


# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
KARIMNAGAR | TUESDAY | 1 JUNE 2021

## WEATHER

 **Max:** 38.4°C  
**Min:** 27°C  
**RH:** 47%  
**Rain:** Nil

**Forecast:** Partly cloudy.  
Rain likely. Max/Min temp. 39/27°C

## ASTROGUIDE

**Plava:** Uttarayana  
**Tithi:** Vaishakha Bahula Saptami till 12.49 am (Thursday)  
**Star:** Dhanishta till 4.12 pm  
**Variyam:** 11.39 pm to 1.19 am (Thursday)  
**Durmuhurtam:** 8.20 am to 9.12 am; 11.07 pm to 11.51 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 3 pm to 4.30 pm  
**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
**Shawwal 19, 1442 AH**  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 4.32 am  
**Zohar:** 12.24 pm  
**Asar:** 4.49 pm  
**Maghrib:** 6.53 pm  
**Isha:** 8.09 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY 6.47 PM**  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.41 AM**  
**MOONRISE TODAY 11.47 PM**  
**MOONSET TOMORROW 10.25 AM**

## COUNTER POINT



**Yes! I found it. That relief package is from this tiny island in Antarctic Ocean!**

## SHORT TAKES

### Class XII decision in 2 days, SC told

**New Delhi:** The government will take a final decision within the next two days on whether to conduct Class XII board exams amidst the C pandemic, the Supreme Court was informed on Monday. Attorney General K.K. Venugopal told this to a bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari which said if the Centre decides to depart from the last year's policy, then it must give tangible reasons for it.

### Deadline for GST filing extended

**New Delhi:** The government on Monday said the deadline for filing monthly GST sales returns for May has been extended by 15 days till June 26. The GST Council, chaired by the Union finance minister and comprising state counterparts, on May 28 had decided to extend certain compliance relaxations on account of Covid-19 pandemic.

### EPFO allows 2nd Covid advance

**New Delhi:** Retirement fund body EPFO has allowed its over five crore subscribers to avail the second Covid-19 advance in view of the second wave of the coronavirus infections in the country. Earlier last year, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) had allowed its members to withdraw COVID-19 advance to meet exigencies due to the pandemic.



## WORLD | 5

### China goes for three-child policy

## HC: TWITTER HAS TO COMPLY WITH I.T. RULES FOR DIGITAL MEDIA

**New Delhi, May 31:** Twitter has to comply with the new Information Technology Rules for digital media if they have not been stayed, the Delhi High Court said on Monday. Justice Rekha Palli issued notice to the Centre and social media platform Twitter seeking their stand on a plea by a lawyer, Amit Acharya, claiming non-compliance of the rules by it.

While Twitter claimed before the court that it has complied with the rules and appointed a resident grievance officer, the Central government disputed the claim. "They have to follow it (rules), if it has not been stayed," the court said. In his plea, filed through advocate Akash Vajpai and Manish Kumar, Acharya said that he came to know about the alleged non-compliance when he tried to lodge a complaint against a couple of tweets.

During the hearing, Central government standing counsel Ripudaman Singh Bhardwaj told the court that Twitter has not complied with the rules. —PTI

## WB CS RETIRES, MADE CHIEF ADVISER FOR THREE YEARS

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, MAY 31**

In a dramatic twist to the tug-of-war between the Centre and the state over the state Chief Secretary, the 1987-batch IAS officer Alapan Bandyopadhyay on Monday took retirement and was immediately appointed chief adviser to chief minister Mamata Banerjee for three years.

H.K. Dwiwedi, who was the state home secretary, has become the new state Chief Secretary while B.P. Gopalika has been appointed as the state home secretary.

Mr Bandyopadhyay, who had got a three-month extension last week but was summoned for deputation by the Centre four days later, was due to retire on Monday. The top state bureaucrat's decision came to light after he attended a meeting chaired by Ms Banerjee on the devastation by Cyclone Yaas and Covid-19 pandemic at the state secretariat Nabanna following her refusal to release him in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The TMC chief's tough stand prompted the Centre to explore its options to initiate departmental proceedings against Mr Bandyopadhyay for defying its order to report at North Block in New Delhi.

## Shoppers return gradually



Vendors set up shops at Charminar anticipating customers on Monday. However, they did not report any big sales as people wait for the second wave of Covid-19 to subside.

## SPORTS | 8

### Pooja punches gold at Asian boxing



## TABLOID

### Juhi Chawla's war against 5G radiation



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

Vol. 21 No. 5 Established 1938 | 16 PAGES | ₹6.00

## Etala meets Nadda, may join BJP

**IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC HYDERABAD, MAY 31**

Former minister Etala Rajender met BJP national president J.P. Nadda on Monday at the latter's Delhi residence in the presence of state party affairs in-charge Tarun Chugh, state unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar and former MP Vivek Venkataswamy, along with former MLA Yenugu Ravinder Reddy.

According to BJP sources, the leaders first met Chugh at his residence. He inquired about Rajendar's political history and also asked the reasons behind him being targeted by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. Rajendar is understood to have explained why he and his family had been targeted. After the half-an-hour meeting, the disgruntled leaders, led by Tarun Chugh and Bandi Sanjay, went to meet Nadda. Sources said Chugh went inside Nadda's chamber and explained about Rajendar's political background for 20 minutes and Nadda called Rajendar and Reddy inside.

■ **Page 2: Nadda welcomes Rajendar to join BJP**

# 7 state med colleges by next year

## ₹700 cr to be spent on each college

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MAY 31**

The state government has readied a blueprint to fast-track the setting up of seven government medical colleges in the districts within a year.

The Cabinet on Sunday had approved the establishing of medical colleges in Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Mancherial, Jagtial, Sangareddy, Mahbubnagar and Kothagudem.

According to the blueprint, the government will spend ₹700 crore to set up each medical college. Accordingly, the government has decided to sanction a total budget of ₹5,000 crore this year for the seven medical colleges. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao will lay foundations for these colleges in July.

The government ordered the Directorate of Medical Education to submit applications to National Medical

Commission (NMC) seeking approvals for starting medical colleges from the 2022-23 academic year. The government aims to secure approval for 200 MBBS seats in each college.

In-charge ministers and collectors of respective districts were directed to identify suitable land parcels immediately for setting up the medical colleges. The government has set a deadline of July 2022 to complete construction of the college buildings with all facilities required to get NMC approval. The government at present operates nine medical colleges with 1,640 seats. This apart, two more medical colleges — AIIMS Bibinagar and ESI, Sanathnagar — are under the Central government.

With the addition of seven medical colleges, the total state government colleges in the state will increase to 16.

■ **Page 2: Four med colleges set up after TS formation**

# SC asks Centre to revise its vaccination policy

**PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, MAY 31**

The Supreme Court Monday posed searching questions to the Centre on its Covid-19 vaccine pricing, procurement policy and need for mandatory registration on the CoWIN app for people to get vaccinated without keeping in mind the real "digital India" situation.

Observing that policy makers must have an ear to the ground, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a special bench also comprising Justice L. Nageswara Rao and Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, said that the current vaccination policy is urban-

centric that does not address the needs of the rural population and flagged various other "flaws" in the inoculation drive, including differential pricing and shortage of doses.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, replied that registration is mandatory as a person needs to be traced for a second dose and as far as rural areas are concerned, there are community centres where a person can get registered for vaccination.

At the outset of the hearing that lasted two hours, the court asked the Centre about its vaccine procurement policy

by referring to the fact that states like Punjab and Delhi are in the process of issuing global tenders to procure foreign vaccines.

The hearing saw the top court asking a number of pointed questions to Mr Mehta on vaccine availability and as to why for people above the age of 45 years the Centre was procuring vaccines but for the larger chunk of population between the age group of 18 to 45 years, the burden has been put on the states.

The SC asked the Centre to relook at its Covid policy on vaccine pricing and vaccination drive, adding that the policy should be flexible.

## SC FOR REVIEW OF SEDITION LAW'S LIMITS

**DC CORRESPONDENT WITH agency inputs NEW DELHI, MAY 31**

The Supreme Court on Monday put on hold Andhra Pradesh government's action against two TV channels and issued a notice to the state government asserting, "It's time we define limits of sedition."

"The Andhra Pradesh government should not take any coercive steps against Telugu news channels," the Supreme Court said.

"The Andhra Pradesh government's act of filing sedition cases against the channels is muffling channels. It is time the court defined sedition," said Justice D.Y. Chandrachud.

The court also said, "We are of the view that provisions of 124A and 153 of the IPC (Indian Penal Code) require interpretation, particularly on the issue of rights of press and free speech." Section 124 A deals with sedition and 153 with provocation for riots.

# Central Vista is important: HC

**SANJAY KAW | DC NEW DELHI, MAY 31**

Holding the Central Vista Project to be one of national importance, the Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed a petition which had sought a stay on the construction work and imposed a cost of ₹1 lakh on the petitioner.

A division bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh said the work cannot be seen in isolation.

"Since the workers who are working at the project are staying on site, there is no question of issuing directions to suspend the work of Central Vista Avenue Redevelopment Project," said the court, adding the DDMA in the April 19 order has not prohibited construction activity where labourers are residing on-site.

The Central Vista Project entails construction activities on majestic Rajpath and the surrounding lawns from the India Gate to the

Rashtrapati Bhawan, according to the petition filed through lawyers Gautam Khazanchi and Pradyuman Kaistha.

The project envisages building a new Parliament House, a new residential complex to house offices and the Prime Minister and the Vice-President. It will also have new office buildings and a Central Secretariat to accommodate various ministries' offices.

The High Court on May 17 had reserved its judgement in the case. The court on Monday said sovereign functions of Parliament are also going to be conducted there and the public is vitally interested in this project.

The court said that the legality of the project was upheld by the Supreme Court.

It noted that the work at Central Avenue has to be completed before November and said time is essence of the contract.

## PLEASE | ALL

## Shiv Sena says battle will be fought in Delhi as Centre has powers

# Maha gives Marathas 10% EWS quota

**BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, MAY 31**

In a major decision, the Maharashtra Government has announced a 10 per cent reservation to the Maratha community in educational institutions and government jobs under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category.

The move is seen as an attempt to placate the dominant Maratha community, which has been fuming over being denied reserva-

tion by the Supreme Court. According to the government resolution (GR) issued by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government on Monday, the Maratha students and candidates in the state will now be able to avail 10 per cent reservation in educational institutions as well as in direct service recruitment.

The Supreme Court on May 5 had struck down the 13 per cent reservation in government jobs and educational institutions for the

Maratha community brought in by the Maharashtra government in 2018, saying it exceeded the 50 per cent cap imposed earlier.

Maharashtra government's fresh move to provide EWS reservation to the Maratha community is based on the Centre's decision in 2019 to give 10 per cent reservation in education and jobs to the EWS people in the general category. The norms for seeking the EWS reservation are that the candidate's

annual family income should not be less than ₹8 lakh and his/her family must not own more than five acres of agriculture land. After the SC verdict, there has been pressure on the MVA government to provide relief to the community with the BJP MP

Chhatrapati Sambhajiraje giving a warning that if the state government does not approve the demands of the Maratha community by June 6, he would launch an agitation from Raigad Fort

and demanded that a two-day Assembly session should be called over this matter.

However, Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has said that the battle will be fought in Delhi. "The SC has scrapped the reservation given by Maharashtra government saying only the Centre has the powers to make such an act. Hence, a decision on this should be taken by the PM and President," said the Sena in 'Saamana.'



## SANJEEVANI

**LOANS TO HOSPITALS / NURSING HOMES  
CLINICS / MEDICAL COLLEGES  
FOR SETTING UP ON-SITE  
OXYGEN GENERATION PLANTS**

**UNDER ECLGS 4.0 OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**#InThisTogether**



### KEY FEATURES\*

- **Loan Amount:** Maximum 2 Crores
- **Repayment Period:** 5 years including moratorium of 6 months
- **Rate of Interest:** 7.50% p.a.
- **No Processing Charges**
- **No Collateral Security**
- **100% Finance**

For details : email at Sanjeevani.sme@sbi.co.in or contact your nearest SME Branch or SME Centre.



## SHORT TAKES

## RPO TO RESUME SERVICES FROM TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MAY 31

The Regional Passport Office (RPO) here on Monday announced that it will resume services at the Passport Seva Kendras (PSK), Passport Seva Laghu Kendra, and the RPO at Secunderabad from June 1.

The services are being resumed as the state government extended the Covid-19 lockdown relaxation hours from 6 am to 1 pm, Dasari Balaiah, Regional Passport Officer, Hyderabad, said.

Services will be resumed operations from June 1 at three Passport Seva Kendras at Begumpet, Ameerpet and Tolichowki and at Nizamabad, the Passport Seva Laghu Kendra at Karimnagar, and the public enquiry centres at Regional Passport Office, Secunderabad, and the counter providing attestation/apostille services in the ministry of external affairs branch secretariat in the RPO Secunderabad.

These units would function between 9 am and 1 pm on all working days during the lockdown period.

## NADDA WELCOMES ETALA RAJENDAR TO JOIN BJP

From Page 1

It is also said that Nadda welcomed Rajendar and Ravinder Reddy into the BJP and assured that their seniority would be respected if they joined the party.

Nadda inquired about cases against him and harassment by Chandrashekar Rao, sources said, adding that Nadda suggested that Rajendar could fight in the courts for justice and work for the BJP in a dedicated manner so that the party could use his services wherever required.

Sources said Nadda had asked Etala Rajendar to resign from his position as member of the Legislative Assembly and join the BJP. Sources in Rajendar's camp said the Huzurabad MLA may announce his resignation after reaching Hyderabad and having discussion with his followers. It is expected that Rajendar is likely to resign on June 2 or June 6 from his post of MLA and the TRS.

## LOVE MARRIAGE LEADS TO TENSION IN NAMAVARAM

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, MAY 31

Tension prevailed in Namavaram village of Chintakani mandal after a Blue Colt constable Satish sustained head injury when a local hurled a stone at him on Monday.

According to information, Pagadala Vignesh and Chirra Chandrakala loved each other and decided to live together after a marriage pact. The parents of Chandrakala opposed the marriage and asked their daughter to take back her decision. Then, Chandrakala's parents asked her to give back six acres of property in her name. Immediately, she registered the land in the name of her parents. She married Vignesh on May 14. Vignesh, belonging to Mudiraj community and Chandrakala from Yadav, settled in another village and were living there on the advice of friends. The issue caused differences between the two families.

Vignesh's sister N Srilatha and her husband Upender came to the village and opened Vignesh's house to get a gas cylinder. Chandrakala's relatives, furious at the marriage, locked them in the house.

Upender dialed to 100 and explained his position in the village. Satish, a cop with Blue Cots rushed to the spot and shot pictures of the confinement and sent the videos to higher officials. Suddenly, Venkanna, a relative of Chandrakala, hurled a stone at Satish, who sustained a head injury. Later, the relatives of Chandrakala came to the spot and broke the cell phone. The police took 10 persons into custody and launched investigation.

