

The High Court on Tuesday had expressed displeasure with the Delhi government for making an incorrect statement on May 10 that 250 beds in Indira Gandhi Hospital, COVID facility in Dwarka, were already operational. Later, the government informed the court that 150 beds would be made operational during the day and additional 100 would be operational on Wednesday.



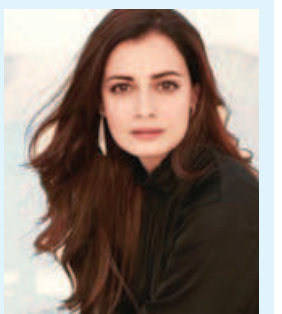
# Womenia

TWEET PATROL

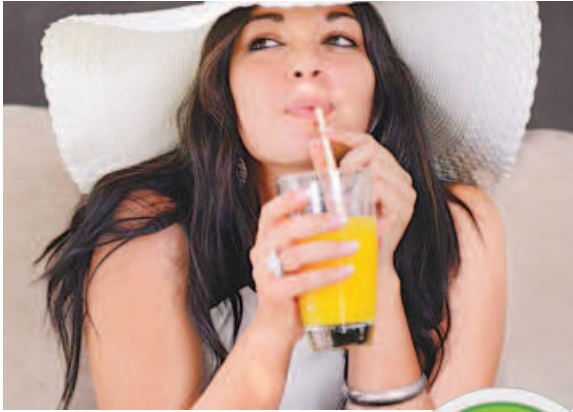

**DIA MIRZA**  
**@DEESPEAK**

In these extraordinary times your commitment to saving lives, your compassion and humanity is everything to every nurse and midwife, we are grateful to you and wish you good health.

#InternationalNursesDay #SupportNursesAndMidwives



## World cocktail day



One of the best ways people get together and bond over life is through drinking. For a fun night out, cocktails provide a wide arrangement of scents and flavors to keep everything exciting and have a long history of becoming a steady staple in people's lives. So, let us dive right in and see what World Cocktail Day is all about.

In 1806, The Balance and Columbian Repository coined the term "cocktail" as a stimulating liquor with a wide variety of sweets, waters, and bitters. Originally, the Oxford English Dictionary defined the term with a different set of connotations, describing it as a horse with a tail like a cock's, with its tail cocked up instead of hung down.

Cocktails as a drink, however, started as a British invention in the 19th century and has since become an American innovation when a Connecticut-born bartender Jerry Thomas wrote the book "The Bartender's Guide." The Bartender's Guide basically broadcasted an encyclopedia of how to mix drinks and recipes on some of the best combinations of drinks and flavors.

During the 1920s American prohibition, many cocktails were mixed into existence that remain firm favourites today. With not much high-quality alcohol available, cocktails were the perfect way to make that smuggled rum, gin or whiskey just a little bit more drinkable. Enter the cocktail; rum mojitos, the Sidecar, and the Tom Collins all flourished at a time when recreational alcohol wasn't legal. The 'Bee's Knees' cocktail was actually created to mask and sweeten the taste of illegally brewed bathtub gin. The roaring twenties took the cocktail and shook it up into some of our most popular modern-day cocktails. Drinking didn't stop during the prohibition, people simply went underground.

If you're up for a night of fun drinking, then host a party at your place and mix up some of your favorite drinks for your friends. If you want to spice things up, check out a new recipe on some of your favourite blogs or newsletters, and make your kitchen or bar into an experiment place for you and your friends.

If you're feeling confident, you could create your own home bar and serve some of your favorite fizz-fuelled cocktails, or make your own cocktail creations with a fresh twist. Give your bar a theme and add your .



### NEWS ROUNDUP

## Rakul Preet Singh starts fundraiser to help Covid patients

Actress Rakul Preet Singh has announced a fundraising campaign to help Covid patients in the country. She is urging people to contribute, so that they can aid the provision of oxygen supply through oxygen concentrators and cylinders and their refilling, besides live-saving equipment.

"It is devastating to see the current plight of our country. Every day we hear heartbreaking stories of people struggling and fighting their battles due to the scarcity of oxygen, beds, medications and a lot more. Through this fundraiser with Give India, our aim is to provide support and relief at a ground level with the supplies of oxygen and live-saving equipment," she told.

Rakul Preet urged people to contribute and says that even small amounts will go a long way.

"All we are requesting is for Rs 100 and welcoming more if people can. But a contribution of Rs 100 will go a long way. So, in these trying times when we are feeling helpless, I request everyone to do their bit," she says.



# EAT HEALTHY THIS EID AL-FITR



ASKARI JAFFER

Eid is a very auspicious day which is celebrated with all across the world with full enthusiasm. The festival involves big feasts. After a month long fast of you stuff your stomach with loads of food it will definitely not be healthy for you or your stomach. The festival offers you so many scrumptious delicacies in one place which are hard to avoid. But it is important to avoid certain foods and keep in mind certain things if you do not want to spoil the fun by getting sick. Here are some useful tips to help to stay healthy this Eid:

#### Maintain sugar levels

During this long period of fast, our blood sugar level increases. The insulin in our body starts dropping which causes the stored sugar in the liver to come into the bloodstream. It happens when the person has much-stored sugar in the body. Hence, consume sugar or sweets in minimal quantities.



#### Avoid oily food

After a month of eating at a particular time, the body becomes used to that regime. Consuming too much oily food could damage the lining of the stomach and it can cause indigestion as well. If you want to eat something greasy that looks delicious, take only small portions that give you the satisfaction. Do not overindulge in eating a lot, which brings us to our next point.

#### Eat a balanced meal

A blend of proteins, carbohydrates and vegetables is necessary for a balanced diet. Your diet should contain fruits, vegetables, bread, cereals, meat, fish, milk

and dairy products. Foods such as barley, wheat, oats, millet, beans, lentils etc are good sources of carbohydrates.

#### Eat-in bits

After a month of fast, our digestive system no longer supports heavy one-time meals. It may start malfunctioning if done so. We need to feed our body with small portions of food, but multiple times, in a notable interval. Loading our stomach with food will put much workload upon the digestive system, all at once.

#### Plenty of water

Food having more water content digest fast. Hence less work

**With Ramadan ending, Eid is just around the corner. It is an auspicious festival celebrated with great pomp and big feasts. But it is important to avoid certain foods and keep in mind certain things if you do not want to spoil the fun by getting into some yummy treats**

for our digestive system. Keeping our body hydrated will ensure smooth functioning of the body system. Since Ramadan is celebrated in the hot summer days, our body readily loses much water content. Therefore, it is very important to make up for all the losses.

#### Include more of raw items

A low-calorie diet such as raw fruits and vegetables should be eaten first. These are very easy to digest and have high fiber content. These make the digestive system ready for its functioning and gives a kick start to the whole process. Enjoy this festival to its fullest with your loved ones and hope you have the best time. Treat yourself with the delicacies but keep in mind you have to stay healthy this Eid. During this situation of COVID-19 and lock down, the socially active festival, Eid-ul-Fitr has surely subdued its zeal. But, as responsible humans, we have to celebrate the festival, staying in our homes, and connecting with our dear ones through technology. Eid Mubarak!

# Say yes to chickpeas

International Hummus Day, women – learn from me the health benefits of the star ingredient of the original Hummus.

Small and delicious, Chickpeas have been around since thousands of years. Originated from Turkey, travelled to Mediterranean, Middle East and to North India. Punjabi cuisine is synonymous with Chole that is made from chickpeas.

A good source of vegetarian Protein are chickpeas. In India, called Bengal Gram, Kabuli Channa, Besan (atta) or Green, black, and red channa. Most popularly recognized is beige colour having a buttery texture and nutty taste.

Available all year around, can be cooked and stored in the fridge. I always soak dried chickpeas for at least 18-24 hours before cooking making them easy to digest and preventing flatulence.

100 grams of chickpeas is a good amount when cooked. Toss in vegetables to make it a nutritious meal. In 100 grams, women can attain 6% of Calcium RDA, up to 36% of Iron RDA and 140% of Folate (Vitamin B9) RDA!

High in fiber thus lowering cholesterol and improving heart health. Low in the glycaemic index scale, I call them dieter's delight – aids in controlling insulin spikes preventing binge eating. Beneficial for PCOS, Thyroid, Diabetes and Obesity.

Remember, proteins need vitamin C to make them more bioavailable. So add in tomato, lemon, tamarind or Aamchur (dry mango powder).



Naini Setalvad



Chickpeas are used in a variety of ways – in salads, soups or stews, or as a quick snack. Most commonly international preparation from Chickpeas is Hummus.

Try my recipe for a delectable Roasted Red Pepper Hummus.

