israeli artillery pounded northern Gaza in an attempt to destroy a vast network of militant tunnels. The assault brought the front lines closer to dense civilian areas and paved the way for a potential ground invasion.

The rockets were launched from the Qlayleh area north of Naqoura, near the border with Israel.

South Lebanon is home to Palestinian militant factions as well as the powerful Shiite Hezbollah group.

● **THE ROCKETS** were launched from the Qlayleh area north of Naqoura, near the border with Israel.

Armenian leader accuses Azerbaijan of fresh infiltration

Yerevan, May 14: Armenia has appealed to a Russia-led security bloc for support after accusing Azerbaijan's troops of crossing its southern border and trying to claim territory.

Russia and Western countries including the United States and France have voiced concern as tensions run high after last year's war between the arch foes over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Last year Armenia and Azerbaijan fought a war over the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The six-week conflict claimed some 6,000 lives and ended after Armenia ceded swathes of territory it had controlled for decades.

In the early hours of Thursday, Armenia's acting prime minister Nikol Pashinyan's office said Friday he had made a formal request for the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) to hold consultations on supporting member Armenia.

Under the treaty, members of the bloc, which also includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, consider



K.P. Sharma Oli

U.S. PIPELINE RESUMES WORK; SHORTAGES BITE

Washington, May 14: The US pipeline network shut down by a cyber attack said on Thursday it has restarted its entire network and resumed fuel deliveries to all markets, but gas stations up and down the East Coast were still facing shortages after a wave of panic buying.

President Joe Biden hailed the "good news" and urged Americans to remain calm as supplies are restored over the next few days.

While "we'll not feel the effects at the pump immediately," there will be a "return to normalcy beginning this weekend and continuing in the next week," Biden told reporters. — AFP

OLI TAKES OATH AS NEPAL PM IN MINORITY GOVT

Kathmandu, May 14: K.P. Sharma Oli, heading a minority government, was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister on Friday, four days after the embattled leader lost a crucial vote of confidence in Parliament.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to Oli as the prime minister at a scaled-down ceremony at Shital Niwas, the presidential palace. The 69-year-old Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) was reappointed as prime minister by the president in his capacity as leader of the largest political party in Nepal's House of Representatives.

Oli will head a minority government as he does not enjoy a majority in Parliament after losing the vote of confidence on Monday. He was reappointed to the post on Thursday night as the Opposition parties failed to secure majority seats in Parliament to form a new government.

— PTI

US police fall victim to massive data leak

Ireland health system shuts down after major ransomware attack

Dublin, May 14: Ireland's health authority said on Friday that it had shut down its computer systems after experiencing a "significant ransomware attack", a week after the largest US fuel pipeline network was also targeted.

The Irish attack was blamed on international criminals and was said to be targeting healthcare records.

Officials said patient safety was not at risk however the Health Services Executive (HSE) said it is currently unable to make referrals for Coronavirus testing.

Government minister Ossian Smyth said that it is "possibly the most significant cybercrime attack on the Irish State", calling it an "international attack" but "not espionage".

"These are cyber criminal gangs, looking for money," he told Ireland's state broadcaster.

The HSE said it shut down all its IT systems as a precaution but said the country's Coronavirus vaccination programme was unaffected, as were emergency service calls.

But the referral system used to book Covid-19 tests was down.

Health minister Stephen Donnelly said the attack was having a "severe impact" but "individual services and hospital groups are impacted in different ways".

On Twitter he claimed that "Covid-19 testing and vaccinations are continuing as planned".

Liz Canavan, a top official in prime minister Micheal Martin's office, said the outage was also affecting child protection services, which are hosted on HSE servers. — AFP

DEMOCRATIC CRISIS Last year Italy recorded 4,04,000 live births which is the lowest since 1861

Pope warns about Italy's severely low birth rate

Rome, May 14: Pope Francis added his voice on Friday to the chorus of alarm about Italy's falling population, calling for government policies that provide the necessary financial stability to encourage young people to stay in Italy and have families.

