nicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 19 JUNE 2021

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WEATHER Max: 30.8°C



Min: 24°C **RH:** 58% Rain: Trace

Forecast: Cloudy sky. Moderate rain. Max/Min temp. 31/22ºC

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana Tithi: Jyeshta Shuddha Navami till 6.40 pm Star: Hasta till 8.23 pm Varjyam: 5.32 am to 7.04 am; 3.50 am to 5.20 am (Sunday) Durmuhurtam: 5.46 am to

Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am **HIJRI CALENDAR** Zeeqad 7,1442 AH **PRAYERS**

Fajar: 4.32 am **Zohar:** 12.27 pm Asar: 4.54 pm Maghrib: 6.58 pm Isha: 8.15 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.52 PM **SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.42 AM** MOONRISE TODAY 1.23 PM **MOONSET TOMORROW 12.58 AM**

COUNTER

It's a game changer in the next polls... let's promise to remove the gap between two doses of vaccine!

SHORT TAKES

SC won't cancel medical PG exam

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to direct the medical universities to cancel or postpone the final year post-graduate exams on the ground that the examinee-doctors have been engaged in Covid-19 duty. A bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and M.R. Shah said it cannot pass any general order to all the universities to not conduct PG medical examination.

3 minor quakes hit Northeast

Guwahati: Three earthquakes, including one having over 4 magnitude, hit the Northeastern region in the early hours of Friday. Assam was jolted by a 4.1 magnitude quake at 2.04 am, according to a National Centre for Seismology report. The epicentre was Sonitpur district and the depth was 22 km.

LAW OF LAND

TS to take unlock call today SC will scrutinise

Cabinet may opt for night curfew; likely to reshuffle top officials

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 18

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has convened an emergency meeting of state Cabinet on Saturday to discuss and take a decision on whether to lift lockdown entirely from June 20 or continue only night lockdown for a few more days.

The ongoing lockdown from 6 pm to 6 am will end on Saturday and the state government has to take a decision on the future

'FLYING SIKH' MILKHA SINGH

DIES OF COVID

Chandigarh, June 18:

Indian sprint legend Milkha Singh died on

Friday after a month-

long battle with Covid,

during which he lost his

former national volley-

ball captain wife Nirmal

Kaur to the same virus.

The Padma Shri award-

ee was 91 and is survived

by his golfer son Jeev

Milkha Singh and three

"He breathed his last at 11.30 pm," a family spokesperson said. His

condition turned critical

this evening as he devel-

oped complications and passed away. — PTI

MAN DISPLACED

BY PROJECT SETS

HIMSELF ON FIRE

Tension prevailed at

Vemulaghat village in

Medak district on Friday

after Malla Reddy, a 70-year-old farmer dis-

placed by the Mallanna-

sagar project ended his

life by jumping into a burning pyre. He formed the pyre from pieces of old wood taken from his

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, JUNE 18

daughters

passed away.

CM TO BEGIN DISTS VISIT TOMORROW DC CORRESPONDENT of the people's pulse and

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao will be on a spree visiting districts from June 20 to get a feel

meeting is also expected

to discuss matters such as

HYDERABAD, JUNE 18

course of action. Against this backdrop, the Cabinet will meet at 2 pm at Pragathi Bhavan. The

take stock of the implementation of his government's schemes at the grassroots level. Full report on Page 4

rainfall, kharif crop, lifting of Godavari water through Kaleshwa-ram project, hydel power generation, among others. The Chief Minister held

a meeting with a few ministers at Pragathi Bhavan on Friday ahead of the Cabinet meeting. Ministers T. Harish Rao, V Srinivas Goud, Mohd Mahmood Ali and Koppula Eashwar were present.

The meeting triggered speculations that the CM discussed effecting a major reshuffle of IAS and IPS officers soon in the state, which has been pending for long.

> Page 2: CM wants to streamline bureaucracy

Thanksgiving visit



Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana being accorded traditional temple welcome on his maiden visit to the Srisailam temple after taking over as the CJI on Friday. The CJI and his wife offered prayers at the shrine. Report on Page 4

Mamata links HC judge to BJP, seeks transfer of case

DC CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA, JUNE 18

A major controversy has hit Justice Kausik Chanda of the Calcutta High Court as West Bengal's ruling Trinamul Congress on Friday linked the judge to the BJP after he scheduled chief minister Mamata Banerjee's election petition, challenging her defeat to the leader of the opposition Suvendu Adhikari at Nandigram in the Assembly polls, for hearing after a week.

demolished house. The Opposition parties In a letter to the secreand locals alleged that tary of the Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata the government failed to pay him compensation after demolishing his house for the project. Banerjee's counsel Sanjay sought reassign-

WEST BENGAL CM'S lawyer Sanjay Basu claimed Justice Kausik Chanda, who is hearing her plea, was "an active member of the BJP" and asked the **High Court Chief**

case to another judge. lenging the election of BJP's Suvendu Adhikari from Nandigram, to another bench. The counsel

Justice to assign her

claimed Justice Kausik Chanda, who is hearing her plea, was "an active member of the BJP". Since the adjudication of the election petition will have political ramifications, the counsel prayed that the

another judge by the Acting Chief Justice, who is the master of the roster.

The CM's lawyer also stated in the letter that Banerjee "had objected to the confirmation of the Hon'ble Judge as a Permanent Judge of the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta" and as such, apprehends there is a likelihood of bias on the part of the judge concerned.

Earlier in the day when the plea was listed for mentioning before Justice Chanda, the judge observed the petitioner's presence as mandatory during the hearing in such a case. When the CM's lawyer assured the judge of abiding by the law, the judge then fixed June 24 as the date of hearing

■ Full report on Page 4 ment of her petition chalmatter be assigned to **House committee tells Twitter that law of land is supreme**

Tharoor-led panel puts Twitter on notice

New Delhi, June 18: Amid a tussle between the Union government and Twitter over the new IT rules, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on IT on Friday told the US-based social media giant that the rule of the land was supreme and the company must abide by the Indian laws.

During a 90-minute deposition before the panel, chaired by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, the Twitter India officials were asked "tough and searching questions", including why the company should

found "violating" rules of the country, sources said.
Twitter India's public pol-Shagufta icy manager

Kamran and legal counsel Ayushi Kapoor deposed before the parliamentary panel.

Later, in a statement, a Twitter Spokesperson said the company "stands pre-pared to work with the Committee on the important work of safeguarding citizens' rights online in line with our principles of transparency, freedom of expression, and privacy.'

"We will also continue working alongside the Indian government as part of our shared commitment to serve and protect the public conversation", the spokesperson said while appreciating the opportunity to share views of Twitter before the Standing Committee on

Information Technology. MPs Nishikant Dubey, Rajyawardan Rathore, Tejasvi Surya, Sanjay Seth, Zafar Islam, Subhash Chandra were among those present during the meeting while from

the opposition there were TMC MP Mahua Moitra and TDP MP Jaidev Galla apart from Tharoor.

During the meeting, panel members mostly from the BJP asked Twitter officials whether their policy is more important or rule of land, to which officials responded that they respect the Indian laws but they have to follow their policy as well for larger interest, sources said.

The panel members took

strong objection to Twitter stance and categorically told them that the rule of land is supreme not the company policy, sources As per sources, there was

unanimity in the panel that the Twitter should abide by IT rules and appoint chief compliance officer.

Earlier this month, the Central government issued a notice to Twitter, giving it one last chance to "immediately" comply with the new IT rules and warned that failure to adhere to the norms will lead to the platform losing exemption from liability under the IT

Delhi HC remarks

Stops using HC ruling on UAPA as precedent said: "The issue is impor-

PARMOD KUMAR I DC NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

The Supreme Court refused to interfere with the Delhi High Court order granting bail to student activists Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal and Asif Iqbal Tanha but said the judgment will neither be treated as a precedent in any court in the country in all matters relating to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), nor will it be relied on by the parties. A bench comprising Justices Hemant Gupta and

Ramasubramanian expressed surprise over the 100-page order in a bail matter by the High Court and

tant and has pan-India ramifications. We want to decide it for the good of the country."
The bench termed as

'troubling" the fact that the High Court has written 100 pages discussing the UAPA while deciding the bail applications and said that this will require interpreta-tion by the Supreme Court. Justice Gupta said this soon after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta referred to parts of the High Court judgment contending that the bail order "turns on its head" the UAPA along with the Constitution.

Telling the court to let the three accused remain on bail, Mehta said sought a stay on the impact of the judgment.

SonyLIV's Coverage Co-Presented by

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Senior counsel Kapil Sibal, appearing for the activists, said if Mehta had "much to say" on issues relating to the UAPA, the

students "have a lot to say Mehta noted that the HC judgment, which made a distinction between the charges levelled against the activists and an act of terror, had said: "The intent and purport of Parliament in enacting the UAPA... to bring terrorist activity within its scope, was, and could only have had been, to deal with matters of profound impact on the 'defence of India'."

Modi launches crash course to upskill one lakh Covid warriors

New Delhi, June 18: the pandemic has highlight-Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched a customised crash course programme that aims to skill and upskill over one "Covid warriors" across the country, and said that the nation needs to stay prepared as the danger of Coronavirus and possibility of its mutation remain present.

Speaking on the occasion,

ed the challenges the virus can throw up, and the training of more than one lakh frontline warriors is a step in that direction. 'We have to further enha-

nce the preparedness of the country to meet the challenges ahead," Modi assert-

The customised crash course training will be imparted to people in six

ly home care support, basic care support, advanced care support, emergency care support, sample collection support, and medical equipment support. The course will be launc-

hed from 111 centres across 26 states. The programme will cre-

ate skilled non-medical healthcare workers to fill the present and future needs of manpower in the



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(HYMM/2122/C01521)

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2-month baby dead inside tank

DC CORRESPONDENT **HYDERABAD, JUNE 18**

The body of a two-monthold baby boy was found in a water tank on the terrace of his grandparents' residence, hours after he went missing early on of Friday. The heartrending incident took place in Anjapur village on the

outskirts of Hyderabad. The boy Uma Maheshwar, was the only child of Latha and Tirumalesh, an autorickshaw driver, and was

years of their marriage. According to the police, Latha noticed her baby missing from the bed around 4 am when she woke up. She immediately alerted her husband and others in the family and began searching in the house and then sought help from the neighbours and other villagers who

joined the search. After a three-hour search, they called in the Abullapurmet police for help. The police discovered the body in the water tank on the roof of the grandparents' baby's house. He was rushed to a hospital where he was declared dead.

The police said Latha came to her mother's house in Anjapur, 15 days ago. On Thursday night, as was usual, the baby was in bed with his moth-

er and grandmother. The last time Latha saw her child was around 1 am, when she woke up and then went back to sleep,

the police said. "When Latha work up at around 4 am, she saw her son missing and informed the others in the house. The family in turn alerted the villagers, who scoured the area in search of the baby," said Abdullapurmet inspector

V. Swamy. The police suspect jealousy within the family born to the couple after 12 might have been the rea-years of their marriage. son behind what they believe is the murder of the baby. The police, awaiting post mortem report, said they were not sure if the baby was killed and his body dumped in the water tank, of if the baby was alive when dropped into

the tank. It was learnt that the police have taken into custody a paternal uncle of the baby for question-

The police said the man did not have any children of his own. Based on the complaint by Latha, the Abdullapurmet police booked a murder case under Section 302 IPC and further investigation is

underway. Meanwhile, the police shifted the baby's body to the Gandhi Hospital for an autopsy.

CM WANTS TO **STREAMLINE**

BUREAUCRACY

The last major reshuffle of IAS officers was undertaken in February 2020, when 50 IAS officers at all levels including district collectors were transferred.