#### Roasted Red Pepper Hummus Ingredients:

- 250 grams chickpeas, 18-24 hours pre-soaked and cooked
- 3 tbsp chickpeas, drained water
- 2 whole red peppers
- 4 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 4 tsp Tahini (sesame seed paste)
- 3-4 medium size garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tbsp cold pressed extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 tsp roasted ground cumin powder
- 1/2 tsp oregano

- Salt, to taste

#### For Garnish

- 2 tsp cold pressed extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 tsp paprika
- 2 tbsp tomato, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp spring onion, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp coriander, finely chopped

#### Method

- Roast the peppers till the skin is charred over a flame or in the oven.
- Cool and remove skin.
- In a food processor, combine the tahini, lemon juice, minced garlic, extra virgin olive oil, spices and salt.
- Add in half the drained chickpeas and blend well.
- Add in the balance chickpeas,

process till it's a smooth paste.

- Add in the de-skinned roasted peppers and blend well.
- Further, smoothen by blending in the reserved chickpea water.
- Garnish with a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil, sprinkle paprika, chopped tomato, spring onion and coriander leaves.
- Enjoy with veg crudites or fresh pita or wholewheat lavash sticks.



# Don't let pandemic spoil your festive vibes!

YAMINI SAINI

Festival of optimality Eid-ul-Fitr is round the corner, and festival means to be happy inside out. Festival of fasting is making you calm, peace and happy from mind and soul and don't break with your body's happiness. To look good is also a big contributor in being a happy person. So in time of covid-19 don't resist your fashion instincts and don't let your dresses love suffer.

Before going through what to wear and not to wear this Eid just stick to these golden tips and tricks and let the magic prevails.

1. As it is pandemic time, so make it cherish and blissful at home. Un-Cupboard your dresses and turn the world round.
2. This year Eid is going to be more hot and humid to make it happening just glance through the fabric choice like lawn or cotton.
3. Accessorize your dress correctly with the help of jewellery, footwear and yes a good hairstyle.
4. Try to wear something which is not too tight and airy so that it won't hamper your comfort.

#### Here, I am enlisting 5 trends which makes you look graceful and astonishing!

Considering the weather, go for soft and pale colours like mellow shades of white and beige for the day events whereas bright neon colours would look fab for evening celebrations. Minimal embroideries will add glint in your attire.

#### Embrace the fragrance of blooming flowers

Some pattern or print of flowers



will etherealise the vibes of the moment. Contrast lawn dress with exotic scarf.

#### Show some grace in silk tunics

Eid is one of the happening festivals in the country. So, don't be afraid of loud and bold colours. Try out your stylish scarf with embroidered kurti and bell-bottom pants.

#### Go capricious with chic again

Chic dresses are also in trend these days. Blow your thoughts and resonate alluring short frock with chudidaar. Pleating chic in style, short yolk frocks, medium yolk frocks and frocks with full pleats are in demand.

#### Neon merrymaking

Neon colours are all time favourite of denizens and generation Z.

Amalgamate neon with gold printed stuff like long flared dress with peppy palazzo or trousers paired with beautiful dupatta. Don't forget wear your matching jhumkas.

#### Calm crop top

If you are looking for perfect blend of western and traditional this Eid then what you are waiting for just go and get ready with your gold motif crop top with sharara or skirt or with a golden printed jacket. You can opt for exotic colours and printed patterns to the alternate of gold print. So wear your favourite dangle or chandler earring and you are all set to twirl around.

So, don't let pandemic spoil your good vibes and festive rise.



# Woman receives remains of husband buried in Saudi Arabia

NEW DELHI

THE remains of a Hindu man who was buried in Saudi Arabia according to Muslim rites has been brought back to India and are in transit to his family, the Centre informed the Delhi High Court on Wednesday.

Justice Prathiba M Singh was told by central government standing counsel Ripudaman Bhardwaj that the remains arrived in India on Wednesday morning and were in transit to the family

in Una in Himachal Pradesh. The court said it was a "great relief" that the family has received the remains so that they can cremate it according to Hindu rites. It expressed its gratitude to the Saudi authorities and also its appreciation for the efforts made by Vishnu Kumar Sharma the Director of Consular, Passport and Visa (CPV) Division in the Ministry of External Affairs for bringing back the remains. Sharma also told the court that the deceased's family had received on May 7 the



payment sent by his employer. The court also appreciated the efforts of the amicus curiae Farrukh Khan and advocate Subhash

Chandran KR, who represented the deceased's widow, and expressed hope that such a thing "never happens again". With these observations, the court disposed of the plea moved by deceased Sanjeev Kumar's widow seeking his remains to perform the last rites here.

The widow, Anju Sharma, in her plea, had said that on getting the news of her husband's death, the family had requested the authorities to repatriate the mortal remains. Sanjeev Kumar, 51,

died on January 24 in Saudi Arabia, where he was working, due to cardiac arrest and his mortal remains were kept at a hospital there. "Shockingly, on February 18, the petitioner was informed that the body of her husband had been buried in Saudi Arabia while the family members of the deceased were waiting for the mortal remains in India.

"The officials in Indian Consulate explained that it was due to a mistake committed by the official translator of the Indian Con-

sulate, Jeddah, who wrongly mentioned his religion as 'Muslim' in the death certificate.

"They also shared a letter of an apology tendered by the official translating agency of Indian Consulate in Jeddah with the petitioner herein," claimed the petition, filed through advocate Yogamaya M G. The plea had also said that neither the woman, nor any of the family members gave consent to bury Kumar's body in Saudi Arabia. Thereafter, the woman

had requested the officials of Indian Consulate in Jeddah to ask the local authorities there to exhume the mortal remains of her husband so that they can be transported to India for performing last rites as per the faith of the family. "Unfortunately, even after seven weeks of the death of the husband of petitioner, the authorities have failed to do necessary formalities to repatriate the mortal remains of Sanjeev Kumar to India for performing last rites," the plea had said.



## Himalayan red fox's subspecies spotted in Uttarakhand

PITHORAGARH

A subspecies of the Himalayan red fox was spotted here at a height of 3,000 metres, officials said on Wednesday.

The variety, known as Vulpes Vulpes griffithi, was seen in Bhujani and Khaliya Top areas of Munsiyari at an elevation of 3,000 metres, some 500 metres below the altitude, where its habitat is located, for the first time in recent years, said Surendra Panwar, president of Monal NGO that has been working towards the protection of upper range Himalayan animals for around 10 years.

"We have seen at least eight subspecies of the red fox at such an elevation in the Himalayan region after following it fruitlessly for two years," he said. Asked about the reasons behind the increased visibility of these otherwise shy animals at lower altitudes, Panwar said it could be due to disturbance in their natural habitats.

The animals may have started coming down closer to human settlements to survive on the Himalayan leftovers, he said. "There are different reasons of high altitude animal habitats getting disturbed, including the entry of people to collect Kira Jari (sildenafil) or Yarsagumba (caterpillar fungus), some climate change patterns and lessening of their prey base due to interference of human beings," Panwar said.

However, Pithoragarh Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Vinay Bhargava attributed the spotting of rare high Himalayan animals like Vulpes Vulpes griffithi and flocks of Monal birds to prolonged conservation efforts. "Due to our awareness campaign for protection of these rare animals, the number of flocks and herds of some rare Himalayan animals has increased," he said.

# Rain, thunderstorm likely in next 3-4 days

NEW DELHI

SEVERAL parts of India may witness rain and thunderstorm in next 3-4 days, the ministry of earth sciences has predicted and temperature could drop in the national capital by few notches.

Thunderstorm with lightning, hail and squall is likely at isolated places over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Telangana, said the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

"Heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Coastal & South Interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep on May 13," said the official statement. Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty wind (speed reaching 30-40 kmph) is likely



at isolated places over Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Rayalaseema, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep,

on May 15. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely at a few places over Coastal & South Interior Karnataka, isolated places in North Interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu,

Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Heavy Rainfall at isolated places over Konkan, Goa and Telangana on May 16.

## It's time to stand together and not to criticise: Sibal

NEW DELHI

AFTER war of words erupted between Congress and the BJP over the handling of the pandemic, Congress leader Kapil Sibal on Wednesday said, its time to stand together and not a time to criticise.

"Stand Together India, it's time to stand together not time to criticise after this battle is finally won will find out who was wrong and who was right," Sibal said in a tweet.

The Congress has been attacking the government over mishandling of the pandemic and not heeding to the advice of ex-PM Manmohan Singh and the opposition parties.

The Congress on Tuesday accused the BJP of being "arrogant", soon after BJP President J.P. Nadda shot off a letter to interim party chief Sonia Gandhi, saying that raising issues and making suggestions to the government on the pandemic is the duty of the opposition parties.

In his letter to interim Congress President Sonia Gandhi, Nadda lashed out at her party

saying that in the fight against the pandemic, the conduct of topmost Congress leaders, including its former chief Rahul Gandhi, will be remembered for its "duplicitous and pettiness".

Congress General Secretary Ajay Maken said the situation in the country is pathetic as dead bodies were seen floating in the Ganga river in Bihar's Buxar district on Monday.

