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HYDERABAD | THURSDAY | 10 JUNE 2021

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Max: 31°C
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Rain: Trace

Forecast: Cloudy sky. Rain likely. Max/Min temp. 32/24°C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana
Tithi: Vaishakha Bahula Amavasya till 4.20 pm

Star: Rohini till 11.42 am
Varjyanam: 5.57 pm to 8.44 pm

Durmuhurtam: 10.05 am to 10.57 am; 3.17 pm to 4.10 pm

Rahu Kalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Shawwal 28, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.31 am
Zohar: 12.25 pm
Asar: 4.51 pm

Magrib: 6.55 pm

Isha: 8.12 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.50 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.41 AM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 5.23 AM

MOONSET TODAY 6.51 PM

COUNTER POINT

No need to come to our party office... you can defect online now!

SHORT TAKES

Anup Chandra
new EC member

New Delhi: Former Uttar Pradesh-cadre IAS officer Anup Chandra Pandey was appointed as an election commissioner on Tuesday.

The law ministry said the President is pleased to appoint Pandey, a retired IAS officer of the 1984 batch, as an election commissioner with effect from the date he assumes office.

There was a vacancy in the poll panel after Sunil Arora demitted office as the chief election commissioner on April 12. Pandey (62) will demit office in February 2024 on attaining the age of 65 years.

Centre hikes MSP for kharif crops

Chennai: The government has increased the minimum support price (MSP) of all the mandated kharif crops in FY22. While MSP of rice has been increased by ₹2 per quintal, sesamum saw the highest rise of ₹452 per quintal. With this, the MSP of paddy is 50 per cent higher than the cost of production. The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year is for sesamum at ₹452 per quintal.

Punish China: Australia to WTO

Canberra (Australia): The WTO should penalise bad behaviour when it occurs, Australia's prime minister said Wednesday ahead of a G7 leaders' meeting in Britain where he hopes to garner support in a trade dispute with China. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Australia would be working with others to buttress the role of the WTO and to modernise its rulebook.

Full report on Page 9

Wading through deluge

A man makes his way across a flooded street during heavy rains in Mumbai on Wednesday. The rain lashed the city marking the arrival of monsoon. While the rail and train traffic was disrupted, several areas of the city witnessed water-logging bringing normal life to a standstill. — AP

TS govt hospitals get diagnostics centres**Move to improve early detection of diseases**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD JUNE 9

Last chance for fee cap GO: HC

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

The public healthcare system in Telangana state got a boost on Wednesday with the launch of 19 diagnostic centres at various government hospitals across districts. Each diagnostic centre has been set up at a cost of ₹2.50 crore.

A festive mood was evident at these centres as ministers inaugurated them, as people are getting the expensive diagnostic services without any payment.

These centres were at Mahabubnagar, Nizamabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Jangoan, Mulugu, Mahabubabad, Bhadrak, Kothagudem, Jagtial, Siddipet, Nalgonda, Khammam, Siricilla, Vikarabad, Nirmal, Karimnagar, Adilabad, Gadwal and Asifabad district headquarters.

Ministers hailed the start of free diagnostic centres in government hospitals and said this is a landmark in the history of the public healthcare system in the state.

They said Chief Minister Chandrashekhar Rao planned to spend ₹10,000 crore for the development of government hospitals and ₹5,000 crore for setting up seven new government medical colleges and nursing colleges this year.

The ministers said the blood samples collected from patients at all government hospitals including PHCs would get tested

in TDC and soft copies of the reports would be sent to the doctor and patient. This would mean a significant change in the health care services at rural level by ensuring early detection of the diseases.

These centres will undertake 57 types of tests relating to coronavirus, blood, urine, diabetes, hypertension, cardiac ailments, orthopaedic cases, liver, kidney, thyroid

related x-ray, biochemistry, pathology etc.

These centres have been provided with advanced testing equipment such as fully automatic immunoassay analyser, five-part cell counter and urine analyser. ECG, 2D Echo, ultrasound, digital x-ray and other such imaging testing units are also provided, which can produce 400 to 800 reports per hour.

complied, on June 1, it gave one more chance on the request of the director of public health. The court mentioned that if the GO was not issued, the secretary of medical, health and family welfare should appear before the court to explain the delay.

On Wednesday, Mr Rizvi, secretary of medical, health and family welfare, appeared before the court and sought another four weeks to issue the GO on the ground that the government was holding meetings with various nursing homes and private hospitals associations to arrive at a final capping price.

■ Page 2: Issue fee cap GO by June 23, says HC

The Telangana HC on Wednesday gave one last chance to the state government to issue an order (GO) for capping maximum prices for diagnostic and treatment services, and medical equipment provided to treat Covid-19 patients in private hospitals and nursing homes.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy made the directions while dealing with the Covid-19 related public interest litigations.

On May 17, the court directed the state to issue a GO within two days on the same. As it was not

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Covid victims' kin cry for death certificates

GHMC's tall claims of issuing records in 14 days fall flat

MADDY DEEKSHITI | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

Despite the promise that birth and death certificates will be issued in a space of 14 days, the GHMC is delaying this for the past four months. This is affecting many, and more importantly the families of those who died of Covid-19. A death certificate is a must for them to avail government relief.

This situation is being exploited by some civic officials to take bribe, as per complaints from some families.

The corporation has not processed the birth and death registrations at 1,463 government and private hospitals during the pandemic season since February last. Officials cite excuses like the transfer of field staff from the birth and death wing and use of its computers for the ongoing vaccination drive.

Over 2,000 deaths and 1,000 births have been registered on average since March. In February, about 1,500 birth and death certificates were pending.

Sources say the corpora-

tion felt an immediate need to transfer some employees in February and a reshuffle was given effect to in the birth and death wing. The vacancies thereof were not filled.

In March, officials deployed all the staff for property tax collection. After the outbreak of the second C-wave, the staff was asked to take up a special sanitation drive.

Ever since the beginning of the vaccination drive, the computers in the births and deaths wing were reserved for computing the data. This made matters even worse.

Migrant labourers and people outside GHMC limits, in both the Telugu states, have been the worst sufferers due to the present drag in the issuing of death certificates.

Nagaraj, kin of a migrant labourer who hails from Uttar Pradesh, said, "My brother working at a construction site in Panjagutta was affected by the Covid-19 infec-

tion and died on March 28. Though we sent in the death details, the corporation is yet to issue the certificate. I visited the Panjagutta police station and the police asked me to get a copy of the death report from the Gandhi Hospital.

The hospital said that they have sent a copy of the document to the GHMC. GHMC officials say they do not find the copy online for approval. Upon giving a ₹5,000 bribe, the civic officials finally issued the death certificate on June 5."

Nagaraj said he spent over ₹20,000 to get the certificate as he travelled to Hyderabad from Kaushambi in UP for this purpose.

"Under the National Disaster Relief Fund, the central government has set a provision to provide interim relief to the families of those who have died of Covid-19. The death certificate is a must to apply for the same, and we have difficulty getting this," said Mohammed Yaseen Pasha, kin of a person who died of the pandemic, who hail from Kothagudem.

Narrating his plight, Yaseen said that he lost his 34-year-old brother due to Covid-19 in April. The Centre has announced a relief of ₹4 lakh as ex-gratia to Covid-19 victims.

"Citing this, my family members rushed to the district collectorate in Bhadrak-Kothagudem district. The officials informed us to submit the death certificate as proof to avail the benefit. When we tried to obtain this from Gandhi Hospital, the officials there directed us to GHMC circle office Secunderabad. I have been moving from pillar to post for three weeks but the authorities have not issued the certificate, saying there was a system snag," he said.

When *Deccan Chronicle* brought the issue to the notice of GHMC officials, they said several records pertaining to birth and deaths were "missing" since the same computers and servers were used for the vaccination drive. The issuance of certificates will be delayed for a month due to the ongoing vaccination drive, they said.