With the spike in Covid-19-related deaths in 2020, the deficit between births and deaths last year hit 342,000 — the biggest gap since the 1918 Spanish Flu and the equivalent of having lost a city the size of Florence. "An Italy without children is an Italy that doesn't have a place in the future,"



Pope Francis

Draghi warned. "An Italy that is slowly ceasing to exist."

The Pope praised the recent creation of a bonus for families after each child is born as a concrete form of solidarity to families in need. He encouraged longer-term, family-centric policies to give young families hope and confidence that they will be able to support big families over the years.

"It is urgent to offer young people the guarantees of a sufficiently stable job, security of having a home and incentives not to leave the country," Francis said. Italy has the world's second-oldest population and one of the EU's lowest fertility rates, at 1.27 live births per woman compared with the EU average of 1.53, according to 2019 Eurostat figures. For years, leaders across the political spectrum have warned of the demographic disaster that looms with an increasingly aging population without a sufficiently broad tax-paying workforce to support them.

Draghi's 222.1 billion-euro (\$268.6 billion) Covid recovery plan aims in large part to address the crisis by investing in more day care centers and elementary schools to encourage families to have children. The plan also invests in digital and ecological industries geared toward young workers, while offering them help in securing mortgages. — AP



quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	48,732.55
Nifty 50	14,677.80
S&P 500*	4,168.54
Dollar (₹)	73.28
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.05
Euro (₹)	88.74
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	47,110▲146
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	68.44
IN 10-Yr bond yield*	5.986
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.645 -0.023

* As of 8:30 PM IST

ADB sanctioned \$3.92 billion loan to India in 2020

The Asian Development Bank on Friday said it has committed a record \$3.92 billion in sovereign loans for 13 projects to India in 2020, including \$1.8 billion in Covid-19 related projects to support the government's pandemic response. The agency said it has provided emergency assistance to contain the disease and establish social protection measures for relief to the poor and other vulnerable groups.

Forex reserves swell by \$1.4b to cross \$589b



The country's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$1.444 billion to \$589.465 billion in the week ended May 7, 2021, RBI data showed. In the previous week ended April 30, 2021, the reserves had risen by \$3.913 billion to \$588.02 billion. The reserves had touched a lifetime high of \$590.185 billion in the week ended January 29, 2021. The increase in reserves was on account of a rise in foreign currency assets.

Vandita Kaul is appointed BoI's nominee director

State-owned Bank of India (BoI) on Friday said the government has appointed Vandita Kaul, additional secretary in the finance ministry, to its board as a nominee director. The bank said it has received the communication from the finance ministry about Kaul's nomination on May 13, 2021. Bank of India has a total of eight members on its board, including the MD and CEO Atanu Kumar Das.

Mphasis Q4 net profit declines 10.2% to ₹316 cr

Mphasis has reported a 10.2 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹316.9 crore in the March 2021 quarter. Its net profit stood at ₹353.2 crore in the year-ago period, the company said. Its revenue from operations grew 7.5 per cent to ₹2,524.2 crore in the quarter from ₹2,346.1 crore in the year-ago period, it added. For the full fiscal 2019-20, Mphasis' net profit was up 2.7 per cent to ₹1,216.8 crore from ₹1,184 crore.

Printed & Published by K Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd, #563/9/089/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Komappally, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: T Venkatram Reddy, RNI Reg No. APENG/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

Akshaya Tritiya didn't end up as dud Gold sales muted but not a washout

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, MAY 14

Despite the lockdowns in key gold-buying states, Akshaya Tritiya was not a complete wash-out this year as it was the last year. The jewellery industry expects close to one-third of the usual sales to have happened this time.

Consumer sentiment remained muted and offline sales were severely affected due to lockdown in major cities and gold-consuming states like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal. Further, the sentiments were affected by an uneasy air of fear.

According to P.R. Somasundaram, managing director, India, World Gold Council, there were certain markets that were still open and hence it was not a complete washout as last year.

"Many organised jewellers have adopted digital and omnichannel strategies to reach out to their consumers, learning from the lockdown experience of 2020. Coupled with decent pre-bookings before lockdown, these steps could redeem the festival from being a complete washout and present a slightly improved picture than last year," he said.