"The government is unable to provide treatment, vaccines and

even honourable last rites to the deceased," Maken said, as he asked the government to shed the arrogance and help the people. The party said the BJP should follow 'Rajdharma' as the Congress is only doing its duty and the government should accept its mistake in handling the pandemic and start free vaccination for all. The Congress also reiterated its demand for an all-party meeting on the Covid situation.



## Ayodhya Hindus elect Muslim as village head

AYODHYA

RAJANPUR village in Rudauli assembly segment in Ayodhya seems as ordinary as hundreds of other villages in the area. What has suddenly made it extraordinary is the fact that this Hindu-dominated village has recently elected a Muslim as a Gram Pradhan.

Hafiz Azimuddin Khan is the newly-elected Gram Pradhan in Rajanpur.

His is the only Muslim family in this predominantly Hindu village.

Hafiz was also the lone Muslim candidate with seven Hindu candidates.

An elated Hafiz said: "My victory is an example of Hindu-Muslim affinity not only in village Rajanpur but the entire Ayodhya. I never played the communal card and sought votes from my brothers and sisters. I treat the village as an extended family."

Listing out his priorities for the village, Hafiz said: "All funds with the Gram Pradhan will be utilised for development of the



village. Basic amenities will be augmented, and jobs will be provided to all those entitled under the MNREGS."

He further said that he would work in coordination with the sentiments of the people and ensure proper utilisation of funds.

The local people are equally thrilled with Hafiz's victory.

Manohar Lal, a local resident, said: "Our village has proved that we have not been affected by communal politics. Hafiz is

young and we are confident he will do good work."

It is noteworthy that due to Covid pandemic, the state government has postponed oath-taking ceremony of Gram Pradhans and Zila Panchayat members.

The government has also postponed election of Chairman, Zila Panchayat and Block Pramukhs.

The oath-taking ceremonies and these elections are expected to take place after June 15.

## Two held for black marketing of plasma

GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR

AS Covid cases increase, the black marketing of plasma is also on the rise. The Noida police on Wednesday arrested two persons accused of black marketing of plasma, recommended by doctors for treatment of Covid patients.

According to information, the police station Beta 2 of Greater Noida and the Crime Branch team jointly launched an operation and arrested two accused from

Greater Noida's Alpha Commercial.

Police have recovered 1 unit of plasma, 1 blood sample, Rs 35,000 cash, a car and mobile phones from the accused. The accused told the police that they used to sell one unit of plasma for Rs 40,000-Rs 50,000. This was sold to the relatives of the Covid patients undergoing treatment in hospitals, they said.

The police said it is interrogating the accused and an investigation is underway.

## Ivermectin tablets to be distributed among U'khand residents

DEHRADUN

THE Uttarakhand government will be distributing Ivermectin, an antiparasitic drug, among the residents of the state as a preventive medicine against the spread of COVID-19, a senior official said.

The Uttarakhand government's announcement comes after Goa and Karnataka issued similar directions. The decision was taken on the recommendation of the state-level clinical technical committee, an order issued by Chief Secretary Om Prakash to all district magistrates said.

The panel has recommended the Ivermectin tablet as "mass chemoprophylaxis" to effectively control the surge of COVID-19 infection apart from the vaccination drive, the order said. The 12 mg tablets of the drug will be distributed in a kit to all families



through the health department and district magistrates, the order said.

Usually, Ivermectin tablets have to be taken by adults and those above 15 years twice daily for three days after breakfast and dinner. One person will thus need six tablets and a family of four will need 24 tablets. Hence, each kit

will contain two dozen tablets, the order said. Children between 10-15 years will take only one tablet daily whereas those aged between 2 to 10 years can be administered the drug only after doctor's advice.

The tablet cannot be given to children below two years, pregnant women and those suffering

from liver diseases, it said. The kit will come with directions on how to consume the medicine and dosage for different age groups. Information related to the daily distribution of the kits should be sent to the state nodal officer, the order said. Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane had on Monday said all people above 18 years will be given Ivermectin drug irrespective of their coronavirus status to bring down the number of deaths due to the viral disease.

Rane had said that people will be given Ivermectin 12 mg for five days as expert panels from the UK, Italy, Spain and Japan have found a statistically significant reduction in mortality, time to recovery and viral clearance in COVID-19 patients treated with this medicine. On Tuesday, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and state's COVID task force head C N Ashwath Narayan said 10 lakh

Ivermectin tablets have been procured and their supply will begin on May 14. It has been further decided to procure 25 lakh tablets and make them available in all hospitals across the state, he said.

Medical experts, however, have questioned the efficacy of the five-day duration of the drug regimen announced by Goa government saying the treatment should not be given for a short period but ideally be continued till the pandemic is brought under control. Meanwhile, the World Health Organisation has warned against the use of Ivermectin to treat COVID-19.

"Safety and efficacy are important when using any drug for a new indication. @WHO recommends against the use of ivermectin for #COVID19 except within clinical trials," Soumya Swaminathan, WHO Chief Scientist said in a tweet on Tuesday.







# TS REPORTS HIGHEST EVER LIQUOR SALES

- Total liquor sales on Tuesday is Rs 125 crore, the highest ever in Telangana
- Belt shops are back during lockdown

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THANKS to the government's decision to impose lockdown in a short notice, the Telangana State has registered the highest ever liquor sales on a single day, i.e., on Tuesday, a day before the enforcement of 20-hour shut-down of the T state amid a surge in corona cases.

Interestingly, the huge liquor sales were not the result of panic buying by the tipplers but by the illegal liquor traders, who run banned belt shops in many interior colonies in Hyderabad and also in remote villages in many districts. The illegal



traders have kept huge liquor stocks in their hideouts to sell alcohol at exorbitant prices to consumers during lockdown period between 10 am and 6 am every day till May 20.

Top officials of State Excise and Prohibition department told The Hans India that it has got reports from local excise officials that petty illegal liquor and ID (Illicitly Distilled) liquor manufacturers bought huge stocks of liquor from licensed wine shops in just five-hour time.

In old Rangareddy district,

(covering Greater Hyderabad limits) alone, liquor sales were Rs 25 crore followed by old Nalgonda, which was Rs 15 crore, Khammam - Rs 12.50 crore and Karimnagar and Warangal reported more than Rs 11 crore liquor sales.

"The total liquor sales on a single day on Tuesday is Rs 125 crore, which is the highest ever in Telangana. Generally, liquor sales were reported high on December 31 and on Diwali and Dasara festivals. The sales would be around Rs 100 crore on festival days", the officials

said.

The Excise department has identified nearly 500 illegal liquor sale points in the interior colonies in Greater Hyderabad limits and more than 1000 belt shops in villages in the districts. The department has got information that belt shop owners were reviving liquor sales during lockdown period in many areas to encash the situation.

They already started selling liquor at higher price to the alcoholics, the officials said and added that in GHMC limits, illegal liquor traders were also active and exploiting the current situation.

A team of Excise task force were conducting searches to seize huge liquor stocks from belt shops. Licensed liquor outlet managements have been asked to furnish the details of liquor sales on a daily basis to ascertain the run of belt shops in the State during lockdown.

## Over 5k extended corona kits, medicines in RR

### Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy reviews Covid situation with district officials

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
RANGAREDDY

EDUCATION Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy held a review meeting with district officials on Wednesday on the steps to be taken in Rangareddy district for corona control. The Minister advised the Health department officials in the district to be vigilant and take all necessary precautions to avoid complaints of untimely treatment.

Speaking on the occasion, Sabitha said that in the district fever survey was conducted for 3,41,931 persons, out of which 5,104 people were found to have fever and were immediately given the necessary medicines and corona kits. Corona victims are currently being treated at 130 private and three government hospitals in the district, the Minister informed. Corona tests have been per-



formed for 6,91,468 people in the district so far, out of which 6,316 are active cases, she said. Later, the Minister instructed the committees set up at the district level to resolve the issues that come to their notice as soon as possible. Wherever patients are, authorities are instructed to take steps to ensure full treatment.

She said the farmers should be taken care of without any hassles as agriculture was exempted during the lockdown.

Minister also instructed the officials to monitor the grain purchasing centres from time to time. All the district level officials were asked to visit the Covid care centres and lift the spirits of patients.

District Collector Amoy Kumar, Additional Collector Pratik Jain, District Medical and Health Officer Swarajya Lakshmi, District Industries Officer Rajeshwar Reddy and others were present at the meeting.



## Cyberabad CP inspects lockdown arrangements

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
RANGAREDDY

CYBERABAD Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar on Wednesday visited several checkpoints and supervised bandobast arrangements made in connection with the lockdown. He conducted surprise inspections at Hitec City.

Speaking on the occasion, the CP said that in Cyberabad police limits, more than 100 checkpoints were being jointly operated by the law and order police and Traffic police, which is being monitored by the senior police officials. Sajjanar

pointed out that the lockdown was imposed by the government for people's safety so the people should take note of it and urged them to cooperate with the police. Later, he directed the police officials to take action against those violating the lockdown rules under Sections 51 to 60 of Disaster Management Act, 2005 and Section 188 of IPC.