GOV. TO TAKE STUDENT ISSUES TO AUTHORITIES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan on Wednesday supported the students' request to get vaccinated for attending offline classes in the campuses during her live interaction with students of universities and colleges across the state on Twitter 'Ask the Chancellor' session.

"Students should be vaccinated. I am happy about your awareness. Starting physical classes will be decided after assessing the pandemic situation," she said while replying to a query.

Several students, especially from the medical stream, requested her for an early conduct of examinations for their promotion to the next semester, adding that they were lagging behind by five months for the next academic classes.

The governor assured to take up the issue with the vice-chancellor of the KNRUHS.

On the other hand, some medical and engineering students expressed apprehensions over the conduct of examinations due to the prevailing situation, and requested for the postponement of entrance examinations being conducted by AIIMS, while some others requested for an early conduct of NEET for MDS aspirants.

Meanwhile, Dr. Tamilisai also held a customary meeting with the newly appointed vice-chancellors and discussed the future of academic activities in the upcoming session.

Close encounter



Motorists who were issued challans for breaking lockdown rules stand in queue without maintaining social distance at Mehidipatnam in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Covid re-infection rate at 2.2%, says ICMR

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

The rate of re-infection of Covid-19 in India is at 2.2 per cent and 'breakthrough infection' after vaccination is at one per cent, says the Indian Council of Medical Research.

As the antibodies from natural infection are able to give protection only for 8 to 10 months, there are chances of re-infection in those who are above 65 years and suffering from co-morbid conditions and are immune-compromised.

Experts say that after the first wave, re-infection cases were recorded at 4.5 per cent by ICMR. At that time, vaccination

had just started. As the vaccination process continued and the second wave came in, re-infections are now at 2.2 per cent.

Experts say vaccination of more of the population will bring down this ratio. Protection from the vaccine in real time is not more than 60 per cent but this has helped in reducing the mortality.

The vaccine has helped prevent deaths. Studies are being carried out in different medical colleges to understand the real-time data and the impact of vaccines on the double mutant.

While documentation for healthcare workers has been carried out, only the cases of senior citizens who come to hospitals are recorded.

Issue fee cap GO by June 23, directs HC

From Page 1

● THE COURT said its intention was not to find fault with the government, but it was pointing out loopholes and lacunae at the field level and moreover, on concern about people's suffering.

ICMR had to issue login credentials for commencing the testing.

He also submitted to the court that 223 complaints had been received against 135 hospitals for excess billings and with the involvement of the government, hospitals had refunded ₹60 lakh to 65 lakh of excess bill amounts to patients.

Senior counsel L. Ravichandra informed the court that there were around 35,000 posts vacant in the state medical department and filling of these posts should be ramped up.

The court inquired the director of public health about the preparedness to face the third wave of pandemic and the constitution of the advisory committee under the Disaster Management Act.

On a query by the court about vaccination, Srinivasa Rao informed the court that the government would complete vaccinating its entire population in another three months.

The division bench took on record the contentions put forth by Dr G. Srinivas Rao, director of public health and family welfare, Telangana, that the 14 RT PCR labs established in different districts of the state will commence their operations by June 10 as the

Dharani records full of errors

From Page 1

They said only this would give sanctity to land records.

Contrary to the revenue department's claims of having 99 per cent land records in Telangana error-free, the Dharani portal is flooding with complaints on errors in land records as a new helpline has been launched on the portal on June 7 to enable landowners to lodge their grievances. The portal received nearly 10,000 complaints in three days wherein landowners brought the issue of discrepancies in records with regard to the extent of land, ownership etc indicating the gravity of the situation.

The land records on the Dharani portal have been uploaded since 2016 based on data available with the revenue department without conducting field level verification or survey. These revenue land record details are based on surveys done during Nizam's era in the 1930s. All the existing survey numbers given to lands pertain to those given during the Nizam era. The lands changed sever-

The erroneous land records were already passed on to Dharani and if the digital survey is done again based on these records, these errors will simply be carried forward without serving the purpose of resolving long disputes.

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Metro, RTC to extend timings

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

● TSRTC WILL run its services for 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. An RTC official said 4,000 busses are currently moving each day in the state. If required, their number will be increased.

train will continue to start from their respective origination points at 7 a.m., the last train will start at 5 p.m. and reach the respective terminating stations by 6 p.m.

Accordingly, Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) will run its services for 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. An RTC official 4,000 busses are currently moving each day in the state. If

SHORT TAKES

DEBT DRIVES BUSINESSMAN TO SUICIDE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

A realtor died by suicide due to financial problems under Jawahar Nagar police station on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Bobbi Naveen Reddy.

According to Jawahar Nagar police, Naveen Reddy killed himself by consuming poison in the Kowkoor forest area, near Dargah due to debts.

Based on a complaint from his wife, police booked a suspicious death case. The complainant stated that Naveen Reddy incurred many losses in real estate business and was mentally depressed.

Jawahar Nagar police recovered the body and shifted it to Osmania general hospital for autopsy.

RAPE ACCUSED DETAINED UNDER PD ACT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

A real estate agent involved in cheating and a rape case has been detained under the PD Act by Rachakonda police.

The accused Gadus Narsimha has been dealing in real estate business for the past several years. Since 2005, he has been involved in eight cheating, criminal intimidation, rape of a minor in the limits Vanasthalipuram police station. Narsimha was arrested and sent to judicial custody in the rape case.

After his release on bail, he started harassing a woman and her minor daughter by sending vulgar texts, photos, following which two more molestation and criminal intimidation cases were registered against him in Vanasthalipuram PS.

Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh M. Bhagwat booked him under PD Act on Wednesday.

MURDER ACCUSED RECEIVES LIFE SENTENCE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

Almost nine years after the murder of real-estate businessman at a hotel in the city, Nampally court awarded a life sentence to the accused on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Shiva Prasad Rao from Visianagaram District. He was killed by his car driver Birlangi Prashanth.

"Shiva prasad Rao used to ill-treat the accused Prashanth and several times Rao abused him in public. On the day of killing, both consumed alcohol and a quarrel broke out between them leading to the murder of Rao," said police.

Saifabad police booked a case and arrested the accused and filed a charge-sheet against him. After finding him guilty, Sunitha Kunchela, judge First AMSJ, Nampally, awarded him life sentence.

Daily Covid-19 cases below 2,000 in state

Active cases at 24,301 indicate slow spread of virus

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

The new Covid infection cases on the daily chart released by the Telangana health department were below 2,000 per day on Wednesday, but the active cases were more, at 24,301, five down from the previous day. This meant there is still a slow spread around.

Districts like Khammam, Nalgonda, Ranga Reddy and Suryapet have consistently shown high numbers from May onwards.

People's movement means spread of the virus. Once a patient has recovered at home, he would start moving around in the society. Shedding of the virus

DAILY COVID BULLETIN DATA



Update: Cases | Deaths

Fresh Cases	1,813
Deaths	17
Tests Done	1,29,896
Active Cases	24,301
Total Cases	5,96,813
Total Deaths	3,426

Highest New Cases

Khammam	180
GHMC (Hyderabad)	179
Nalgonda	145
Ranga Reddy	109
Suryapet	91

Lowest New Cases

Adilabad and Kamareddy	6
Nirmal	9
Komaram Bheem-	
Asifabad	12
Medak	17

From these patients is high and that also leads to further spread. Then, there are the economic and social activities during the relax-

ation time, when too there is movement of asymptomatic people. The crowding at markets, vaccination centers, e-seva and other govern-

ment utilities is high during the relaxation hours. These are the hubs for spread of the virus as the norm of social distancing is not always observed.

As people run around to have the vaccine jab, this adds to the spread. In public health centers, the medical staff is facing challenges as there are too many people approaching them even without advance registration.

Experts say the vaccination policy needs to be scaled up and planned in a manner that the movement of people is reduced. This will also allow for faster and quicker vaccination process.