● **THE PARENTS** of Chandrakala opposed the marriage and asked their daughter to take back her decision. Then, Chandrakala's parents asked her to give back six acres of property in her name. Immediately, she registered the land in the name of her parents.

## Banks merger hits farmers

Farmers have not submitted new IFSC, may lose Rythu Bandhu funds

L. VENKAT RAM  
REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, MAY 31

The merger of some public sector banks (PSU) banks in April 2020 has created troubles for farmers availing Rythu Bandhu benefits across Telangana. The state government has decided to deposit Rythu Bandhu amount for kharif season from June 15 to 25.

The state government has been crediting Rythu Bandhu amount of ₹5,000 per acre directly into the bank accounts of farmers since December 2018.

For this, farmers have to provide IFSC codes of their bank branches to the agriculture department.

However, farmers having accounts in Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, Syndicate Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank, which were merged into other banks, failed to provide new IFSC to the agriculture department.

Following the merger, the IFSC codes of all these bank branches changed in April 2020.

Despite this, farmers did not face any trouble for the past one year and

● **FARMERS, MOSTLY** from rural and interior areas, were not aware of banking and IFSC and the state's Rythu Bandhu Samitis constituted from the village level upwards must take the initiative to educate farmers and ensure they submit revised bank details to agriculture department before June 10.

Officials of the agriculture department stated that if farmers fail to provide revised bank details before June 10, they will lose Rythu Bandhu benefit as online money transfer will not be possible with old IFSC codes.

They say farmers, who are mostly from rural and interior areas, were not aware of banking and IFSC codes due to illiteracy and Rythu Bandhu Samitis constituted by state government from village level to state level should take the initiative to educate farmers and ensure they submit revised bank

details to agriculture department before June 10.

It was found that most of the farmers have accounts in Andhra Bank, Syndicate Bank and Vijaya Bank, who now stare at losing Rythu Bandhu benefits.

Officials asked farmers to submit a copy of their Aadhaar card, new bank's passbook, agriculture land passbook immediately to agriculture officers or agriculture extension officers of respective mandals failing which they will lose out on Rythu Bandhu benefits.

## Identity check to pass



Police officials check the identity card of the bike riders to allow them to pass during the lockdown time in Karimnagar, on Monday. —DC

## RURAL DEMAND IS RESILIENT: CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER

FROM PAGE 1

The manufacturing sector grew 5.8 per cent during the period.

Reacting to the Q4 GDP numbers, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian said there had been a marginal improvement in the Financial Year-21 GDP.

"The demand in rural India has been resilient. Earlier last year, rural India continued to aid

the economy while urban India fought the initial wave of covid-19. The agriculture sector has been a silver lining, clocking consecutive growth," Subramanian said. "After the quarter one numbers were released, we had said things will get better from here and had predicted growth. It is heartening to know those projections have held. Annual numbers signify a revival in

demand. The second wave is likely to have hit some of the recoveries, and it will have some impact on the economy," the CEA added. Separately, higher tax collections helped arrest fiscal deficit (excess of government expenditure over revenue) at 9.3 per cent of the GDP in FY21 as against 9.5 per cent projected previously and 3.5 per cent estimated when the Budget was presented in February 2020.

## STUDENTS CAN ENROL ONLINE, SAYS INTERMEDIATE BOARD

**Hyderabad:** Students wanting admission in intermediate first year course run by government junior colleges in Telangana will have to first self-enrol online in view of Coronavirus pandemic.

Online self-enrolment forms will be available on official website of Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) — [www.tsbie.cgg.gov.in](http://www.tsbie.cgg.gov.in) from June 1 onwards.

Apart from details, students will also need to mention their aggregate percentage of marks.

The government's move to first enrol students online is for preventing students or their parents from physically going to colleges for collecting admission forms.

TSBIE came up with the idea of online enrolment after it was found that post declaration of SSC results, students and their parents have

been approaching private and government colleges physically during lockdown relaxation hours seeking admission forms. It has also been found that while admission forms are being collected on a day, they are being submitted on another day. This poses a risk for students and parents. To avoid any threat from the disease, the state government has opted for online mode of submitting forms.

## Prices of Covid-19 drugs not hiked, Centre tells HC

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MAY 31

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) submitted to the High Court that the prices of drugs for treatment of Covid-19 and black fungus infection were under a price ceiling and therefore the manufacturers cannot not hike prices as per their will. It submitted that the manufacturing of drugs for black fungus and Covid has been ramped up to the highest level.

The NPPA said the price of drug used for treatment of black fungus - amphotericin-B (Liposomal) is fixed at ₹7,484 per 50 grams, excluding Goods and Services Tax (GST). Amphotericin B in its powdered form is fixed at ₹310 per 50 grams.

Rajesh Kumar T, deputy director of the NPPA, filed a memo before the High Court and said that the Authority and the department of pharmaceuticals of the Union ministry for chemical and fertilisers were monitoring management of supply of medicines during the peak pandemic period.

The memo was filed on the directions of the division bench of the Telangana High Court.

On May 17, the bench

● **RAJESH KUMAR T**, deputy director of the NPPA, filed a memo before the High Court and said that the Authority and the department of pharmaceuticals of the Union ministry for chemical and fertilisers were monitoring management of supply of medicines during the peak pandemic period.

headed by Chief Justice Hima Kohli had issued notices to the NPPA and sought to know its contentions, as there was a shortfall of life-saving drugs for Covid-19 in Telangana state.

The NPPA director submitted that the ceiling prices of all scheduled formulation medicines were normally fixed by it as per the provisions of Drugs (Price Control) Order 2013.

For non-scheduled formulation medicines, the manufacturers have the liberty to fix the prices provided there should not be an increase more than 10 per cent per year.

Favipiravir, remdesivir and others fall under non-scheduled medicines, and their maximum price was ₹5,400 per vial. With the intervention of the government, it was reduced to ₹3,500, Rajesh Kumar submitted.

## Woman, kids become homeless due to virus

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, MAY 31

Those who are familiar with in-laws' cruelty only in pulp series on television, here is a tear-jerking story in real. A woman in Rajanna Sircilla district was first made to infest with deadly Coronavirus and then thrown out of her mother-in-law's house in an act of utmost inhumanity.

The victim, a resident of Thimmapur village of Yellareddypet mandal in the district, got married to a native of Nimaligutta than-da of Somaripet village in Machareddy mandal in Kamareddy district three years ago.

Her husband went to Odisha in search of a job seven months ago and was working as a tractor driver there. They have one son and a daughter. Last week, her mother-in-law contracted Coronavirus and was staying in home quarantine as she was undergoing treatment for the pandemic.

Upset over being kept away from others in a separate room, the mother-in-

law developed hatred against the woman. She allegedly forcefully hugged the woman and even her small children in an attempt to make sure they also contacted the virus. She was successful and the woman tested positive three days ago.

Having learnt about the test result of the woman, her in-laws threw her and her children out of the house. They did not even listen to the locals who requested them to take them back to the house.

Coming to know about the incident, the woman's sister who resides at Racharla village of Gollapalli mandal brought the victim to her house and is keeping her in home quarantine and providing treatment.

Meanwhile, the woman's sister, along with the locals, demanded that the police officials take immediate action against the in-laws of the woman who were responsible for spreading Coronavirus and for harassing and behaving rudely with the woman and children.

## 4 MED COLLEGES SET UP AFTER FORMATION OF TELANGANA

From Page 1

Of these, four medical colleges in Mahabubnagar, Siddipet, Suryapet and Nalgonda were set up after the formation of Telangana state in 2014.

Another 23 medical colleges are under the private sector, taking the total to 41.

If the state government secures approval for 1,400 seats in seven new medical colleges, the overall MBBS seats in government colleges will increase significantly to 3,040 and will make medical education accessible to students from poorer and middle classes, who cannot afford huge fees and donations in private medical colleges.

● **IF THE** state government secures approval for 1,400 seats in seven new medical colleges, the overall MBBS seats in government colleges will increase significantly to 3,040 and will make medical education accessible to students from poorer and middle classes.

## Black fungus stays put, city doctors on toes

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, MAY 31

Though the state has witnessed a slight reduction in the number of new admissions of black fungus patients, it does not mean there is a respite, opined ENT specialists in the city. The number of Covid-19 recovered patients suffering from black fungus continues to be high and admissions in city hospitals are mostly from districts.

The patients are from the age-group of 30 to 50 years and the maximum of those

who are suffering from the disease are males.

Dr Janardhan Rao Jagini, head of the department and consultant ENT surgeon at the Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) Hospital, Secunderabad, says, "Patients are still coming with pain in the cheek, discoloration of the eyeballs and also invasion in the palate. We now have to give them amphotericin B in hospital setup only according to the new rules. For this reason, the stay of the patient is 15 days and they have to be

monitored for reactions of medicines."

Apart from surgical interventions, amphotericin B and Posaconazole are being administered via injections only for better outcomes. Serious patients require monitoring of kidney, liver and heart functions also.

The Government ENT Hospital has completed a total of 370 surgeries of which 198 were on male patients and 172 females. Most of the patients had involvement in the eyes, nose and jaws region.

There are a total of 281 in-patients and there were 32 new admissions on Monday. Doctors say that there are admissions late at night also as some patients who are coming from far flung districts are reaching after 6 pm to the hospital. The night shelter outside the hospital has been set up for that reason.

There are also doctors from the emergency section to attend to those who come late at night, said senior doctors at the ENT Hospital. There are 250 patients in Gandhi

Hospital of which 100 have undergone surgeries in the last one week.

Meanwhile, the Central government has allotted 1,200 vials of amphotericin B to the state. There is a need to judiciously use these medicines, stated senior health officials, adding that the dispensation is only to hospitals based on reports of the patient.

A senior ENT doctor in a multi-speciality hospital says, "I have 30 patients and require 150 vials per day. It is tedious but there is no option right now for

us and the patients' attendants. There are also alternative injections used in hospitals set up after the first line of treatment is completed."

Amphotericin B Emulsion will be available in the market by next week, according to Celon Laboratories Private Limited. The drug will be supplied to hospitals and is being priced at ₹4,000 to ₹4,500 per vial.

Experts state that they will see a rush of black fungus cases till June as more and more patients recover from Covid-19.

## PERMIT | REVOKED

The govt has received 166 complaints against 105 hospitals in the state

## 6 more hosps lose permit for Covid care

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, MAY 31

Permission for treating Covid-19 patients was revoked for six more private hospitals on Monday. A total of 16 hospitals have faced action by the government so far for excess and irrelevant charges, mismanagement and lack of proper attention in patient care.

The six hospitals whose permissions were revoked were: Padmaja Hospital at Medchal, Life Line Medicare Hospital at

Alwal, Max Care Hospital at Hanamkonda in Warangal Urban, TX Hospital at Uppal, Lalitha Hospital at Warangal Urban and Sri Sai Ram Hospital at Sangareddy.

The government has received 166 complaints against 105 hospitals in the state. The government has issued 105 showcause notices and the grievances of the patients have been sent to them.

Many of them have complained that compared to the billing charges listed out by the government, the

● **MANY OF** them have complained that compared to the billing charges listed out by the government, the private hospitals charged more.

● **THEY ALSO** complained about the lack of care and that there was no one to give them updates on the status of the patient.

private hospitals charged more. They also complained about the lack of care and that there was no one to give them updates

on the status of the patient. The relatives of patients in a critical condition have alleged that they were clueless till the last minute. They were not given information on the condition of the patient, the relatives alleged in their complaints.

The action has been initiated by the office of the Director of Public Health.

Reacting to the government action, Telangana Hospital and Nursing Homes Association president Dr Kishan Rao said, "The billing criteria is a

challenge as the government has not taken into account the procurement price. When the price of oxygen cylinder and medicines is four to five times more than the normal cost, how is the hospital to treat the patient? We are asking the public health department to revise the rates. It is not possible to work at the rates offered by the government."

Issues regarding to patient care as well as updating their relatives on the medical status has been a challenge not only

in private hospitals but also in government establishments.

A senior pulmonologist at a private hospital on condition of anonymity said, "Covid-19 is a very unpredictable disease. We find that the patient is improving and responding well and after a few hours there is a sudden collapse. People have been fine for three days and turned critical in the next five days and died. It is very difficult for us to give a proper picture to the relatives even if we want to."



## SHORT TAKES

KERAMERI POLICE  
SEIZE 52KG GANJA  
FROM 3 VILLAGERSDC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, MAY 31

The Kerameri police sized a total of 54 kg dry Ganja from the three villagers of Savarkhedra in the Kerameri mandal in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district on Monday. Kerameri SI Elpula Ramesh and constables come across a vehicle moving suspiciously in the road during the vehicle checking and they found two kg Ganja from the vehicle.

The police also seized 48 kg dry Ganja from Ade Thukaram's house and two kg dray ganja from Aade Bikku's house in the inquiry.

SWAERO, BLESSMEN  
WELFARE SOCIETY  
AID KOLAM ADIVASISDC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, MAY 31

Members and leaders of the Swaero Circle and Blessmen Welfare Society have distributed essential commodities to the Kolam Adivasis of Jendaguda in Sonapur gram panchayat in Kasipet mandal in Mancherial on Monday.

On learning the hardships facing by the Kolam tribals of Jendaguda with no work following the lockdown, the Swaero Circle, and Blessmen Welfare society members took the initiative to help the Kolam tribals. Managing director of Blessmen Welfare Society Bhoopelli Mallanna, Swaero circle members Teegala Srinivas Rao, Sampath, Mutyala Rajamouli, Srinivas, Bairam Prabhakar, Dasari Dinsh, Gedam Ramarao Sidam Gandapathi were present.

MAOIST MILITIA  
MEMBER HELD,  
EXPLOSIVES SEIZEDDC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, MAY 31

A Maoist Militia member has been arrested and explosives have been recovered from him by the Mulugu police here on Monday.

According to Mulugu Superintendent of Police Sangram Singh G. Paril, CI Venkatapuram along with RI (Operations), Mulugu, SI Venkatapuram, Special party team Mulugu, Bomb Disposal (BD) team, personnels from CRPF 39/BBN and other police personnel were conducting combing in the Pamunuru forest area acting on information that as per the directions of banned CPI (Maoists) leaders Yapa Narayana alias Haribhushan, Bade Chokka Rao alias Damodar and other senior leaders of Telangana State committee of CPI (Maoist) party, the militia members of Tadapala, Chelimela, Jella and Pamunuru villages are going to assemble in the Pamunuru forest area in order to plant land mines for killing police party who generally go for combing operation there.

During this course, they found members in possession of firearms and deadly weapons who were planting explosives with intention to kill the police party. On seeing the police party, they tried to escape. However, one of them was caught by the police party, along with IEDs and explosive material.