Similarly, the major reshuffle of IAS officers was undertaken three years ago in August 2018. Most of the key departments have no full-time IAS officers and are handled by in-charge offi-cials. The government is planning to streamline administration removing in-charges

officials for key departments. Several IPS officers though promoted in 2019 were still working in old positions and the government wants to give them suitable postings. A few districts have no full-time SPs. Those working for over four years in the same places

and appointing full-time

CITY CYBERCRIME COPS GET THREE COMPLAINTS

FROM PAGE 1

are likely to be trans-

ferred.

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, JUNE 18 The cybercrime wing of the Hyderabad police has received three com-

plaints on Friday. In the first case, a man from Tadbund conned of ₹9.44 lakh. Scamsters got his bank dtails by offering a fake loan and siphoned off money. In the second case,

fraudsters trapped a software employee and transferred ₹3.5 lakh. They sent him a link to his mobile. When he clicked it, the link took him to a social media app. One Harini called him and persuaded him to invest in a firm with a promise that the price would rise. After he invested the money, the

scamsters broke contact. In the third case, an individual was made to transfer ₹2 lakh by hackers who trapped him by posting a photo of his

female friend in the US

as WhatsApp display.

Landgrabbers gang arrested for ₹8cr fraud

DC CORRESPONDENT **HYDERABAD JUNE 18**

The Cyberabad police arrested a gang of landgrabbers who cheating people by producing fake documents. The arrests were the result of a complaint by an individual who was allegedly cheated of ₹8 crore. The prime accused was

Pidugu Adinarayana Murthy, 51, a real estate dealer. The gang floated companies like RAN Estates Pvt Ltd, ANR Avenues & Turnkev Projects Pvt Ltd etc. His associates were Kumbarti Ramu alias Ramprasad, Thavva Venkata Murali Krishna, Pippala Yadaiah, and Vaddi Ashok.

According to

Cyberabad

Murthy of Jaya Dasaradhi Projects and his tered sale deed through associates hatched a plan to fraudulently sell vacant lands of citizens sell by impersonating the signatures of the owners and fabricating sale-deed the police.

THE PRIME accused was Pidugu Adinarayana Murthy, 51, a real estate dealer. The gang floated RAN Estates Pvt Ltd, ANR Avenues & Turnkey Projects Pvt Ltd etc.

documents. "The gang identified vacant lands at Golluru in Maheswaram andal of Ranga Reddy district. They induced the complainant to purchase about 49 acres of land for ₹56 crore. The complainant agreed for the deal and paid an advance of ₹85 crore to Jaya Dasaradhi Projects," said Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar. Sajjanar said the com-

plainant waited for the sale deed for some time the and then confronted the police, accused. Murthy sent him a photocopy of a regismobile phone. However Murthy didn't hand over the original document to the complainant. The complainant then moved

IN BRIEF

KTR to inaugurate **2BHKs next week**

Hyderabad: Minister K. T. Rama Rao will inaugurate double bedroom houses for poor at six locations in the GHMC area from June 26 to July 4. He will declare open 330 dwelling units at Ambedkarnagar, which is on the banks of the Hussainsagar, 130 units at Potti Sriramulu Nagar in Secunderabad, 155 units at G.Y. Reddy Compound in Musheerabad, 10 units at Golla Komaraiah Colony in Secunderabad and some

1 held for selling remdesivir illegally

more in two other locations.

Hyderabad: Madishetty Prasad, 37, owner of Sree **Jagadeshwar Medical Stores** in amachandrapuram, was apprehended by the Central Zone Task Force police for illegally procuring and selling remdesivir injections at higher prices. Officials seized five injection vials from his possession. "He hatched a plan and began selling each vial at ₹15,000 without having valid documents. On Thursday night, as he was heading to deliver five vials to a customer for ₹12,000 each, when the team apprehended him," said the police.

Male nurse

commits suicide

Hyderabad: A 23-year-old man working as nurse at a private hospital in Madhapur allegedly died by suicide at his flat in Panjagutta on Friday morning. Police said the victim, Karthik, had been living alone in a rented place at Dwarkapuri Colony in Panjagutta. They received a complaint from his father D. Shanker, who stated that Karthik's friend, also named Shanker, informed of the incident. By the time Kartik's father reached Hyderabad from Warangal the body had been shifted to Osmania General Hospital

220th fake seeds seized in Nalgonda

Hyderabad: In one of the biggest busts, Nalgonda police seized around 220 tonnes of spurious seeds, worth ₹6 crore, and arrested 13 persons. The prime accused was E. Srinivas, a chartered accountant, who set up Nairuthi Seeds Pvt Ltd in Gundla Pochampally. According to West Zone IG Stephen Ravindra, the Nalgonda police seized 20 tonnes of spurious cotton seeds worth ₹4 crore, and 200 tonnes of fake seeds of maize, paddy and other crops worth ₹2 crore.

Chati is champion of Clean-a-thon

Hyderabad: The IIT Hyderabad iTIC Incubator announced the winners of its Clean-a-Thon Hackathon. The hackathon focused on finding solutions for water, air, noise pollution, elimination of single-use plastic. water body cleaning, waste disposal, upcycling, circular economy, plastic recycling, plastic alternatives, and other related areas. Gautami Chati came out the winner followed by Khushbu Baid and Yalla Omkar Venkata.

CBSE assessment bid gets mixed response

Students worry grading plan will hit overall result

MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 18

The CBSE assessment formula for Class XII results received mixed reaction from students. Most of them expressed concerns over the grading plan affecting their overall

final result. Laveena, an outgoing Class XII student in a private school said if the exams had taken place this year, the result would have been different for most students, and that their performance especially in Grade 11 exams could be the reason behind varying results of most deserving stu-

thoughts were echoed by stu-dents who said if they did not put in effort for the internal Class 11 exams, a 30 per cent weightage could affect the total marks.

"I don't think it will affect me personally because my higher education course doesn't require a certain number to be able to pursue a career. But for most students who are going to submit marksheets under a cut-off criteria, it could result in a difficult situation," Manan, another student. said.

K. Srilatha, principal at the Global Indian International School, Uppal campus, also said the finalised evaluation system would be useful to students only if the universities and colleges changed admission process for this academic year in accordance with the evaluation pattern followed

in Grade XII.

"As the pandemic is global, universities and colleges should strategise a comprehensive policy that no student is met with injustice in admission. The policy should be in such a way that it balances between rural and urban students. Also, the government and private universities and colleges must enhance seats for this

academic year due to

Update: Cases | Deaths

pandemic to meet the increased pass per-centage," she added

CBSE Thursday announced the formula for assessment, after an approval from the SC

for Class 12 results.

The results will be based on the student's past academic performance of Class 10, 11 and pre boards, and will be constituted in a ratio of 30: 30: 40 (X, XI, and pre-boards) formula. This means about 40 percent of the weightage will be given to Class 12 preboards, and in the rest of the 60 percent, 30 percent will be based on class 11 final exams

Covid no.s fluctuate in districts

KANIZA GARARI I DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 18

Continued recording of Covid-19 cases, though in single digits, across districts meant the spread of the virus is continuing. The not touching zero past the second wave.

Adilabad, Nirmal, Kamareddy, Komaram Bheem-Asifabad and Narayanpet continue to report such cases. If the figure is low one day, the next day could see a slight increase. Epidemiologists say the virus is taking advantage of errant human behaviour. As Delta variants are highly transmissible, this scenario would

DAILY C VID

BULLETIN DATA	Fresh Cases	1,417
THE PARTY OF THE P	Deaths	12
A STATE OF THE STA	Tests Done	1,24,430
	Active Cases	19,029
W. 25 2	Total Cases	6,10,834
28.730	Total Deaths	3,546
Highest New Cases	Lowest New Cases	5

•		
GHMC (Hyderabad)	149	
Ranga Reddy	104	

Khammam 88 Nalgonda Suryapet Due to agriculture

small

activity in rural areas, gatherings_are usual for work. This helps in easy transmis-

Nirmal Adilabad and Komarambheem, Asifabad 6 Kamareddy Narayanpet Nizamabad

Experts say different strategies must be in place to deal with the virus scene in districts that have single digit cases. Equipping and

and Anganwadi workers are required as they are the point of contact at the grassroots level to give a clear picture to the authorities about the existing situation.

With more than one lakh tests being carried out by the state every day, the surveillance is expected to improve. There is hope that the testing will continue after the unlocking too.

Testing, tracking and tracing will help the state to prepare better for the third wave and that will give an indication as to which all districts require additional resources from the government to effectively handle the

CHILD RIGHTS PANEL ISSUES ADVISORY ON ONLINE CLASSES

DC CORRESPONDENT

Telangana Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TSCPCR) has issued an advisory to the education department on the conduct of online classes.

It requested the education department to make the best use of television as an alternative means to ensure reach up to the village level, considering their socio-economic barriers, and hoped for community participation in villages

The commission advised the education department to establish a communication mechanism up to the village level to ensure smooth flow of information so as to address the gaps, while coordinating with the departments of panchayat raj and municipal administration at all levels. It suggested that the education department designate nodal point persons to monitor the system at mandal, district and state levels to ensure accountability and effective mon-

"The department should focus on ensuring regular health checkups and proper treatment facilities to protect the children from Covid19," the panel said. Hence, the department should coordinate with the health denartment



Salarjung Museum reopens tomorrow

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 18

The Salarjung Museum will be reopened from Sunday. A decision on re-opening of the monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India, Hyderabad circle, depends on the state government's decision on lockdown relaxations.

Superintending archaeologist Smitha S. Kumar said

the ASI headquarters had cleared reopening of monuments from June 16 in consultation with local authori-

In Hyderabad, Golconda and Charminar come under the ASI. These monuments be opened after Saturday in case the state government lifts the ban on public gatherings. No decision has been taken on this



DECCAN CHRONICLE







IMA angry over attacks on docs, holds protests

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 18

Senior doctors of Indian Medical Association and otner medical profes sionals protested against the violence against doctors during Covid-19 pandemic on Friday. They said that the doc-

tors were blamed for no fault of theirs. The protesting doctors wore black badges, black shirts and black masks to protest the violence against them.

They protested for a few minutes in hospitals, out-patient departments and at the IMA building in Koti and gave a representation to DGP Mahendar Reddy.

Dr Lav Kumar Reddy, president, IMA, TS chapter, said, "Attacks on doctors must be a nonbailable offence. Covid-19 is a new disease which is evolving and



Doctors hold protest at the Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad on Friday. - P. SURENDRA

blaming doctors does not help. Doctors died in both the first and second waves and some of them succumbed while treating patients.

In a meeting with various dignitaries from the non-medical sector, it was noted that there were attacks also by educated people on doctors. There were also planned attacks as was noted in a recent case Hyderabad where a doctor was blamed for the

critical status of the patient. It was pointed out that this kind of behaviour was unbecoming and there must be strict rules which would deter people from

taking these steps. Members of the medical and non-medical fraternity urged the government to take action to protect doctors and to ensure that emergency wards have a security

Jald se jald apne PAN aur Aadhaar Card ko link karna zaroori hai. Link karne ki aakhari taareekh hai, June 30, 2021.

Chennai lions catch delta variant

BALU PULIPAKA I DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 18

In the first such case, at least four lions at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park (200) at Vandalur, near Chennai, were found carrying the high infectious delta variant, that dominated the second wave of the pandemic in India and elsewhere, causing concern among zoo officials.

Of the 11 lions in the zoo, nine had tested positive for Covid-19 earlier this month Of these, two died of the disease and the rest are undergoing treatment.