Police commissioner Anjani Kumar participates in Covid-19 awareness programme in front of the Assembly on Wednesday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Cops gear up for extended lockdown starting today

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

Anjani Kumar said "Compared to the earlier

lockdown, cooperation from the public has improved substantially, this time around.

Around 14,000 police personnel from the commissionate worked 24x7 to strictly enforce the lockdown."

On the new guidelines coming into effect on Thursday, he said, "We will enforce the lockdown more strictly from 6pm to 6am. We will register cases against those who come on the road unnecessarily."

On Wednesday Hyderabad City Police organised a special program to create awareness on

Coronavirus by wearing

Coronavirus helmets, safeguards, and gadha in front of the Assembly.

Shikha Goel, ACP (Crimes), Anil Kumar,

Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic)

and other higher officials attended the awareness program.

Hyderabad police have booked 6,846 cases for flouting lockdown norms on Wednesday.

Around 5,485 cases were booked

for violation, 1,140 for not

wearing masks, and 140 for not maintaining

social distance.

Around 5,215 vehicles

were seized for venturing

out unnecessarily.

Hospital which were served notices have submitted details of treatment costs in terms of oxygen, medical devices, equipment and manpower.

The hospitals have also submitted video recordings of counselling

which was done to patient's families at a critical stage.

This evidence was studied by the court and accordingly the permission was restored.

Private hospitals say that there is no question of refund but they have waived off fees in case of deaths.

IOC INAUGURATES BIO-GAS STATION AT ATTAPUR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has inaugurated a compressed bio-gas (CBG) filling station at Attapur on Wednesday.

CBG is compatible with all vehicles currently using compressed natural gas (CNG) as fuel. IOC executive director R. S. S. Rao said the compressed bio-gas provides benefits like good mileage and is environment friendly. The CBG filling station was virtually inaugurated by union minister for petroleum and natural gas Dharmendra Pradhan.

New special officer for vax

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

decided to appoint the special officer to pursue the issue and ensure the state receives the vaccines it has already paid for.

Harish Rao also directed that vaccination of the remaining six lakh persons from identified high exposure categories in GHMC, GWMC and all other ULBs of the state should be completed in the next four days.

The meeting, attended among others by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, Principal Secretary Health, S.A.M. Rizvi and other health department officials, also identified various other groups of people who need to be vaccinated on a priority.

PRIORITY VACCINATION FOR:

16,000	Dialysis and Thalassemia patients.
3 lakhs	Auto and cab drivers in ULBs.
25,000	Engineering Staff in all departments.
45,000	Field staff in power sector.
5,000	Agriculture department field workers.
30,000	Field staff of revenue earning departments.
6,000	IKP field staff.
15,000	Bank employees in the districts.
13,000	Postal employees.
60,000	Public representatives of Urban and Rural Local Bodies.
35,000	RMP and PMPs in rural areas.
50,000	Pujaris, imams and church pastors.



PM urged to relocate Nizam jewels

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

In an effort to bring the priceless Nizam's jewels to Hyderabad and displaying them as a permanent exhibition, the seventh Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan's great-grandson, Himayat Ali Mirza, has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to move the jewellery, currently in the custody of the Centre, to a suitable high-security location in Hyderabad.

"Such an effort will put Hyderabad on the global map and bring the exhibition on par with the likes of Taj Mahal," Mirza said.

Speaking to media persons after releasing a copy of his letter to the Prime Minister in New Delhi on



The collection of Nizam's jewels that is currently valued at ₹99,000 crore.

Wednesday, Mirza said that there is no other jewellery collection in the world that is comparable to the one that belonged to the Nizams.

The culture and moorings of Hyderabad and its place in the international political arena make it the best possible location for housing the rare items, which belong here," he said in his letter to the Prime Minister.

"The owners of this heritage and unparalleled legacy have been residents and rulers of Hyderabad.

The culture and moorings of Hyderabad and its place in the international political arena make it the best possible location for housing the rare items, which belong here," he said in his letter to the Prime Minister.

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SHORT TAKES

GIVE RATION CARD TO POOR: CONG.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

Telangana Congress on Wednesday demanded that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao announce allotment of ration cards to all eligible new applicants too.

AICC member G. Nirjanan said Congress welcomes the state cabinet decision of granting ration cards to all eligible applicants numbering 4.4 lakh. However, the state government should also provide an opportunity for filing fresh applications, as thousands of poor households are not having ration cards. They are forced to purchase their essential commodities from the open market. The Congress leader pointed out that names of many household members had earlier been deleted from ration cards by officials irrationally. He requested the government to instruct authorities concerned to include these deleted names too in the ration cards.

Nirjanan said ration cards should be given on priority to people who are below the poverty line. In future, if situations like the pandemic recur, ration cards will have to be given to other sections too, as people have no resources to make a living.

BUY JOWAR AHEAD OF RAINS: HC

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD JUNE 9

A government order on procurement of jowar (sorghum) from farmers in Adilabad district will be issued on June 14, the Telangana High Court was informed by the state on Wednesday.

In the morning, as the matter came up, a division bench of Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijayesh Reddy asked the Telangana government as to why it was not procuring jowar at Minimum Support Price from the farmers in Adilabad district when the rainy season was fast approaching.

"This is an urgent issue. If the jowar is not procured from the farmers, the entire crop will go for a six," observed the chief justice.

As the special government pleader sought a day's time to get necessary instructions from the government, the CJ asked, "Why not an instruction now? It is only a policy decision."

The court passed over the PIL matter for consideration after the lunch hour. In the afternoon session, the special government pleader attached to the office of AG informed the court that the state has decided in principle to issue a GO on procurement of jowar from farmers in Adilabad. The GO will be released on June 14, he said.

AS THE special government pleader sought a day's time to get necessary instructions from the government, the CJ asked, "Why not an instruction now? It is only a policy decision."

SAD ENDING

Birds venture out near railway tracks for food

DURGAPRASAD SUNKU | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

Around 10 peacocks have been killed in train mishaps near the Secunderabad Railway Station in the last few months. Two peacocks were found dead on tracks near the railway station in the last few days. The railway police handed over the carcasses to the forest officials.

According to the railway police, there are hundreds of peacocks near Mettuguda workshop and sometimes a few of them come to the track in search of food, leaving them vulnerable to train accidents.

The chances of trains ramming peacocks leading to their deaths are high in this area. On June 4, the railway police found a peacock dead on the tracks of platform number 8. Subsequently they informed the forest officials. Again, on June



Officials clear a peacock's carcass from the railway track near Secunderabad railway station.

9, a railway police head constable M. David Raju found another peacock dead on the tracks of platform number 10.

So far this year, around 10 peacocks were found dead on the tracks near the Secunderabad railway station. There might be unreported cases of peacocks' deaths as well. "Mostly, peacocks are dragged by the high-speed engines till station premises and usually trains slow down while

entering the station, due to which the dead peacocks fall on the side of tracks and are mainly found at the entrance of the platform," said David Raju.

Confirming the same, forest beat officer M. Sunitha, Hyderabad, said, "Mainly peacocks are coming onto the tracks in search of water as there is abundant water available near the station. We have suggested to the railway officials

to arrange water pots to quench the thirst of peacocks. This will avoid peacocks coming onto the tracks."

When this correspondent asked if there were any chances of poisoning the peacocks, Sunitha said, "There is a high possibility of poisoning of peacocks. Although earlier peacock meat used to be eaten, since a decade we have never come across such cases. Many are scared to hunt them and stringent action against hunting of peacocks also acts as a deterrent against killing of peacocks and consumption of their meat."

Bodies of dead peacocks are disposed of as per the procedure. There are many places including Osmania University premises and AOC area in East Marredpally and others places where there are probability of peacocks entering into railway tracks.

CM's visit to Jagtial sparks speculations

Analysts see plan to lure Desam's Ramana into TRS

PULI SHARATH
KUMAR | DC
KARIMNAGAR, JUNE 9

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Wednesday called on Chennur MLA and government whip Balka Suman in Regunta village of Metpally mandal in Jagtial district and paid tributes to the latter's father who passed away due to Covid-19 recently.