He expects almost one-third of the usual Akshaya Tritiya sales to have happened this time.

Usually, 20 to 30 tonnes of gold is sold during Akshaya Tritiya. Some of the organised players and

Gold bond's price fixed at ₹4,777 gm

Mumbai, May 14:

The issue price for Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22, which will open for subscription for five days from May 17, has been fixed at ₹4,777 per gram, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

The government has decided to issue the bonds in six tranches from May 2021 to September 2021. The RBI will issue the bonds on behalf of the Government of India.

"The nominal value of the bond based on the simple average closing price for gold of 999 purity of the last three business days of the week preceding the subscription peri-

od...works out to ₹4,777 per gram of gold," it said.

The government, in consultation with the RBI, has decided to offer a discount of ₹50 per gram less than the nominal value to those investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode.

"For such investors, the issue price of the gold bond will be ₹4,727 per gram of gold," the RBI said. The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22 Series-I or first tranche will be open for subscription from May 17, 2021, to May 21, 2021, and bonds will be issued on May 25. —PTI

online companies saw a good jump in digital buying. "In 2020 Augmont sold around 15 kg of Digi Gold on Akshaya Tritiya and in 2021 it has increased by almost 100 per cent to around 30 kg of gold. Gold coins and gold bars in the range of ₹3,000-4,000 was preferred by buyers this year," said Ketan Kothari, director, Augmont.

Some of the jewellers saw good demand for gold coins that were booked on calls to be delivered post-lockdown. However, the lockdown in almost all of the south Indian states

affected the sales of some retail chains.

"Most markets in India remained closed and the overall sentiment was muted. Only 20 per cent of our showrooms were operational and they functioned under strict guidelines with reduced working hours. As expected, traction in these showrooms was minimal. It is not appropriate to compare this year's Akshaya Tritiya with any of the pre-Covid years," said Ramesh Kalyanaraman, executive director, Kalyan Jewellers.

Slow work at ports may trigger delays

Mumbai, May 14: India's Covid-19 crisis is threatening operations at some of its biggest ports, raising concern the action could trigger shipping delays that reverberate through global supply chains.

Karaikal Port in southern India invoked force majeure until May 24, while cargo movement at Vizag Port in AP was affected till May 19

but with labour shortages and force majeure at some ports, many of the vessels could see discharge delays, according to IHS Markit associate director Pranay Shukla. That may have a knock-on effect on scheduled loadings at the exporting countries.

Cargo movement at Vizag Port is also partly affected after the local traders' body announced force majeure in the port area until May 19, according to G. Veeramohan, president of the Vizagapatnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry. State-run refiner Hindustan Petroleum Corp., which uses the Visakhapatnam port to import crude oil is unaffected as it uses an offshore mooring facility for unloading tankers, said chairman Mukesh Kumar Surana. —Bloomberg

CHIP SHORTAGE TO COST \$110B

As the semiconductor shortage hobbling the global automotive industry has worsened, its cost as a hit to sales has almost doubled to \$110 billion, up from an earlier estimate of \$61 billion, according to AlixPartners, a global consulting firm.

It also now says the world's carmakers will lose 3.9 million vehicles of production to the chip shortage this year, more than its prediction four months ago of 2.2 million or 4.6 per cent of the total production.

Net sales, however, rose to ₹4,608 crore in the quarter under review as compared with ₹4,336.1 crore in the fourth quarter of 2019-20. Dr Reddy's Laboratories said in a regulatory filing.

India's Covid-19 crisis has so far failed to spark a deep stock sell-off like that seen last year, and some asset managers point to less stringent curbs on the activity as one factor at least for now.

Even as the nation reports more than 300,000 confirmed infections and over 4,000 deaths a day, India's benchmark equity index has been moving in line with regional peers. The Sensex has declined 6.6 per cent from a mid-February peak, compared to a 23 per cent fall last March. —Bloomberg

For 2020-21 fiscal year, the company posted a consolidated net profit of ₹1,952 crore as against ₹2,026 crore in 2019-20.

Net sales increased to ₹18,420 crore during the last fiscal year as compared with ₹16,357 crore in 2019-20.