Zoo director Debasis Jana told Deccan Chronicle on Friday that the 11 infected lions were housed in two sectors of the zoo; some in the safari park and the others in the display enclosure. "The two areas are at least a kilometre apart," Jana said.He said the samples from the lions were sent to the National Institute of Animal (NIHSAD), High-Security Bhopal, in the last week of May in two batches. NIH-



A technician collects a nasal swab from a male Asiatic lion in a 'squeeze cage' at the Vandalur Zoo in Chennai. – ARIGNAR ANNA ZOOLOGICAL PARK

SAD conducts research on exotic and emerging pathogens of animals in the country.

"We were not lucky, two of our lions have died from Covid-19. The other zoos in India, the Nehru Zoological Park, and the ones at Jaipur in Rajasthan and Etawah in Madhya Pradesh are lucky They did not have any fatalities among their lions that caught Covid-19," Jana

Jana added: "This delta variant that Bhopal has found perhaps explains to

ANALYSES OF genome sequencing of four of the samples taken from the lions showed that all of them belonged to the pangolin lineage B.1.617.2 and are delta variants as per WHO nomenclature.

- Director, National Institute of High-Security

Animal Diseases, Bhopal

some extent what the ani-

mals were fighting against.

The other zoos may have

Here, two have died. Very He said the zoo's veteri-narians have been working hard to treat and care for the lions. "Some of them have lost members of their families in these past few

had other Coronavirus

variants, and their lions recovered from the brink.

weeks but they did not go home. Instead, they stayed put at the zoo to look after the lions. Based on the experiences of the other zoos, our vets have been giv ing their best," he said. "It is clear that it was an asymptomatic person that was the cause of the infection. And there is a long chain. Captive animals have to be practically spoon-fed. From the time the meat leaves the supplier and it goes to the animals, it passes through various hands. It is not a foolproof system but the entire staff at the Vandalur zoo has been vaccinated against Covid19. Every day, basic temperature and symptom checks are conducted, Jana said.



Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully

SHORT TAKES

02 GENERATION PLANT FOR SEC'BAD HOSP.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 18

The oxygen generation plant for the Military Hospital, Secunderabad, was inaugurated by Lieutenant General A. Arun, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Dakshin Bharat area, via video conference on Friday.

The plant was handed over to the Military Hospital as part of the CSR initiative by Bharat Dynamics Limited. GOC. Telangana and Andhra Sub Area, and officials from 1 EME Centre coordinated the efforts to ensure commissioning of the plant.

The plant can produce 960 litres of oxygen every minute and has been fabricated by Trident Pneumatics Ltd,

REMOTE POLL **BOOTH FOR IRANIANS**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 18

The Iranian Consulate in Hyderabad made special arrangements for Iranian citi-zens living in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Rajahmahendravaram as Iran

went to polls to elect its President on Friday. Iranian nationals and Zoroastrians in the three cities cast their votes. There are about 1,250 Iran nationals in Hyderabad and more than

2,000 in south India. The Iranian Consulate arranged a voting facility in its premises from 8 am to 6 pm. This time, only a few students from Iran are residing in Hyderabad due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Seven candidates were approved to run in the June 18 election, but the field narrowed to four after two hardliners and the only reformist candidate withdrew from the race. There was no woman on the ballot. According to straight contest between conservative Ebrahim Raisi and centrist Abdolnaser Hemmati.

FOLLOW DUE PROCEDURE, **HC TELLS CBI**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 18

Telangana High Court on Friday directed Central Bureau Investigation (CBI) to follow the procedure under Section 41 of the Criminal Procedure Code while interrogating the wife of former GST (Anti-Evasion of Taxes Wing) ex-Enforcement Directorate officer Bollineni Srinivas Gandhi, whom the investigating agency had booked under graft charges.

Sheerisha, wife of Gandhi, is accused number two in the case. She had approached High Court complaining that CBI officials are pestering her and her family in the name of inquiry. She complained that their daughter also has been similarly tortured by the agency officials. Justice K. Lakshman, taking cognition of the plea directed the CBI to follow the rules.

The High Court also directed CBI to allow presence of a woman advocate along with petitioner as and when the latter is called for an inquiry However, the advocate shall not interfere in the inquiry process, the court stated.

• SHE COMPLAINED that their daughter also has been similarly tortured by the agency officials.

DC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice of India

N.V. Ramana, who visited

Mallikharjuna Swamy temple at Srisailam on

Friday, the first time after

elevation, became nostal-

gic and said that he had

been enjoying the pristine beauty and tastes of the

Bhramaramba

KURNOOL, JUNE 18

KCR to embark on first multi-dist tour

It will be a mix of pre-arranged and surprise visits

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 18

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao will be on a spree visiting districts from June 20 to get a feel of the people's pulse and take stock of implementation of his government's schemes at the grassroots level besides launching a slew of development programmes. The CM's hectic sched-

ule is being loaded with surprise visits and scheduled tours to various villages and towns with an aim to bring the state administration closer to the people at a time the TRS is facing some odds.

The CM's districts'tour plans have kept the state administration on its toes, with public representatives of local bodies and officials rushing to complete

STAY MEDICAL

ORDERS TS HC

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Telangana High

Court has extended the

stay on conducting elec-

tions to the executive

committee of TS Medical Council as the

state government failed

to explain the rationale

behind dropping down

the number of elected

representatives from 13

to five, but not reducing

the number of nominat-

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice

B. Vijaysen Reddy was

dealing with a petition

filed by Dr B. Arundati

and others, who challenged the GO issued

reducing the elected rep-

resentatives in the council. On April 27, while

issuing stay orders on ensuing elections, the

court asked the government how it would

defend the continuation

of the same number of

seats in the nominated

quota. At that time, the

government submitted that it had reduced the

elected quota because

the seats were decided in

Council, which had approximately 97,000

Now, in Telangana

State Medical Council,

there were only around

17 000 doctors registered

so far. On that ground, it

had a reason to reduce

the members in the

elected quota, the gov-

number

representatives in the

nominated quota as per

the ratio. As per the

ratio, there should be

only two representatives

under nominated quota,

when the elected quota

is reduced to five mem-

The court had already

expressed apprehensions that the govern-

ment wanted to interfere

in the affairs of the pro-

fessional body, by appointing six nominat-

ed representatives of its

automatically dominate

OLD IIS GOLD Ramana keeps up old practice, back at Srisailam

JI recalls ties with Kurnool

the council.

ernment explained. But the government failed in not reducing

registered doctors.

Pradesh

United Andhra

Medical

ed seats from six.

HYDERABAD, JUNE 18

COUNCIL POLLS,

warned them of action against those found slack in discharging their duties and said they could even face suspension or on-thespot dismissal from service. Notably, this will be the CM's firstever full-fledged tour of districts since he took office seven years ago, and would inspect the implementation of the welfare schemes and development pro-

root level and interact with people directly.
On Friday, the CM spoke over the phone to Anjaiah, Pogula sarpanch of Vasalvillage Turkapalli mandal of Bhongir district and told him that he will be at the village on June 22.

The CM said he will

grammes at the grass-

cuss and devise village development plans. The CM has asked him to identify two suitable land parcels to have community lunch and meet villagers. KCR had announced

he would adopt this village and develop it in November 2020 but could not visit the area so far. The CM's district tours will begin with Siddipet on June 20, where he will inaugurate the new integrated collectorate complex.

surprise inspections in a few villages and towns in Siddipet and Kamareddy districts. On June 21, the CM will visit Warangal and lav the foundation for a

Later he will take up

24-storied government multi-specialty hospital. Though the CM had have lunch with the vil- promised a tour of all tions and Covid-19.

long-pending works. lagers and spend a full the districts at his very the CM had recently day with them to disstart of the first term. start of the first term, this never materialised. Except for visiting dis-

tricts to launch a few

(Lay Secretary and Treasurer Grade-1, Vizag) Born on 19-06-1930 Heavenly abode on 22-11-2016

ocational Guidance Councillor S.C.E.R.T award inner as a good administrator Exemplary character in her religious Field Finished her journey and went to received a Crown of righteousness for

the is survived by her Children, Grand Children and Great Grand Children Her loved ones
Late M.S.S.K. William's Family, Vizag
K.S. Sakuntala Mahanth's Family, Vizag
Late. Nelson William's Family, Nelore
Late. Gnanamani William's Family
Late. Victor William's Family, Vizag
Late. Jessie William's Family, Vizag
Late. Leassie William's Family, Vizag
Late. Leassie William's Family, Vizag

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mrs. G. SANTOSHAM LUKE

Saturday, June 19th (6.00 PM IST) Online Service Only

Zoom Meeting ID:89189560209

Passcode: gsluke WhatsApp: +91 9246885451

4™ DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Late Sri Y.B. REDDY Garu

D.O.D.: 19-06-2017

(ASHOKNAGAR)

ate, Leelavathi Mahanthi's Fan

welfare schemes and development grammes and inaugurate completed projects, the CM did not tour districts to interact with the people directly and seek their feedback on the performance of the government.

In his second term as from Chandrashekar Rao had promised to show what real administration' meant to people. In July 2019, he made a statement in the Assembly that he will visit all the districts after August 15, by taking the entire official machinery with him and resolve issues of people on the spot. This too did not happen

Stop land sale or face protests, warns Oppn

sands of acres of land. He said N. Kiran Kumar Reddy-led gov-ernment had tried to

protect such lands by

issuing GO 571 in 2012

by formulating guide-

lines besides taking a

decision to reclaim land from the benefici-

aries who were not

using the land allotted

to them for the pre-scribed purpose.

A large police

force was deployed

after Congress and

BJP leaders tried to

enter the village

and meet the vic-

The oustees of the

Mallannasagar

project were given

two options — cash of ₹5.4 lakh per

family and a plot of

250 square yards at

the R&R Colony or

₹7.5 lakh along

with a constructed

2BHK in the same colony. Officials say

Malla Reddy chose

Locals said he

was facing finan-

cial hardships for

last

months. He lost his

wife to cancer nine

learning this, the

allegedly told him

that he would not

receive the house if

he were to stay

alone there. Two of

his three married

daughters have also

died along with

depart-

officials

husbands

the

revenue

ment

the second option.

tim's family.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 18

Leaders from Congress and BJP slammed the government's move to sell government land parcels and assets in order to raise funds.

In separate statements issued on Friday, spokesperson Dasoju Sravan Kumar leader Vijayashanthi warned of agitation if the government did not shelve the proposal immediately. They said they would block the auc-

HYDERABAD, JUNE

by

Mallannasagar

project ended his

life at Vemulaghat

village in Medak district by jumping

into a burning

pyre. He formed the

pyre from pieces of

old wood of his

demolished house.

The Opposition

parties and locals

alleged that the

state government

failed to pay him

compensation after

demolishing his house for the proj-

ect. The govern-

ment claims he was

"allotted" a 2BHK

house in the Rehabilitation and

Resettlement (R&R)

Colony as per his

officials allegedly

The entire village

was evacuated as it

will be submerged

by Mallannasagar,

which is part of the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project.

The R&R Colony is

being developed by

the state govern-

played mischief.

Revenue

Project oustee

dies by suicide

DC CORRESPONDENT ment for the project

Malla Reddy, a 70-year-old farmer dis-avoid any incident

tne

He alleged that Chief tion process. Dr Sravan refuted the allegations levelled by sekhar Rao ws trying ministers T. Harish Rao and K.T. Rama Rao to 'benefit' industrialists who were helping that Congress govern-ments had sold thou-

the ruling party. Vijayashanthi won-dered how the Chief Minister, Harish Rao and Rama Rao could justify the move to sell government lands when they had opposed a similar move by the Congress government during the statehood agitation.

enue surplus state into a debt-trap," she said.