In interrogation, he revealed his identity as Madavi Boodu of Jella village of Venkatapuram Mandal and he along with militia members of surrounding villagers of Chhattisgarh state have been working as Militia member for the CPI (Maoist) party since the last few years.

He was given training by the Naxals on how to handle and plant landmines and spikes in order to kill police party.

One of the IEDs planted by them at Palem Vagu project exploded recently due to heavy rainfall and thunder.

The apprehended militia member is involved in 28 extremism related cases registered under stringent sections of UAPA Act, 1967 in PS Venkatapuram, Cherla and Wazeedu. He is involved in several extremist murder cases including the murder of Maduri Bheemeshwara Rao in Alubaka in October 2020 and planting more than 12 IEDs, landmines and spikes in the Karreguttalu area over the past several years. Police seized 40 metres of cordex wire, four detonators, one Walky-Talky (Manpack), two pressure cooker bombs, two tiffin box bombs, two electric wire bundles and batteries.

TRS CADRE  
CURIOUS OVER  
RAVINDER REDDY'S  
FUTURE PLANSDC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD, MAY 31

TRS cadre in composite Nizamabad district is curious about the political future of former Yellareddy MLA Enugu Ravinder Reddy. It is believed that Reddy is all set to leave the party soon. He has been sailing the boat with former minister Etala Rajender and presently is in New Delhi to meet BJP leadership.

Reddy is a founder-member of TRS and is a four-time MLA from Yellareddy Assembly constituency. Defeat in 2018 Assembly elections and entry of Yellareddy Congress MLA Jaljala Surrender into TRS, changed the political equations in the constituency. Reddy feels that the party high command has been ignoring him for the past few months.

He has strong cadre support in the constituency and some of his supporters advised him to join BJP. It is believed that Reddy and Etala will decide on joining BJP or gloating a new political party.

● **REDDY IS** a founder-member of TRS and is a four-time MLA from Yellareddy Assembly constituency.

ROAD CONNECTIVITY  
A KEY FACTOR FOR  
DEVELOPMENT: MLADC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, MAY 31

Sattupalli MLA, Sandra Venkata Veeraiah said that he is making all efforts to provide road connectivity to all the villages in Penuballi and Vemsoor mandals.

He laid foundation stones to the various roads on Tuesday. He said that road connectivity is a key factor in the development and the farmers can get easy access to sell their produce. He said that the government sanctioned various blacktop roads in Vemsoor, Penuballi and Sattupalli length of 34.34 kilometers, at a cost of ₹24.4 crore.

He said that a road from Rejarla to Thallamada via Siddharam and Narayanapuram will be laid.



Minister Srinivas Goud hands over the order copies of sanctioning special pensio to Padama Shri, Kanaka Raju and Darshanala Mogilaiah in Hyderabad, on Monday. Director, department of culture, Mamidi Harikrishna is also seen in the picture.

—BY ARRANGEMENT

State govt sanctions spl pension  
for 2 folk artists, 1 photographerDC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, MAY 31

The State government has issued orders sanctioning a special pension of ₹10,000 per month for life time to folk artists Gussadi Kanakaraju and Darshanam Mogilaiah and prominent photographer Bharath Bhushan.

The director of Department of Culture, Hyderabad, Mamidi Harikrishna informed that these artists and photographer are in poor condition and requested the state government to sanction pension of ₹10,000

People show no intrest in  
taking vaccine in Adilabad

Medical, health officials failed to mobilise people to take Covid jab

PILLALAMARRI  
SRINIVAS | DC  
ADILABAD, MAY 31

Medical and health department officials have failed to mobilize and motivate people to take Covid vaccine in old Adilabad district.

The reluctance of people to get vaccinated has shocked officials. Interestingly, hundreds of people used to throng vaccine centres when there was shortage of vials but now no one is turning when the doses are available.

It is said that people are not showing interest because of lockdown restrictions. The medical staff says that they can't



Elderly women of Bheemsari village have waited till afternoon to get covid vaccine at Hamaliwada urban health care centre in Adilabad town on Monday. Very less number of people turned up for vaccination,

open a Covaxin vial when there are less than ten persons and less than eight for Covishield.

At various centers, the staff postponed vaccination as fewer persons turned up on Monday.

Isolated villages to  
get med attention  
through NHRMDC CORRESPONDENT  
ADILABAD, MAY 31

The central government is making efforts to take health care to the grass-roots or community level by recruiting qualified MBBS doctors on a contract basis at identified PHC sub-centres.

These entities are being converted into Wellness Centres in the tribal and plains that are more prone to seasonal diseases like malaria, dengue, viral fever and other ailments.

Across the nation, there exists a huge gap between doctor-population ratio.

Officials said, "The central government is trying to make medical treatment available even at the grassroots level under the National Rural Health Mission (NHRM). Till now, doctors were recruited only at PHCs while ANMs and Asha workers used to give treatment to patients at sub-centres. There would be four to five sub-centres attached to each PHC."

The doctors recruited at these sub-centres would be called Community Health Officers or mid-level health providers (MLHP) instead of as doctors. The new system will give focus to the health of the people in specific areas. As many as 18 sub-centres out of a total 121 have been identified and

converted into wellness centres. Doctors have been recruited to 7 of these wellness centres in Mancherial district. Each sub-centre of the PHC must take care of a 3,000 population in the tribal areas while a 5,000-strong population in the plain area.

The health department in Adilabad is converting some PHC sub-centre into wellness centres in tribal areas where more of the seasonal diseases such as malaria and dengue were reported in the last three years.

Dr G. Subbaraudu, DMHO of Mancherial, said they have focused more on the urban areas in the process of converting the PHC sub-centres into wellness centres and are recruiting doctors as more of the dengue cases were reported in the urban areas in the last three years.

## Task force to curb fake seeds trade

DC CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL, MAY 31

Farmers need to be careful of spurious seed, Commissioner of Police Tarun Joshi said, assuring a stern action against the traders who indulge in such activity. Speaking at the meeting in which Warangal Urban and Rural district collectors and agriculture officials took part here on Monday, he said that they have constituted district-level task force units to keep a tab on spurious seed trade.

The Task Force headed by agriculture and police officials will look into the seed supply and also book criminal cases against the wrongdoers.

Warangal Urban district collector Rajeev Gandhi Hanumanthu said that they have projected cultivation in 1,92,086 acres in the Kharif. Of which, farmers are likely to take up the cultivation of cotton in one lakh acres, paddy in 65,000 acres and other crops in remaining acreage, he added.

"Cotton farmers will have to be careful as there was a possibility of spurious seed flowing into the region from neighbouring districts. As of now, teams from the agricultural wing kept an eye on seed suppliers by conducting raids," he said.

Further, he advised the farmers to purchase seed from authorised dealers. He also emphasised the need for maintaining the records of seed purchase receipts. He urged the agriculture officials to guide the cultivators so as to reap a good harvest, he added.

● **DISTRICT COLLECTOR**

Rajeev Gandhi Hanumanthu said that they have projected cultivation in 1,92,086 acres in the Kharif. Of which, farmers are likely to take up the cultivation of cotton in one lakh acres, paddy in 65,000 acres and other crops in remaining acreage, he added. Further, he advised the farmers to purchase seed from authorised dealers. He also emphasised the need for maintaining the records of seed purchase receipts.

## YOGA CLASSES CONDUCTED FOR KMC STAFF

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, MAY 31

In the present situation which prevails across the world, practicing yoga is highly helpful to increase the immune levels and to stay physically and mentally strong, said the city mayor, Y. Sunil Rao.

In view of rapid spread of second wave of Coronavirus, the officials of Karimnagar Municipal Corporation organised special yoga classes for the sweepers, drain cleaners and other sanitation workers working under corporation limits at Jyotirao Phule park situated a Telangana chowk in Karimnagar on Monday.

The Yoga trainer made the sanitation workers practice various forms of yoga for protecting their health and for increasing their immune levels and advised them to practice the yoga daily in the

Devamma of Bheemsari was waiting from the morning for a second dose of Covaxin at Hamaliwada urban health centre but she could get vaccinated only in the afternoon since there were less than 10 persons. Same is the case with Khursheed Nagar urban health centre where vaccination did not take place as only four members turned up.

It is learnt that people who came to RIMS waited till afternoon for the same reason. It is also said that lockdown has affected vaccination activity since people are not getting sufficient time to reach the centres.



Superintendent of police, Rahul Hegde along with district agriculture officer, Ranadhir Reddy in a review meeting with officials in Rajanna Sircilla district, on Monday.

—BY ARRANGEMENT

Stern action will  
be taken, says SPDC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, MAY 31

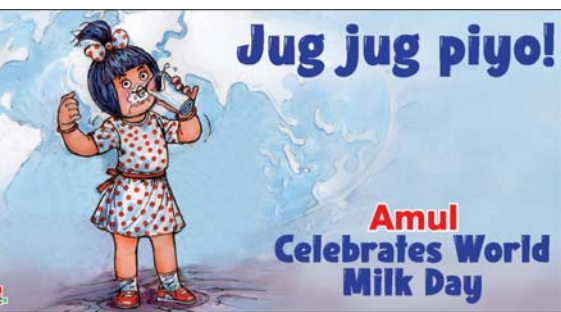
As per the orders issued by the state government, stringent action would be taken against the persons who cheat farmers by selling fake seeds by imposing Preventive Detention (PD) Act, warned district superintendent of police Rahul Hegde.

Rahul, along with district agriculture officer Ranadhir Reddy, chaired a review meeting with DSPs, station house officials and mandal level agricultural officials here in Rajanna Sircilla district on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, Rahul Hegde said a special task force team was set up at the district level to monitor those selling seeds to farmers, and another task force team at the mandal level along with officials of agriculture department to jointly carry out raids.

He advised the licensed traders to maintain the details of stock and bill books in order and to issue receipts after selling the seeds to farmers.

Rahul Hegde suggested the traders sell only quality seeds and cautioned them of conducting random inspections anytime in the district in coordination with officials of the agricultural department.

DOCS OPERATE FIRST BLACK FUNGUS  
SURGERY IN GOVT HOSP, NIZAMABAD

**Nizamabad:** After Hyderabad, first surgery for black fungus patient was successfully conducted at government general hospital in Nizamabad on Monday. A team of ENT doctors successfully completed the surgery in 2 hours at newly set up 50 bed black fungus ward.

A person recovered from Covid-19 recently was diagnosed with black fungus later. He was admitted in government general hospital in Nizamabad.

Speaking to newsmen, GGH superintendent Dr Prathima Raj said that 50 beds black fungus ward set up in the hospital and 5 patients were admitted.

Minister V. Prashanth Reddy had taken initiative in setting up black fungus ward also provided ENT equipment, she said.

Following the support from district administration, the doctors successfully completed the first black fungus surgery, in Nizamabad, she explained.

TASK FORCE TO  
CONTAIN THE  
SUPPLY, SAYS CPDC CORRESPONDENT  
KHAMMAM, MAY 31

With Kharif season projected to commence within 10 days, police administration will play a proactive role in ensuring that quality seeds are available to farmers in Khammam district.

Incidentally, the district has been in news several times over selling of spurious seeds, particularly those of chilli and cotton. Over the last two years, farmers have lost crops worth crores due to spurious seeds.

As a precautionary measure, police department headed by commissioner, Vishnu Warriar is busy constituting task-force teams to keep an eye on supply of seeds from various outlets.

"We have evolved an action plan in coordination with agricultural officials.

Members of the task-force will keep a vigil on check posts to prevent transport of spurious seeds into the district. Whoever is involved will be taken into custody and cases filed against traders who sell such seeds," Warriar warned.

He asked police to try and find out the source points of these spurious products, so that masterminds could be caught and problem nipped in the bud.

The commissioner

advised farmers to buy seeds only from traders certified by the agriculture department.

They must not entertain new persons who have entered the field. He asked taskforce to inspect registers being maintained by fertiliser and seed shops in all mandal head-quarters.

"Where the seeds and

fertilisers have come from and what are the names of the manufacturing companies are very important in checking poor quality products," he added.



## EDUCATIONAL

## DISTANCE EDUCATION

✓ **CONTACT FOR NCTE-Recognised: B.Ed./M.Ed. No Advance Fee. Only For Educational Consultants. Students Please no call. Contact regarding any Educational Problem/ Guidance. Shiksha Bharti. V a r a n a s i .**  
Email: shikshabharti88@yahoo.com  
Mob: 9519759663, 9915103781.  
(HYMM/2122/C01310)

✓ **NO ADVANCE Fee. Contact For: B.Tech/Engineering Diplomas in Mechanical Engineering/ Electrical/EEE/ IT/Electronics & Communication/ Information Technology/Civil/ Refrigeration/ Dairy Engineering/ Textile - from Government Universities/ Boards. ECA guidance - IQAS/WES available. Institutes only. Students please no call. Admission Guidance. Engineering Education Service. Lucknow, Mumbai.**  
Email: engg.education.service99@yahoo.com  
Mob: 7753069493.  
(HYMM/2122/C01305)

## NOTICE

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. shall not be held responsible / liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.

## Chronicle

BOOK YOUR CLASSIFIED /  
DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS at

EDITION CENTRE :  
**KARIMNAGAR**  
H.No. 1-2/12/1, Cherlabhuttur Road,  
Mugdumpur Village, Karimnagar - 505 186  
**9000650508**  
e-mail: krmadv@deccanmail.com  
**9121183123**



## SHORT TAKES

## SIX MORE BODIES FOUND FLOATING IN GANGA

**Fatehpur (UP), May 31:** Six more bodies of suspected Covid-19 victims were found floating in the Ganga in Uttar Pradesh, an official said on Monday.

Fatehpur Sadar Tehsil Sub-Collector (SDM) Pramod Jha said he was informed about the bodies floating in the river on Sunday morning, following which a search operation was launched.

Six decomposed bodies were recovered from the river, he said.

Later in the day, a team of doctors performed the last rites at Bhitara Ganga Ghat as per the Covid guidelines, the SDM said.

The bodies could not be identified as they were highly decomposed, the SDM said, adding that they appear to have come floating from far-off places.

Earlier this month, at least 52 bodies were seen floating at the Ujiyar, Kulhadia and Bharauli ghats in Ballia's Narahi area.

However, the district authorities did not tell the exact number of bodies found there.

## PRIEST HELD FOR VIOLATING COVID-19 NORMS

**Kochi, May 31:** A Catholic priest and 21 others were arrested on Monday for allegedly organising the first holy communion for children at a church in Ernakulam district, violating Covid-19 protocol, police said.

The vicar of St Joseph Church, Poovathussery, Fr George Palamattom and 21 others, including the parents of three children and relatives, were arrested for organising the function violating lockdown rules and charged under relevant sections of the Epidemic Diseases Act.