In FY 21, we continued to grow across all our businesses, enhance productivity and strengthen our development pipeline," Dr Reddy's Laboratories co-chairman and MD G.V. Prasad said.

The company is prioritising its efforts to launch Sputnik V vaccine across India while working on the development and com-

mmercialisation of several drugs for the treatment of mild to severe Covid-19 infections, he added.

The drug maker said it has commenced a detailed investigation into an anonymous complaint which alleges that health care professionals in Ukraine and potentially in other countries were provided with improper payments by or on behalf of the company in violation of US anti-corruption laws.

A legal firm is conducting the investigation at the instruction of a committee of the company's board, it added.

Dr Reddy's noted that it has disclosed the matter

BIG TECH FIRMS ENTER FRAY TO SAVE JOBS OF STAFF'S SPOUSES

New York, May 14: Big Tech is wading into a legal fight over visas in an attempt to preserve the jobs of spouses of its foreign employees who are working in the US.

Amazon.com Inc., Apple Inc., Google, Microsoft Corp. and more than 20 other companies and organisations, including the US Chamber of Commerce, on Friday urged a federal court in Washington to reject a lawsuit seeking to eliminate work authorisation for more than 90,000 H-4 visa holders.

Eliminating H-4 visas "would not only siphon off US gross domestic product but gift that productivity — and the innovation that comes with it — to other nations, harming America's global economic competitiveness into the future," the companies and organisations said in a so-called friend-of-court brief.

Under the Obama-era "H-4 Rule," the US department of homeland security in 2015 issued visas to spouses,

Farmers got ₹1.35L cr under PM-Kisan: Modi

Out of the total ₹1.35 lakh crore disbursed since the launch of the scheme in February 2019, the Prime Minister said around ₹60,000 crore has been transferred during the Covid-19 pandemic, which is helping farmers in these difficult times.

per year to eligible farmers in three equal instalments of ₹2,000.

Addressing the event, Modi said farmers have performed their duties even during this Covid-19 pandemic and helped the country achieve record production of foodgrains and horticulture crops.

The Prime Minister on Friday released the eighth instalment of ₹20,667 crore to more than 9.5 crore farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme via video conference.

Under the scheme, which became effective from December 2018, the Centre provides ₹6,000

ers, the benefit has begun to reach for the first time. Today, lakhs of farmers in West Bengal have got their first instalment. Gradually when the names of farmers are sent to the Centre, the number of beneficiaries will increase," he added.

Overall, around 11 crore farmers have received around ₹1.35 lakh crore under the PM-Kisan scheme so far, Modi said, adding that about ₹60,000 crore has been transferred during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"PM-Kisan is benefiting small and marginal farmers. In these difficult times, this money is helping these farmers a lot. So far under the scheme, about 11 crore farmers have got ₹1.35 lakh crore in their bank accounts. There are no middlemen," Modi said.

The government is continuously making efforts to ensure benefits to farmers reach directly at a faster pace, the Prime Minister added. —PTI

India's exports up 3-fold in April

New Delhi, May 14:

India's exports in April jumped nearly three-fold to \$30.63 billion from \$10.36 billion in the same month last year, according to government data released on Friday.

Imports too rose to \$45.72 billion last month as against \$17.12 billion in April 2020, the data showed. The trade deficit widened to \$15.10 billion

as against \$6.76 billion in April 2020.

Exports in April last year had plunged by a record 60.28 per cent due to the Covid-19 pandemic induced lockdown.

In March this year, exports grew by 60.29 per cent to \$34.45 billion.

Due to the low base effect, exports in April 2021 recorded a growth rate of 195.72 per cent.

Oil imports stood at \$10.8 billion as compared to \$4.66 billion in the corresponding month last year.

Major export commodities which have recorded positive growth in April include gems and jewellery, jute, carpet, handicrafts, leather, electronic goods, oil meals, cashew, engineering, petroleum products, marine products and chemicals. —PTI

Dr Reddy's set to focus on Sputnik shots, Covid drugs

Bharat Biotech to set up vaccine unit in K'taka, says deputy CM

Bengaluru, May 14:

Karnataka will soon have a Covaxin-manufacturing plant of Bharat Biotech in Kolar district near here, Deputy Chief Minister of the state Dr C.N. Ashwath Narayan said on Friday.