"We Miss You" Inserted by : Family Members KCR pushed a rev-10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Late KOPPU VICTOR PREM SAGAR

Late KOPPU VICTOR PREM SAGAR
DOB: 10-10-1965 DOD: 19-06-2011
Electrical Dept., Lalaguda Workshop, SC Rly
S/o Late Mrs. & Mr. K.V. Moses
A.Y.M. Purna, S.C. Rly
Inserted by: Sister & Family
Pinky, Sony, Mony, Twinkle & Joel
Mrs. & Mr. K.M. Vidyasagar
Sons: Sandeep Moses & Vinod Sagar



Dear Aai, Your Life Was A Blessing, Your Memory A Treasure, You Are Loved Beyond Words And Missed Beyond Measure. Bless Us From Wherever You Are.





Mrs. G. SANTOSHAM LUKE Saturday, June 19th (6.00 PM IST) Online Service Only Zoom Meeting ID:89189560209 Passcode: gsluke WhatsApp: +91 9246885451

7th ANNIVERSARY

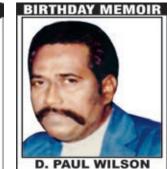
"Happy Birthday Dad in Heaven"

"We Love you and Miss You"

inserted by: Son, Daughters, Daughter in law

rembered every moment of our lives.

D.O.B. 03-08-1949 | D.O.D. 19-06-2014 You will Remain in our Hearts Forever WIFE: NARESHWARI DEVI SON:T. Ritesh Thakur, GRAND SON:Rusheel Thakur DAUGHTERS: Preethi Thakur & Kirti Thakur BROTHERS: T. Jaipal Singh & T. Kirpal Singh

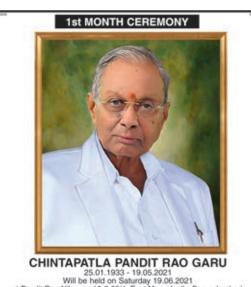


PHILOMENA VINCENT

DOD: 19-06-201

W/o M. Anthony V OB: 11-08-1961 DOI fou left us beautiful mem our love is still our guide,

WENDY (Daughter) WARREN LATOUCHE (Son-in-law)





S/o. Late. K.Vijay Rao DOB: 18/12/1959 DOD: 09/05/2021 on 02/06/02021 in JEDDAH Virtual thanksgiving service will be held on 19/06/2021 @5pm IST Zoom Meeting ID: 852 4207 5807

We Miss You: Wife. Dr. K. Mangala Ankitha, Archana, (Daughters) and Dinesh (Son-in-law) For Details: 7032932711 / 8106420164

"Happy Birthday Thatha" "We will alway

remember your special smile, caring heart 8

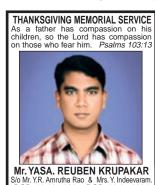
that warm embrace you always gave us inserted by: "MISS YOU THATHA" Vijay, Dimpu, Pretty, Pandu, Winnie, Cherry & Summu.

4thDEATH ANNIVERSARY



MEDARI SUNDER RAO You are ever living in our Hearts Inserted by: Loving Daughter Mrs. Rebecca Nirmal Kumar, Grand Children: Sarah,

Dr. Ruth Sheeba, Moses Sunder



S/o Mr. Y.R. Amrutha Rao & Mrs. Y. Indeevaran DOB: 11-10-1980 DOD: 19-05-2021 On 19-06-2021 at 10.30 am CSI. St. Stephens Church, Rahamathnaga Inserted by: Parents, Sister and Brother-in-law Ph: 9703971804, 9502166096.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

MEMORIAL SERVICE

CELEBRATING A LIFE Mrs. G. SANTOSHAM LUKE Saturday, June 19th (6.00 PM IST) Zoom Meeting ID:89189560209 Passcode: gsluke WhatsApp: +91 9246885451

26th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

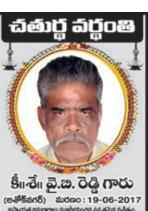
Late Sri Tumuluru Venkateswara Sastry

Mrs. B. MATILDA DANAM Vara, Dolly, Anil, Sona, Sanju & Relatives Ph No: 9985702374

Rev. Dr. G.J. JOSEPH. Pasto NOB: 15-08-1953 DOD: 13-06-202 Date & Venue: 19 June 2021 at 11.00 A.I M.B.Olive Church, Mission compound

Daughters G.J. Chrysolite - Premanand G.J. Dolly - Jeevan Grand Daughter: Baby Praisy

MEMORIAL SERVICE



CELEBRATING A LIFE Please join us in honoring Mrs. G. SANTOSHAM LUKE Saturday, June 19th (6.00 PM IST) Online Service Only Zoom Meeting ID:89189560209 Passcode: gsluke WhatsApp: +91 9246885451



Late SUNDRAMMA JOSEPH nserted by: Son's, Daughter-in-laws

Daughter, Son-in-law, Grand Childrer & Great Grand Daughter.

laughters-in-law & Family Memb Family Members & Son-in-law

SHRADHANJALI



ASHOK KAPOOR D.O.D: 17-06-2021

Program: Kirtan and Chautha will be held in Afzal Gunj, Gurudwara from 9:00 am to 10:00 am on 20-6-2021 nserted by: Mrs. Anita Kapoor (Wife Mr. Kapil Kapoor (Son)

Late. THAKUR VIJAY SINGH

SISTERS: Nirmala Thakur & Nalini Thakur

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE



(Sr. TRS LEADER Cantonment Constituency) D O D: 19-06-2020 Inserted by: Family & Friends

The CJI was accorded a guard of honour by the state police and welcomed with Purna Kumbham and other temple honours. The CJI, recounting his affinity with Kurnool

district, said he was mentored by legal stalwart E. Ayyapu Reddy with whom he worked as a junior advocate for 10 years. Speaking of his elevation to the highest judicial office in the country, he said it was the good wishes and blessings of his seniors and their family members that made him work his way to the apex position in justice admin-

homeland for the past five Justice Ramana said the Srisailam temple visit is a permanent fixture in his calendar as he has been two to three times every year ever since he was a

holds a special place in his life and career. A local priest said Justice Ramana performed special prayers before his elevation as the CJI and that knew the priests by name.

State endowment minister Vellampalli Sreenivas, district collector G. Veera Pandian, district judge Krupasagar, superintendent of police K. Fakeerappa, temple executive officer K.S. Rama Rao, Nandyal MP Pocha Brahmananda

Chakrapani Reddy offi-

MLA

youth. He said Srisailam cially received the CJI couple with temple hon-

Later, the CJI couple performed special rituals at both Sri Mallikharjuna and Sri Bhramarambha Devi temples. They also visited Gathamatam renovation works observed ancient plate inscriptions which were found during the recent Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) department Mysore unit director Muniratnam Reddy explained the history of find and inscriptions on the plates.

17 CHILDREN DIE OF COVID-19 IN MEGHALAYA

Shillong, June 18: Over 5,000 children in the age group of 0 14 years have tested positive for Covid-19 in Meghalaya, 17 of which succumbed to the infection, state health minister A.L. Hek said on Friday.

He also stated that none of the newborns delivered by Covid-positive mothers were found to have got infected.

"So far, 5,101 children in the age group of 0-14 years were diagnosed with the disease. 17 children died of the infection since last year," the minister

Noting that the third wave of the pandemic, which is likely to strike later this year, may pose a greater threat to the children, as suggested by experts, Hek said the state government is making necessary preparations in anticipa-

"As part of the preparations, the government has decided to build prefabricated paediatric hospitals in Shillong, at Tura town in West Garo Hills and Jowai in West Jaintia Hills,"

Meghalaya has inoculated 5.44 lakh people so far, with over 75,000 of them having received both the doses. The state has registered 762 deaths due to the disease.

Meanwhile, Meghalaya on Friday recorded nine fresh Covid-19 fatalities and 650 new cases pushing the death toll to 771 and the tally to 44,382, a senior health department official said.

The state now has 4,819 active Covid-19 cases, while 38,792 people have recovered from the disease, including 431 on Friday, official said.

Meghalaya has so far tested over 6.38 lakh samples for Covid-19, he said.

OWNER OF 'BABA KA DHABA' **ATTEMPTS SUICIDE**

New Delhi, June 18: The owner of south Delhi's 'Baba ka Dhaba', Kanta Prasad, allegedly attempted suicide and has been admitted to the Safdarjung Hospital, police said on Friday. Prasad, 81, attempted suicide on Thursday. The reason

behind his extreme step is not yet known, they said.

"On Thursday at 11.15 pm, information was received from the Safdarjung Hospital that Prasad was admitted there. Police reached the hospital and collected MLC (medicolegal case) which mentions the intake of alcohol and sleeping pills as the cause of unconsciousness, Deputy Commissioner of (south) Atul Kumar Thakur

The statement of Prasad's son Karan was recorded. He said his father consumed alcohol with sleeping pills, the police said, adding that further inquiry is under-

Prasad shot into the limelight last year when a video of him tearfully talking about the lack of customers at his eatery and his financial woes went viral, triggering an outpouring of support in cash and kind from all over the

The video was shot and uploaded by YouTuber Gaurav Wasan.

Later, the octogenarian filed a complaint against Wasan for alleged misappropriation of funds raised through donations.

Prasad went on to open a restaurant. However, he faced losses and had to shut it. Recently, Prasad returned to

his 'dhaba' and apologised to Wasan. The YouTuber visited Prasad and accepted his apology.

Light of hope



A devotee lights earthen lamps during the annual festival of Kheer Bhawani Temple, amid partial relaxation in the ongoing lockdown, at Tulmula in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday. The annual mela was held after two years as last year it was a low-key affair with only the ritual pooja taking place at the abode of the deity due to the outbreak of Covid-19. This year, celebrations were held at the mela amidst chanting of religious hymns and sound of temple bells even as most of the devotees followed Covid protocols.

Cong. MLA in Assam quits party, to join BJP

Says Rahul Gandhi is unable to shoulder the responsibility

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, JUNE 18

In what may be called a major setback for the Congress party in Assam, four-time Congress MLA from Mariani in upper Assam on Friday resigned and declared that he would join BJP on Monday.

Kurmi who was the only legislator in the party from the tea-tribe community accused that Congress stopped listening to younger leaders and pre-dicted the party's down-fall if Rahul Gandhi continued to call the shots.

Kurmi also submitted his resignation to the Speaker of the state Assembly. Soon after, the Congress announced his expulsion. The resignation came

close on the heels of resignation and switch over of former union minister Jitin Prasada, one of top faces in Uttar Pradesh, to the BJP.

Kurmi called it a difficult decision, given that he was born into a Congress family and his mother was a state minister. The Congress has 29

MLAs in the state Assembly and will now be 28. "I was born into a Congress family, we grew up in Congress culture. I used to put up posters, I served tea in meetings. My mother was a minister...I have been a soldier of Congress. That is why it is a difficult decision," said Kurmi.

Gandhi is "Rahul unable to shoulder leadership. If he's at the helm, the party won't move forward," Kurmi told reporters soon after submitting his resignation to the speaker. "My mother was a

three-time MLA and also a minister. She died in 2004. I was denied the party ticket to contest the bypolls. The party gave me a ticket in 2006. I have been elected to the Assam Assembly from the

Maken: Pilot is an asset and a star campaigner

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

Congress general secretary incharge of Rajasthan Ajay Maken on Friday dismissed reports that senior leaders of the party met the party's Rajasthan strongman Sachin Pilot.

He called Pilot, who was removed as deputy chief minister and state party chief after he rebelled against chief minister Ashok Gehlot last year, an asset and a star campaigner.