They were later released on station bail, police said.

A Church official said some of the parents had come to India from abroad to attend the function and wanted to return as their leave had ended. So it was organised on Monday after twice being postponed earlier due to lockdown restrictions, he said.

He said the arrests were made when the first holy communion, one of the most important occasions in a Roman Catholic's life, was being organised for the three children.

The Kerala government on Saturday announced one more week extension of the statewide lockdown till June 9, to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## COVID SURVIVOR ENDS LIFE OVER FEAR OF FUNGUS

**Ahmedabad, May 31:** An 80-year-old man from Ahmedabad who had recovered from Covid-19 allegedly committed suicide out of fear of contracting the mucormycosis infection, police said on Monday.

Mucormycosis, also known as the black fungus, is a serious infection which has been found in several Covid-19 patients in various states.

According to police, the victim used to live with his wife at the Aman Apartments in Paldi area of the city.

He allegedly consumed a pesticide on the terrace of his apartment on Thursday and died at a private hospital on Saturday, police said.

The man contracted Covid-19 some time back and had recovered. He was not diagnosed with mucormycosis, but he developed a fear for it after he got mouth sores, he said.

The victim also left behind a suicide note in which he mentioned the reason behind his extreme step and expressed fear that he may suffer due to mucormycosis as he had just recovered from Covid-19 and also had diabetes.

"The man was scared as he learnt that the black fungus mostly targets those who had contracted Covid and people having diabetes. He also mentioned (in the suicide note) that the treatment may not yield any result and he would suffer due to that infection in future," Solanki said, based on the suicide note and statements of his family members.

The victim was from a well-off family and his fear was more psychological than about his financial condition and the ability to pay for the treatment, the official said.

"Since he had developed some mouth sores, he was under the notion that he had contracted mucormycosis and may not recover from it," the official said.



A shopkeeper cleans his shop that was opened after partial relaxation in the ongoing lockdown by the J&K government in Jammu on Monday. — PTI



Guest workers wait for trains to reach their work destinations amid the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic outside Hatia railway station in Ranchi of Jharkhand on Monday. — PTI

## Delhi unlock: New woes for factories

Owners face shortage of workers, raw material, and fear losses due to slump in production

**New Delhi, May 31:** As the Covid lockdown restrictions were eased in Delhi, factory owners on Monday opened their establishments after six weeks with many grappling with shortage of labourers and raw materials, and fearing losses due to slump in production.

After a strict lockdown for six weeks since April 19, the Delhi government allowed industrial manufacturing and construction work in the city from Monday as part of its phased unlock process.

However, since the majority of the workforce had left for their native places fearing the unprecedented second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic, and the markets yet to open for supply of raw material, the industrialists said they can only calculate their losses.

"We have only been able to enter the factory and that is it. There is no way we can start work," said Neeraj Sehgal, owner of the Sehgal Doors in the Mayapuri industrial area.

"Only 20 per cent workers are here and there is no raw material because the government has not allowed the industrial use of oxygen, which is essential to make steel doors," said Sehgal, who makes fire-rated doors and steel doors.

And since the rules deny the use of oxygen for industries, the price for raw material has skyrocketed.

"What we were buying earlier for ₹55 per kg is now available at ₹90 per kg. An increase of 65 per cent, can you believe this," lamented Sehgal, who is also the general secretary of Mayapuri industrial area welfare association.

The pending electricity and water bills have only added to his woes.

As per an order issued by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on May 29, the workers and employees at manufacturing units and construction sites will be required to carry e-passes for movement during the ongoing lockdown that has been extended to June 7.

Another industrialist, Ashok Gupta of Jugmug Shoes in Udyog Nagar, Peeragarhi, was bogged



A worker busy at a factory in the Wazirpur Industrial area as the unlocking process of Covid-19 lockdown begins in New Delhi on Monday. — PTI

down by not being able to get e-passes for his workers.

"The workers have been calling from their home in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar asking if we have arranged e-passes. But the system does not work. We are not able to get any passes. The entire operation has been shut," Gupta said.

Gupta, who manufactures shoes for other market players, has also incurred huge losses as he could not deliver the orders.

"We had six orders from Dubai, but now they are buying from China. If this goes on we will have to scale down significantly. There is also a loan of ₹10-12 crore, how do we pay that without any work," Gupta said.

The unlock guidelines also allowed resumption of construction activities with staggered work hours, proper social distancing among workers, adequate gaps between shifts, and staggered lunch breaks of staff.

NBCC (India) Limited chairman and managing director P.K. Gupta said labour contractors have been told to bring back labourers who were working at projects prior to the lockdown. — PTI

## Lockdown extended in Bihar, Odisha, Ch'garh; K'taka to decide on June 4

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs  
PATNA, MAY 31

The Bihar government has extended the lockdown till June 8 to stop the surge in Covid-19 cases in the state. However, the state government has also announced some relaxation to boost business activities. The decision was taken during a review meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday.

"In view of Covid infection, it has been decided to extend the lockdown for one week — till June 8. But some relaxation is also being given to boost business activities in the state. People are requested to wear masks and maintain social distancing," Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said in a tweet after he met with the crisis management group on Monday.

Officials said that the revised home department guidelines would come into effect from June 2 onwards. According to the

state administration, essential services like general provision stores and shops dealing with dairy products will be allowed to open from 6 am to 2 pm.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Monday said the decision on the future of lockdown was likely on June 4 or 5, after discussion with experts and depending on the situation in the state. The state is currently under lockdown till June 7.

"After June 4 or 5, I will discuss with them (experts), also looking at how the (Covid) situation improves by then, we will take a decision," Yediyurappa told reporters. Earlier in the day, state health minister K. Sudhakar had said a decision on the future of lockdown has to be taken on a scientific basis as it is aimed at saving lives and that the Chief Minister will take a final call after examining the report from experts and discussing with cabinet colleagues.

The Odisha government also extended the lockdown by 16 more days till June 17 to further stem the spread of Covid-19. The second phase of the lockdown was to end at 5 am on June 1. It will now continue till 5 am of June 17.

The Uttar Pradesh government, meanwhile, extended the relaxations announced in the Coronavirus curfew to six more districts from June 1, allowing shops and markets outside the containment zones to open for five days a week. The relaxations will be applicable to a total of 61 districts from Tuesday, while 14 districts with an active Covid-19 caseload of over 600 have been kept outside the purview of the order for the time being.

The Chandigarh administration on Monday extended the Covid-induced restrictions till the morning of June 9, but allowed more relaxations such as reopening of barbers and salons. It also extended the shop opening time by an

hour. All shops will now be allowed to open from 9 am till 4 pm, from earlier till 3 pm. "After detailed discussions, it was decided to continue the existing restrictions until 6 am on June 9," according to an official release.

The Lakshadweep administration on Monday announced extension of the complete shutdown for seven more days, beginning May 31, considering the rising number of cases in the islands.

On the other hand, after a month-long lockdown imposed due to a surge in cases, markets reopened in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday as the process of partial unlock started in the UT, officials said.

According to new guidelines imposed by authorities on Sunday, shops have been allowed to open on alternate days. The public transport was allowed to ply at 50 per cent of the seating capacity in the Orange category districts, it remained shut in the Red category districts.

## ODISHA GOVT PREPARES FOR THIRD WAVE

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, MAY 31

The Odisha government has started its preparation to avoid any kind of eventualities during the much apprehended third wave of Covid-19.

According to state additional chief secretary (ACS) Pradipta Kumar Mohapatra, the state government was emphasising on strengthening medical facilities and ramping up tests to deal with the pandemic.

"Some experts have opined about the possible third wave of the pandemic. The state government is fully prepared for the situation. On an urgent basis, Oxygen PSA and liquid oxygen plants will be set up in all the district headquarters hospitals and medical colleges in the next two and half months. We will also set up more paediatric beds in the hospitals as children may be more vulnerable to the disease," Mohapatra informed on Monday.

The state government has also set a target to set up RT-PCR laboratories in each district headquarters hospitals to ramp up testing in next two months.

"The Odisha government has placed an order for 5,000 sachets of 2-DG (2-deoxy-D-glucose) anti-Covid drugs for the treatment of hospitalised Covid-19 patients. The anti-Covid medicine is claimed to help faster recovery of hospitalised patients and reduce Oxygen dependence. Hopefully the medicines will be delivered to the state on June 7-10," said Mohapatra.

He added that as many as 25 black fungus infected patients had been identified from the state so far. "Three of them have died. However, their death could be attributed to other reasons," he said.

The ACS informed that the test positivity rate in the state is currently at 14 per cent and hopefully the situation will improve in next 10 days as the peak of the second surge of the pandemic is already over.

## THE FRENCH CONNECTION

## France set to double Covid-related support to India

## India, France set up 'oxygen bridge'

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC  
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

France and India have "set up an oxygen bridge across the Indian Ocean to bring several rotations of liquid oxygen donated by French multinational Air Liquide", the French Embassy announced on Monday, adding that France is doubling the Covid-related support to India following a phone call between French President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week on May 26.

France said it was carrying out the largest solidarity operation undertaken by it so far since the beginning of the pandemic which "reflects the long-standing, two-way solidarity between France and



A shipment of 184 oxygen concentrators from Ukraine arrives in India. — PTI

India, which lies at the heart of our strategic partnership".

France also declared it would deliver at least twice as many oxygen generators plants as the eight already delivered earlier this month and that a special cargo flight with 10 such units would reach

India mid-June and that another flight would follow after that. The French Embassy pointed out that each of these French-made, high capacity plants produces 24,000 litres of oxygen per hour non-stop and can make a 250-bed Indian hospital oxygen self-reliant for a dozen

years. In a statement, the French Embassy in New Delhi said that on the directions of President Emmanuel Macron, France is bringing in additional support to India to continue fighting the second wave together. "France and India have set up an oxygen bridge across the Indian Ocean to bring several rotations of liquid oxygen donated by French multinational Air Liquide. The containers are filled in Qatar, shipped to India by the Indian Navy, and then brought back empty by the Indian Air Force for refilling. In the last three weeks, 180 tonnes of liquid oxygen has already reached Indian hospitals through this bridge. The rotations are now being extended until the end of June,

which will enable the delivery of several hundred tons of oxygen in total." It added that several hundred Oxygen concentrators as well as high-grade ventilators would reach India in the coming days. French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain, said, "as discussed between President Macron and Prime Minister Modi in their May 26 call, France is doubling its support to India against the pandemic. It shows the solidarity of the French people, who have not forgotten that India helped us when France faced its first wave. There cannot be global victory against the virus without India. Together, we can show the way of international cooperation against the pandemic and the need for a multilateral response."



SHORT TAKES

OVERLOADED JEEP  
PLUNGES INTO  
PAK RIVER, 9 DIE

**Peshawar, May 31:** Nine people have drowned after their overloaded jeep fell into the Yarkhoon River in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, according to a media report on Monday. The accident occurred on the Onauch Suspension Bridge, near Yarkhoon Valley, on Sunday, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The jeep began its journey with 11 people aboard, including the driver, from Chitral city to the Yarkhoon Valley.

Assistant Commissioner, Mastuj tehsil, Shah Adnan told the newspaper that the vehicle was overloaded with cargo tied to the roof, which could have caused the vehicle to lose balance on the bridge and break through its railing.

Of the 11 travellers in total, 10 persons died, while one managed to swim to safety.

Rescue teams are trying to retrieve the bodies from the sunk vehicle.

OZ MIN DROPS  
DEFAMATION SUIT  
OVER RAPE CLAIM

**Canberra, May 31:** An Australian government minister dropped his defamation lawsuit against *Australian Broadcasting Corp.* on Monday and committed to contest the next election as the state broadcaster acknowledged a 33-year-old rape allegation against him could not be substantiated.

Christian Porter, minister for industry, science and technology, and the *ABC* said the case had been settled under confidential terms without any damages being paid. Porter said he did not decide to sue to make money. The hurt and harm that the reporting of this matter has caused to my reputation, to my family, is beyond any form of compensation, Porter said.

Porter said he would absolutely run for re-election at general elections to be held within a year.

NZ, OZ PLAY  
DOWN CHINA  
DIFFERENCES

**Wellington, May 31:** New Zealand and Australia downplayed policy differences on China Monday, with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern denying Wellington was taking a soft stance on human rights to avoid offending its largest trading partner.

Ardern's government has taken flak over its meek criticisms of China's rights record, while Australia's more outspoken position has drawn punitive trade measures from Beijing. The centre-left New Zealand leader insisted the trans-Tasman allies were lock-step on attitudes towards China after holding talks with her Australian counterpart Scott Morrison in the South Island mountain retreat of Queenstown.

The pair issued a joint statement expressing "deep concern" at the erosion of freedoms in Hong Kong and the treatment of the Uyghur Muslim minority in China's Xinjiang province.

"You'll see that Australia and New Zealand have broadly been positioned in exactly the same place on these issues consistently," Ardern said. "So I really push back on any suggestion that we are not taking a strong stance on these incredibly important issues."

39 DEAD IN TWO  
ATTACKS IN  
DR CONGO

**Bunia, DR Congo, May 31:** At least 39 people have been killed in two new attacks in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, monitors said Monday, as a local official blamed a notorious group linked to the Islamic State group.

"At least 20 civilians were killed overnight in the village of Boga and at least 19 in the village of Tchabi," in Ituri territory in Ituri province, the Kivu Security Tracker (KST) group said.

A local civil society leader attributed the attacks to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) — a historically Ugandan Islamist group blamed for a string of massacres in the past 18 months.

Two local officials reached in Boga by *AFP* said the assailants attacked a camp for displaced people.

They said 36 bodies had been found so far in Boga, a figure that had yet to be independently confirmed.

The two villages are located about 10 kilometres (six miles) apart on the border between North Kivu province and Ituri, an area that has long had a reputation for ADF attacks and ethnic friction.

Jet's emergency  
landing after  
bomb 'threat'

**Warsaw, May 31:** Polish police said Monday they were investigating a fake bomb threat that forced a Ryanair passenger plane travelling from Dublin to Krakow to make an emergency landing in Berlin.

"We were notified by the Krakow airport that an airport employee received a phone call saying an explosive device had been planted on the plane," said regional police spokesman, Sebastian Glen.

"German police checked and there was no device, no bomb threat at all. So we know this was a false alarm," he said. "The perpetrator has not been detained, but we are doing everything possible to establish their identity," he added, saying the person

faces eight years in jail.

With 160 people on board, the flight arrived at the Berlin-Brandenburg airport shortly after 8:00 pm (1800 GMT) Sunday. The passengers were later transferred onto another plane which took off early Monday morning.

German police said that officers had completed their security checks "without any danger being detected". The flight was emptied with the baggage also searched, German media reported.