The construction work has already begun and the

government has invited investors to make the vaccine in the State, he said.

"Covaxin vaccine-manufacturing plant of Bharat Biotech will be established at the earliest in Malur Industrial Area of neighbouring Kolar district," he said. —PTI

to the US Department of Justice, Securities and Exchange Commission and Securities Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

The drug maker said it has commenced a detailed investigation into an anonymous complaint which alleges that health care professionals in Ukraine and potentially in other countries were provided with improper payments by or on behalf of the company in violation of US anti-corruption laws.

A legal firm is conducting the investigation at the instruction of a committee of the company's board, it added.

The company said its board has recommended a final dividend of ₹25 per share of ₹5 face value (500 per cent) for financial year 2020-21. —Reuters

Centre for special drive for fin services staff

COVID | WARRIOR

Vaccinate bank staff, says finmin

New Delhi, May 14:

The finance ministry on Friday asked state governments to accord priority to employees of banks and insurance companies for Covid-19 vaccination, saying they are exposed to high risks during these difficult times.

Department of financial services secretary Debasish Panda, in a letter, addressed to chief secretaries of states and union territories, said states should consider a special dispensation for vaccination of staff of banks, insurance companies, business correspondents, payment systems

Covid-19. "All state/UT governments are requested to instruct local authorities to provide them necessary help and support in ensuring delivery of banking and financial services."

Vaccinating them on priority will mitigate their high exposure to risk in the delivery of public service," he said.

Raising the issues of some instances of manhandling by state law enforcement authorities during local lockdowns, the letter also asked state administration to ensure easy movement of officials for discharge of duty. —PTI

UK's anti-fraud agency probes GFG Alliance

London, May 14: The United Kingdom's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) said on Friday that it is investigating suspected fraud, fraudulent trading and money laundering in relation to the financing and conduct of the business of companies within the Gupta Family Group Alliance (GFG), led by British-Indian businessman Sanjeev Gupta.

As this is a live investigation, the SFO can provide no further comment, it said. The Gupta-led business has been the subject of much speculation over the past few weeks as

SHORT TAKES

Shaw stopped for pass, gets it soon

Mumbai: India batsman Prithvi Shaw was stopped while on his way to Goa in the Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra for travelling without an E-Pass, a police official said on Friday.

The incident took place at Amboli on Wednesday when the cricketer was heading for Goa in his car, said the official. He was allowed to leave after obtaining a pass.

Shaw was going to Goa for vacation, he said.

The Maharashtra government has made it mandatory to obtain a pass for travelling in its efforts to contain the second wave of the pandemic. After the police stopped him in Amboli, he applied for the pass online afresh and got it in an hour. — PTI

Hussey Covid free, Saha still positive

New Delhi: Chennai Super Kings batting coach Michael Hussey has recovered from Covid-19, paving the way for his return to Australia on Sunday but Sunrisers Hyderabad's

Wridhiman Saha has received conflicting results in two coronavirus tests, prolonging his isolation. Saha, who has been named in India's squad for the World Test Championship final and the subsequent Test series against England, is hoping to join the squad's bio-bubble in Mumbai on May 25. His inclusion is subject to fitness.

Both Hussey and Saha had first tested positive during the now suspended IPL. "Hussey has returned with negative RT-PCR results and has recovered well," CSK CEO Kashi Viswanathan said on Friday. — PTI

Live on TV

FOOTBALL

FA Cup Final: Chelsea vs Leicester from 9.45 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD

UFC

Fight Night: Charles Oliveira vs Michael Chandler and other bouts from 7.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2

COACH POTATO

Raman writes to Ganguly, Dravid on 'Prima Donna Culture' in women team

New Delhi, May 14: Ousted Indian women's cricket team coach W. V. Raman has written to BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, alleging that there is a "prima donna culture" in the national team and it needs to change.