Traffic DCP SM Vijay Kumar, Madhapur DCP Venkateshwarlu, SOT DCP G Sundee, CAR ADGP Manikraj, Madhapur ACP Raghunandan Rao, inspectors and other police personnel were present.

## Top cops oversee lockdown imposition in Shadnagar

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
SHADNAGAR

ON the first day of lockdown imposed by the State government to contain the Covid spread, Shadnagar ACP Kushalkar along with Municipal chairperson Narender on Wednesday made surprise visit to Shadnagar Chowrasta and inspected the arrangements.

Later, Shamshabad DCP Prakash Reddy visited and spoke to police staff and instructed them to see that lockdown was strictly enforced under any circumstances.

Speaking on the occasion, ACP Kushalkar said that the public should cooperate with the police during the lockdown and stick to the rules. He said that people should buy essential goods and other things between 6 and 10 am following the Covid precautions and thereafter restrict their movement. Everyone should stay at home and make the lockdown successful, and only if the need to travel arises, they should obtain e-passes from the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate through TS Online, he added. He also said that employees working in gov-



ernment offices, various industries and health departments must carry their identity card when travelling.

Shadnagar CI Naveen Kumar, Traffic SI Raghu Kumar, Councillor Eega Venkat Reddy and others were also present.

## Municipal chairperson distributes tohfa pack to Muslims

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KOTHUR

MUNICIPAL chairperson B Lavanya Devender Yadav distributed Tohfa packets to Muslim families at Kothur mMunicipality in Shadnagar constituency on Wednesday. Each pack consists of clothes and essential commodities that could be used in making dishes on the occasion of Eid festival.

Speaking on the occasion, Municipal Chairperson B Lavanya Devender Yadav said that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao

took all measures to rescue the people of the State during Covid pandemic and imposed lockdown to prevent more cases. She advised Muslims to celebrate Eid festival happily but maintain social distance and asked them to take care of their health.

Deputy Tahsildar Venkat Ram Reddy, councillors Jayamma, Janardhana Chari, Bagari Prasanna Lata Yadaiah, Mabul, Soyaz, Kazha, City Cable Venkatesh, Youth President Mekala Raghavendar Yadav, Bandi Shruvan, Bandi Bhaskar and others were present.

## Elderly woman dies due to delay in arrival of ambulance

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
RANGAREDDY

AN elderly woman Kishamma (65), resident of Nirdavelli village in Keshampet zone, on Wednesday died as the 108 ambulance couldn't reach the spot in time. According to details, Kishamma along with her son D Satyanarayana came to primary health centre in Keshampeta mandal on Wednesday morning to undergo corona test. While waiting in the queue, due to overcrowd Kishamma fainted and her family members informed the medical staff. Her family members were suggested to shift Kishamma to Shadnagar hospital for better treatment and they contacted 108 Ambulance twice. However, Kishamma died as the 108 ambulance failed to reach the spot on time. The deceased was later tested corona positive.

## Eatala meets BJP State leader

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIKARABAD

FORMER Health Minister Eatala Rajender, who was sacked from the State cabinet, met State BJP leader and ex-MP A Chandrashekar at his residence in Vikarabad on Wednesday. The duo had a long discussion for over an hour. On the day of the cabinet meeting, Eatala meeting BJP leader Chandrasekhar became a political priority.

On the occasion, Eatala Rajender said that he needs the support of the BJP in future and will not hesitate to join the saffron party. After the meeting, Rajender thanked Chandrasekhar and assured him that he will definitely follow his suggestions and advice. Chandrasekhar later promised Rajender to support him in future. Ravinder Reddy and others were also present.



Former Health Minister Eatala Rajender along with ex-MP and BJP leader A Chandrashekar at his residence in Vikarabad on Wednesday

## Property registrations stopped in Telangana

Those who already booked slots on Dharani asked to reschedule

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA government has stopped the registration of documents and other transactions on Dharani portal during the lockdown period till May 20. The non-agricultural property registrations at Sub Registrar offices, run by the state Stamps and Registration department, were also stopped in the State.

"Registration of documents and other transactions on Dharani would require the presence of at least four or five persons per transaction, such as the buyer, seller and two witnesses. This would result in movement of

people during restricted hours and crowding in mandal offices, which would not be in accordance with the lockdown restrictions," officials said, adding that registration of documents and other transactions through Dharani would not be taken up by the Tahsildars-cum-Joint Sub-registrars in mandal offices.

Citizens who have booked a slot on Dharani in any of the dates till May 21, were requested to have the slots rescheduled. Payment of registration fee and duties already made would be valid and adjusted towards the rescheduled transactions, officials said.

**RYTHU BHAROSA-PM**  
CM to release ₹3,900 cr today

AMARAVATI  
AGRICULTURE minister K Kannababu said Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy will release first instalment of YSR Rythu Bharosa and PM Kisan scheme for the financial year 2021-22 amounting to Rs 3,900 crore to farmers on May 13. He said the scheme will benefit 52.38 lakh farmers. Speaking to media persons here on Wednesday, the minister said that the state government has been giving priority to the welfare of farmers. The government released Rs 6,173 crore benefitting 46.69 lakh farmers during 2019-20, Rs 928 crore benefitting 51.59 lakh farmers during 2020-21.

**OXYGEN RESERVES TO BE RAMPED UP**  
HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

DEPUTY Chief Minister and Minister for health Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas said that the state government has been making efforts to increase the oxygen reserves in the state. He said the oxygen capacity will be increased from present 517 metric tonne (MT) to 600 MT. Besides, monitoring cells will be set up to prevent wastage of oxygen. Speaking to media persons after the meeting of Cabinet sub-committee, the health minister, who is the convener of the panel, while expressing concern over the Tirupati Ruia hospital incident, said that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the district collectors to prevent shortage of oxygen in hospitals. He said that the Chief Minister wrote letter to Prime Minister seeking supply of 910 MT oxygen to meet the increasing demand. He said that the Central government gave permission to set up 49 mini oxygen plants in the state and some plants have already started production.

The minister said that the state government is ready to spend any amount of money to procure vaccines. Steps have been taken to prevent overcrowding at vaccine centres. Second dose of vaccination will be taken up by informing people through messages or through volunteers. He said task force committees were formed to prevent black marketing of Remdisivir injections. He said 15,000 beds were arranged at Covid care centres in the state.

# CM bats for improving standards of varsities

- Says universities in State should tie-up with foreign varsities to improve standards
- Asks authorities to make efforts to set up Architecture University in Kadapa
- Suggests introduction of business management courses in IIITs

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the officials to improve educational standards in universities to place them in top 10 educational institutions in the country.

Addressing a review on higher education at his camp office on



Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy reviews higher education at his camp office in Tadepalli on Wednesday

Wednesday, the Chief Minister directed the officials to formulate an action plan to improve standards in Andhra University, Sri Venkateswara and Padmavathi Mahila Universities and IIITs in

the state. He said Andhra University is in 19th rank and SV University in 38 rank at present at national level. He asked the officials to study the situation in top ranking universities, which were

recognised by National Institutional Ranking Framework and appoint meritorious teaching staff to enhance the standards of varsities in the state.

The Chief Minister advised the

officials to study the standards in foreign universities to introduce the same in our universities. The universities should enter into a tie-up with foreign varsities to improve standards, he added.

Referring to medical education, the Chief Minister said 16

new medical colleges will be set up in the state. He said merit students will get an opportunity of admissions in medical colleges as 70 per cent of seats will be filled in convener quota and 30 per cent in payment quota.

Minister for education A Suresh, special chief secretary of higher education Satish Chandra, finance secretary N Guljar, APSCHE chairman K Hemachandna Reddy and RGUKT chancellor K C Reddy were present.



# Doc couple collects 20 kg of unused covid pills to help the needy

## ‘The idea came when one of the family members of our staff got infected and they needed medication’

MUMBAI

A doctor couple in Mumbai is collecting medicines from those who have recovered from COVID-19 and providing them to needy patients.

On May 1, Dr Marcus Ranney and his wife Dr Raina started Meds For More - a citizen initiative to collect unused medicines from Covid recovered patients.

"We started this initiative 10 days ago. We collect medicines from housing societies and provide them to those who can not afford them," Dr Marcus Ranney told ANI.

"The idea came when one of the family members of our staff got infected from Covid and they

needed medication. As you know the medicines can be expensive. At that time there were a few people who had recovered from Covid, so we decided to take their medicines and donate them," said Dr Raina. "After that, we took the help from 7-8 people of neighbouring buildings and set up a team and started this mission with the objective of helping those who can not go out to buy medicines or anyone who can't afford the Covid medicines," she added.

The couple has collected 20 kilograms of unused medicines from recovered patients in just 10 days. These medicines will be donated to the primary health care centres in rural districts across India for the timely treatment of the underprivileged, who are infected due to Covid.