In the last couple of days political activities have heated up in Rajasthan with Pilot demanding that the high powered committee made by the high command take a stand on his and his supporters' demands.

that Maken added Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who Pilot is in touch with,

Mariani constituency si-

nce 2006. I have now re-

alised that the party lead-

ership doesn't hear the

voice of the small com-

munity and party workers," said Kurmi while

justifying his decision to

He said that the party

also ignored his advice

against any tie-up with

the AIUDF and paid for it

in the April-May election

in Assam, in which the

BJP was re-elected. "Ra-

hul Gandhi's decision to ally with AIUDF was a

blunder and I had oppo-

sed it tooth and nail. The

Congress is governed by

a few senior leaders and

there is no chance for the

youth in the party, nei-

ther at the Centre nor in

"In these days I felt like

switch over to BJP..

has been out of Delhi for the last 10 days. He added Pilot is also in

constant talks with him and another top leader K C Venugopal. "It is not possible that he (Pilot) has sought time for meet-ings and did not get it,"

Mr. Maken said the work is on to fill the vacant nine cabinet berths and to make political appointments. "I am speaking to the chief minister, state party chief, and other leaders for the appointments," He added they were

talking to everyone. "...after the political crisis last year, our effort is that every section, sen-Congress, caste and regional equations are considered," he said when asked about the expansion and other appointments.

the Congress does not want the youth to grow. It does not want to promote young leaders from backward classes like tea garden workers or tribals, so I decided that I will quit the Congress," he said.

The Congress leader warned that a few more MLAs are planning to leave the Grand Old Party, "I was the only MLA representing the Congress in the tea community. My departure shall leave a huge void in the party as far as tea votes are concerned," he said, adding, "I did a lot for Congress, even slit my palms to draw the attention of the leadership but these things have no value Congress," he said. He lauded Chief Minis-

in

ter Himanta Biswa Sarma. "The way Himanta Biswa Sarma is leading the state is commendab le. The way he has started cracking down on the drug menace etc has imp ressed me," he claimed that the Chief Minister's move from Congress to the BJP in 2015 contributed to his former party

Congress's fall not just in

legislators against going

public with their griev-

ances. He added discipline

will be considered when-

ever political appoint-

He claimed that all is well in Rajasthan

"We fought the two waves of Covid-19 in the

finest manner. The per-

formance of the state was excellent in compar-

ison to other states; be it

the vaccination, infec-

The Congress finds

itself pushed into a cor-

ner last year Mr. Jyotiraditya Scindia left

pled the Congress gov-

leader Mr. Jitin Prasada

also quit the party to join

and also top

in Madhya

another

tion or the death rate."

expansion are done.

Congress.

ernment

Last week

Pradesh.

Assam but in other north-eastern states as well. Debabrata Saikia, reacting to the development, said. "He was a very loyal party worker and senior leader and had some issues regarding decisions of the party. We could not discuss those issues that he had flagged regarding policy

ender documents.

MAHA CONG. MLA **WRITES TO GANDHIS**

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC MUMBAI, JUNE 18

Mumbai Congress' infighting is coming out in the open. In a recent development, Congress's 27-yearold MLA Zeeshan Siddique has written a letter to party president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi against Mumbai Congress president Bhai Jagtap.

Siddique has made several serious allegations against Jagtap in his letter addressed to the party high command. In his letter, the Congress legislator said that the Mumbai Congress chief had 'rewarded' four Congress leaders with plum organisational posts even though they had worked with his rivals during the 2019 Assembly elec-

PARADIP PORT TRUST

Name of the work : 08th Dry Docking & Repairs of TUG Parvati of Paradip Port Trust. Estimated Cost put to tender Rs. 1,09,37,841/- excluding GST. Last date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is 1500 hours on Dt. 20.07.2021. For details, please log on to the website: https://eprocure.gov.in/ eprocure/app. **Deputy Conservator**

PPT/PR/45/21-22 Date :18.06.2021

🔞 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🔞 **OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**

No. RS-Rep-DY-DDU-21 Sr.DME(C&W)/ECR/DDU on behalf of the President of India invite "Open" 'E-Tender from the eligible and experienced agency contractor for e-tender no. RS-Rep-D' DDU-21. Particular are as under:

(1) Name of work with its location: Repai (1) Name of Work with its location: Repair of various activities at Down Yard, DDU for a period of 02 years, (2) Approx. cost of the work: Rs. 4,87,55,953/- (Rupees Four crore eighty seven lakh fifty five thousand nine hundred fifty three) only (3) Earnest Money to be deposited: Nil. (4) Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of Tender: From 23.06.2021 up to closing of lender at 13:30 hrs. or 07.07.2021 (5) Website particulars Notice Board location where complete address of the office from where the ender form can be purchased etc. IREPS Website: www.ireps.gov.in Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids online through this website only. Manual offer are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received

shall be ignored. Note: Detail information may be seen in the

PR/00363/DDU/MECH/T/21-22/36 E.C. Riy., DDU

IIT study finds traces of Covid in Sabarmati river

recent study by researchers at the Indian Institute of Gandhinagar has established the presence of Coronavirus in water samples from the Sabarmati

Ahmedabad city of Gujarat. While the study, funded by the UNICEF, did not reveal if the genes of Coronavirus found in the water samples were dead or alive, Professor Manish Kumar, who led the research, has emphasised the need for fur-ther probe on the subject to avert any future tragedy.

river and two lakes in

Following the revelation, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has decided to send samples from these water bodies to the Gujarat Biotechnology

Research Centre (GBRC).

"The GBRC is the authorised agency of the AMC for water analysis. We have been sending samples to them given the last are your them since the last one year and they submit their report to the state government. We have no idea about the IIT's research. However, we will now send samples of these water bodies to the GBRC for a similar analysis," said Harpalsinh Zala, the AMC's city engineer for water resources.

The study was conducted between September and December 2020 and water samples were collected from Sabarmati river, Chandola and Kankaria lakes of the city. 'Our aim was to detect the

presence of N. S and ORE lab genes of SARS-CoV-2, also called as Coronavirus, through RNA isolation. We found N-gene copies in the waters of the Sabarmati river, Chandola and Kankaria lakes. The ORF lab-gene was not found in Chandola, while S-gene copies were present in all the three water bodies," said Kumar, who teaches in the IIT's Earth Sciences department.

"Although genes of Coronavirus were detected, our methodology does not tell us if they were alive or dead. However, we can't just presume that they all were dead. Although virus transmission through water is not proven yet, institutions need to come together and conduct further research on this. Monitoring is needed, the professor said.

He claimed that if Coronavirus genes reached the surface water through urine or excreta of Covid-19 patients, then the genes would have been dead. However, the genes might have been alive if they came from the mouth of a Covid-19 patient, such as through gargled water, he said.

"We do not know if genes found by us were alive or not. Further research is needed to understand the implications of our findings. Governments should also focus on better solid waste management," said Kumar, adding that the report has been submitted to the UNICEF.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL OFFICER, PANCHAYATH RAJ MAHABUBNAGAR Tender Notice

No.of works (8): R&R, STSDF and DYSO Works in Wanaparthy and Mahabubnagar District. Estimate cost Rs.1914.00 Lakhs. The Tenders will be available on eprocurement https://tenders.telangana.gov.in from 21.06.2021 to 28.06.2021. Further details can be had from the office

RO.NO.: 256-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS, TS, HYD e-Procurement Tender Notification Rc.No.56/J-1/2021.

Name of the product Printing & Supply of SSC Pass Certificates - No. of Produc (02) of Printing and supply of with & without variable data of SSC Pass Certificates of SSC Public Examinations May 2021 to be supply to the DGE. TS, Hyd, Estimated Tender Cost 12,00,000/- and sale of Tender Schedule Form in e-procurement Date: 21-06-2021 to 06-07-2021, Last date of uploading Tender schedule on 06-07-2021 at 5:30 PM Sealed Tender document Submission at DGE office up to 3:00 PM and Opening of Tender Schedule is 07-06-2021 at 4:00 PM, further details can be obtain in

R.O. No.: 259-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, ROAD DIVISION, GUMLA-835207,E-mail :- eercdgumla-jhr@nic.in

Corrigendum

पथ प्रमण्डल. गुमला अंतर्गत निविदा-PR No.-247617 & PR No. - 247616 Road (21-22) D कार्य की निविदा में प्रथम कॉल के स्थान पर द्वितीय कॉल पढ़ा जाय। शेष सभी शर्ते यथावत रहेगा।

PR 248167 (Road) 21-22 (D)

Procurement Officer/ Executive Engineer R.C.D. Road Division Gumla



ISO 9001:2008 Certified Institute F.No.XV/SKH/2021



Online bids invited through CPP portal for providing the following services on annual contract basis at ICAR-IIOR,

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad stands withdrawn due to administrative reasons. 1. Supply of Manpower on Job/Work contract: Tender No. XV/SKH/2021, dated 9.4.2021

2. Housekeeping services on Job/Work contract: Tender No.XV/HK/2021, dated 9.4.2021

3. Security Services on Job/Work contract: Tender No.

No.17/sec/2021, dated 19.3.2021

SR.ADMN.OFFICER, IIOR

BLAME | GAME | Vishwanath accuses BSY's son of interfering in functioning of govt

state," he said.

BJP MLC alleges ₹21,473 cr 'scam' in K'taka

Disgruntled BJP legislator A.H. Vishwanath, who has been demanding that Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa be replaced, on Friday alleged the irrigation department has readied a ₹21,473 crore tender in a hurry and without financial approval, and termed it a "scam".

He accused Yediyurappa's son and BJP state unit vicepresident B.Y. Vijayendra of interfering in the functioning of the govern-

'The tender of over ₹20,000 crore is ready in the department, which pertains to Bhadra Upper canal project and

No financial clearance (from the finance department) has been sought, no board meeting took place. It was done in a hurry," Vishwanath alleged at a press conference.

He alleged that the intention was to take "kickbacks" from contractors. Is this a contractor-oriented government?" he ques-

The BJP MLC, who had switched his loyalty from JD(S) to BJP two years ago, alleged that the "entire state" including ministers. had been talking about Vijayendra's interference in the administration.

"Which minister is con-

(Vijayendra's) interference is in all the departments,' Vishwanath charged.

Vishwanath's attack came in the midst of a three-day visit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) nationgeneral secretary and Karnataka in charge Arun Singh to the state to discussions with MLAs in the backdrop of some legislators seeking Yediyurappa's replace-

Singh is taking part in a meeting of the party's core committee on Friday before winding up his visit.

Vishwanath also recalled that the rural development and panchayat raj minister

K.S. Eshwarappa had earlier this year approached Governor Vajubhai Vala against the alleged interference by the Chief Minister in the affairs of his department.