In the mail that has also been marked to National Cricket Academy head Rahul Dravid, Raman has also offered to present a roadmap for women's cricket in the country, if asked.

In a surprising move, the former India Test player was not retained as the head coach of the senior women's team by the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) which picked Ramesh Powar for the top job. Raman's major achievements included a runners-up finish for the side at the women's T20 World Cup last year.

"As far as I know, Raman has said that he has always 'believed in team being placed above everybody else, and insisted that no individual can really be a prima donna', a source privy to Raman's mail said.

The stylish former left-hander's crisp letter to the two former captains is sure to ruffle a few feathers given that it has always been the coaches who have either stepped aside or sacked following fallouts with players, most notably ODI captain Mithali Raj.

While Raman's letter didn't name anyone, it is understood that he has spoken extensively about the star culture that prevails in the team, which he said is probably doing more harm than good.

While repeated calls to Raman went unanswered, a source in the know of things did admit that a mail to both Ganguly and



Dravid has gone out.

"Raman has asked Dada (Ganguly) that if a past accomplished performer feels constrained by this culture, then he (Ganguly) as a former India captain, should take a call on this matter, whether the coach is asking for too much," the source added.

Raman, it is learnt, is dismayed by allegations that he is not proactive as a coach. He has recalled how he oversaw three training sessions (for Trailblazers, Velocity and Supernovas) between 1 pm to 9 pm in humid UAE conditions during the last T20 challenge.

"In case the president and secretary want to hear his opinion on allegations about his work ethic, he can explain."

The letter has been copied to Dravid because Raman sincerely believes that he can contribute towards building a roadmap for Indian women's cricket. — PTI

Rookie Roy gets maiden call-up for England tour

New Delhi, May 14: Rookie wicketkeeper-batter Indrani Roy from Jharkhand was rewarded with maiden Test and ODI call-up for India's tour of England next month but senior left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad missed out due to an injury.

The Neetu David-led selection panel made a course correction with teen batting sensation Shafali Verma and seasoned pacer Shikha Pandey making it to all three squads after their South Africa home series snubs.

Sneh Rana and Indrani were two stellar performers in the National One-Day competition and thus got their call-ups. The likes of Monica Patel, C. Prathyusha have been dropped from the squad altogether.

As expected Mithali Raj will lead the team for the one-off Test and the three ODIs while Harmanpreet Kaur will take over the reins during the three T20 Internationals. — PTI

THE FIXTURES

- **Test:** June 16-19 (Bristol)
- **1st ODI:** June 27 (Bristol)
- **2nd ODI (D/N):** June 30 (Taunton)
- **3rd ODI:** July 3 (Worcester)
- **1st T20 (D/N):** July 9 (Northants)
- **2nd T20:** July 11 (Hove)
- **3rd T20 (D/N):** July 15 (Chelmsford)

SQUADS

- Test & ODI:** Mithali Raj (captain), Smriti Mandhana, Harmanpreet Kaur (vice-captain), Punam Raut, Priya Punia, Deepthi Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Sneh Rana, Taniya Bhattacharya (wicket-keeper), Indrani Roy (wicket-keeper), Jhulan Goswami, Shikha Pandey, Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Poonam Yadav, Ekta Bisht, Radha Yadav, Simaran Dil Bahadur.

- T20:** Harmanpreet Kaur (captain) Smriti Mandhana (vice-captain), Deepthi Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Richa Ghosh, Harleen Deol, Sneh Rana, Taniya Bhattacharya (wicket-keeper), Indrani Roy (wicket-keeper), Shikha Pandey, Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Poonam Yadav, Ekta Bisht, Radha Yadav, Simaran Dil Bahadur.

VIHARI & TEAM COME TO AID OF COVID PATIENTS

New Delhi, May 14: Crushing the pain barrier to save a Test match is by no measure a small feat but for Hanuma Vihari, the biggest satisfaction these days comes from being able to arrange a hospital bed or oxygen cylinders for desperate Covid-19 patients through a network of friends.

Vihari left for England in early April to play in the English county for Warwickshire.

Vihari, like every Indian, has been shocked by the obstacles that Covid-19 patients and their families have encountered on a daily basis.