"We have now 100 buildings that are sending medicines to us. We are a team of eight people and of course, the volunteers in different buildings. Last week, we collected 20 kilograms of medicines, which have been packaged and given to our NGO partners," said Dr Marcus Ranney.

Meds for More collects all kinds of unused medicines such as antibiotics, Fabiflu, pain relief, steroids, inhalers, vitamins, antacids, among others, that are being used to treat COVID-19 patients. Additionally, they are also collecting basic medicinal equipment like pulse oximeters and thermometers.

With growing awareness about the initiative, residents from neighbouring buildings have started volunteering to collect medicines.



Meds for More collects all kinds of unused medicines such as antibiotics, Fabiflu, pain relief, steroids, inhalers, vitamins, antacids

### WINDOWS

## Navlakha's bail plea rejected

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea of activist Gautam Navlakha, seeking bail in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist link case of Bhima Koregaon in Maharashtra. A bench of justices UU Lalit and K M Joseph dismissed the appeal of Navlakha against the Bombay high court order denying him bail in the case. On March 26, the top court had reserved its verdict on a plea of Navlakha seeking bail in the case. The top court had, on March 3, sought a response from the NIA on the plea of Navlakha seeking default bail in the case, claiming the charge sheet was not filed within the stipulated time period.



A Reang woman receives a vaccine dose at Gobindabari village in Chawmanu, near Agartala on Wednesday

## Petrol at ₹100 in Bhopal

BHOPAL: The price of petrol crossed the Rs 100 mark in Bhopal and stood at Rs 100.08 per litre on Wednesday.

The price of diesel in Bhopal was Rs 90.05 per litre.

The price of petrol and diesel also went up in the national capital and stood at Rs 92.05 and Rs 82.61 per litre, respectively.

The price of petrol and diesel was increased by Rs 25 paise per litre in Delhi. In Mumbai, the price of petrol and diesel stood at Rs 98.36 and Rs 89.75 per litre respectively.

# 4,205 Covid deaths, highest in 24 hrs

## Give ₹1 crore as compensation to families of polling officers who died of Covid: HC



NEW DELHI/KOCHI/ALLAHABAD

INDIA saw a record 4,205 COVID-19 fatalities in a day taking the death toll to 2,54,197, while 3,48,421 new coronavirus infections were reported, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

The total tally of cases in country now stands at 2,33,40,938.

The active cases have reduced to 37,04,099 comprising 15.87 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has improved to 83.04 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed.

Kerala reported 43,529 new cases, its highest single-day tally and 95 deaths.

Keeping up with its reputation of efficient Covid-19 management, the Kerala government has returned 1 lakh unused vials of Remdesivir to the Centre, said government sources.

Former CBI officer K Ragothaman, who was the chief investigating officer in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, died in Chennai on Wednesday, police sources said.

The veteran, 76, was admitted to a hospital in the city last week for Covid-19 treatment and breathed his last this morning, hospital sources said.

The Tamil Nadu government announced incentives for medical professionals working during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Accordingly, for April, May and June, Rs 30,000 will be given to doctors, Rs 20,000 to nurses and Rs 15,000 to other workers. Rs 20,000 will also be given as incentives to PG students and trainee doctors.

The Allahabad High Court has asked the Uttar Pradesh government and the state election commission to rethink the amount of compensation for families of polling officers, who died due to COVID-19 during panchayat elections, and observed that the amount must at least be to the tune of Rs one crore.

Nurses pose for a picture on the occasion of International Nurses Day in Navi Mumbai (Right) A kin of a patient carries oxygen cylinder at Gurudwara Singh Sabha in Greater Kailash New Delhi, on Wednesday



## TN offers incentives for Covid medical workers

## CBI probe officer in Rajiv Gandhi case passes away

### Shah 'missing', case filed

NEW DELHI: The National Students Union of India (NSUI) has filed a 'missing person report against Union Home Minister Amit Shah with the Delhi Police, over the 'disappearance of the country's Home Minister at the time of the pandemic. NSUI general secretary Nagesh Kariyappa filed the complaint against Shah with the Parliament Street police station. Kariyappa said that politicians are supposed to serve the nation, and not run away from a crisis situation. He said that when the country is suffering from a deadly pandemic and the citizens are facing a crisis, it is the duty of the politicians to be accountable, not only towards the government of India or the BJP, but also towards the people of the country.

### 50 black fungus cases in MP

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan here on Wednesday said 50 cases of black fungus, also known as Mucormycosis, were reported among covid-19 patients. Chouhan made the statement after chairing a high-level meeting in Bhopal on fresh challenges faced by covid patients.

The state government will roll out detailed protocols for black fungus and treatment will be done accordingly. Free treatment will be provided to economically weak patients, said Chouhan.

According to health experts, the symptoms of mucormycosis include headache, fever, pain under the eyes, nasal or sinus congestion and partial loss of vision.

### Justice Chandrachud tests positive

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court judge Justice DY Chandrachud has tested positive for Covid-19. A staff member, too, has tested positive for the virus.

Even though the judge is recovering well, sources suggest that the bench headed by the judge will not assemble for the coming few days.

The matter regarding the Covid-19 crisis is being heard by a bench headed by Justice Chandrachud.

He sat to hear the case via video conference on Monday, even as the hearing eventually got deferred for Thursday due to technical glitches. In April, four judges of the Supreme Court had tested positive for COVID-19, with one of the judges requiring hospitalisation for the same.

## Gaza City commander killed in Israeli airstrike

GAZA CITY: Militant group Hamas confirms that its Gaza City commander was killed in an Israeli airstrike, the highest-ranking militant killed since the 2014 war in the Palestinian territory.

Earlier, Israel's internal security agency said that a series of airstrikes had killed Bassem Issa and several other senior Hamas militants. The army released a statement on Wednesday, saying that it carried out a "complex and first-of-its-kind operation."

Those targeted, it said, were "a key part of the Hamas General Staff" and considered close to the

head of the group's military wing. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel will use "an iron fist if needed" to stop widespread protests by Arab citizens that have resulted in injuries, arrests, and property damage. Netanyahu said on Wednesday that Israel will "stop the anarchy" after deploying Border Police forces to calm unrest in recent days in the cities of Lod and Acre. The mounting unrest comes after weeks of violence in Jerusalem and heavy fighting between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip in recent days.



A child with the help of his father, feeds banana to a monkey on a street, in New Delhi on Wednesday

## IIT-K suspends teacher for abusing SC, ST students

KHARAGPUR: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur has suspended the teacher who had abused SC, ST students in an online class. An inquiry set-up against the teacher has found her guilty.

The IIT Kharagpur registrar Tamal Nath said, "Seema Singh has been suspended after getting the report of the fact-finding committee. She will resume only after further orders are issued. The inquiry will follow after this suspension as per the procedures."

Singh had abused students and their parents in an online class. Some students had recorded the incident and uploaded the same online. The video

had gone viral and the institute faced flak. Students claim that the teacher got angry when some of them had allegedly not stood up for the National Anthem and did not say "Bharat Mata ki Jai" after which she lost her cool and started verbally abusing students.

The incident took place in one of the online sessions of preparatory classes held to train SC, ST, and PwD candidates for IIT entrance. In the widely circulated video, the teacher had called students and their parents by a cuss word repeatedly. She can also be heard saying, "I will continue calling you that and no one on the planet can stop me".

# Pregnant doctor loses battle to Covid, husband shares last message

NEW DELHI

Dr Dimple Arora Chawla, a dentist, was seven months pregnant with her second child when she tested positive for coronavirus in April. Two weeks later, the 34-year-old lost her unborn baby. The next day, the doctor too lost her battle to the virus. She leaves behind her three-year-old son and her husband.

Days before her death, the Delhi-based woman had put out a video message to her family and friends, urging them not to take the deadly virus lightly.

"I am making this video with great difficulty. I really want to tell each and everyone

who knows me, please don't take corona so lightly. Very bad, very bad symptoms. I am not able to speak. But I really want to convey my message to all," she said in a two minute 20 second-video recorded on April 17.

"Please wear mask. Whenever you go outside, whenever you interact with people, outside and at home, for your near ones' and dear ones' safety," Dr Dimple Arora Chawla said

The video was shared on social media by her husband, with thousands of people posting messages of condolences.

Ravish Chawla said he was honouring his wife's last wishes, which was to spread awareness, so that no one takes the pandemic lightly.



"It was in her innate nature to inform people about what precautions they can take. So she had actually made this for our family and friends. But her untimely demise made me post this message to the world so that the world can know that you should not take Covid so lightly," the grieving husband said poignantly.

Narrating his wife's battle with Covid, Chawla said she her oxygen level started dipping on April 21, 10 days after she tested positive. She was immediately taken to hospital where she was given Remdesivir and administered two rounds of plasma therapy, Chawla said, adding that her condition started to dip after that.