Balka Suresh, 62, father of Suman died at a private hospital. He served as the chairman of the Metpally Agriculture Market Committee. Chandrashekhar Rao consoled Suman and his family members. Later, he enquired with district collector G. Ravi about the Covid situation in the district. The Collector explained that due to perfect implementation of the lockdown, cases had come down drastically.

Welfare minister Koppula Eshwar, Peddapalli MP Venakatesh Netha, Jagtial ZP chairperson Dava Vasanth, Peddapalli ZP chairman Putta Madhu,



Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao pays tributes to Balka Suresh, father of Chennur MLA Balka Suman, at Metpally mandal of Jagtial district.

MLAs Dr Sanjay Kumar, Vidhyasagar Rao, Korankanti Chander Patel, Sunke Ravi Shankar, Dasari Manohar Reddy and Jeevan Reddy were among those who accompanied the Chief Minister.

However, Chandrashekhar Rao's visit to the old Karimnagar district gains importance as it is his first visit after the suspension of former health minister Etala Rajender from the state Cabinet.

As speculations are doing rounds that the TRS has decided to rope in Telangana Telugu Desam (TTDP) state president L. Ramana

into the party, it is understood that Chandrashekhar Rao planned this tour programme to have discussions with L. Ramana, who also hails from Jagtial district.

It may be mentioned here that two days ago, TRS working president and IT minister K.T. Ramana also visited Jagtial district and participated in several developmental programmes. According to political analysts, ousted minister Rajender has a strong following in the BC community in the old Karimnagar. So, Chandrashekhar Rao decided to rope in some

of the leaders of other parties who belong to the BC community, they said.

Meanwhile, the BJP has also focused its attention on Karimnagar district and appointed Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay as the state unit president of the party. Incidentally, Sanjay Kumar also belongs to the BC community. By luring several leaders from other parties, especially the ruling TRS, the BJP has slowly started to spread its wings in Telangana state. Before joining the TRS, the BJP leadership earlier invited Ramana.

Considering these facts, Chandrashekhar Rao is now trying to rope in Ramana by promising an MLC post. If Ramana decides to shift loyalties, then it will be 'one shot two birds' for Rao, as the TRS will not only get a leader from the BC community but also make the TD vanish from TS and prevent other leaders from joining the BJP, they opined.

Submit Raghu case files: HC

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

Justice K. Lakshman of the Telangana High Court has directed the DGP to furnish the list of criminal cases registered against Ganji Raghu, a reporter of *Toli Velugu* web channel, by Monday, June 14.

The judge was dealing with a petition filed by Ganji Lakshmi Praveen, wife of Raghu requesting for case files so that to file a bail plea before the High Court.

Counsel for petitioner T. Rajinikanth Reddy informed the court that the reporter has been lodged in a prison at

Nalgonda. A regular bail plea for Raghu will come up for hearing before a judge on Thursday.

The counsel thus sought a direction to DGP to furnish details of cases registered against Raghu.

The High Court has adjourned the case to June 16.

13th DEATH ANNIVERSARY IN LOVING MEMORY OF POTALI PARAMESHWAR YADAV

D.O.B: 10-6-2008

We all miss you every moment. The warmth of your love & blessings will always be in our hearts forever.

May your soul rest in peace.

Inserted by: Potali Gopal Yadav

Daughter-in-law:

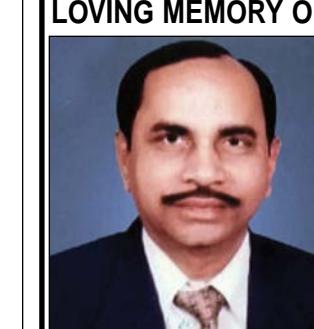
Potali Anuradha Yadav

Grand Sons: Potali Varun Yadav

Potali Akhil Yadav

Grand Daughter: Boini Harika Yadav

TRIBUTE IN EVERLASTING LOVING MEMORY OF



Sri. M. ADBHUTA RAO

17 Feb. 1943 - 2nd June 2021
B.E (Hons) F.I.E. LL.B
Former Engineer-In-Chief
Government of AP (United)A Bundle of Joy and Kindness
Enriched with immense knowledge,
May your beautiful soul find Peace.
Your overflowing love will be missed.

In Remembrance

Children:
Er. Sridhar (USA) & Sreedevi
Dr. Praveen (USA)
V. Sreedevi & V. Madhukumar IPS
Grand Children:
Ramya, Sraavya,
Aishwarya Kumar, Anjali,
Ajay, Rithika, Dhanush

(A/2122/D00017)



Mr. XAVIER

DOD: 08-06-2021

Former Athletes Coach of South
Central Railway, Vice President of
Hyderabad District Athletics
Association, Former Secretary of
Hyderabad District Athletics Association
and Founder of Runners Club, Former
National Medalists and Former 5000 M.
10000 M and 3000 M steeple chase
All India Inter University medalists.
With gratitude to the founder of
Runners Club, Secunderabad.
P. Jayadev, IPSP. Ramesh Kumar, K.B. Karunakar,
Mario Joseph (Australia),
Juliana Chary (USA),
Rajan Mathai (USA), George Joseph,
P. Ashok Kumar, Desmond D'Souza

Called to Glory

FEAR NOT I AM WITH YOU, DO NOT BE AFRAID FOR I AM YOUR GOD, I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU, WITH MY VICTORIOUS RIGHT HAND. Isaiah 41:10



JANGAM EDWIN

Retd. Teacher St. Thomas (S.P.G)
Boys High School, SecunderabadD.O.B: 03-05-1940 D.O.D: 08-06-2021
Passed Away PeacefullyHis practical faith in God, his very loving
and assuring nature, his kind smile,
his longing for his grandchildren were the
simple pleasures of joy.He will be missed by his Dear Wife
Punita, Danny, Suchi, Sunder, Sony,
Mary, Ajay, Robin, Shanti, Sunny,
Abigail, Aaron, Dean and Angel

Contact No: 7207367161/0423317394

40th DAY CEREMONY

"If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die,
we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live
or die, we belong to God. ROMANS 14:8

Mrs. NELLY ABEL

W/o. Late Mr. Victor Abel
Retd. Addl. Asstt. Engineer (Hot Lines) A.P.S.E.BOn the sands of time, you have left your
footprints with glory. Everyone knows your
name and shall recall your story. You endured
Life's challenges with patience and prayer. As
a good role model, you will always be there.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING ON 10 JUNE 2021

Timing: 01:45PM India Time (IST)

Meeting ID: 744 267 9728

Passcode: 5HBRQ Ph:9502304511

Inserted by: Son, Daughters,
Daughter-in-law, Sons-in-law and Grandchildren

Late. Shri. Bushi Arthur Wellington

26th February 1937 - 9th June 2021
Husband of Late. Mrs. Lily Wellington
Grace Manjula (Daughter), David Rufus (Son-in-Law),
Moses Sudhakar (Son), Arun Kapaka (Daughter-in-Law),
Neeta Sahay (Daughter)Grand children: Joshua, Rhea, Bryce,
Sanjana, Meghana, Arthur Ashish
Contact: +91-985309010 (Moses) +91-8818915 (Manjula)

Late Shri Om Prakash Bali Ji

Time: Jun 11, 2021 12:00:13:00

IST Mumbai, Kolkata, New Delhi

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Passcode: 113289

(A/2122/D00017)



S.N. VIDYA BHUSHAN

(Retd. Asst. Director of Education (S.P.G)
Boys High School Secunderabad
DOB 3-5-1940 DOD: 08-6-2021Artist, Singer, Gentleman.
Inserted by: Sister's- Gnana Kumari,
Areena, Nalini, Varalaxmi,
Geetanjali and Family Members.
Ph: 9666868497

(B/2122/D00047)



Sri. KANDURI HANMANTH RAO

S/o, Late Sri Kanduri Lingala

Our hero and our inspiration, a man who stood

tallest with his head held high. His values

inspire us to take good work forward.