"The Ryanair plane that made an emergency landing reported an air emergency and was therefore immediately given a landing permit at BER," airport spokesman Jan-Peter Haack said. — *AFP*

TURKEY NABS  
U.S.-BASED  
CLERIC'S KIN

**Ankara, May 31:** Turkish agents have captured a nephew of US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen in an overseas operation and have brought him to Turkey where he faces prosecution, Turkey's state-run news agency said Monday.

Selahaddin Gulen, who was wanted in Turkey on charges of membership in a terror organisation, was seized in an operation by Turkey's national spy agency MIT, the *Anadolu Agency* reported. The report did not say where he was seized or when he was returned to Turkey.

Gulen's nephew however, was believed to be residing in Kenya. His case is the latest in a series of forced repatriation of people affiliated with Gulen's movement, which the Turkish government blames for a failed coup attempt in 2016.

Gulen, a former ally of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who now lives in exile in Pennsylvania, has rejected the accusations of involvement in the coup attempt.

Turkey has designated his network a terrorist group, which it has named the Fethullahist Terror Organization, or FETO. — *AP*

Media: US spied  
on Euro leaders  
with Danish help

**Copenhagen, May 31:** The US spied on top politicians in Europe, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, from 2012 to 2014 with the help of Danish intelligence, Danish and European media reported on Sunday.

Danish public broadcaster *Danmarks Radio (DR)* said the US National Security Agency (NSA) had eavesdropped on Danish internet cables to spy on top politicians and high-ranking officials in Germany, Sweden, Norway and France.

The NSA had taken advantage of a surveillance collaboration with Denmark's military intelligence unit FE to do so, it said.

Denmark's defence ministry has not responded to *AFP*'s requests for a comment. Defence Minister Trine Bramsen, who took over the defence portfolio in June 2019, was informed of the spying in August 2020, according to *DR*.

She told the broadcaster that "systematic eavesdropping of close allies is unacceptable". It was not clear whether Denmark authorised the US to use its surveillance system to spy on its neighbours.

*DR* revealed the information following an investigation it led together with Swedish broadcaster *SVT*, Norway's *NRK*, Germany's *NDR*, *WDR* and *Sddeutsche Zeitung*, and France's *Le Monde*.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, then-foreign minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and then-opposition leader Peer Steinbrück were among those the NSA had spied on, *DR* said.

The NSA was able to access SMS text messages, telephone calls, and internet traffic, including searches, chats and messaging services, *DR* said.

The spying was detailed in a secret, internal FE working group report codenamed "Operation Dunhammer" and presented to FE top management in May 2015, *DR* said. *DR* said its information came from nine different sources who had access to classified FE information, and said their revelations were independently confirmed by several sources.

Neither the FE nor its director at the time, Lars Findsen, commented immediately on the revelations. The US spying, if confirmed, was going on during and after the 2013 Snowden affair. — *AFP*

Chinese trio for 3-month  
stay in new space station

**Beijing, May 31:** China on Monday announced plans to send three male astronauts to its space station next month for a three-month stay, a day after the successful docking of a cargo spacecraft with it, hoping to achieve yet another milestone in its ambitious space programme.

The country launched cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-2 on Saturday, carrying supplies, equipment and propellant which had successfully docked with the space station core module Tianhe, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

Combined with Tianhe, Tianzhou-2 will replenish Tianhe's propellant, it said, China, which launched its space station core

module Tianhe on April 29, now plans to complete the verification of key technologies and the in-orbit construction of the space station through multiple launches within two years, state-run *Xinhua* news agency reported.

Yang Liwei, director of the China Manned Space Engineering Office and the country's first astronaut, said that the three astronauts are getting ready to travel by manned spacecraft Shenzhou-12 in June to dock with Tianhe and stay there for three months. Yang, who went into space in the Shenzhou-5 craft on October 15, 2003, told the state-run *China Central Television (CCTV)* during the weekend that the three astro-

Ageing society: China allows  
couples to have a third child

Leaders: Need to raise retirement age to keep more people in workforce

**Beijing, May 31:** China's ruling Communist Party said Monday it will ease birth limits to allow all couples to have three children instead of two in hopes of slowing the rapid ageing of its population, which is adding to strains on the economy and society.

The ruling party has enforced birth limits since 1980 to restrain population growth but worries the number of working-age people is falling too fast while the share over age 65 is rising. That threatens to disrupt its ambitions to transform China into a prosperous consumer society and global technology leader.

A ruling party meeting led by President Xi Jinping decided to

introduce "measures to actively deal with the aging population", the official *Xinhua* News Agency said. It said leaders agreed "implementing the policy of one couple can have three children and supporting measures are conducive to improving China's population structure."

Leaders also agreed China needs to raise its retirement age to keep more people in the workforce and improve pension and health services for the elderly, *Xinhua* said.

Restrictions that limited most couples to one child were eased in 2015 to allow two, but the total number of births fell further, suggesting rule changes on their own have little im-

● **RESTRICTIONS THAT limited most couples to one child were eased in 2015 to allow two, but the total number of births fell further.**

"Every stage of the problem hasn't been solved," said a post on the popular Sina Weibo blog service signed Tchaikovsky. "Who will raise the baby? Do you have time? I go out early and get back late. Kids don't know what their parents look like."

Another, signed Hyeongmook, joked bitterly: "Don't worry about aging. Our generation won't live long." China, along with Thailand and some other Asian economies, faces what economists call the challenge of whether they can get rich before they get old.

The Chinese population of 1.4 billion already was expected to peak later this decade and start to

decline. Census data released May 11 suggest that is happening faster than expected, adding to burdens on underfunded pension and health systems and cutting the number of future workers available to support a growing retiree group.

The share of working-age people 15 to 59 in the population fell to 63.3% last year from 70.1% a decade earlier. The group aged 65 and older grew to 13.5% from 8.9%.

The 12 million births reported last year was down nearly one-fifth from 2019. About 40% were second children, down from 50% in 2017, according to Ning Jizhe, a statistics official. — *AP*



In this photo released by Chris Allen, a car is abandoned in flooded waters in Ashburton Forks near Christchurch. Several hundred people were evacuated from their homes while others recounted helicopter rescues as heavy rain caused widespread flooding in the Canterbury region. — *Chris Allen via AP*

NZ floods: Hundreds evacuated

**Wellington, May 31:** Several hundred people in New Zealand were evacuated from their homes Monday with some recounting dramatic helicopter rescues as heavy rain caused widespread flooding in the Canterbury region.

Authorities declared a state of emergency after some places received as much as 40 centimetres (16 inches) of rain over the weekend and into Monday. Forecasters warned of possible heavy rain through Monday evening before conditions improved. The military helped evacuate more than 50 people, including several overnight in an NH-90 military helicopter.

One man was clinging to a tree near the town of Darfield when he jumped into floodwaters and tried to swim to safety but was swept away, the military said. Helicopter crews scoured the water for 30 minutes before finding the man and plucking him to safety. The military helicopter also rescued an elderly couple from the roof of their car.

"Seeing the community overnight pull together and support the displaced residents who were evacuated from their homes has been heartening," said Army Liaison Officer Cpt. Jake Faber. Another man was rescued by a civilian

helicopter pilot Sunday after he was swept from his farm as he tried to move his stock to safety. Paul Adams told news organisation *Stuff* he thinks he got hit by a wall of water he didn't see coming. He was swept down the raging Ashburton River before managing to drag himself onto a fence and then into a tree.

Another farmer spotted his headlamp and organised a rescue mission. "The rescuers are fantastic," Adams told *Stuff*, adding that he was now back on his farm and "good as gold". He said that so far he'd only found about 100 of his herd of 250 animals

alive. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who was visiting New Zealand, told reporters that he was thinking of those caught up in the floods. "Australia is no stranger to floods," Morrison said.

"Or fires, or cyclones, or, indeed, even mouse plagues. We have, both countries, endured a large amount of challenge over the course, particularly, of these last few years."

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern planned to travel to Christchurch later Monday to be briefed on the situation firsthand. — *AP*

Man accused of plotting  
Walmart attack arrested

**Kerrville (Texas), May 31:** Authorities in Texas arrested a man accused of plotting to carry out a mass shooting at a Walmart, and a search of the suspect's home turned up firearms, ammunition and materials officials described as radical ideology paraphernalia.

Coleman Thomas Blevins, 28, was arrested Friday in Kerrville and has been charged with making a terroristic threat to

create public fear of serious bodily injury, the Kerr County Sheriff's Office said in a news release.

Investigators said they intercepted a message from Blevins on Thursday indicating he was preparing to proceed with a mass shooting, and that the threat included Walmart. Blevins was taken into custody the next day.

Authorities searched his home and, according to the release, firearms,

ammunition, electronic evidence, concentrated THC, and radical ideology paraphernalia, including books, flags, and handwritten documents were seized.

Blevins is on felony probation and was not supposed to have guns, the release said. He was booked into the Kerr County Jail in Kerrville, a city about 70 miles (113 kilometers) northwest of San Antonio. — *AP*

LANKA QUIZZES  
BURNING CARGO  
SHIP CREW

**Negombo, Sri Lanka, May 31:** Sri Lanka's criminal investigators began questioning the crew of a burning cargo ship Monday, as the Singapore-registered carrier smouldered for a 12th straight day in one of the island's worst-ever marine ecological disasters.

A fire broke out aboard the MV X-Press Pearl, which was carrying 25 tonnes of nitric acid and a huge amount of plastic raw materials, as it was about to enter Colombo harbour on May 20.

The intense flames, still burning at the rear of the 186-metre (610-foot) vessel, have destroyed much of the cargo, some of which has fallen into the Indian Ocean.

Tonnes of microplastic granules from the ship and its nearly 1,500 containers have inundated Sri Lanka's famed beaches, forcing a fishing ban and sparking fears of ecological devastation.

The Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) chief Dharshani Lahandapura said they were still assessing the ecological damage, but believed it was the "worst ever in my lifetime". — *AP*

Some churches recognise 13 congregations that operated in Greenwood

Pastors honour 'ground' 100 yrs after massacre

**Tulsa (US), May 31:** When white attackers destroyed the prosperous PoC neighbourhood of Greenwood 100 years ago, they bypassed the original sanctuary of the First Baptist Church of North Tulsa.

By the church's own account, the attackers thought the brick veneer structure was too fine for a PoC-owned church. The mob destroyed at least a half-dozen other churches while burning and levelling a 35-square-block neighbourhood in one of the nation's deadliest spasms of racist violence. Estimates of the death toll range from dozens to 300.

On Sunday, First Baptist's current sanctuary thrived with a high-decibel service as six congregations gathered to mark the centennial of the massacre and to honour the persistence of the PoC church tradition in Greenwood, as shown in the pulsing worship, call-and-response preaching and heavy emphasis on social justice.

Greenwood is holy ground,

said the Rev. John Faison of Nashville, Tennessee, who preached at the service and is assistant to the bishop of social action for the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship.

He said the centennial both honours the victims of the massacre and celebrates the resilience and the resurgence of an amazing people of God. Similar commemorations took place at many houses of worship throughout Tulsa and across Oklahoma on Sunday, a day ahead of the

official centennial dates. More civic activities are planned for Monday and Tuesday, including a candlelight vigil and a visit by President Joe Biden.

The commission that organised the centennial designated Sunday as Unity Faith Day and provided a suggested worship guide that each congregation could adapt, including scriptures, prayers and the singing of *Amazing Grace*.

Particularly at historically PoC churches, speakers emphasised a call for financial reparations both for the few centenarian survivors of the massacre and for the wider, economically struggling North Tulsa area, where the city's PoC population is largely concentrated.

The main problem is that our nation is always trying to have reconciliation without doing justice, Faison said. Until repentance and repair are seen as inseparable, any attempt to reconcile will fail miserably.

The Rev Robert Turner, pastor of nearby Vernon

church, said the church's role is to bring healing and reconciliation to the community. He said the church's role is to bring healing and reconciliation to the community. He said the church's role is to bring healing and reconciliation to the community.

church, said the church's role is to bring healing and reconciliation to the community. He said the church's role is to bring healing and reconciliation to the community.

church, said the church's role is to bring healing and reconciliation to the community. He said the church's role is to bring healing and reconciliation to the community.



## DECCAN Chronicle

1 JUNE 2021

### Propaganda fails in face of Covid crisis

In the aftermath of the suffering caused by the second wave of Covid, Prime Minister Narendra Modi might have been expected to apply balm in his monthly 'Mann ki baat' radio programme last Sunday even as he exhorted the nation to put fight together against the deadly virus. Instead, he chose to be propagandistic, as usual bombastic, diversionary, and for the most part irrelevant to the context of the present day. He was anything but contrite. In this respect, the PM's approach was fundamentally at odds with the propaganda ploy that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat laid out for him in order to win the trust of the country in these most trying of circumstances.

The RSS leader had commenced his address, winding up the four-day long "Positivity Unbounded" sessions promoted by his outfit, with words that expressed sorrow at the nation-wide tragedy that unfolded before us. He then held the "people" responsible (presumably for being careless about Covid protocols), and also the administration and "the government". Only after pointing fingers did Mr Bhagwat speak of the need for "collective effort" to overcome the crisis. After this pep talk, it was evident that the RSS-BJP cadres across the country would fan out to apply the healing touch and engage in "sewa" or service. BJP president J. P. Nadda directed his party "not to celebrate" two years of the second Modi government but to throw themselves into the field to help those in need. Such exhortation is important when the "sewa" is meant to yield future electoral and political benefits. But the leader of the government did little more than self-promotion in his nationwide address last Sunday.

Showing scant sense of occasion, Mr Modi spoke of rural electricity connections, infrastructure, financial inclusion, availability of domestic water connections, "new confidence of peace and development" from the northeast to J&K, better farm yields in the year. He spoke of giving a "befitting reply(sic) to those who conspire against us" and not compromising on national security. This in fact appears out of line as even now Chinese soldiers remain parked deep inside our side of our perceived boundary. As distinct from Mr. Bhagwat and Mr Nadda, he was clearly grandstanding on the second anniversary of his second term. Few governments in a democracy might venture to do that.

In the backdrop of the severe shortage of medical oxygen which brought forth unprecedented scenes of suffering on a magnified national scale, eliciting the pity of the world, the PM boasted that India was now producing ten times the oxygen than it does in normal times. He did not pause to reflect that the grave crisis was self-inflicted as official recommendations regarding enhancing oxygen supply were consistently disregarded for more than a year. The PM cited offering free food grains to 800 million poor people as a signal achievement. For May and June this year, the additional amount of five kilograms per month — made necessary by utter economic dislocation and job losses — amounts to roughly ₹32/ per head—and there are no pulses in this pack, only rice or wheat. This alas is the real measure of Modi's India. Is there much to write home about?