Yediyurappa had been to "jail in the past due to his family' "Is it not true that Yediyurappa had been to jail because of his children? We are afraid that this time again he will land in jail," Vishwanath

After meeting Singh on Thursday, Vishwanath had demanded that the 78-year Yediyurappa replaced, considering his ence by his son. Reacting to the allegations made by Vishwanath on the "scam" in the irrigation department, JD(S) leader and former chief minister

Kumaraswamy reporters in Kolar that this is a government which believes in loot". "This is not restricted

only to the Irrigation department. It's a government which believes in loot. I have stopped speaking about it because in 2008 also I had raised the matter with evidence but the case could not reach the logical end", Kumaraswamy said.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड रायगढ (छ.ग.) ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत पेयजल प्रदाय कार्य हेतु निम्नानुसार ऑनलाईन कार्य आमंत्रित की जाती है। क. सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक निविदा क्रमांक दिनांक अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)| धरोहर राशि कार्य का नाम 78237 49/15.06.2021 Retro वि.खंड-लेलूंगा, ग्राम-राताखंड 39500/-50/15.06.2021 Retro वि.खंड-लेलंगा, ग्राम-सियारधार 78243 53.48 40100/-51/15.06.2021 | Retro वि.खंड-लैलूंगा, ग्राम-चौरंगा 47700/-63.62 52/15.06.2021 Retro वि.खंड-लैलूगा, ग्राम हीरापुर 47500/ 53/15.06.2021 Retro वि.खंड-घरघोड़ा, ग्राम-छरौटांगर 54/15.06.2021 Retro वि.खंड-घरघोड़ा, ग्राम-बगचबा 54.73 41000/-55/15.06.2021 Retro वि.खंड-लेलूंगा, ग्राम-राजगांव 78250 37500/ 49.94 56/15.06.2021 Retro वि.खंड-घरघोडा, ग्राम-विमटापान 54.06 78254 40500/-57/15.06.2021 Retro वि.खंड-खरसिया, ग्राम-सनीसागर 78262 44.07 34000/-58/15.06.2021 Retro वि.खंड-खरसिया, ग्राम-कूनकूनी 78265 106.80 80100/-78268 59/15.06.2021 | Retro वि.खंड-बरमकेला, ग्राम-लेघरा 173.54 130200/ 12 78270 60/15.06.2021 SVS वि.खंड-धर्मजवगढ, ग्राम-धौराभाठा 64.30 48300/-61/15.06.2021 SVS वि.खंड-धर्मजवगढ्, ग्राम-सोखामुडा 54000/-62/15.06.2021 SVS वि.खंड-धर्मजयगढ्, ग्राम-तरेकेला 67500/-63/15.06.2021 SVS वि.खंड-धर्मजयगढ, ग्राम-बरतापाली 78276 88.87 66700/-64/15.06.2021 SVS वि.खंड-सारंगढ़, ग्राम-मानिकपुर 78278 61.88 46400/ 17 65/15.06.2021 SVS वि.खंड-सारंगढ़, ग्राम-बोईरडीह 77.29 58000/-66/15.06.2021 Solar वि.खंड-पुसौर, ग्राम-दर्रामुडा समूह 67/15.06.2021 Solar वि.खंड-रायगढ़, ग्राम-ननसिया समूह

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छ.ग. शासन की ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। दिनांक 12.07.2021 तक समय 17.30 तक बिंड डाले जा सकते हैं। निविदा प्रकाशन पश्चात समस्त संशोधन केवल ऑनलाईन ही देखे जा सकेगें। अन्य विवरण कार्यालयीन समय पर लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड रायगढ़ (छ.ग.) में देखे जा सकते है।

लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड रायगढ़ (छ.ग.)

VERBAL TRUCE BETWEEN FRANCE. TURKEY: PARIS

Paris: A "verbal ceasefire" is in place between France and Turkey after months of ranexchanges corous strained the relations of the NATO allies, the French foreign minister said on Friday.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron met on the sidelines of the NATO summit this week, following the rows on international crises such as Libya, Syria and Nagorno-Karabakh that led to bitter personal diatribes from the Turkish leader. Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian Foreign told BFM television that he welcomed the change in tone but said it had to be matched by more concrete steps from Ankara. "There is a kind of verbal ceasefire. That's good but it's not enough," he said.

UK 'ASHAMED' AT POOR RAPE **CONVICTION RATES**

London: Britain's government has apologised to rape victims for declining conviction levels, with senior Cabinet ministers saying they're "deeply ashamed" by the downward trend in bringing sexual offenders to justice.

The government's Rape Review, published Thursday, said the situation was "totally unacceptable" and that authorities are determined to change it. Figures from the Crown Persecution Service showed that 1,439 suspects were convicted of rape or lesser sexual offenses in England and Wales in 2020 — the lowest level since records began despite reports of rape to police almost doubling since 2015. Of an estimated 128,000 reported cases of rape or attempted rape each year, just 1.6 per cent result in a charge. The review said it found no one specific cause for the overall drop in prosecutions.

Delta variant becoming globally dominant: WHO

Geneva, June 18: The variant there despite ris-Delta variant of Covid-19, first identified in India, is becoming the globally surge in Covid-19 cases dominant variant of the on reluctance to have vacdisease, the World Health Organisation's chief scientist said on Friday.

Soumya Swaminathan also voiced disappointment in the failure of CureVac's vaccine candidate in a trial to meet the WHO's efficacy standard, in particular as highly transmissible variants boost the need for new, effective shots.

Britain has reported a with the Delta variant, while Germany's top public health official predicted it would rapidly

tain's ruling Conservative party suf-

fered a major upset in a

announced on Friday, los-

ing a safe seat it had held

for nearly 50 years.
Prime Minister Boris
Johnson's party lost in

the contest to elect an MP

Amersham — prosperous

Buckinghamshire, north-

The centrist Liberal

Democrat candidate, Sarah Green, won more

than 56 percent in a con-

stituency that had been held by the Tories since it

was set up in its current

The Times newspaper

towns in

Chesham

commuter

west of London.

ing vaccination rates.

The Kremlin blamed a cinations and "nihilism" after record new infections in Moscow, mostly with the new Delta variant, fanned fears of a third wave.

The Delta variant is well on its way to becoming the dominant variant globally because of its increased transmissibility," Swaminathan told a news conference.

Coronavirus variants were cited by CureVac steep rise in infections when the German company this week reported its vaccine proved only 47 per cent effective at preventing disease, shy of trials to test new prodbecome the dominant the WHO's 50 per cent ucts.

UK Conservatives lose

London, June 18: Bri- focusing efforts on seiz-

colour.

result

safe seat in major upset

ing seats from the main opposition Labour party, rather than on defending

traditional Tory seats, known as the "Blue Wall"

due to the party's logo

Johnson's party in May won a by-election in the

traditional Labour-voting

Hartlepool, adding anoth-

er parliamentary seat in

northeast England to

those they secured in the

last general election in

December 2019, when

Brexit was the main

The pro-European Lib

Dems campaigned actively in Chesham and

Åmersham, tapping into

local opposition to con-

troversial projects in the

area, with leader Ed Davey visiting 16 times,

The company said it documented at least 13 variants circulating within its study population. Given that similar

mRNA vaccines from Pfizer and BioNTech and Moderna posted efficacy rates topping 90 per cent. Swaminathan said the world had been expecting more from CureVac's can-

"Just because it's another mRNA vaccine, we cannot presume all mRNA vaccines are the same, because each one has a slightly different technology," Šwaminathan said, adding the surprise failure underscored the value of robust clinical

The *BBC* said voters this time round focused on local issues: the con-

troversial construction of

link through the con-

stituency and plans to

build more houses in

Davey tweeted that the

result "sent a shockwave through British politics" and proved the "blue wall

can be smashed by @lib-

The contest was trig-

gered by the death in

April of former govern-

ment minister Cheryl

Gillan, who had held the

Peter Fleet, a former

motor industry executive

who was bidding to

replace her, called the

result "very disappoint-

seat for 29 years.

rural areas.

dems'

high-speed rail



The pro-democracy paper increased its print run to 500,000 copies on Friday, a day after police arrested five top editors and executives and froze \$2.3 million in assets linked to the media company.

'Apple Daily' increases print run after arrests

Editors held on suspicion of foreign collusion

Hong Kong, June 18: Hong Kong pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily on Friday increased its print run to 5,00000 copies as residents showed support for the beleaguered press freedom a day after police arrested five top editors and executives and froze \$2.3 million worth of assets on national security charges.

The raid on the paper's offices followed by the arrests on Thursday marked the first time the sweeping national security law, which Beijing imposed on Hong Kong last year, was used against the media, one of the symbols of civil liberties in the semi-autonomous city that don't exist elsewhere in China.

Police said the editors were arrested on suspicion of foreign collusion to endanger national security, based on over 30 articles that authorities said had called for international sanctions against China and Hong Kong.

With anti-government protests silenced, most of the city's prominent prodemocracy activists in jail and many others fleeing abroad, people snapped up copies at newsstands and

in convenience stores. "There are lots of injus-tices in Hong Kong already. I think there are a lot of things we cannot do anymore," said resident Lisa Cheung. "Buying a copy is all what we can do. When the law cannot pro-

tect Hong Kong people anymore, we are only left to do what we can." The front page Friday's edition splashed images of the five editors

and executives led away in handcuffs. Police also confiscated 44 hard drives worth of news material. A quote from Cheung Kimhung, the arrested CEO of Apple Daily's publisher Next Digital, said "Hang in there, everyone."

Another resident, William Chan, said he bought a copy of the paper as a show of sup-"It was such a ground-

less arrest and suppressed freedom of the press," he State Department spok-

demned the arrests and called for the immediate release of the five arrested. He also called for Hong Kong authorities to stop targeting independent and free media. "We are deeply concer-

esman Ned Price said that

the US strongly con-

ned by Hong Kong authorities' selective use of the national security law to arbitrarily target independent media organizations," Price said, adding that the suspected foreign collusion charges appear to be politically motivat-

we all know, exchanging views with foreigners in journalism should never be a crime," he said.

said the defeat raised questions over the Davey visiting Conservative strategy of *The Times* said E FINANCIAL

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 19 JUNE 2021



INDICATORS 52,344.45 Nifty 50 15,683.40 -0.05 S&P 5003 -0.87 0.28 Dollar () 103.18 Pound Sterling (1) Gold (10gm)* (') 46.460 188 Brent crude (\$/bbl)* IN 10-Yr bond yield 6.006 US 10-Yr T-bill yield* 1.460 -0.051 * As of 8:30 PM IST

Forex reserves rise \$3.07 bn to record \$608.08 bn

The country's foreign exchange reserves surged by \$3.074 billion to reach a record high of \$608.081 billion in the week ended June 11, the latest RBI data shows. The reserves had increased by \$6.842 billion to \$605.008 billion in the previous week ended June 4. Foreign currency assets rose by \$2.567 billion to \$563.457 billion in the latest week. The gold reserves rose by \$496 million to \$38.101 billion.

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■ 100 commodity players get notice **EOW summons** brokers again

SANGEETHA G with agency inputs CHENNAI, JUNE 18

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai Police has served summons to directors of nearly 100 commodity brokerage firms who are alleged to have been involved in the 2013 payment default case of the National Spot Exchange Limited (NSEL).

These brokerage firms, which are accused of having indulged in financial irregularities and suspected forgery with their trading clients, have an estimated outstanding receivables of over Rs 4,200 crore in the case.

The brokerages include Motilal Oswal Commodities Brokers, Anand Commodities, Systematix Commodities, Way2Wealth Commo-India Infoline dities. Commodities and

Progressive Comtrade. Five brokerage firms the maximum amount of receivables include Anand Rathi Commodities, India Infoinclude line Commodities, Geojit Comtrade, Systematix Commodities and Motilal Commodities Oswal

Brokers. Others with significant receivable amounts include Philip Commodities India, Emkay Comtrade, JM Financial Comtrade, Ventura Commodities, Arihant Futures and Commodities, SPFL Commodities, Brokers, Commodity



Nirmal Bank Commo-India dities, Nivesh Commodities and Suresh Rathi Commodities. They have been asked to

personally depose before the EOW with information on trade modification details of all their clients, broker and client ledger accounts, client settlement account details, banking details, brokerage earned, client PAN and KYC, visits to warehouses and a host of other functional details.