You live in our hearts and thoughts forever.

Wife: Kanduri Balamani,

Daughter: Madhav Raji, Son-in-law: M Ajay Kumar,

Grandchildren: Akash, Avinash Nagalinge,

Abhishek - Raghuram Embeity & Kanduri Family.

IN GRIEF: Carnations Weddings



Dr. Neeraj K.S. Thakur

26-01-1976 - 05-06-2021

Founder and General Secretary,

IN BRIEF
Srisailam gets inflows

Kurnool: As the southwest monsoon sets in, the inflows to the Srisailam reservoir have begun. The Sunkesula barrage on Tungabhadra river near Kurnool discharged 4,400 cusecs of water into the reservoir on Wednesday. Two gates of Sunkesula were lifted to a height of one metre. It would take at least two days for the water to reach the Srisailam reservoir, said an irrigation official. Tungabhadra reservoir is receiving inflows from upstream areas of the Western Ghats.

VHR CALLS FOR REVAMP WITH DEDICATED CADRE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

Senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao wanted to know how a new committee could be announced without discussing the problems in the party.

Speaking to reporters here on Wednesday, Rao questioned the party leadership why it did not conduct reviews despite losing almost all elections. They should have taken steps to revamp the party, he said and blamed party in-charges RC Khuntia and Manickam Tagore for not taking stock of electoral defeats, including on how veteran K. Jana Reddy had lost the by-election. He said no new committee had been announced in Telangana since 2018. He appealed to the high command to focus on the Telangana unit and revamp it with dedicated leaders considering that TRS and BJP were trying to consolidate their bases in the state.

JEEVAN DEMANDS ₹50 LAKH FOR COVID VICTIMS KIN

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

Congress MLC T. Jeevan Reddy has alleged that neither has Telangana government provided free treatment for Covid-19 to people under Arogyasri nor has it implemented Ayushman Bharat scheme for the purpose in the state.

Addressed media at the CLP office here on Wednesday, the MLC blamed the government for failing on these fronts despite knowing that poor people suffering with Coronavirus have no money to spend on their treatment.

The Congress leader said the state government had not even followed the High Court orders to take action severe action against private hospitals for charging high fees. He demanded that the government pay compensation of ₹50 lakh to families of all Covid-19 victims.

Recalling Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao's statement about appointing 50,000 medical staff in hospitals, Jeevan Reddy said not only has the government failed on this front, it has not even provided CT scan facilities at TIMS, ENT and Chest hospitals in the city as also in district hospitals. The MLC accused the state government of also ignoring warnings of about the third wave of Covid in the state.

ROTARY CLUB HOLDS COVID VACCINE DRIVE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

Rotary International District 3150 on Wednesday organised a vaccination drive for Rotary Club members, their families and for students.

N.V. Hanmanth Reddy, district governor, said club members were actively involved in caring for people during the pandemic and worked to curb the disease and care for those infected.

"We set up isolation centers, provided oxygen concentrators, food, N95 masks, PPE kits and provided counselling. Rotary is known for its work on polio eradication. We felt that Covid-19 vaccination is an important initiative," he said.

After creating awareness on Covid-19 and vaccination through social media and various avenues, when vaccines became accessible, Rotary took initiative to organise a Covid-19 vaccination drive.

In the first phase, the club facilitated 350 vaccinations to the Rotarians, Rotaractors, their families and extended families.

Among the beneficiaries were senior citizens and students who were struggling to get slots and couldn't get vaccinated, he said.

Ceremonial elephant Rani dies in zoo at 83

Zoo loses 2 of its oldest inmates within 2 days due old age

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

The Nehru Zoological Park has lost one of its most loved and popular animals, Rani the elephant, due to old age. According to the zoo officials, the 83-year-old Rani passed away on Tuesday. Even before the zoo staff were coming to terms with Rani's loss, they had to bear another one, the death on Wednesday, of the 21-year-old leopard Ayyappa, also due to old age.

Though the zoo lost two of its oldest inmates within two days, it was the loss of Rani that took a toll on animal keepers and the zoo staff. Born on October 7, 1938, Rani's birthday celebrations were grand, with special cakes made of delicacies she loved — sugarcane, millets, grasses, fruits like banana — topped off with chocolate cream, the last being one of Rani's absolute favourites.

"She was such a docile elephant. An absolute delight to be around with," recalled Dr M. Naveen Kumar, who was for many years the zoo veterinarian. "And a real heavy lifter too. Before she became old, she was the one that picked up fallen tree trunks, carried heavy loads of wood in the zoo," he said.

Her calm going nature made Rani a favourite for religious events, be for the Bibi-ka-Alam procession during Muhamarram, the Bonalu, the Vinayaka Chavithi festivals, and even for celebrations of Lord Ayappa.

Despite being docile, Rani had her moments.

"This was some 30 years ago. Rani was leading a procession from Goshamahal with an MLA sitting on her. Some of his followers burst firecrackers that scared her and with the MLA hanging on for his life, she ran towards



(Left) Picture of Rani the elephant, which passed away. (Right) 21-year-old leopard Ayyappa, who also died due to old age in Nehru Zoological Park on Wednesday.



Shia Muslims express grief over Rani's demise

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

mosque, passing through Yakutpura, Charminar and Gulzar Houz.

One of those mourning the passing of the elephant, Samreen Fatima, said, "It is very sad that Rani is no more. The news has broken our hearts, all members in my family are saddened by this news." According to Hyder Hussain, who said he saw the elephant carrying the Alam for ages, described Rani's passing "as a sad news for all members of Shia Muslim community."

Social media groups, according to Saba Fatima, who too was aghast at the news of Rani's death, were buzzing with "messages of grief". "There was a flood of messages in the social media networks of our community about Rani's demise," she said

for the Shia community. "Shia Muslims hold a special place for this particular elephant in their hearts as it carried the Alam and the Nizam's Trust should have taken up the responsibility of maintaining this elephant, as the Alam procession is considered the sole responsibility of the trust."

Affzalgunj with her keeper in hot pursuit. She finally stopped near Afzalgunj," Naveen Kumar recalled. The MLA, apparently thoroughly shaken, could not

wait to scramble down and get away from Rani.

Rani was brought to the zoo on October 1, 1963, where she lived out a well-loved life.

In its twilight years, Rani could not lie down on its side, so two earthen berms were added to its pen on which she could lie down much more comfortably.

Where is the road, GHMC?



Half of the road lies in ruins at the Teachers Colony GHMC Park in East Marredpally on Wednesday. Officials are yet to execute orders to lay the road after repairs works were completed. Residents demand that the road be laid before monsoon sets in fully.

CBI GRILLS 3 IN VIVEKA'S DEATH CASE

DC CORRESPONDENT
KADAPA, JUNE 9

CBI officials are actively investigating the murder case of former minister Y. S. Vivekananda Reddy. On Wednesday they interrogated Idayatullah, who had previously worked as a computer operator in the former minister's office. This follows information with CBI officials that Idayatullah had been the first to take photos with his cell phone after the former minister was killed in 2019.

CBI officials questioned him about who all were in the house when the murder took place. They wanted to know who brought Vivekananda's body from the bathroom to the bedroom. Idayatullah was asked many such questions while interrogating him for seven hours.



The ongoing construction works of a flyover causing huge traffic snarls at Chanchalguda-IS Sadan road stretch.

Chanchalguda road closure results in huge traffic snarls

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

Closure of one section of roadway near Chanchalguda Jail due to the ongoing construction works of a flyover is causing huge traffic snarls at Chanchalguda-IS Sadan road stretch.

To facilitate conflict-free traffic movement from Nalgonda X Roads to the Owaisi Hospital Junction, the GHMC has undertaken the elevated corridor project as part of the Strategic Road Development Plan (SRDP) at a cost of ₹523.37 crore.

The length of the corridor is 3.382 km, out of which the flyover length would be 2.58 km.