### Tejpal case: Don't judge victims

The Goa government's decision to appeal against a palpably poor judgment acquitting Tarun Tejpal of rape and pressing for an early hearing in the Bombay high court is to be welcomed. The verdict, delivered by a woman judge, was shockingly stereotypical of warped thinking that it went beyond being just bad in law. This was a clear instance of victim shaming as the complainant was described in the judgment as "smiling and looked happy, normal, in good mood," in photographs taken shortly after the alleged assault. The tone was accusatory as the judge recorded - "She did not look disturbed, reserved, terrified or traumatised in any way even though this was immediately after she claims to have been sexually assaulted."

The investigation itself may have been shoddy, too long drawn and the prosecution apparently not competent in arguing against a defence typically loaded against victims and exonerating those accused of rape. In the aftermath of the Nirbhaya gang rape, the laws were rewritten in 2013 to specify that failure to physically resist was not evidence of consent. What does not get ready recognition is that sexual harassment, which can work at various levels, can go beyond physical molestation and that a woman could be at the mercy of the power and domination of a man who is her superior at work.

In a male-dominated society misogynistic rulings are not rare. But this verdict went well beyond misogyny, straying often as it did into slander. There have been any number of rulings by the top court stating clearly that assumptions or facts about a woman's sexual history or character are not relevant. The standard of proof needed in a rape case, with the burden of proof devolving mostly upon the victim, is extremely high, which is why many may be getting away. The day a sexual harasser is punished for his intention as revealed in circumstantial evidence will represent true emancipation of women who are invariably at the receiving end. And that is when more victims will come forward to complain against sexual assaults.

#### DECCAN CHRONICLE

**KAUSHIK MITTER**  
Editor

**K. SUDHAKAR**  
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

**Hyderabad:** 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax : 040-27805256  
**Vijayawada:** No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234

**Visakhapatnam:** Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285  
**Rajahmundry:** Vemagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208

**Anantapur:** Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904

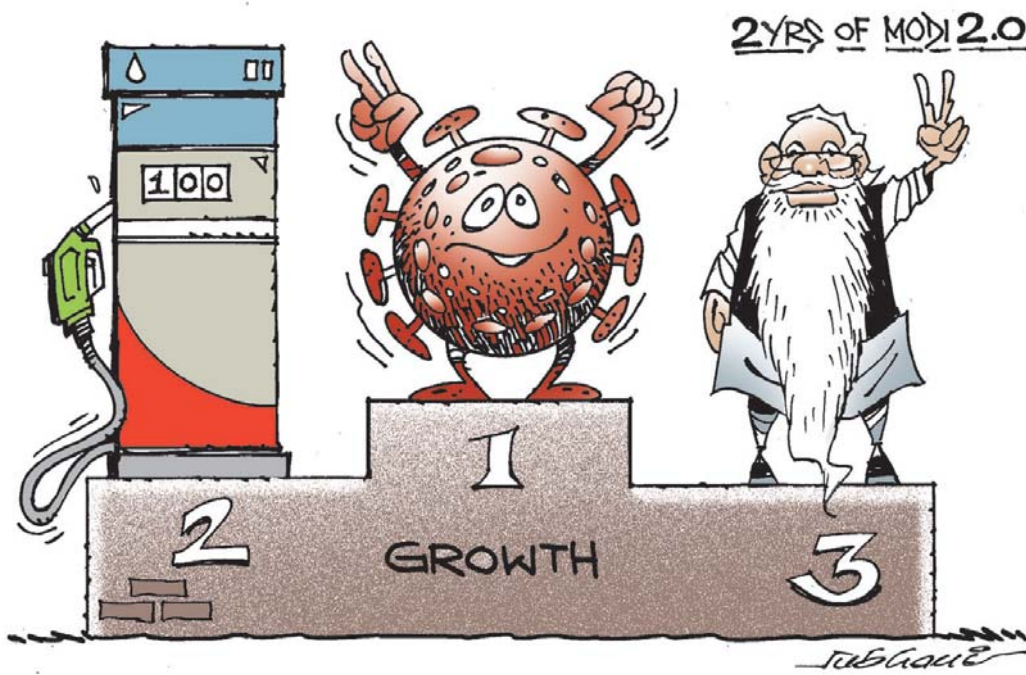
**Karimnagar:** Survey No.1341, Vavilapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433

**Nellore:** Survey No.527/2, Burranpur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chermudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580

**Chennai:** SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254747/ 48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325

**Coimbatore:** 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255  
Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

Subhani



## To improve India's image, govt needs a reality check



K.C. Singh

External affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar's five-day visit to the United States needs closer examination, not for what was publicly articulated but their real intentions. In the middle of the raging second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in India, the considerations must have been really weighty.

US secretary of state Antony J. Blinken tweeted that the two leaders had a productive discussion on "regional security and economic priorities to include Covid-19 relief efforts, the India-China border situation and our support for Afghanistan". The tweet ended by saying that as friends the two nations will address these "areas of shared concern". US national security adviser Jake Sullivan, who also met Mr Jaishankar, emphasised people-to-people contacts and shared values as the foundation of the US-India partnership, and finally listed three issues: "pandemic elimination, leading on climate change and support for an open and free Indo-Pacific". The emphasis on Covid-19 by both close advisers to President Joe Biden assumes significance. The rest are only a reiteration of the usual subjects on the US agenda, including China.

President Biden's foreign policy priorities, as adumbrated from the start of his presidency, are: China, climate change, US withdrawal from Afghanistan despite a paltry face-saver and reaffirmation of the trans-Atlantic alliance. Now, the Israel-Palestine standoff has got added due to the sudden outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East. Mr Blinken not even being in Washington for much of Mr Jaishankar's stay in the US capital underscores the sudden importance of the Mideast crisis. They met literally on the last day of Mr Jaishankar's visit.

Mr Jaishankar in turn

described his meeting with Mr Blinken as having "further solidified our strategic partnership and enlarged our agenda of cooperation". Ignoring the usual hyperbole, it's unclear how the agenda has "enlarged" when all the issues are old. India has been cautious to prioritise, keeping in mind the need not to provoke China, while working with the US and its partners in the four-nation Quad and carefully balancing India's traditional ties with Russia with closer US engagement. Mr Jaishankar also met the defence secretary, US trade representative and congressional leaders, but there was no contact with either President Biden, who has been known to "drop by" when key ministers are at the White House to meet the NSA, or Indian-origin vice-president Kamala Devi Harris, with whom Mr Jaishankar has had differences during the Trump presidency over India's handling of Kashmir.

What then was the real purpose behind the visit, as indeed its timing? Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government have been on the backfoot since the BJP's embarrassing defeat in West Bengal and the Covid-19 second wave, which the government clearly did not foresee or simply ignored despite warnings. To Mr Modi's consternation, he has also lost face internationally, damaging his carefully nursed post-Godhra image as a statesman. The government seriously erred in resting its Covid handling strategy on the premise that neither the Kumbh Mela nor the endless election rallies would exacerbate the lingering pandemic. The vaccination strategy was tailored to this assumption, with increased vaccine supply, treble the current production capacity of the two indigenous manufacturers, becoming available only after August. The aim was to

ratchet up the daily vaccination rate in the period September-December to 10 million jabs a day, to in theory vaccinate the entire 45-plus and bulk of the over-18 population before the Uttar Pradesh election in February next year.

This tendency to have even our health policy bend to electoral priorities rather than medical science has proven disastrous. A C-Voter survey indicates that for the first time since the PM assumed office seven years ago those dissatisfied with his performance exceed those who are satisfied. With pictures of overflowing cremation grounds and even bodies dumped in the Ganga or buried along its banks, and the international media carrying those pictures on their front pages, the government's immediate need was twofold — get an emergency supply of vaccines to bridge the gap till September and mend the Prime Minister's shattered image.

Mr Jaishankar began his visit to address these two issues in particular. But instead of facing the editorial boards of major newspapers like the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, he chose the easier option of a calibrated chat at a think tank to answer the critics of his government. Unlike someone like late PM Atal Behari Vajpayee who would have allowed an urbane Jaswant Singh leeway to meet the media halfway to allay their concerns, Mr Jaishankar simply dug in stubbornly.

He went on the offensive on the Modi government being portrayed in a "certain way". In a tweet I asked if the minister understood whether this "way" was actually the media simply speaking truth to power? Which is their right, if not their

**In the coming days, America's willingness to bail out India will be known. Global Times, is taunting that Mr Jaishankar's US visit was just "fanfare" and "blank checks".**

duty, in a democracy. The US state department released its 2020 Report on Religious Freedom on May 12, as the BJP-appointed administrator of Lakshadweep was busy imposing the Hindutva agenda on the Muslim-majority islands.

The minister may pummel the Indian media all he wants, but such actions bring international focus back on whether India under today's BJP any longer shares "values" with the US?

Mr Jaishankar's other agenda item was the emergency procurement of vaccines, out of the 80 million doses the US promised to release for international use. Two hurdles are in the way.

One, some AstraZeneca stock is feared contaminated during production and thus needs an audit. Two, the US may not divert the bulk to one nation, to maintain equity and its image. Interestingly, not a word was heard about the US pressing for a waiver at the World Trade Organisation on intellectual property.

In the coming days, America's willingness to bail out India will be known. *Global Times*, the Chinese government's English mouthpiece, is taunting that Mr Jaishankar's US visit was just "fanfare" and "blank checks".

The US will help but may extract greater alignment with its interests in the Indo-Pacific against China, on climate change and trade.

It may also force India to curtail its Russian arms purchases, especially the S-400 missile system. The US would also want India to not rock the boat in Afghanistan and meet Pakistan halfway on Kashmir. Meanwhile, the US is silent on restoring the Generalised System of Preferences, revoked by President Trump. Thus, the vaccines may come at a strategic cost, as global hegemony don't run charities. Mr Modi's image is another matter, to recover which he needs more than aggressive wolf ministers. He needs a reality check.

*The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh.*

#### LETTERS

##### LOCKDOWN RELIEF

We are relieved to get seven hours of relaxation window in lockdown (*TS lockdown for 10 more days, relaxation till 1 pm, DC, May 31*). Extra one-hour grace period to enable people reach home is leniency during lockdown. However, the common man having to bear the brunt for 10 more days without relief from the state is unwarranted.

**Adnan Ahmed Khan**  
*Hyderabad*

##### VACCINATION FOR ALL

Jabs for all Indians by year-end is easier said than done. Why do the ministers not say how many got one jab and how many two out of the 1.4 billion population? Let the Union health minister who is stoically silent make such claims.

**Thomas K.E.**  
*Hyderabad*

It is sad that after nearly five months, the government has vaccinated only a tiny section of the population. It is important the government seek support of private hospitals. When RWAs and corporates are tying up with hospitals, why is the government barring hotels from offering a vaccine package?

**N. Nagarajan**  
*Hyderabad*

##### SALE OF PRIME LANDS

Drastic times call for drastic measures. The decision of the state government to auction certain prime lands for funding welfare schemes is indeed brave. The inability of the Centre to disburse adequate funds to states is strange. Hence, self-help is the best help for the state in the given circumstances.

**P.H. Hema Sagar**

#### 50 YEARS AGO IN

### DECCAN Chronicle

#### Australian wheat for India

NEW DELHI, MAY 31.

Australia has given India 65,000 metric tons of wheat worth Rs. 2.85 crores. The rupee value of the wheat will be applied to the financing of development projects mutually agreed to by the two Governments.

This was formalised today in an exchange of letters between the Australian High Commissioner: Patrick Shaw, and the Secretary of the Department of Economic affairs I.G. Patel.

The wheat has already been shipped to India.

Pervez Hoodbhoy



### Why are Arabs powerless? It's not guns; ideas rule the world

FOR a terrible 11 days in May, the world watched hellfire rain upon the world's largest open-air prison camp, otherwise known as Gaza. The dazed, bleeding survivors crawling out of the rubble of collapsed buildings have experienced this before. Everyone knows this tragedy will repeat. In faraway Arab cities, people glumly watched the unhindered, televised bombing by Israeli jets. But the most they could manage was a few toothless resolutions and a few impotent slogan-chanting demonstrations trampling upon the Israeli flag.

What makes Israel with nine million people a Goliath of biblical proportions? Equally, notwithstanding their fabulous oil wealth, why are 427 million Arabs the pygmies of international politics? Before Israel — which has almost zero natural resources — the Arab kings and sheikhs can only bow their heads.

Blame the West if you want and, in particular, America. Indeed, from 2000-2019 armaments supplied to Israel by the Western powers (US, UK, France, Spain, Germany) are documented at a

hefty \$9.6 billion. But within that 20-year period the same document shows this amount is dwarfed by arms sold by the same suppliers to Saudi Arabia (\$29.3bn), UAE (\$20.1bn), Egypt (\$17.5bn), Iraq (\$9.1bn), and Qatar (\$6bn). And yet these expensive weapons will provide little protection if Israel ever chooses to attack the Arab lands again. While the nine-country Saudi-led coalition has created a humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen, it is failing dismally against the ragtag Iran-supported Houthis forces.

Okay, so then let's blame Palestine's ill-fortune upon Arab disunity. There's truth in this: Arabs are indeed bitterly divided. But when were they not? From about AD-634 to AD-750 is the only period in history when they stood together. Then, after Nasser won the Suez War against Britain, Arabs united again for a brief, euphoric moment. But this unity did nothing to avert their crushing defeat in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, that which forever changed borders. And while friends and activists for Palestine would love to see Fatah and Hamas patch up their differences, doing so will not change things funda-

mentally. The secret of Israel's strength is not hidden in its weaponry. Instead, this still-expanding and still-colonising apartheid settler state uses the same magic that enabled just a handful of 18th-century Englishmen to colonise the entire Indian subcontinent.

That weapon was a system of organised thought based upon a rational and secular approach to life, a modern system of justice, and a new set of social relations. This was sustained and enhanced by Enlightenment-era education that de-emphasised rote learning of the scriptures, was this-worldly and future-oriented, and which focused upon problem-solving skills using systematic, scientific thinking.

In a nutshell, imperialist conquests showed that brains would rule over brawn: a stark truth that got still starker with time. But where are brains produced? Obviously in the womb but it's in schools, colleges and universities where minds are shaped and sharpened. Hence, these days everyone and their uncle rush to one single conclusion: fix education and this will level the playing field, greatly diminishing or perhaps ending the inequalities of

power. That's so much easier said than done. To have buildings and classrooms with teachers is one thing but to coax the potential out of a student is altogether different. With their vast wealth, Arab countries have built impressive university campuses with well-equipped laboratories and well-stocked libraries. They have even imported professors from America and Europe. Yet, the needle has barely flickered so far. That's because attitudes towards learning take forever to change; and only if they are somehow forced to change. Pakistan follows the Arab model as best as it can, and no university has a bookshop, a centre for students that hums with open debate and discussion, or a theatre where classic movies are screened. Looking for a philosopher or a high-grade pure mathematician will be in vain. For 20 years, papers and PhDs have been churned out at a frantic rate. But I suspect many of the country's "distinguished national professors" with hundreds of research publications would be judged unfit to teach in a high-end Israeli high school for lack of scholarship.