Dr Dimple Arora Chawla, or Dipika, has her family and friends called her, went into labor on April 25. An ultrasound showed that the baby had no heartbeat. "The baby had died in the womb."

Initially, I didn't tell her. But the doctors said we will need to get her to do a caesarean and abort the baby so that it does not harm her," her husband said.

"She was very brave and strong." The young woman, however, died the next morning.

Pregnant and lactating women have not been part of any COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial in India so far and thus, the government has advised that these two groups should not be administered the vaccine.



TODAY'S QUOTE

Quick consensus needed on vax patent waiver

“There is a need for a quick consensus at the WTO on the proposal for patent waiver as well as transfer of technology and availability of raw materials for vaccines to deal with the ongoing crisis. India wanted to cover medicines, vaccinations and associated infrastructure as part of its proposal.

– Piyush Goyal, Union Minister



AUTOMOBILE

Passenger vehicle sales decline by 10%

Passenger vehicle wholesales in India declined by 10% to 2,61,633 units in April as compared to March this year, as Covid-19-led restrictions across various states impacted demand, auto industry body SIAM said

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	74.19	South	
Euro	90.02	African Rand	6.04
UAE Dirham	20.6	Hong Kong Dollar	10.88
Thai Baht	2.59	Japanese Yen	0.78
British Pound	104.86	New Zealand Dollar	53.63
Australian Dollar	57.9	Saudi Riyal	21.54
Canadian Dollar	61.31	Swedish Krona	10.14
Swiss Franc	82.05	Singapore Dollar	56.39

DELHI THURSDAY 13 MAY 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

Indian Oil's Covid help

IndianOil leveraged its expertise and assets to combat the second wave of the Covid-19. The company diverted the high-purity oxygen used in its Mono Ethylene Glycol (MEG) unit to produce medical-grade liquid oxygen at the Panipat Refinery and Petrochemical Complex. The throughput of the unit has also been scaled down to serve the cause. Presently, it is supplying 270 metric tonnes of LMO per day to the hospitals in Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. IndianOil is also converting 14 LNG tankers of 17 MT each into medical grade oxygen carriers and has launched a single-window application Sanjeevani Express. This application is equipped to enable real-time monitoring of liquid oxygen supply logistics. The platform has been created to help all stakeholders, including the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Vivo in pact with Jio

Vivo has partnered with Jio to offer benefits for Vivo Y1s. The smartphone features 6.22HD+ halo full view display and a 4030 mAh battery. The product is priced at Rs. 7,990. This offer provides customers with support price of Rs 799 enabling them to get a brand new Vivo Y1s for just Rs7191. Additionally, users can avail other benefits worth Rs4,550 in this offer. The offer is open to all existing and new Jio users. NipunMarya, Director, Brand Strategy, Vivo India, said: "vivo has always focused on providing joy to our customers. Joy in both features and value. Under the JioExclusive offer on Y1s, we want to make sure that customers get their hands on a power packed device at an affordable price point."

SpiceJet's vax drive

SpiceJet said it would start an inoculation drive for all its employees from May 17, 2021. The drive will start from Delhi, Gurugram and will cover employees across all the stations on the airline's network. The airline will also make efforts to facilitate vaccination for the families of employees. The first ones to get vaccinated are frontline employees of the airline including airport staff and in-flight crew. Ajay Singh, Chairman, Managing Director, SpiceJet, said: "At SpiceJet, health and safety of our passengers and employees is our topmost priority. Vaccination is a key step towards fighting the Covid-19 pandemic and it's important that essential workers like airline employees are vaccinated on priority. We will ensure that each and every member of the SpiceJet family gets vaccinated."

Areteans bags award

Areteans has announced that they have been recognized with the 2021 Rising Star award at Pegasytems Inc.'s annual PegaWorldInspire event. The award recognizes the company for excellence in co-selling across multiple industries. The company serves some of the world's biggest brands across banking, insurance, FMCG, telecom and government and has a presence in Australia, India, New Zealand, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. "This is a great recognition that highlights our accelerated investment and growth towards helping organisations crush complexity and transform the way in which they engage with their customers," said Mahesh Agrawal, Founder, Chief Executive Officer, Areteans.

# UN sees India's GDP growth at 7.5% in 2021

## SAYS INDIA'S ECONOMY HIGHLY FRAGILE

ARUL LOUIS  
UNITED NATIONS

THE UN forecasts India's economy to grow by 7.5 per cent this calendar year and rebound to 10.5 per cent next year with the caveat that the outlook is "highly fragile" because of the brutal Covid-19 second wave.

The mid-year World Economic Situation and Prospects report released on Tuesday said that for a global recovery, universal access to Covid-19 vaccine is critical but in India "access to vaccines is unequal and insufficient to meet the massive demand".

"Given the fluid situation, India's growth outlook in 2021 is highly fragile," it warned.

It noted that while "India has been particularly affected by a brutal second wave, which is overwhelming the public health system in large parts of the country", the country also "has expanded vaccine eligibility and is ramping up supply in every possible manner".

The mid-year forecasts are 0.2 per cent higher than that made in January for this year and it has been revised up by 4.2 per cent higher for next year. The report forecast investment growth to plunge by a negative 10.2 per cent this year. The UN projection for India is far lower than the Inter-

### WHAT AILS INDIA'S RECOVERY



- Universal access to vaccines was a critical factor for global economic recovery
- Access to vaccines is unequal and insufficient to meet the massive demand in India

- The UN projection for India is far lower than the International MF's upbeat 12.5 %
- Brutal second wave, which is overwhelming the public health system in large parts of the country

national Monetary Fund's (IMF) upbeat 12.5 per cent forecast last month just as the Covid-19 surge was beginning. But there is also a difference in the time periods two organisations use -- UN follows the calendar year, while the IMF uses the fiscal year under which the growth forecast would take in to account the growth in the first months of 2021.

The UN report said it expects

global economy to expand by 5.4 per cent in 2021 buoyed by the recovery in the world's two largest economies, China and US, due to the "rapid vaccinations and continued fiscal and monetary support measures".

This year China's economy is projected to grow by 8.2 per cent and the US by 6.2 per cent -- the highest it has seen since 1984.

Introducing the report, the

Chief of the UN Development Research Branch, Hamid Rashid, said that universal access to vaccines was a critical factor for global economic recovery as it will create her immunity to enable the resumption of economic activities.

The report, however, painted a dim picture of the global vaccination situation.

It said, "As of 24 April 2021, 1.01 billion vaccine doses have been administered globally, with the United States, the United Kingdom and China collectively accounting for nearly 50 per cent of all the doses administered worldwide. Only about 1 in 10 people worldwide have received a vaccine shot so far (figure 1). The vaccination rate is only 1 in 100 in Africa."

For South Asia, the report said, economic growth will return in 2021 at 6.9 per cent against a 5.6 per cent drop in 2020, but the recovery will be very uneven, and the scarring effects will run deep.

It added, "Indeed, South Asia's regional economic growth in 2021 will still be insufficient to undo last year's 6.7 per cent loss in GDP (gross domestic product) per capita. Many of the region's households that have fallen into extreme poverty will thus remain trapped in their precarious condition."

## Cabinet okays ₹18k-cr PLI scheme for ACC batteries

NEW DELHI

THE Union Cabinet has approved Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage' for achieving manufacturing capacity of 50 Giga Watt Hour (GWh) of ACC and 5 GWh of 'niche' ACC, at an outlay of Rs 18,100 crore.

ACCs are the new generation of advanced storage technologies that can store electric energy, either as electrochemical or as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy, as and when required. The consumer electronics, electric vehicles, advanced electricity grids, solar rooftop among others, which are major battery consuming sectors, are expected to achieve robust growth in the coming years.

It is expected that the dominant battery technologies will control some of the world's largest growth sectors.

## Hyd gets 5<sup>th</sup> rank in health infra report

HANS BUSINESS  
HYDERABAD

ELARA Technologies' Housing.com, an online real estate firm, has given 5th rank to Hyderabad from eight prime cities in its 'State of Healthcare in India: Indian cities through the lens of healthcare' report. The online real estate has assigned ratings to cities under its city health card list.

The list is topped by Pune, while Ahmedabad, Bengaluru and Mumbai stand at second, third and fourth positions, respectively. Chennai, Kolkata and Delhi-NCR are ranked sixth, seventh and eighth in the list.

The report stated that Hyderabad has 2.9 hospital beds per 1,000 population, with a total tally of 24,000-26,000 beds for a population of 8.6 million, that includes private and government hospital beds and the ad-

ditional beds currently being augmented for pandemic have not been included in this, says the report.

"As quality housing remains integral to health, States should come up with more reformative measures to ensure a larger number of its citizens are able to afford housing, which acts as a preventive measure against health risks. Though developing better healthcare infrastructure will require a well thought-out medium-term plan, and would take some time to build," said Mani Rangarajan, Group COO, Housing.com.