The works of the flyover as part of elevated corridor project are going on, due to which one section of roadway from the jail petrol pump to Saidabad X Roads has been closed. This creates a bottleneck near Saidabad X Roads, resulting in the Malakpet-Santosh

Abdul Aleem, a resident of Hafiz Baba Nagar, said the works had been started without widening the road.

"The GHMC authorities should first widen the road by demolishing the acquired road and then start the works. This is the main road that connects Santosh Nagar, Saidabad, Hafiz Baba Nagar and other areas with other parts of the city," he said.

Jagan to meet Shah, seek pending Polavaram dues

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 9

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will visit Delhi on Thursday to meet Union home minister Amit Shah and a few other ministers. He would leave for Delhi at 10 am from Tadepalli.

According to sources, the Chief Minister would take up Polavaram project funds, bifurcation assurances and other issues during the meeting. He will hold talks on these issues with Amit Shah and Union minister for water resources Gajendra Singh Shekawat. Further, he would some other ministers depending on their availability.

The Chief Minister may urge Amit Shah to help AP in getting required vaccine doses to inoculate the tar-



Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

and the programme was almost fixed but was cancelled in the last moment.

As YSRC rebel MP K. Raghu Ramakrishna Raju is conducting a massive campaign in the national capital by meeting ministers and writing letters against the YSRC government, the Chief Minister may use the opportunity to clear the air.

He would return to Tadepalli on Friday.

Career Chronicle

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Govt urged to include workers in special category

Jobless domestic helps seek jab

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL
HYDERABAD, JUNE 9

first wave, the employers were demanding them not to work at other houses, as usually a domestic worker works in three to five houses, charging around ₹1,500 to ₹2,000, from each home, depending upon the load of work, as well the location.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, lakhs of domestic workers have been removed from services, for fear of bringing the virus home. It is more than a year since the first wave of pandemic began and ever since, these people have been deprived of their jobs, and therefore livelihoods.

Though many got back to the job after the severity came down during the

Covid vaccines during the drive by the GHMC. They are also urging the authorities to make the process of enrolment hassle-free.

A domestic worker Bodasu Pavani from Begumpet said, "After a long gap, we recently resumed our work at houses, now the employers are insisting that we should work at one house only. They feel that we may carry viruses from one place to another." She added, "If we work in three or four houses, we will be able to pay our rents and feed our families." She said they should feel more insecure as they go to many houses for work, "The government should include us

in the vulnerable category and vaccinate us."

Sister Lissy Joseph, advisor, Telangana Domestic Workers Union, said, "Vaccine is important for domestic workers, as they are at high risk. The government should start a special drive for them, which should be hassle-free. There is no financial assistance to them. There are more than five lakh domestic workers in the city." A domestic worker Anila Dowpati from Qutubpur said, "The GHMC is giving vaccines to auto drivers, cab drivers, kirana shop owners, and others, but they forgot about domestic workers. In our basti, there

are more than 100 domestic workers, most of them lost their jobs. Those who are working, even their earnings have fallen down." She grieved, "No one bothers about our hardship, the government should consider us and give us vaccines against Covid-19.

Another domestic help, Rampaka Suguna from Moosarambagh, said, "Since the outbreak of Covid pandemic last year, I have been removed from all five houses I used to work in. I have two daughters and a son, even they are staying home as schools are closed. I lost my husband, and ever since I lost my job, life has been miserable for all of us."

DECCAN Chronicle

10 JUNE 2021

In distress, MSMEs and middle class cry for help

The Tamil Nadu chief minister, M.K. Stalin's idea of mobilising opinion among his 12 counterparts in non-BJP states to demonstrate collective strength in pressing for a loan moratorium for MSMEs (ministry of micro, small and medium enterprises) has a sound base in the current economic situation. The call may also be seen as a shrewd one at a time when the political winds blew in one direction so hard that a crucial change in the public vaccine procurement and disbursement policy was thrust upon the Centre with free vaccination on offer for all Indian adults. The top court's ominous warning that the Constitution does not envisage courts to be silent spectators when executive policies infringe upon citizens' rights, which was a reference to the invidious nature of the vaccine policy that tended to discriminate against citizens under 45, may have had everything to do with the Centre resiling.

The decision to change tack may have signalled that collective pressure could make the executive see reason, particularly when all the arguments in favour of a particular public policy direction were seen to be logical. While a united stand among the Opposition on national issues is to be welcomed, the current state of the economy, which is again on a steep downside after a second lockdown in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, is reason enough to take up the cause of the struggling middle class hit by regional lockdowns covering major parts of the country. Not impervious to the existing conditions, the Reserve Bank had also opened up a \$31,000 crore tap for MSMEs, as aid mainly for contact-intensive sectors, including hotels and restaurants tourism, aviation ancillaries and several others badly impacted by the pandemic.

The point is, much more can be done to alleviate the economic distress. A loan moratorium, particularly for small-sized ones like ₹5 crores that is the lifeblood of MSMEs that generate a huge number of jobs, would work well. In principle, it is not loan truancy but a mere granting of time to tide over as the economy recovers in the wake of the second pandemic wave subsiding in India. The RBI extended a special liquidity facility of ₹16,000 crores to Small Industry Development Bank (SIDBI) besides facilities for banks to park matching funds at 40 basis points higher than the reverse repo rate. Even then, the economic pain has been running so deep in the second lockdown that extraordinary measures are still needed.

Recovering as it is from a very low base, the economy is bound to grow in the coming quarters though the forecasts factoring in the deleterious effects of the lockdown are tending to get lower, even as low as 8.5 per cent by the World Bank. However, the projected growth trajectory might hide the suffering of the last several quarters, beginning with April 2020. There no better time than now to come to the help of small industries across sectors most hit by the slowdown and the middle class burdened by housing EMIs, etc. Radical measures like generous printing of notes has also been recommended, which the RBI and official India, hemmed in by having to think within the box, would be wary of. The economic distress is, however, very real and only doles, grants and loan moratoriums can do something to assuage the economic hurt.

Include Northeast in syllabus

A former Union minister and currently a member of the Arunachal Pradesh Assembly, Ninon Ering, has rendered public service of national significance in proposing to the Union government that a chapter be added in the CBSE syllabus and that of state boards on the northeastern region of the country, about which there appears to be very little understanding in the rest of India.

This frequently leads to insult, abuse and violence unleashed against people from this region living in different parts of the country, notably the national capital. It is prejudice born of ignorance that gives rise to the "othering" of people from the northeast. Mr Ering's proposal made in writing to the Union home minister and the education minister are in line with the report of the M.P. Bezbazar Committee set up in February 2014.

India is a vast and diverse land. While this is accepted as a general truism, it is Indians themselves who seem to have so little idea about how diverse we are.

India is a vast and diverse land. While this is accepted as a general truism, it is Indians themselves who seem to have so little idea about how diverse we are. Until this is fully realised, and the contribution to national life of all those who make up this country is fully acknowledged, our nationalism project, which commenced with the anti-colonial movement, cannot be said to be complete. Until that happens, only national unity will prevail, not real, emotional unity.

Mr Ering, whose proposal stems from sentiments expressed by various sections of the people of northeastern India, has sought to underline that all Indians should be made familiar with the geography, the ethnicities, and cultural patterns, of our northeastern states, by introducing a section in school text books on this part of the country.

His concern arose from the recurring stories of violence that people from the northeast have to face in so-called mainland India. But the issue he highlights is larger, and of deep-going importance. It concerns us all. In fact, it may be a good idea to have as compulsory study sections in schoolbooks on people of each state so that prejudice against one another may give way to understanding.

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Dilip Cherian
Dilli Ka Babu

As Centre-state crossfire builds up, morale sinks

The instances of bureaucrats getting caught in the middle of political battles are a growing and dynamic list. Those in the know say that after the Centre recently amended the empanelment policy for IAS officers, young officers fear that their careers will be jeopardised if there is no political consensus between the Centre and the concerned state government.