The problem is not genetics — Arabs

have a brilliant past and may be just as smart as Ashkenazi Israelis. But the two groups have different attitudes towards success and different role models. The Ashkenazi child wants to be Albert Einstein, Niels Bohr, John von Neumann, George Wald, Paul Samuelson, Gertrude Elion, Ralph Lauren, George Soros, or a thousand other such names that fill textbooks on physics, philosophy, technology, medicine, and business. Compare this with the Arab boy who wants to be Salahuddin Ayubi. We live in a cruel world which, of course, we must try our best to make less cruel and more humane. But making a socially just world requires much more than condemning oppressors and crying with the oppressed. Instead, the weak must be made stronger. That strength does not derive from oil or nuclear bombs. Instead, it springs from the human brain, but only when that superb gift of nature is appropriately tutored and trained within a system of secular values that cherishes and rewards logical thinking, questioning and creativity.

*By arrangement with Dawn*



## quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	51,937.44	1.00
Nifty 50	15,582.80	0.95
S&P 500*	4,204.11	0.08
Dollar (₹)	72.62	0.24
Pound Sterling (₹)	102.93	0.18
Euro (₹)	88.49	0.23
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,860▲318	0.66
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	69.22	0.73
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.022	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.581	0.00

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Global tax deal unlikely till Oct, says OECD official

A full global deal to overhaul taxation rules and make multinationals pay more in countries where they operate may not be achieved until October, the chief of the OECD said on Monday. Speaking in Paris, Angel Gurría said a “180-degree change in the position of the United States” has accelerated the talks, making an outline of a deal possible at a meeting of G20 finance officials in July.

## BMW drives in X7 M50d Dark Shadow edition



BMW Group India on Monday said it has launched X7 M50d ‘Dark Shadow’ Edition in the country priced at ₹2.02 crore (ex-showroom). The model comes to India as a completely built-up unit and only be available for booking at the company’s website. “The BMW X7 is a statement of the luxury class. It opens up a brand-new dimension in luxurious driving pleasure,” said BMW Group India President Vikram Pawah.

## Monetisation to gather pace in road sector: Crisil

Asset monetisation in the roads sector will see an acceleration as EPC companies in this space pursue growth and is also aided by various government initiatives, domestic rating agency Crisil said on Monday. It said that the healthy order book position of the road EPC companies, which stands at over three times revenue at present, is expected to improve further supported by new project awarding momentum.

## Cognizant set to expand vaccine centres for staff

Cognizant on Monday said that it will spend \$8.5 million for Covid relief funding to vaccinate more than 6.5 lakh associates, their families, support teams. The company said its vaccination drive for associates and families, which was launched in Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Gurgaon, has been expanded to 100 vaccination centres across 40 cities. The company said it will cover the costs of vaccines.



## Control on expenses beat Covid blues Listed firms post superlative profits

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, MAY 31

Listed companies, which have already published their results, have registered more than a 200 per cent growth in profits in the March 2021 quarter following a tighter control on expenditure. This would be the third consecutive quarter of superlative profits, according to CMIE.

The companies grew their top-line by 14.7 per cent in the March 2021 quarter against the same quarter last year. But net profits expanded by 212.4 per cent. In the March 2021 quarter, 935 companies have booked a profit of ₹1.58 lakh crore.

The companies managed to book superlative profits because of higher growth in profit margin. Compared to a 0.2 per cent profit margin in the March 2020 quarter, the companies managed to clock a 10.8 per cent margin in the March 2021 quarter, the highest rise in recent years.

In the March 2021 quarter, financial services companies saw a 2.1 per cent increase in the topline and a 2.1 per cent fall in total expenses as a result, net profits expanded by 65 per cent.

In the same quarter, non-finance companies saw topline expand by 18.6 per cent and total expenses grow by a much lower 8.9 per cent. As a result, net profits grew by 295 per cent. The share of non-



finance companies in total profits of the corporate sector increased from 73 per cent in the quarter ended September 2020 to 78 per cent in the quarter ended March 2021.

Further, the companies controlled expenses in spite of a significant increase in raw material costs. In the March 2021 quarter, non-finance companies saw their topline grow well. But, this growth was accompanied by an increase in raw material costs. However, a tighter control on other costs delivered high profits during the quarter.

Manufacturing companies recorded a 22.9 per cent increase in net sales during the quarter ended March 2021. Growth in raw material expenses was close at 18.6 per cent. But the companies kept other expenses in much greater control. Wages grew by 10.3 per cent and

other expenses shrunk by 1.8 per cent. Overall operating costs of manufacturing companies grew by 11.9 per cent although raw material expenses grew by 18.6 per cent. Further, interest costs declined by 20.2 per cent. The much lower growth in or shrinking of costs of manufacturing companies helped them see a 610 per cent increase in profits.

“Nearly three-fourths of the listed companies are yet to declare their financial performance during the March 2021 quarter. These companies collectively made profits of about ₹25,000 crore in the September and the December 2020 quarter each. Assuming similar orders of magnitude to continue, total profits by listed companies could touch ₹1.8 trillion in the March 2021 quarter,” said Mahesh Vyas, the chief executive officer of CMIE.

## EPFO allows 2nd PF advance now

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, MAY 31

Keeping in view the raging second wave of the pandemic, the labour ministry on Monday said that the members of Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) can now avail a second non-refundable advance from their EPF accounts. Earlier, there was only a one-time advance available for the EPF members.

The decision comes at a time when the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic has made the financial position of many employees precarious and more difficult than the first wave.

“In such trying times, EPFO endeavours to lend a helping hand to its members by meeting their financial needs. The members, who have already availed of the first Covid-19 advance, can now opt for a second advance also. The provision and process for the withdrawal of the second Covid-19 advance are the same as in the case of the first advance,” the ministry said in a statement.

“Under this provision, non-refundable withdrawal to the extent of the basic wages and dearness allowances for three months or up to 75 per cent of the amount standing to member’s credit in the EPF account, whichever is less, is provided,” EPFO said.

“Under this provision, non-refundable withdrawal to the extent of the basic wages and dearness allowances for three months or up to 75 per cent of the amount standing to member’s credit in the EPF account, whichever is less, is provided. The members can apply for a lesser amount also,” it added.

“The Covid-19 advance has been a great help to the EPF members during the pandemic, especially for those having monthly wages of less than Rs 15,000. As on date, EPFO has settled more than 76.31 lakh Covid-19 advance claims thereby disbursing a total of ₹18,698.15 crore,” it added.

NEW | WORLD

## Work-from-home and study-from-home spiked gadget demand

## Chip shortage to ease in two years, says Intel CEO

New Delhi, May 31: Global chip maker Intel on Monday said it could take a couple of years to address the supply shortage in the semiconductor ecosystem that is witnessing huge demand for tech products, accelerated by the Covid pandemic.

Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger noted that the work and study-from-home trends during the Covid-19 pandemic have led to a “cycle of explosive growth in semiconductors” that has placed huge strain on global supply chains around the world.

“We have been working diligently with our partners... to address constraints and increase output to meet demand, and we are acting to help



ensure capacity to meet the world’s needs for this new era... But, while the industry has taken steps to address near-term constraints, it could still take a couple of years for the ecosystem to address shortages of foundry capacity, substrates and components,” he said at a

virtual session at the Computex event.

He stated that the company has doubled its internal wafer capacity in the past four years, and that it is driving a collaborative approach to help the supply chain.

Semiconductors play a crucial role in every-

Since we are in an uncharted territory, there is no historic level to consider as a next resistance, but taking a few ratios into consideration, there is no major level visible before the magical figure of 16,000 for the Nifty-50

— SAMEET CHAVAN Analyst, Angel Broking

May to over 1.52 lakh cases last Sunday, according to equity market analysts.

“The Nifty rose for the seventh consecutive session reaching and closing at fresh record highs. It has closed the month of May with a 6.5 per cent gain almost matching the February gains. The con-

tribution to this rise was broad-based on May 31,” said Deepak Jasani, head-Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

The top five gainers on the Nifty-50 were JSW Steel (3.25 per cent), ICICI Bank (3.00 per cent), Reliance Industries (2.80 per cent), Bharti Airtel (2.36 per cent), and Tata Steel (2.13 per cent).

On Monday, the last day of the month of May, foreign portfolio investors turned net buyers by ₹2,412 crore, while the domestic institutions also purchased shares worth Rs 179.78 crore.

Overall FPIs were net sellers in May but the latter half of the month saw an aggressive buying as the dramatic rise in Covid during the first half was followed by a

steep decline. “Bulls discarded the myth ‘Sell in May and go away,’” said Angel Broking.

“Since we are in an uncharted territory, there is no historic level to consider as a next resistance, but taking a few ratios into consideration, there is no major level visible before the magical figure of 16,000 for the Nifty-50,” said Sameet Chavan, analyst, technical and derivatives at Angel Broking.

PNB Housing Finance board approved a capital raise proposal of ₹4,000 crore led by the international private equity firm Carlyle and as the exchanges were informed, the PNB Housing Finance stock hit the 20 per cent upper circuit and closed up 19.99 per cent.

## Real estate sector’s size to hit \$1 trillion by 2030: Official

New Delhi, May 31: The size of real estate sector is projected to cross \$1 trillion by 2030, housing and urban affairs secretary Durga Shanker Mishra said on Monday.

“In 2019-20, real estate sector contributed nearly seven per cent to our GDP. Its total contribution was to the tune of \$200 billion to our GDP... And projections are that by 2030 this number is going to cross \$1 trillion,” Mishra said.

He also noted that real estate is an important sector for the economy with around 11 per share in the total employment numbers.

The secretary was speaking at a virtual event to launch Housing Price Index, created by realty portal Housing.com and Indian School of Business (ISB) in association with industry body NAREDCO.

“By 2030, when we are projecting our economy to go up to \$10 trillion, nearly 10 per cent of that will come from the real estate sector itself,” he added.

Mishra said the sector is also very important from the point of view of employment and high-



lighted that out of 50 crore jobs, real estate provides 5.5 crore employment opportunities.

The secretary said the real estate sector has transformed in the last seven years and implementation of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, popularly known as RERA, has played an important part in making a paradigm change.

He said the central law has already been implemented across all states/UTs, except West Bengal and Nagaland.

Mishra said a large number of real estate projects and property brokers are registered under RERA.

The government has taken various measures in the Budget of last seven years to spur growth in the real estate sector, he added.

“Every Budget has some announcement for real estate sector.”

The secretary emphasised on having robust digital platforms for smooth and transparent real estate buying-selling process.

Mishra said he had asked CREDAI and NAREDCO, the two major associations for real estate, to create a digital platform for real estate, similar to Amazon, and some progress has been made in this regard. — PTI

## Core sectors grow 56% in April over low base effect

FC BUREAU NEW DELHI, MAY 31

On the back of a low-base effect, eight core sector industries in the country registered a 56 per cent growth in April 2021, according to the government official data released on Monday.

The eight infrastructure sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity — had contracted by 37.9 per cent because of the national lockdown imposed by the government in April 2020.



The data, however, showed that the sequential decline in core sector output stood at 15 per cent in April on account of the second wave of the virus.

“This high growth rate in April 2021 is largely due to low index base in April 2020 consequent to the low industrial production across all sectors caused

by the nationwide lockdown imposed to contain the spread of Covid-19 last year. The month-over-month production of eight core industries, as captured by ICI, declined by 15.1 per cent (P) in April 2021 compared to March 2021(P) due to the emergence of the second wave of infectious Covid-19,” the official data said.

The RBI in its annual report also acknowledged the impact of the second wave on the economic recovery process. However, it said that the impact may not be as harsh as in the first wave.



## MUTUAL FUNDS TAKE ETF, INDEX FUND ROUTE TO SKIP SEBI RULE

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, MAY 31

More and more mutual fund houses are now taking exchange-traded fund (ETF) and index fund routes to launch new products ever since market regulator Sebi decided to link the salaries of the fund house staff to the performance of the funds that they manage.

However, ETFs, index funds, overnight funds and existing close-ended schemes are exempted from this rule.

Out of a total of 25 draft offer documents that Sebi received in the month of May, 13 are either exchange traded funds or index funds and close to half a dozen ETFs and index funds have already hit the market since the Sebi circular was issued.

Kotak Mutual Fund on Monday announced the launch of Kotak Nifty 50 Index Fund — a large-cap index fund based on the popular Nifty-50 Index.

“This fund will invest in 50 large-cap companies represented in the Nifty 50 index in the same weight,” Kotak Mutual Fund said.

The NFO opens on May 31 and closes on June 14, 2021. A similar new fund offer launched by Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund called Aditya Birla Sun Life Nifty 50 Equal Weight index Fund opened for subscription on May 19 and closes on June 2, 2021.

## CAPGEMINI TO USE ERICSSON’S SOLUTIONS FOR 5G LAB IN INDIA

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MAY 31

Capgemini on Monday said that it has tied up with Ericsson to accelerate the deployment of 5G solutions.

As part of this collaboration, the company has deployed Ericsson’s 5G Industry Connect solution at its 5G Lab in Mumbai which will enable industry innovation, experimentation and deployment of 5G and Edge technologies for clients across industries.

According to Ashwin Yardi, CEO, India, at Capgemini: “The Capgemini 5G Lab offers a ‘ready to use’ platform for our customers to ideate, innovate and deploy use cases as they adopt new technologies which will enable them to accelerate their digital transformation journey towards Intelligent Industry.”

— PTI



## SHORT TAKES

## Zidane criticises Real in open letter

**Madrid:** Zinedine Zidane resigned as Real Madrid coach because he felt the Spanish club no longer had any confidence in him, he wrote in an open letter on Monday. "I'm leaving because I feel the club no longer has the faith in me I need, and doesn't offer me the support to build something in the medium or long term," the Frenchman wrote in the letter published in the daily AS. "I am a born winner and I was here to win trophies, but beyond this there are human beings, emotions, life and I have the feeling that these things have not been valued, that it has not been understood that this is also how the dynamic of a great club is maintained. But everything I built on a daily basis, what I brought to the relationship with the players... Has been forgotten," he said.

— AFP

## Barca sign up Aguero from City

**Barcelona:** Barcelona announced on Monday that they had agreed to sign Sergio Aguero on a deal until 2023, after the Argentina forward quit Manchester City following a decade at the Premier League club. In a statement, Barca said that Aguero will become their player once his contract with Manchester City expires at the end of next month, adding that there is a buy-out clause "set at 100 million euros (\$122 million)".