According to a director of one of the brokerage firms, there is nothing new in this case. "EOW teams keep changing, and whenever a new team takes charge, they come and ask us the same questions and ask for the same documents. We have submitted the same replies and proofs at least three times in the past," he told

Financial Chronicle. The brokerage firms have been denying any wrongdoing on their part from the beginning and claimed that the development will not affect their functioning.

In 2019, markets regulator Sebi had passed orders against some of these brokers in the NSEL case, declaring they were "not fit and proper" to continue as a commodity broker following a report of EOW

and NSEL complaint. EOW's forensic report in 2015 accused many brokers of misguiding their trading clients, routing their money through benami accounts and indulging in various other wrongdoings, including under the pretext of loans against securities in violation of securities laws.

The brokers challenged Sebi orders before the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT). The NSEL had also approached the SAT. Calling itself an affected party, the NSEL alleged that the regulator had failed to consider all the allegations and material in its complaint against

However, the tribunal refused to admit NSEL's plea, prompting the bourse to seek the intervention of the Supreme Court, pursuant to which the SAT was asked to allow the NSEL to present

Co-founder quits Grofers as Zomato circles it again

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JUNE 18

While talks with Zomato on funding and acquisition are still on, Grofers co-founder Saurabh Kumar has quit the com-

"I have been reflecting on my life and personal ambitions for some time. And my decision to step away is the outcome of that. I want to wander again, Saurabh Kumar said in an e-mail sent to the employees of Grofers.

Co-founder and CEO of Albinder Grofers Dhindsa, in a blog post, confirmed that Kumar will no longer be involved in day-to-day responsibilities at Grofers. However, he will continue to be a board member and a shareholder at the companv. "This is the end of an era for Grofers," he said.

'Over the last six months, SK had been yearning to invest in his

own personal evolution to grow beyond a growth driver to become a designer, enabler and coach. And diving deeper has con-vinced him that this is another area he can have a huge impact on, if he can build on it from scratch, he added.

According to reports. food delivery app Zomato is once again in acquisition talks with Grofers. Talks had failed last year. This time Zomato may lead a \$100 million funding round in Grofers first. After BigBasket getting acquired by Tata Digital, another leading player in the online grocery business, Grofers, has become a hot property.

Kumar and Dhindsa had started Grofers in 2014. Along with BigBasket, Grofers developed the egrocery business in India and helped the segment touch a turnover of \$3 billion. The segment is now expected to grow at a com-



Saurabh Kumar

pound annual growth rate of 59 per cent to \$18 billion by 2024 with the likes of Amazon, Flipkart, Tatas and Reliance getting into the segment. Around 130 million households are already using e-grocery platforms or are willing to try, and this has created an addressable market of a whopping \$293 billion. The pandemic saw the gross merchandise value of e-grocers growing multi-fold. The phenomenon of co-

founder leaving a startup is not new. In 2018, Pankaj

Chaddah, co-founder of Zomato, left the company. In 2019, Urban Ladder cofounder Rajiv Srivatsa stepped down from active leadership. Smruti Parida and Deepak Dhar of NestAway and Delhivery's Mohit Tandon and Bhavesh Manglani also left their startups.

"There are several opportunities in the digital space and a co-founder leaving the start-up in search of new opportuni-ty is not a new thing. But then, there will be a dominant co-founder who would most probably be the face of the company. Investors too recommend that there should be a first among equals. Sometimes, the vision of the company also changes as it evolves over the time and new investors come in. Naturally, some of the cofounders would want to explore new things," said

Arun Natarajan, founder

of Venture Intelligence.

Hyundai to begin third production shift

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, JUNE 18

Hyundai, India's second biggest car maker, says the demand for cars in India is steadily rising, by about 75 per cent in June itself, as it plans to start three shift production at its factory in Chennai from the present two shifts to reduce waiting period of more than four months for its models.

The Korean automaker introduced the new Hyundai Alcazar SUV, with introductory prices for the 2.0-litre petrol version starting at Rs 16.30 lakh, and the 1.5-litre diesel version at Rs 16.53 lakh pan-India showroom.



Hyundai, also India's biggest SUV maker, is betting big on its Alcazar SUV, confirmed bookings of which crossed 4,000 in less than a month with down payment of Rs 25,000. The Hyundai Alcazar competes

with the three-row SUVs like the MG Hector Plus, Tata Safari and the Mahindra XUV500. This segment is set to become even more competitive with the arrival of the new Mahindra XUV700, which that replaces the current XUV500, later this year. 'We have already seen demand for

cars rising by 75 per cent in June itself," Tarun Garg, director, sales at Hyundai Motor India told Financial Chronicle. He said this demand would continue in July and August as people preferred personal mobility to be safe from Covid pandemic. Garg said 45 per cent of the company's total sales now come from SUVs.

Quick passes –



Belgium supporters hold a banner paying tribute to Christian Eriksen prior to the Euro champi onship Group 'B' match between Denmark and Belgium at the Parken stadium in Copenhagen, on Thursday.

Eriksen released from hospital

Christian Eriksen was dis-Ucharged from the hospital on Friday and immediately went to visit his Denmark teammates nearly a week after suffering cardiac arrest during a European European Championship match.

The Danish football federa tion wrote on Twitter that Eriksen was released from the Rigshospitalet in central Copenhagen after a successful operation. The federation previously said Eriksen would be fitted with an ICD, an implantable device that can function as both a pacemaker and defibrillator.

The operation went well, and I am doing well under the circumstances," Eriksen was

quoted as saying in the tweet. The 29-vear-old Eriksen has been in the hospital since collapsing on the field during his team's opening Euro 2020 match against Finland on Saturday. His heart stopped and he had to be resuscitated with a defibrillator. -AP

Sergio returns for Spain, Poland clash

Spain will get thier most experienced player back at the European Championship on Saturday.

The Spanish football federation said Sergio Busquets tested negative for Covid-19 on Thursday, so he will be allowed back with the team after being in isolation since testing positive on June 6.

The Barcelona midfielder will be in Seville for Spain's match against Poland on Saturday, though he is not likely to play after not practicing regularly while in isola-

Spain opened their Euro 2020 campaign with a 0-0 draw against Sweden in Group 'E' while Poland lost to Slovakia

The focus on Spain at La Cartuja Stadium will be on Alvaro Morata while Poland's path to victory will likely have to go through Lewandowski, who hasn't fared well with his national team at major tournaments

Benzema to bolster France vs Hungary

Karim Benzema's return speeds up France's attack and has taken some pressure off the defense.

The French team will be going for a fourth consecutive clean sheet with Benzema playing when they face Hungary in Budapest on Saturday at the European Championship. A win will put France into the next round after it opened with a 1-0 vic-

tory over Germany. Hungary lost to Portugal 3-0. Les Bleus look sharper with Benzema, who has slotted in effortlessly since returning to the national team after nearly six years out following a fallout with coach Didier Deschamps amid a sex tape scandal. He has replaced Olivier Giroud, who plays more with his back to goal. Benzema's technique and reading of the game help him click with Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann. The trio are working for and with each other, forming a marauding front unit that stops opposing teams from passing out quickly from the back.

Hungary will need to tighten up against France and press in all areas of the field to stop their opponents from getting a grip on the game.

Live on

Group Stage: Hungary vs France from 6.30 pm; Portugal vs Germany from am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

DUTCH DOMINATE Neymar reigns to flatten Peru

Depay, Dumfries score as Netherlands advance

Amsterdam, June 18: This time, the Netherlands never looked like throwing away their two-goal lead. Memphis Depay and Denzel Dumfries scored a goal in each half as the Dutch comfortably beat Austria 2-0 Thursday to advance to the Round of 16 the European

Championship.
"We showed some different qualities today," Netherlands' coach Frank de Boer said.

"Defensively we were

Netherlands 2

(Memphis Depay 11-pen, Denzel Dumfries 67)

Austria

much better than (against) Ukraine," he added.

Depay sent a penalty kick low into the corner in the 11th minute for his 27th goal in 66 international matches. Dumfries then scored his second goal of the tournament following his late winner against Ukraine in the 67th after an unselfish pass from PSV Eindhoven teammate Donyell Malen.

A foul by Austria captain David Alaba on Dumfries earned the Dutch penalty at the Johan Cruyff Arena, although only after referee Orel Grinfeeld had a second look at the incident on a screen.

The Netherlands are playing at a major international football tournament for the first time in seven years and qualified for the knockout stage with a game to spare. The Dutch, whose only major tournament victory came at the European Championship, finished



Owen Wijndal (right) of the Netherlands challenges Austria's Aleksandar Dragovic during their Euro Group 'C' match at the Johan Cruyff Arena in Amsterdam on Thursday.

third at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Austria rarely threatened to equalise against a well-ordered defense led by Matthijs De Ligt on his return from a groin injury.

The closest Austria came was a long-range shot by Alaba in the 82nd minute. The team had slightly more possession than the Netherlands but only managed one shot on target in the entire game. Austria were playing without Marko Arnautovic. The forward was handed a one-match

ban by UEFA for insulting a North Macedonian player in the teams' Euro 2020 incident The opener. soured Austria's first victory at a major tournament in 31 years and their first ever at the European Championship. Dumfries' goal and overall performance again vindicated De Boer's decision to ditch the traditional Dutch system of four defenders, three midfielders and three forwards in favor of three defenders, five mid-

fielders and two forwards. Dumfries is a wing back who can sprint up the right flank and cause problems in the opponent's

penalty area. The Dutch also led 2-0 in their opening match on Sunday, but Ukraine scored a pair of goals level at 2-2. Dumfries scored the winner in the

85th minute on that day. The Netherlands will play their final Group 'C' match against North Macedonia on Monday, also in Amsterdam. Austria will face Ukraine in Bucharest.

SWEDEN RIDE ON FORSBERG GOAL TO WIN

Saint Petersburg, June 18: Emil Forsberg's second-half penalty sealed Sweden a 1-0 win over Slovakia in Saint Petersburg on Friday as the Scandinavians moved top of Euro 2020 Group 'E'.

Janne Andersson's men, who played out a goalless draw with Spain in their opener, now look set to reach the knockout stage for the first time since 2004. A point in their final game against Poland at the Krestovsky Stadium on Wednesday would be enough to be sure of a top-

Sweden

(Emil Forsberg 77-pen)

Slovakia

two finish in the group Both sides had spells of pressure in the first half without creating many chances, perhaps in the knowledge a point would a reasonably good

Ondrej Duda made space for a shot shortly after the break, but fired over the crossbar.

It was Sweden who almost made the breakthrough twice before the hour mark, as Newcastle stopper Dubravka tipped away Augustinsson's header and Marcus Danielson nodded over from the

resulting corner. -AFP

Sao Paulo, June 18: Brazil changed half of their starting lineup to face Peru in their second Copa America match and still cruised to a 4-0 victory.

It was the Selecao's ninth consecutive victory, and another display that suggests the tournament hosts are the favourites to defend their South American title. Defender Alex Sandro, Neymar, midfielder Everton Ribeiro and strik-er Richarlison scored the

goals at the Nilton Santos stadium in Rio de Janeiro. The result puts Brazil atop the Group 'B' standings with six points. Colombia is two points behind after their 0-0 draw

with Venezuela. As coach Tite promised, Brazil are using the Copa America to prepare for next year's World Cup in Qatar. Six players who missed the 3-0 win against Venezuela were in the starting lineup against

Peru. Goalkeeper Alisson, defenders Marquinhos and Renan Lodi, midfielders Casemiro and Lucas Paquet plus forward Richarlison were out of the starting team. In their places, Ederson, Thiago Silva, Alex Sandro, Fabinho, Everton and Gabriel Barbosa started. Brazil opened the scoring

in the 12th minute after Gabriel Jesus crossed and Sandro hit it home from close range.