Under the revised policy, the Centre has made the Central deputation of two years mandatory for IAS officers before they complete the first 16 years of service in their cadre state to be eligible for joint secretary's post in Delhi in the future. This would not be a problem if the Centre and state were ruled by the same party. The problem arises, as in the case of West

Bengal, when there are ruled by bitter political foes. The babus are caught in a bind. Whether this is an inevitable feature of federalism isn't clear yet, but babu nervousness isn't something that helps with better administration in these perilous times.

HOME AND THE WORLD
It's not just the Vice-President and the Prime Minister who are getting new residences in Lutyens' Delhi. Though not included in the Central Vista project underway in the heart of the capital, officials, or at least some lucky ones, at the ministry of external affairs too may get spanking new residences by 2023.

The ministry is building 97 state-of-the-art residences in the Gole Market area, known these days mostly for its nondescript and low-

cost sarkari housing, into a highly-powered diplomatic enclave replete with the modern bells and whistles that matches the lifestyle the IFS mandarins are accustomed to when serving abroad.

Perhaps the residential project is a belated move by the Modi sarkar to signal that it does not ignore the Indian Foreign Service. While in recent years other services have gained ground eroding the exclusivity enjoyed for decades by the IAS club, the IFS is too now getting its share. A sarkari house in Delhi, as any government babu will tell you, is all about availability and location. The IFS seems to have scored a diplomatic victory on both.

AN AVOIDABLE FRACAS

Even as Karnataka grapples with

the Covid pandemic, two women IAS officers have stirred up an avoidable controversy, given the current circumstances.

Shilpa Nag, the Mysuru corporation commissioner, reportedly resigned from the IAS after accusing her senior, Rohini Sundari Dasari, deputy commissioner of the district, of interfering in her efforts to manage the pandemic. The state government has indicated that Ms Nag's resignation has not been accepted nor will it be. But sources say that Ms Nag has gathered several voices in her support, with other city corporators demanding that Ms Dasari be transferred out. Ms Dasari has denied the allegation and said that she had merely asked Ms Nag to explain the "contradictory data" on Covid from her ward.

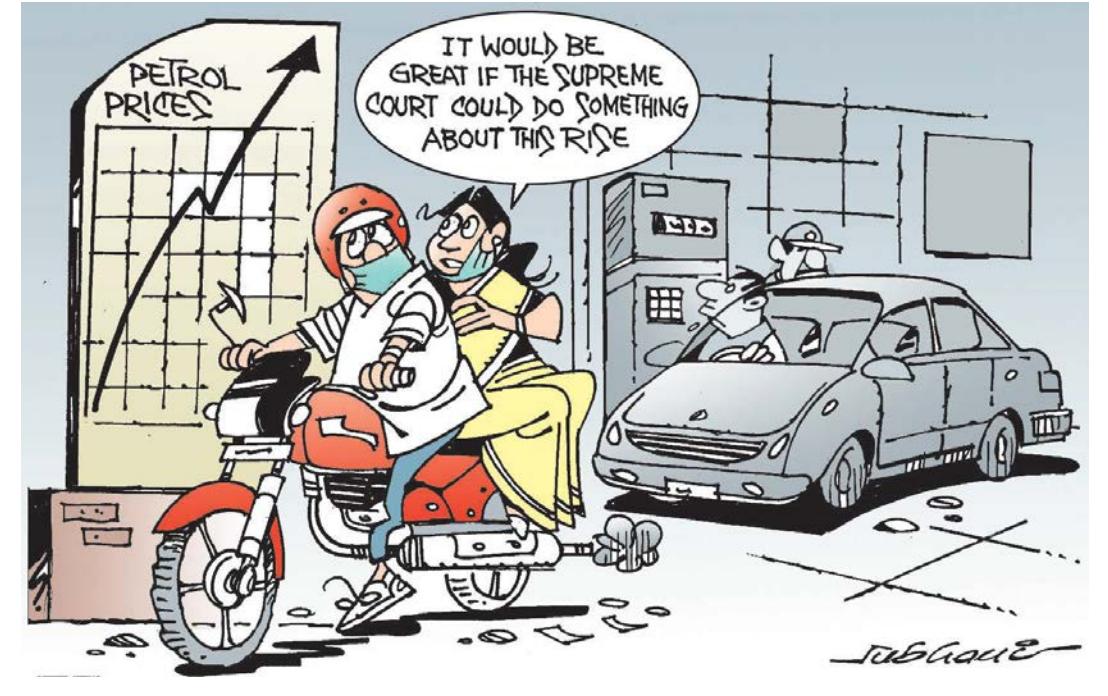
It is believed that the root of the

dispute between the two senior IAS officers is Ms Dasari's insistence on the deployment of CSR funds for the entire district rather than limiting the funds for managing Covid in the city area only.

Meanwhile, to allow tempers to cool down, the state government has transferred both officers. Ms Dasari will be the new commissioner of Hindu religious and charitable endowments, while Ms Nag has been named director of e-governance in rural development and panchayati raj department. Sources say that the fracas was wholly avoidable and the disputed issue could have been dealt with within the government without a fuss.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipcherian@Twitter.com . Let's multiply the effect.

Subhani



Why monopoly of power is a threat to democracy

Sunanda
K. Datta-Ray
Reflections**A**s the world

reeled from the Belarus kidnapping, the crackdown in Hong Kong and Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip, I came across a poignant description not just of another tragedy but of an underlying factor in all such traumas. Looking back at Beijing's Tiananmen Square massacre of June 4, 1989, when hundreds, perhaps thousands, of demonstrators were killed for demanding democratic governance, the writer spoke bluntly about the corruption of absolute power which undermines democracy.

"It is the monopoly of power by the ruling party, which makes it impossible for people to check the abuses from which they suffer," Chaohua Wang wrote towards the end of an essay of nearly 4,000 words in the *London Review of Books* of July 5, 2007. "Only democratic rights could make the holders of power accountable for their actions and release the popular energies needed to achieve all the things of which they are incapable."

In short, no matter how legitimately political power is acquired, justice demands the balancing factor of an opposition. If there is none, then only the supervision of the law courts can prevent the tyranny of the majority and save the populace...

alist, Roman Protasevich, while he was flying from Athens, Greece, to Vilnius in Lithuania on May 23. While in Belarusian airspace, the pilot of his commercial flight was ordered to divert from his course and land in Minsk. Mr Protasevich — a prominent opponent of President Lukashenko — and his girlfriend, a law student, Sofia Saapega, were arrested there.

No one thinks the Belarusian claim of being tipped off about

Hamas planting a bomb on the aircraft at all plausible. Even if Belarus can show that it lawfully diverted the plane, under International Civil Aviation Organisation treaties, Flight FR4978 was under the jurisdiction of Poland where the plane was registered. No country has the right to detain suspects on a civil aircraft for crimes that were not committed on board that aircraft.

Of course, such things have happened down the ages. Lawlessness has always been man's natural state. History records that in 1804 Napoleon Bonaparte, then First Consul, sent his soldiers illegally into Switzerland to seize a 32-year-old Bourbon prince, the Duke of Enghien, and take him to France where he was shot after a parody of a rushed trial. In 1956, France forced a Moroccan charter plane to land in Algiers to jail four Algerian nationalists travelling to a diplomatic conference in Tunis. Four years later Israeli Mossad and Shin Bet intelligence agents captured the German Nazi Adolf Eichmann in Argentina and took him to Israel to be hanged.

Napoleon would not have become what he did if he had been at all finicky about democrat-

ies. History records that in 1804 Napoleon Bonaparte, then First Consul, sent his soldiers illegally into Switzerland to seize a 32-year-old Bourbon prince, the Duke of Enghien, and take him to France where he was shot after a parody of a rushed trial. In 1956, France forced a Moroccan charter plane to land in Algiers to jail four Algerian nationalists travelling to a diplomatic conference in Tunis. Four years later Israeli Mossad and Shin Bet intelligence agents captured the German Nazi Adolf Eichmann in Argentina and took him to Israel to be hanged.