The 32-year-old's signing for Barca comes two days after he missed out on winning the Champions League with City, Pep Guardiola's side losing this season's final to Chelsea. His final appearance for City was as a substitute for Raheem Sterling late in the final in Porto as the newly-crowned Premier League champions tried in vain to win Europe's top prize for the first time. — AFP

## Draw vs Qatar not my best: Sandhu

**Doha:** India goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu says the memorable goalless draw against Asian champions Qatar, in the FIFA World Cup qualifier in September 2019, is not his greatest performance till date. According to him, he has performed his best, surprisingly, in a 0-4 loss to Iran in a 2018 World Cup qualifier at a packed Azadi Stadium in Tehran, and during a match against China in China.

"Almost everyone I speak to always makes me remember about the Qatar match. But if you ask me, that isn't my best performance so far. I understand that in the Qatar match, we got a result — and hence, it will always stay a highlight," Gurpreet told the All India Football Federation. — PTI

## Gopi, Sindhu bat for youth health

**Hyderabad:** National badminton coach Pullela Gopichand and world champion P. V. Sindhu pledged to protect the youth of the country from the menace of tobacco products on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day on Monday. "Tobacco use not only harms our health but it is also a threat to the health of our friends and family. Additionally, tobacco users also have a greater risk of developing severe cases of Covid-19. I want all of you to break free from dependence on tobacco and stay healthy. Commit to quit," Sindhu said. "Let us all take a pledge to ensure that we stop the usage of tobacco for a healthy living," Gopi added.

## Suns bounce back to level series

**Los Angeles:** Chris Paul overcame an injured shoulder and Jae Crowder busted out of a playoff slump on Sunday as the Phoenix Suns took a 100-92 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers, who lost Anthony Davis to another injury. Paul had 18 points and nine assists, while Crowder delivered 17 points as half a dozen players finished in double figures for the Suns, who clawed their way level at 2-2 in the Western Conference playoff series against the reigning NBA champions. — AFP

Printed and Published from Karimnagar by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Deccan Chronicle Press, H.No. 1-2/12/1, Cherlabhukur Road, Mugdumpur Village, Karimnagar - 505 186 Telangana State Regd. No. HSD-2/2K RNI Registration No. APENG/2001/04766 Ph: 9121161123 Grams: CHRONICLE Editor: Kaushik Mitter

## PLAN FOR FUTURE

## T20 World Cup, FTP cycle to come up for discussion at ICC board meet

**New Delhi, May 31:** The BCCI will ask for one month's extension to decide on hosting the T20 World Cup in India amid the looming Covid-19 threat when the all-powerful ICC Board holds a virtual meeting on Tuesday to discuss a host of other issues as well.

While earlier, it was decided that BCCI president Sourav Ganguly will attend the meet in person, it is learnt that now he will be present virtually and will only leave for the UAE on Wednesday to have discussions on the organisation of IPL with Emirates Cricket Board.

There are no concrete outcomes expected at the meeting and after July 1, the BCCI will hold another SGM. The ICC is likely to make a formal announcement of its final decision during its annual conference that starts on July 18.

While the remainder of the IPL has been shifted to the United Arab Emirates between September 15 to October 15, the Indian cricket board doesn't want to let go the opportunity of hosting the global T20 event, which also has Emirates as back-up hosts.

"The Covid-19 cases are reducing but obviously it is still not a situation where we can firmly commit to hosting the World T20. Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah are right in asking for one month's time to decide," a senior BCCI source privy to developments said on conditions of anonymity.

## FTP CYCLE 2023-31

The Futures Tours & Programme Cycle for the next eight years between 2023 to 2031 will also be discussed with provision for the flagship ICC events apart from the bilateral series.

"Obviously due to the pandemic, every cricket board has lost money and the bilateral events are the way forward to recover the costs. In any case, currently rested ICC CEO Manu Sawhney's proposal of a marquee ICC event every year was red flagged by the 'Big Three' much earlier.

"They need to look after the financial health of their boards," the official further added.

Also the future of the World Test Championship will also be discussed.

— PTI



BCCI president Sourav Ganguly (left) and secretary Jay Shah in this file photo. — BCCI

## IPL-returned Aussies are home

**Sydney, May 31:** Amid hugs, tears of joy and relief, Australia's jumbo IPL contingent comprising players, support staff and commentators on Monday reunited with their family members after serving a 14-day hotel quarantine here.

The 38-member Australians landed in the country two weeks ago after a stopover in Maldives due to travel ban from Covid-ravaged India.

The highlight of the day was premier fast bowler Pat Cummins exiting the hotel and reuniting with his pregnant partner Becky Boston, a video of which was uploaded on Twitter by well-known Australian sports journalist Chloe-Amanda Bailey.

"Video of the day! After eight weeks away for the IPL, Pat Cummins finally leaves hotel quarantine and reunites with his pregnant partner Becky. All the feels!" Bailey tweeted alongside the video.

## OZ PLAYERS AVAILABILITY IN IPL YET TO BE DISCUSSED: CA

**Melbourne, May 31:** Cricket Australia on Monday said it's yet to start discussions on whether Australian cricketers would compete in the IPL when the T20 league re-commences in the UAE in September.

Nick Hockley, who was confirmed as CA chief executive on Monday after performing the duties in an interim role, said a decision on IPL can wait as Australian players were just reunited with their families after completing a two-week hotel quarantine.

"Once we get back together as a group that (IPL) is something we'll obviously need to discuss," Hockley was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"Our players returning from the IPL have only today come out of quarantine, so our first priority is to make sure they are reunited with their families. We have a tour to prepare for in the West Indies," he added.

Hockley said the players will regroup at the National Cricket Centre (in Brisbane) in a couple of weeks before the West Indies tour and that would be the time to refocus.

— PTI

Besides Cummins, batting maestro Steve Smith, big-hitting all-rounder Glenn Maxwell and the swashbuckling opener Dave Warner were among those who finally embraced their loved ones after nearly eight weeks away from home. Most of them had not seen their families since

heading into the Indian Premier League in early April. They were flown home via a charter flight after the IPL was postponed owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cricket Australia's newly-appointed chief executive officer Nick Hockley said the feeling among the players about going home to be with their families could not be understated.

"We've been texting, and I've spoken to a couple of the broader group, not just the players but there's commentators, match officials and physios," Hockley said.

"They are clearly quite shaken from the experience, very appreciative to be home back here in Australia."

The BCCI paid for the charter flights and accommodation of the Australians in the Maldives and Sydney, and Hockley thanked the Indian board for the manner in which it helped them after the abrupt suspension of the IPL. — PTI

## OSAKA COULD BE BANNED FOR MEDIA BOYCOTT

**Paris, May 31:** Japanese superstar Naomi Osaka was on Sunday threatened with disqualification from the French Open if she persists with her controversial media boycott, officials said.

"We have advised Naomi Osaka that should she continue to ignore her media obligations, she would be exposing herself to possible further code of conduct infringement consequences," said a statement from the four Grand Slam tournaments after the world number two was fined \$15,000.

"Repeat violations attract tougher sanctions including default from the tournament and the trigger of a major offence investigation that could lead to more substantial fines and future Grand Slam suspensions."

Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam title winner and sport's highest-earning female athlete, was sanctioned for refusing to hold a press conference after her opening 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) win over Romanian Patricia Maria Tig.

The 23-year-old had said on the eve of the tournament that she would not carry out any media obligations, claiming news conferences are detrimental to her mental health.

She likened traditional post-match inquests to "kicking people when they're down".

French Tennis Federation president Gilles Moretton had described Osaka's vow of silence as "a phenomenal error". — AFP

## ASIAN | BOXING

## Pooja strikes gold, silver for Panghal

**Dubai, May 31:** Defending champion Pooja Rani (75kg) was the lone Indian woman boxer to strike gold at the Asian Championships while defending champion Amit Panghal (52kg) and Shiva Thapa (64kg) lost gruelling and close final bouts to fetch silver medals here on Monday with the country seeking a review of the former's defeat.

The Olympic-bound Pooja (75 kg), who was competing in her first bout of the tournament after getting a bye and a walkover earlier, dismantled Mavluda Movlonova of Uzbekistan with a clinical performance.

She also earned \$10,000 for her marvellous one-bout show in which Movlonova was simply out of sorts, unable to keep pace with the Indian's intensity.

Panghal lost 2-3 to known nemesis Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan in what was a repeat of the 2019 world championship final, which had also ended in Zoirov's favour.

India sought a review of the second round of the bout which Panghal won on a split count but looked to have dominated completely. The result of the review will be known later.

"I dedicate this silver medal to my coach Anil Dhanker. I wish he was here with in Dubai," Panghal tweeted referring to his personal coach.

Thapa (64kg) also lost by the same margin to Mongolia's Baatarsukh Chinzorig, the reigning Asian Games silver-medalist. This was Thapa's fifth successive podium finish at the showpiece and second silver.

Both the contests had the Indian boxers doing most things right but not getting the judges' nod.



Pooja Rani (75 kg) celebrates her 5-0 win against Mavluda Movlonova of Uzbekistan at the Asian Championships in Dubai.

The Panghal-Zoirov clash lived up to the hype with both the Olympic-bound boxers engaged in a fast exchange of punches from the very first round.

Zoirov claimed the opening round. But in the second round, Panghal raised his game by a notch, evading Zoirov's range with his pace and landing his left straights precisely. Zoirov, on the other hand, struggled to connect.

The two went all out in the third round but it was Panghal who was more impressive with his body shots despite an injured eye.

He even had the judges' verdict in his favour for the round but it was not enough to alter the final scoreline. — PTI

## PADDLERS DIYA, SWASTIKA END RUNNERS-UP IN TUNIS

**New Delhi, May 31:** Young Indian paddlers Diya Chitale and Swastika Ghosh's splendid run at the WTT Youth Star Contender ended with a runners-up finish following their 3-11, 6-11, 7-11 defeat against Russia's Natalia Malinina and Elizabet Abraamian in the U-19 girls doubles final in Tunis, Tunisia.

Earlier, the Indian pair made its way into the final, defeating Czech Republic's Linda Zaderova and Croatia's Hana Arapovic in the semifinals.

Diya and Swastika were also impressive in the U-19 singles as both finished their campaigns in the semifinals after suffering identical 2-3 defeats in hard-fought encounters.

Diya made life tougher for Russian paddler Vlada Voronina before losing the thrilling contest 8-11, 11-7, 11-6, 8-11, 7-11. The current junior national champion Swastika too lost to Turkey's Ece Harac 11-8, 4-11, 11-9, 3-11, 6-11 in an intense decider.

Since the Covid-19 outbreak, it was the first international youth event where Indian players were seen in action. — PTI

## VIRUS | EFFECT

## Copa America moved to Brazil

**Asuncion, May 31:** South America's largest football tournament, the Copa America, was moved Monday to Brazil after a Covid-19 surge in Argentina and social unrest in Colombia saw the co-hosts stripped of the right to host the event.

With two weeks to kick-off, South America's CONMEBOL football federation tweeted that "The CONMEBOL Copa America 2021 will be played in Brazil!" and the June 13-July 10 dates were maintained.

CONMEBOL is expected to announce the venues and dates of matches in the coming hours.

Brazil hosted the last Copa America, in 2019.

Originally scheduled for last year, the Copa was postponed by 12 months due to the coronavirus epidemic.

New host Brazil is one of the countries in the world worst affected by the outbreak, with the second-highest death toll of over 460,000 so far and more than 16.5 million cases.

It was to have been the first time in its history that the tournament would be co-hosted by two countries, Argentina and Colombia. — AFP

## WC QUALIFIERS SHIFTED FROM CHINA TO DUBAI

**Shanghai, May 31:** Several World Cup football qualifiers scheduled to be played in China were moved to Dubai on Monday over coronavirus infections in the Syria and Maldives teams, the Chinese Football Association said.

Seven Group A fixtures involving China, Syria, Maldives, the Philippines and Guam are affected.

"In view of the recent epidemic infections in the Maldives and Syrian national football teams... They must be strictly quarantined upon entry and cannot participate in the games as scheduled," a CFA statement said.

"According to recommendations from the AFC (Asian Football Confederation), the Chinese FA agreed that the remaining qualifying matches... Will not be held in Suzhou and will be transferred to Dubai and held there," it added. — AFP

## Swiatek starts title defence with win

## THE RESULTS

**Men's first round:** Cameron Norrie (GBR) bt Bjorn Fratangelo (USA) 7-5, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2; Jannik Sinner (ITA x18) bt Pierre-Hugues Herbert (FRA) 6-1, 4-6, 6-7 (4/7), 7-5, 6-4; Gianluca Mager (ITA) bt Peter Gajdosik (GER) 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5; Federico Delbonis (ARG) bt Radu Albot (MDA) 6-1, 2-6, 6-0, 6-1; Filip Krjainovic (SRB) bt Maximilian Marterer (GER) 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (7/3); John Isner (USA x31) bt Sam Querrey (USA) 7-6 (7/2), 6-3, 6-4; Thiago Monteiro (BRA) bt Francisco Cerundolo (ARG) 6-3, 6-4, 6-3; Steve Johnson (USA) bt Frances Tiafoe (USA) 6-7 (5/7), 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-1; Daniil Medvedev (RUS x2) bt Alexander Bublik (KAZ) 6-3, 6-3, 7-5.

**Women's first round:** Hailey Baptiste (USA) bt Anna Blinkova (RUS) 6-1, 6-4; Zarina Diyas (KAZ) bt Heather Watson (GBR) 6-4, 7-5; Elise Mertens (BEL x14) bt Storm Sanders (AUS) 6-4, 6-1; Rebecca Peterson (SWE) bt Shelby Rogers (USA) 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (10/8), 6-2; Iga Swiatek (POL x8) bt Kaja Juvan (SLO) 6-0, 7-5; Madison Brengle (USA) bt Maria Camila Osorio (COL) 7-5, 6-4; Polona Herczeg (SLO) bt Kiki Bertens (NED x16) 6-1, 3-6, 6-4; Harmony Tan (FRA) bt Alize Cornet (FRA) 6-4, 6-4; Marketa Vondrousova (CZE x20) bt Kaia Kanepi (EST) 4-6, 6-3, 6-0.

champion's match against Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania will be played behind closed doors, though, due to a 9pm Covid-19 curfew imposed by the French government.

Swiatek, who became the first major singles champion from Poland last October, hit 22 winners in an impressive opening to her bid for a

second straight Roland Garros triumph.

## MEDVEDEV ENDS MISERABLE RUN

It is not just in Paris that Medvedev has struggled on clay.

The Russian had lost eight of his previous nine matches on the surface dating back to 2019.

But the two-time Grand Slam runner-up was too strong for Kazakh Bublik, setting up a second-round tie against either Australian wildcard Christopher O'Connell or US player Tommy Paul.

"It was a good match and I've been training really well," said the 25-year-old Medvedev, who lost the Australian Open final to Novak Djokovic in February. — AFP



Poland's Iga Swiatek returns to Kaja Juvan of Slovenia in their French Open first round match in Paris on Monday. — AFP