"With the second wave being so strong, getting a bed became a difficulty and that is something which is unthinkable. So, I decided to use my followers as my volunteers and help as many people as I can," Vihari, who has more than 110,000 followers, said.

— PTI

PETITION SUBMITTED TO CANCEL TOKYO GAMES

Tokyo, May 14: An online petition calling for the Tokyo Olympics to be cancelled has been submitted to the Tokyo government with over 350,000 signatures on Friday morning.

The rollout of the petition comes with Tokyo, Osaka and several other areas under a state of emergency with coronavirus infections rising particularly new variants.

The postponed Olympics are to open in just under three months on July 23rd.

The petition will also be sent to International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, who cancelled a planned trip to Japan this month due to surging cases of Covid-19 in the country, and to International Paralympics Committee President Andrew Parsons.

Although 70-80% of Japanese citizens in polls say they want the Olympics cancelled or postponed, there is no indication this will happen. The petition was organised by Kenji Utsunomiya, a lawyer who has run several times for Tokyo governor.

Regd. No. HQ/SD/509/2021-23

Printed and Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Vallabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3. RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Kaushik Mitter

BEST TIME TO UPGRADE YOUR FURNITURE

Since you spend 20 hours a day at home, buy FURNITURE with an unparalleled service at the lowest price and quick deliveries

Furniture LOAN MELA

2 Days only

All showrooms open 6 am - 10 am

AC Package: Sofa Set 3+2 + Extendable Dining Table with 6 Chairs + Queen Size Double Bed + FREE 1 Ton AC

36 Months EMI No Interest

Just ₹1 Down Payment

FREE with ₹59,999 Furniture Purchase

1 Ton AC (MRP ₹ 49,500)

42" TV

No Scratch Cards
No Lucky Draws
Just Guaranteed Gifts

Sofa Set: 3+2 + Diwan + Divider + 2 Puffies (12 seater) + FREE 32" TV

MRP ₹ 98,999 EMI ₹ 1,475

Verona: Art Leather Recliner Sofa Set (3+1+1 Recliner)

Scan to view the product

MRP ₹ 84,999 EMI ₹ 1,311

Brazil Sofa Set: 3+1+1

Scan to view the product

MRP ₹ 45,999 EMI ₹ 623

Paris Sofa Set: 3+2+1 + Diwan (9 seater) + FREE 32" TV

Scan to view the product

MRP ₹ 64,999 EMI ₹ 1,147

Hay: Teakwood Bed

EMI ₹ 492

Queen Size + Side Table
₹ 14,999

King Size + Side Table + 2 side Draw + 2 side Lifting
₹ 16,999 ₹ 18,999 ₹ 19,999

Boduppal: Premium Quality Wardrobe: Membrane Finish Extra Large Size Vernon: 2 Door MRP ₹ 51,499 ₹ 24,999

Allen: 3 Door MRP ₹ 62,299 ₹ 29,999

Clayton: 4 Door MRP ₹ 77,999 ₹ 36,999

London: L Type Sofa

Scan to view the product

MRP ₹ 42,999 EMI ₹ 754

Orchid: Children Study Table

Scan to view the product

MRP ₹ 4,999 ₹ 1,999

Keeping your SAFETY in mind, we have launched **VIP visit at our Stores**

Shop online also www.bantia.in

Same day Delivery No waiting

Customisation Available 250+ COLOURS

Shop before 1 pm and Get Surprise GIFT

Exchange your old furniture & get upto 20% off

An ISO-9001:2015 Certified Company

BANTIA Furnitures Affordable Lifestyles Since 1955

Secunderabad	Nagole	Kukatpally	Kompally	Attapur	Hitech City	Boduppal	Dilsukhnagar	A.S. Rao Nagar	Karmanghat	Warangal
040-27841562 040-27841563	040-29555413 7993333357	7993333322 7993333323	7993333328 040-27841563	7993333342 9000785723	040-29559025 7993333360	040-29704550 7993333321	7995000905 7993333324	040-27841562 6305157003	7993333327 7993333349	040-27841562