States could immediately launch measures in the form of stamp duty reductions to provide their citizens better protection against health hazards in the form of affordable housing and better community living which has easy access to all amenities, Rangarajan added.

## Dr Reddy's launches generic Invanz injection in US market

HYDERABAD

Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd on Wednesday announced the launch of Ertapenem for Injection, 1 g/vial, a therapeutic equivalent generic version of Invanz approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

"We are pleased to bring this important product to market at this time. We're excited to extend our strategic partnership with Gland Pharma whose hard work, in collaboration with the team at Dr Reddy's, has enabled the execution of this launch," Marc Kikuchi, CEO, North America Generics, Dr Reddy's said in a release. Ertapenem is used to prevent and treat a wide variety of bacterial infections. Gland Pharma has an exclusive API supply arrangement for this product and a dedicated manufacturing facility in Hyderabad for Ertapenem Injection, MD and CEO of Gland Pharma Ltd, Srinivas Sadu said.

## NMDC raises lump ore prices by ₹700/tn

NEW DELHI

THE country's largest iron ore miner NMDC on Wednesday announced a hike in the prices of lump ore by Rs 700 per tonne and fines by Rs 1,500 per tonne with immediate effect.

Iron ore is a key raw material used in steel making. Any change in its prices has a direct impact on the rates of steel.

The announcement has come at a time when steel is trading at an all-time high. In May 2021, the steel makers raised prices of Hot Rolled Coil (HRC) by Rs 4,000 to Rs 67,000 per tonne and Cold Rolled Coil (CRC) by Rs 4,500 to Rs 80,000 per tonne.

After the price revision, a tonne of lump ore or high-grade iron will cost Rs 7,650 a tonne while the buyers will get iron ore fines or inferior grade ore for Rs 6,560 per tonne, NMDC said in a BSE filing.

HANS BUSINESS  
HYDERABAD

A 30-year old lady based out of Nizamabad turns a role model to many young women in rural areas who look up to her as an entrepreneur and job-creator. Though she discontinued her studies after Class 7 due to financial problems in her family, she started her own tailoring business enterprise, which now employs over 120 women from nearby villages and towns.

Few years ago, Latha Nadukuda took a gold loan to launch her own garments' unit near her house, and began making women's innerwear, sleepwear and house-wear, among various other types of apparel. Very soon, a plethora of B2C orders kept coming in and she was unable to manage everything on her own. She hired local women as employees, and gave training them to do the work.

She founded Shree Latha Garments and Ladies Tailors to take up multiple orders of stitching uniforms for local government schools. Her husband, who previously worked as a home guard, had a good rapport with the local Police Departments and this in turn enabled her to get large orders for police uniforms.

During the pandemic period, she started getting orders for making masks from local SHGs and for PPE kits from local government hospitals as well as private hospitals in Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana. Shree Latha Garments has grown to accommodate over 120 employees. While 20 per cent of all the resource persons are currently working from their factory, the rest are working from their homes.

Latha and her husband have equipped these women by buying each of them a sewing machine and giving them detailed



Latha Nadukuda

Even during the pandemic period, employees of Shree Latha Garments and Ladies Tailors work from home and have a steady source of income, with some of them earning up to Rs. 1.5 lakh per month

training on the kind of work that needs to be done. After acquiring the skill set, many of these

women have even started replicating Latha's business model on a smaller scale and getting orders on their own.

"With the growing reputation of the products crafted by Shree Latha Garments, more government orders came in, the business keeps growing substantially. Even during the Covid outbreak last year, all of our employees were working from home and having a steady source of income, with some of them earning up to Rs. 1.5 lakh per month," Latha informed.

Latha is creating a "ripple effect" - helping so many local women earn a livelihood on their own and become 'self-dependent' or Aatmanirbhar over a period of time. In the near future, she wants to scale up her business by taking Shree Latha Garments and Ladies Tailors beyond the boundaries of Telangana, to various other parts of India, and thereby establish a solid brand

name for her enterprise.

Latha was also a part of Project Her&Now's entrepreneurship support programme in Telangana in 2020.

'Her&Now - Empowering Women Entrepreneurs', is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and in partnership with India's Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

In Telangana, the project is running in partnership with WE Hub. Speaking about her association with Project Her&Now, Latha says, "With the help of the mentors of Her&Now, I learnt a lot about the right kind of business strategies, accounting, digital inclusion and much more. The programme also empowered us to become more confident and outgoing and future-ready."



# ‘Lookout notice for Sushil Kumar could impact wrestling's image’

NAVNEET SINGH  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi Police ‘lookout notice’ for decorated wrestler Sushil Kumar, India’s lone double individual Olympic medallist, in connection with a wrestler’s murder last week could make parents rethink on encouraging their kids to take up the sport, says former world junior bronze medal winner Virender Kumar.

Sushil, employed with Indian Railways, is in focus as he is posted as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) at Chhatrasal Stadium, where the brawl allegedly took place. Former international Greco Roman wrestler Sagar Dhankar, 23, died on May 4 after a group of wrestlers allegedly beat him up, either inside the stadium or around it.

According to Delhi Police, Sushil is absconding. “A lookout notice has been issued for Sushil Kumar,” Dr Gurqbal Singh Sidhu, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (North West Delhi), had told IANS on Monday.

Virender, who won 58kg freestyle bronze at the 1992 World Junior Championship, is worried about the implication of the case on wrestling, particularly on youngsters who want to take the sport up as a career.

“Parents would be scared to send their young kids for practice. Elderly people in the family would definitely think twice before sending youngsters to wrestling halls

for training as no one would like their children to be part of bad company and bring a bad name to the family,” Virender told IANS.

“When Sushil won his first Olympic medal, a bronze in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, it changed the mind-set of Indian wrestlers; they thought they too could win medals at the world level. But if a star like Sushil’s name has cropped up in a major controversy and Delhi Police have issued a lookout notice against him, it would send a wrong message to budding wrestlers. If young athletes are not disciplined then they will never become good players or good citizens,” the 50-year-old

coach said.

Virender has a long-standing relationship with Sushil, the Olympic medallist’s father-in-law Satpal, and Chhatrasal Stadium, the wrestling hub in north-west Delhi.

Virender is also the husband of Satpal’s sister. He, as a wrestler, learnt his first lessons at Chhatrasal Stadium and was later posted at the same venue as a coach. But, he seems to have fallen out with Sushil, the OSD at the stadium, and was transferred to another school in east Delhi in August last year. “It is good for me that I’m out of Chhatrasal Stadium,” he said.

According to Virender, wrestling facilities at Chhatrasal Stadium were set up in 1988. “The foundation stone of wrestling at Chhatrasal Stadium was laid by 1982 Asian Games gold medallist Satpal Singh. There were five or six wrestlers in the first group. I was one

of them,” he pointed out.

Virender, a former national medallist, has been working with the Delhi government as a coach for some time. He is hurt as Chhatrasal Stadium, which has been home to him and several international wrestlers, has been mired in this unsavoury incident involving one of India’s most successful wrestlers.

Virender said there are currently more than 200 registered wrestlers in the 10-15-year age group train at Chhatrasal Stadium. “Some senior wrestlers like Ravi Dahiya and Sumit Malik, who have qualified for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics, also train at the stadium,” he said.

With an aim to strengthen the ecosystem of sports within the Delhi Education Department, Sushil in 2015 joined Delhi government on deputation from Indian Railways as an OSD. His office was at the Chhatrasal Stadium. “But his [Sushil] administrative decisions weren’t acceptable to several wrestlers and they quit the stadium to train elsewhere,” alleged Virender.

After clinching bronze at the 2008 Olympics, Sushil, now 37, bagged silver at the 2012 London Olympics. He also won gold at the 2010 Moscow World Championship and three gold medals at the Commonwealth Games, in 2010, 2014, and 2018. (IANS)



## Dravid created solid pool for India: Greg Chappell

SYDNEY

FORMER India captain Rahul Dravid “picked” the Australian “brains” to create solid domestic structure which has served as a feeder line for his country’s national team, something Australia is missing badly, feels legendary Greg Chappell.

Chappell also said that both India and England have overtaken Australia as the best side in recognising young talent and providing them a platform to succeed. “India have got their act together and that’s largely because Rahul Dravid has picked our brains, seen what we’re doing and replicated it in India and with

their much larger (population) base,” Chappell told cricket.com.au.

Chappell, one of the finest batsmen to have played the game, cautioned that talented Australian



cricketers might find their careers at crossroads because of the domestic structure. “Historically, we’ve been one of the best at developing young players and keeping them in the system, but I think that’s changed in the last couple of years,” he said. (PTI)

## How coach Paramjeet changed Seema’s wrestling career

AMANPREET SINGH  
FARRUKH NAGAR (HARYANA)

QUALIFYING for the Tokyo Olympics was an unimaginable dream realised for Seema Bisla, who did not even think of winning a national title until she bumped into a “guru” who believed in her talent more than anyone else. Disheartened and dejected at her repeated failures and lack of support from coaches, all Seema wanted was a job that would help her sustain in a tough sport. Competing at the Olympics never crossed her mind. Daughter of a cancer-stricken farmer father, she did not want to be a burden on the family. With the help of Paramjeet Yadav she appeared in trails for a sports vacancy in the Indian Railways and landed a



clerk’s job in 2017. Little did she know that a casual help taken from Paramjeet would change her life and goals forever. She expressed her desire to train under him after getting the job and shifted base to his academy, first in Gurugram and then in Farrukh Nagar.