Everton Ribeiro and Richarlison stepped in, and Brazil appeared more assured in the second half. In the 68th minute, Neymar received the ball at the edge of the Peruvian box and beat goalkeeper

Brazil

(Alex Sandro 12, Neymar 68, Everton Ribeiro 89,

Peru

Pedro Gallese with a low crossed shot.

Peru stepped up the pressure, but Brazil moved fur-ther ahead in the 89th when Ribeiro scored from close range, his first for the national team. Richarlison scored the last goal of the

NEYMAR COUNTS DOWN TO PELE'S RECORD

Neymar might not win three World Cups in his career like Pele did, but he is closing in as the top goal scorer ever for Brazil's national team.

He reduced the gap to nine after Brazil's victory over Peru.

Official statistics from FIFA, football's international governing body, put Pele in No.1 spot for Brazil with 77 goals. Neymar has 68 after he netted the Seleo's second against

"It is obvious for me that this is a great honor, to be a part of Brazil history," a tearful Neymar said in an interview full of squeaky tones and long pauses after Brazil's victory at the Nilton Santos stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

"To be very honest, my dream was to play for Brazil, wear this shirt. I never imagined I would get to these numbers," star footballer of Brazil further added.



Brazil's Neymar (left) and Renato Tapia of Peru vie for the ball during their Copa America match at Nilton Santos stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Thursday.

Colombians held to a goalless draw Rio De Janeiro, June 18:

Venezuela held out under intense pressure in a fractious local derby against Colombia to secure their first point at the Copa America after a 0-0 draw in America atter a confidence of Thursday.

Goiania on Thursday.

Wuilker

Farinez made a string of fine saves, particularly in the closing stages, to keep out the Colombians, who saw a late Miguel Borja goal ruled out for offside. Colombia also finished the game with 10 men after Luis Diaz was sent off deep into injury time.

Earlier, Venezuela's Jose Martinez got away with a yellow card after striking Mateus Uribe — who was also booked for protesting in the face, although he was not looking at the Colombian when he did so

Venezuela Colombia

Colombia finished the game with 23 shots to just two — including none on target — from Venezuela but the "Red Wine" held

out for a much needed

point. Venezuela were still severely depleted from a Covid outbreak in their camp that deprived the team of eight players in their 3-0 defeat to hosts

Brazil on Sunday.

The point put Colombia top of Group 'B' ahead of Brazil's clash with Peru where power-packed Selecao cruised to an

emphatic 4-0 victory. -AFP

Germany eye comeback against Portugal five difference European Munich, win ahead of their last in what looked a desperate June

team's game against Finland last weekend.

Just after a minute,

picked up a misplaced pass by Jason Denayer

and found Poulsen who took the ball inside the

Thibaut Courtois into the

At one minute and 39

seconds, it was the second

fastest goal in European

Championship history,

Kirichenko's goal after 67

seconds as Russia beat

and fired across

Hojbjerg

Dmitri

champions

Pierre-Emile

bottom corner.

trailing only

eventual

Jan Vertonghen (in white) of Belgium fights for the ball with Denmark's Yussuf Poulsen during their Euro Group 'B'

Belgium down hapless Denmark

match at Parken stadium in Copenhagen, Denmark, on Thursday.

Belgium

Denmark

(Yussuf Poulsen 2)

the winner with a fine

The match was paused

for a minute's

ence to Eriksen's number

(Thorgan Hazard 54,

Kevin De Bruyne 70)

Portugal have European Championship's all-time leading scorer in

Copenhagen, June 18:

Kevin De Bruyne inspired

Belgium to a 2-1 victory

Copenhagen on Thursday,

securing them a place in

the Euro knockout stage

as fans and players showed their support for

to make his first appear-

ance of the tournament

Yussuf Poulsen gave the

hosts a second-minute strike. lead, but De Bruyne came The

off the bench at half-time after 10 minutes — a refer-

after injury and teed up applause for the Denmark

equalise before scoring cardiac arrest in his

Hazard to midfielder, who suffered a

Christian Eriksen.

Denmark

Cristiano Ronaldo. Germany have a team full of players who have never even scored once at the continental tournament. They will come up against each other on

Saturday. Ronaldo scored two late goals in a 3-0 victory over Hungary on Tuesday to

become the tournament's

record holder with 11 career goals. Germany, meanwhile, tried and tried but failed break through France's defense in a 1-0

With no goals scored and no points in the standings, pressure is Germany to do much better before the team's final Group 'F' match against Hungary, also in Munich.

Portugal can secure a spot

in the Round of 16 with a

champion

Defending

group game against World Cup champion France. Germany had more possession and its players ran

more than France, with 10 attempts on goal compared to their opponents' four. But France always looked more dangerous and had two goals ruled out in close offside calls. Germany lack an outand-out scorer in the mold

of Ronaldo, who is the first

player to have scored in

Championships, or Poland forward Lewandowski, who broke the Bundesliga's record for goals scored last sea-

Greece in 2004

atmosphere.

Belgium coach Roberto

Martinez said his team

was overwhelmed by the

Belgium started with De

Bruyne, Eden Hazard and Axel Witsel on the bench,

but Martinez sent them all

into action after the break

and their presence made

Lukaku, who scored

twice as Belgium swept

Russia aside 3-0 in the

Group 'B' opener, was also

at the origin of Belgium's

all the difference.

second goal.

Germany have players that can score goals, however, including Thomas Muller, Kai Havertz, Ilkay Gundogan and Serge Gnabry. Low brought on Timo Werner, Leroy Sane and then Kevin Volland in the match against France

attempt for a goal, but none made any difference. Muller, recalled for the tournament after scoring 11 league goals and setting up 21 more for Bayern Munich last season, has now played 12 tournament

games without scoring. The Germans also failed to make the most of their set pieces, with two good kick opportunities and five corners all going to waste.

SHORT TAKES

Hyderabad FC rope in D'Silva

Hyderabad: Indian Super League side Hyderabad FC have signed young striker Aaren D'Silva on a three-year deal ahead of the new season. the club announced on Friday. The deal will see him stay at the club till the end of 2023-24 season. Hailing from a sporting family, Aaren has been involved in professional football since a young age. He spent over four years learning his trade at the SESA Football Academy. "I am really excited to be a part of Hyderabad FC. I want to be a part of the squad, and work hard to make a name for myself at HFC," Aaren said. - PTI

England enforce follow-on on Day 3

Bristol: The Indian women's cricket team was 83 for one at tea after being forced to followon by England women on the third day of the one-off Test on Friday. Debutant Shafali Verma (55 batting) once again looked in great touch. Earlier, resuming at the overnight score of 187 for 5. India were all out for 231 in their first innings, 165 runs short of England's first innings

score of 396. - PTI Brief scores: England women 396/9 decl. vs India women 231 & 83/1 in 24.3 overs (Shafali Verma batting 55).

World Masters Games next May

Hyderabad: The postponed World Masters Games will be held from May 13 to 29 next year in Kansai, Japan, informs M. Prabhakara Rao, vice president of Masters Games Federation and General Secretary of TMGA. The Games could not be held in May this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

"The 4th National Masters Games to be held in Hyderabad too have been postponed. If things get back to normal we can expect the event to take place soon this year. Eligible athletes are requested to train at home and keep fit," Mr Rao



India's Mohammed Shami (second from right) and Wriddhiman Saha (right) walk with members of the team support staff along the boundary after rain delayed start of the first day of the WTC final at the Ageas Bowl in

RAIN RUINS PLAY

WTC final starts with washed out first day

Southampton, June 18: eagerly-awaited opening day of the World Test Championship final between India and New Zealand was rained out here on Friday, which is set to bring the reserve day into the equation.

As per ICC playing conditions guidelines for the WTC final, if required the reserve sixth day can now come into effect with six hours of play lost on Day 1 itself.

There was forecast of rain and thundershowers and the heavens opened up last evening with

+

With puddles forming throughout the outfield, even the best drainage system couldn't have possibly forced some action on the opening day of the World Test Championship final in Southampton.

relentless downpour continuing till afternoon.

With puddles forming throughout the outfield, even the best drainage system couldn't have possibly forced some action on the opening day. Umpires Michael Gough

and Richard Illingworth, after multiple inspections, called off the game at 7:30 pm IST (3 pm local

While there has been talk about Southampton being the preferred venue, it has been learnt that BCCI was taken into confidence by both the ICC and England and Wales Cricket Board before they finalised the

five-star facility within the premises, helping create a tight bio-secure bubble.
The English weather is known to be fickle and in

any case, there was no guarantee that the match being played at any other venue would have not led to a wash-out on the first day. In the last five years, England has hosted 32 men's Test matches and only as many as four have ended in draws which is an indication that even if rain plays spoilsport, the final will go the distance.

OSAKA PULLS OUT FROM WIMBLEDON

Los Angeles, June 18: Japanese star Naomi Osaka has withdrawn Wimbledon, her confirmed Thursday, weeks after the world number two pulled out of the French Open citing her struggle with depression and anxiety.

'Naomi won't be playing Wimbledon this year," Osaka's agent Stuart Duguid said. "She is taking some personal time with friends and family.

"She will be ready for the Olympics and is excited to play in front of her home fans.'

Wednesday, Wimbledon organisers said the 23-year-old fourtime Grand Slam champion was expected to take part in the championships, which start on June $\bar{2}8$.

"At this point in time she's entered into the championships and we haven't received confirmation that she won't compete," All England Club chief executive Sally Bolton said.

Osaka has been in the spotlight since withdrawing from the French Open. She was fined \$15,000 and threatened disqualification from Roland Garros after she refused to honour mandatory media commitments.



Naomi Osaka

MEN'S HOCKEY

Ten to make Oly debut in Tokyo

Bengaluru, June 18: India on Friday named 10 Olympic debutants in its 16-member men's hockey squad, which also features seasoned performers like P.R. Sreejesh and Manpreet Singh, for the Tokyo Games to be held from July

Games to be field from July 23 to August 8.
Amit Rohidas, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Nilakanta Sharma, Sumit, Shamsher Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Gurjant Singh and Lalit Kumar Upadhyay are the 10 players who will make their Olympic debut

in Tokyo. Besides, the 16-member team also includes six seasoned campaigners like former skipper and goalkeeper Sreejesh, midfield-er Manpreet, defenders Harmanpreet Singh, Rupinder Pal Singh and Surender Kumar and forward Mandeep Singh.

These players were a part

Goalkeeper: P. R. Sreejesh Defenders: Singh, Rupinder Pal Singh, Surender Kumar, Rohidas, Birendra **Midfielders:** Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Nilakanta Sharma, Sumit. Forwards: Shamsher Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Gurjant Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Mandeep Singh.

of the previous Olympic squad in Rio de Janeiro.

Veteran Birendra Lakra has also been named in the side and is set to make his Olympic debut in Tokyo. The team has only one goalkeeper in Sreejesh, which means promising Krishan Bahadur Pathak missed out on an Olympic berth despite being an integral part of the team in the lead

up to the Games.

ROMANIA BANNED FROM OLYMPIC WEIGHTLIFTING

competing in weightlifting at the Tokyo Olympics over

past doping cases, the International Weightlifting

Federation ruled in a decision.

The Romanian Weightlifting Federation was issued a one-year ban from competition over five doping cases. Those included disqualifications for all four of Romania's weightlifters from the 2012 Olympics after various banned substances were found in later retest-

ing of their samples. One of those athletes, Gabriel Sincraian, also lost a medal from the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro for another failed drug test.

Romania becomes the fourth country barred from the Tokyo weightlifting competition after Egypt, Malaysia and Thailand, which were also excluded over doping-related issues.

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