Now she is only the fourth Indian woman to have made the cut

for the Tokyo Games. She won the 50kg quota last week at the World Qualifiers in Sofia. “Main to kabhi ye bhi nahi socha tha ki National jeetungi (I did not even think of winning the national championship). Abhi bhi Vishwas nahi ho raha hai maine Olympic ke liye qualify kar liya hai (It has not sunk in yet),” Seema told PTI in an exclusive interview. (PTI)

## Rafael Nadal uncertain about playing in Tokyo Olympics



ROME

RAFAEL Nadal joined the growing number of tennis players expressing doubts about competing in the Tokyo Olympics. The third-ranked Nadal, in Rome for the Italian Open, said Tuesday that his status for the Tokyo games is uncertain. “I don’t know yet. Honestly, I can’t give you a clear answer because I don’t know,” Nadal said when asked whether he would be at the rescheduled Olympics.

“I don’t know my calendar. “In a normal world, I will never see about missing Olympics, of course. Is no doubt about that. Everybody knows how important have been for me (to) always play Olympics.” The Tokyo Olympics were postponed from 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic. “Under these circumstances, I don’t know. Let’s see what’s going on in the next couple of months. But I need to organize my schedule,” the 34-year-old Spaniard continued.

“My schedule in a normal year, I normally know my schedule almost 100% since 1st of January till the end of the season. “This year is something a little bit different, no? We need to be flexible. We need to adapt about the things that are happening.” Nadal won the singles gold medal at the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and claimed gold in doubles five years ago at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Nadal is at-

tempting to win a 10th Italian Open to complete his build-up for a 14th French Open trophy. He is the latest top tennis player to voice his uncertainty about the games, which open July 23.

Four-time champion Serena Williams suggested she won’t go to Japan if coronavirus protocols mean she can’t bring her 3-year-old daughter, while Japanese tennis players Kei Nishikori and Naomi Osaka have raised concerns about whether the games should even go ahead at all.

“Of course I would say I want the Olympics to happen, because I’m an athlete and that’s sort of what I’ve been waiting for my entire life,” Osaka said. “But I think that there’s so much important stuff going on, and especially the past year.” Japan has attributed 11,000 deaths to COVID-19, better than many countries, but poor for Asia.

The virus and its spreading variants are taxing Japan’s health-care system with only 2 per cent of the population vaccinated. Public sentiment in Japan continues to run against holding the Olympics in the middle of a pandemic. Between 60-80 per cent of Japanese people in polls have said the Olympics should be cancelled or postponed. But local organizers and the International Olympic Committee insist the games will open as planned. (AP).

## Tendulkar pays tribute on 'International Nurses' Day'

MUMBAI

CRICKET icon Sachin Tendulkar on the occasion of ‘International Nurses’ Day’ paid glowing tribute to the thousands of para-medics across India who are in the frontline in country’s fight against the deadly coronavirus.

“Silently serving humanity forever. Sleepless nights, care and concern flow non stop for us when we aren’t well. The pandemic has made us recognise their value more than ever before. Grateful for everything you do for us. Happy International Nurses Day,” tweeted Tendulkar.

Along with his tweet, Tendulkar also posted a picture of three nurses, who are selflessly serving the needy in Makunda hospital, which is in a remote part of Assam, bordering Mizoram and Tripura. Tendulkar had tested positive for Covid-19, on March 27 and then had to be hospitalised for a brief period, before he returned home on April 8. He has decided to donate his plasma when eligible. He had also donated Rs 1 crore in country’s fight against Covid-19. The International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every May 12, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth. (PTI)

INDIA are to tour Sri Lanka for a short cricket series in July but increasing Covid-19 cases in that country could worry Indian cricket board. The island nation recorded 2,568 cases on Tuesday. According to official numbers announced in Colombo, the 2,568 cases

## INDIA'S TOUR TO LANKA Increasing Covid cases in island a worry

recorded on Tuesday included 38 overseas returnees. On May 10, the island recorded 2,624 cases and on May 9 the number was 2,672. The Board of Control

for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Sourav Ganguly had earlier said that India are set to travel to Sri Lanka in July for three ODIs and as many T20Is.

Colombo’s R. Premadasa Stadium is likely to host all six games of the series. “We plan to host the entire series at one venue. As of now, it has been decided

that the Premadasa Stadium will host the fixtures. Obviously, it depends on how the situation is around that time,” Arjuna de Silva, Sri Lanka Cricket’s (SLC) Administrative Committee chairman, told Sportstar on Monday. “With the Covid situation fluid, we cannot allow fans yet, so all the matches will be closed-door affairs,” De Silva said. (IANS)

# Arjuna winning TT player V Chandrasekhar dies due to Covid

CHENNAI

CURRENT Indian paddler G Sathiyam and former national champions S Raman and M S Mythili were among Chandra’s trainees

Arjuna award-winning former India table tennis player V Chandrasekhar died at a private hospital here on Wednesday due to COVID-19 related complications, family sources said. He was 64 and is survived by his wife and a son. Chandra, as he was popularly known, was a three-time national champion and was the president of Tamizhaga Table Tennis Association and Director and head coach of the SDAT-Medimix TT Academy in the city.

The Chennai-born player, who had reached the semi-finals of the Commonwealth Games in 1982, was also a successful coach. His playing career was cut short in 1984 following a botched knee surgery at a hospital here which led to him losing mobility, speech and vision. He fought back to recover and served the game as a coach. He also fought a le-

gal battle against the hospital and got a verdict in his favour.

The paddler was a three-time national champion and a gold medallist in BA (Economics) and Law at the time of the career-ending injury. Subsequently, sheer willpower helped Chandra return to 70-80 per cent of his normal mobility and he decided to focus on training promising players.

According to a few paddlers who have played with him, Chandra was one of the most attractive players and took risks at crucial stages of the game to unsettle opponents. Chandra last appeared in the Indore nationals, held in 1983, losing to the eventual champion Kamlesh Mehta. Chandra had beaten Kamlesh in the previous nationals at Palghat for the Chennai paddler’s third consecutive and last national crown.

Mehta, recalling his association with Chandra, said it was difficult to find such an amiable character. “He was friendly on and off the court. It was he who made topspin popular in India. He learned the skills at (Ichiro) Ogimura’s



academy in Japan. “I spoke to him on the day he got admitted to the hospital (May 8). But who would have thought he would leave us all so soon,” he added.

In 1984, he participated in

the central zone event at Indore, conceding the final to Manjit Singh Dua, when the crowd booed and pilloried Chandra on some personal issues. “I had known Chandra from his playing days and as

an SBI colleague. You can’t find such a soft-spoken personality like him,” said Manjit, who is also the national chief coach. “As far as his play goes, he was simply superb as a player and competitor. He has

helped his state (Tamil Nadu) to several titles in team events as well. It’s a real tragedy to lose a good friend and an able coach like him,” he added. Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) president Dushyant Chautala paid rich tributes to Chandrasekhar. “I was saddened to hear Chandra’s demise today. It was very unfortunate that table tennis has lost another person to the dreaded disease. We recently lost Suhas Kulkarni and now Chandra. He was a superb person, very soft-spoken and a good coach,” said Chautala.

“I have heard about his playing days and I was told how competitive he had been and equally receptive to his opponents, and a friend on or off court. We and all those who were close to him will miss his persona. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult period,” he added.

Current Indian paddler G Sathiyam and former national champions S Raman and M.S. Mythili were among Chandra’s trainees. Table tennis ace A Sharath Kamal consoled the

death of Chandrasekhar. “We have lost a champion who fought death 37 years ago. Saddened to hear of the passing of V Chandrasekar Sir. Table Tennis as a sport has lost a great mentor, coach and an amazing player. He made the sport famous in the early 80’s. Rest in Peace, Sir,” Kamal tweeted.

On his part, Sathiyam said, “Completely shocked and indeed a very personal loss to me and my family. Lost my long time childhood & former coach & Arjuna Awardee Chandrasekar sir today..Your memories and teachings will always stay with me sir. RIP.” “Playing with him for almost 14 years. From 1998 till 2012 I was with him. He let me play in my style. He was the one who always helped. He nurtured me. It is not only a loss for me, but for my family also,” he added. Raman, who was trained by Chandra, recalled his former coach as a very stylish and multi-talented player. The table tennis fraternity in Chennai condoled his death, saying that the sport has lost a legend. (PTI)