The problem is as old as man. It suggests no quick fix solution. But if democracies don't go to war against each other, as is said, they also have the capacity to address grievances and provide each citizen, however humble, the assurance that his or her voice will not be ignored. A vigorous Opposition and a vigilant judiciary can most effectively practise the eternal vigilance that Baghot had famously called the price of liberty.

They offer the only protection against a majoritarian abuse that is no less pernicious because it can claim voter legitimacy. The writer is a senior journalist, columnist and author

LETTERS

RELAXATION RULES

It is imperative that Covid protocols are strictly adhered to when lockdown relaxation increases (*More lockdown but only at night, DC, June 9*). More than the enforcement during lockdown period, the authorities should strictly enforce wearing of masks, social distancing and restrict all types of congregations. Apart from vaccination, this is the only way to come out of this pandemic.

Shashi Karan
Hyderabad

VAX PRIORITY

At last the vaccination programme is getting priority (*Centre places order for 44 cr doses of vaccines, DC, June 9*). The states were demanding that the Centre procure and distribute vaccines all along. However, saner counsel prevailed only after a series of harsh observations from the Supreme Court. The top court is playing its Constitutionally ordained role.

N. Sridhar
Secunderabad

GANDHIJI'S KIN

It is ironical that June 7 is the anniversary of that iconic incident of Mahatma Gandhi being thrown out of the train in Pietermaritzburg in 1893 (*Gandhi's great granddaughter gets 7 yrs' jail, DC, June 9*). After 128 years his great granddaughter tarnished that name by being sentenced to 7 years jail for fraud and forgery on June 7 2021.

N. Prabhakar
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Snake bites them to death

HYDERABAD, June 9
A heart-rending double tragedy was caused recently when a devilish snake bit to death a father and a son in Old Alwal in Secunderabad.

It was stated that 55-year-old Manda Ramaiah, a carpenter in MES, and his two sons was fast asleep in a separate room in their house on May 31. The old man suddenly woke up with a terrible pain as he felt that "something" has bitten him in the leg.

Ramaiah who was experiencing convulsions was immediately rushed to the hospital. However, he died in the hospital the next day. The tragedy became more pathetic, when after the third day's ceremony of Ramaiah, his 23-year-old son M.R. Krishna died in similar circumstances to those in which the old man died. This time the household could trace the "killer".



SHORT TAKES

MEHUL CHOKSI'S
BAIL HEARING
ADJOURNED

New Delhi, June 9: The Dominica High Court has adjourned the bail hearing of fugitive diamond merchant Mehul Choksi till June 11, local media reports stated.

Choksi had approached the high court after the magistrate rejected his bail petition.

The bail hearing took place before high court judge Wynante Adrien-Roberts through video-conferencing on the plea of Choksi's local legal team comprising Julien Prevost, Wayne Norde, Wayne Marsh and Cara Shillingford-Marsh.

The government side represented by Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) Sherna Dalrymple "strongly objected" to Choksi's plea calling him a flight risk, *Dominica News Online* reported.

The judge adjourned the matter till June 11, it said. The high court is also hearing a separate matter of habeas corpus filed by Choksi's team in which the hearing has also been adjourned.

Choksi had mysteriously gone missing on May 23 from Antigua and Barbuda, where he has been staying since 2018 as a citizen.

He was detained in neighbouring island country Dominica for illegal entry after a possible romantic escapade with his rumoured girlfriend.

POLICE TRACE
RAPPER WHO
WENT MISSING

New Delhi, June 9: A 23-year-old city-based rapper, who had gone missing a week ago after posting a suicide note on social media, was traced by a team of Delhi Police on Wednesday, officials said.

Police said they received information that the rapper, Aditya Tiwari, was at his friend's house in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

A police team was sent to Jabalpur from where he was traced on Wednesday. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said.

Tiwari is being brought back to the national capital where he will be questioned, police said.

His mother Deepa Dhingra had filed a kidnapping case after he went missing, police had said here.

In her report, Dhingra, a Vasant Kunj-resident, said her son had been missing since Wednesday, they said.

She also mentioned in the report filed on Friday that he had posted a suicide note on Instagram and his phone was later found switched off, a senior police officer said.

As she came to know that her son was traced in Jabalpur, Dhingra said he was being trolled after his rap song went viral on social media.

GUPKAR ALLIANCE
MEETS AFTER
SEVERAL MONTHS

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, JUNE 9

In an apparent strategic flexibility or change of strategy, People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an alliance of Jammu and Kashmir's regional opposition parties and their allies from the national Left parties, will move away from path of confrontation and fight on issues including restoration of the erstwhile state's special constitutional status in existing system.

That is what could be gathered from the briefing of its leaders after they met here on Wednesday after a gap of several months to discuss the prevailing political situation of J&K and other important issues faced by it. The meeting held at the residence of former chief minister, Mehbooba Mufti, took place in the backdrop of the fresh influx of troops setting rumour mill agog in the Union Territory.

These rumours, which have been swirling from Jammu to Srinagar to Kargil and Leh but have taken over vast sections of population mainly in Kashmir, purport the scenic Muslim majority Valley is being bifurcated and one part of it (volatile south Kashmir districts) may be merged with predominantly-Hindu Jammu region to 'weaken' its political strength and 'dilute' its population's voting power.

Over the past few days, even some political leaders of the Valley have raised their concerns in the face of massive troops' build-up and said it might be a prelude to some major move on J&K by the Centre.

Farmers' stir continues



Farmers sit in protest against new farm laws at Ghazipur border in New Delhi on Wednesday. With the talks between the Centre and the agitating farmer unions stalled since January, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Wednesday expressed readiness to resume the dialogue to resolve their objections to the three new agri laws, but the unions remained adamant on their demands for a repeal of the legislations and a legal guarantee on the MSP. — PTI

Ahead of UP elections,
Jitin Prasada joins BJP

Prasada was part of signatories to letter to Sonia Gandhi

DC CORRESPONDENTS
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

Jitin Prasada, a former Union minister and prominent member of the Congress' young brigade that is headed by Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday joined the BJP ahead of the crucial Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh. Calling the shift a "naya adhyay (new chapter)" in his political journey, Mr Prasada said he decided to join the BJP after much consideration as he was unable to serve the interests of his people and the society and that the BJP is the only "institutionally national party".

Mr Prasada, one of the signatories to the letter written by the "G-23" to the Congress' interim president Sonia Gandhi, demanding major course correction within the organisation, is considered an important Brahmin face, though not a pan-UP Brahmin leader, in Uttar Pradesh where the Brahmin votebank is crucial for the BJP that keeps trying to create a balance while wooing the Brahmin and Thakur votebank.

Brahmins make up about 13 per cent of UP's voters and are an influential chunk who have steadily gravitated from the Congress towards the BJP over the years. Mr Prasada's entry into the

BJP is seen as a balancing act at a time when feedback from the ground reaching the BJP leadership is suggesting that Brahmins are feeling neglected. His entry is meant to help the BJP reset the optics as the Yogi Adityanath government is perceived by a section of UP's Brahmins as being pro-Thakur (the chief minister's caste).

Mr Prasada is the son of late Congress leader Jitendra Prasada who was considered close to late Rajiv Gandhi and had unsuccessfully contested against Mrs Gandhi for the party president's post.

"If there is any political party that works in an institutional way... if there is truly any national party, it is the BJP... PM Narendra Modi is leading the country strongly and is the most capable person to confront the challenges facing the nation... I want to do my bit for Sabka Saath Sabka Vishwas and Ek Bharat Sreshtha Bharat (Modi government's slogans)," said Mr Prasada after joining the BJP in the presence of Union minister Piyush

Goyal and BJP media incharge Anil Baluni.

Before reaching BJP headquarters, Mr Prasada had met Union home minister Amit Shah. He met BJP president J.P. Nadda after formally joining the saffron party.

Mr Prasada is the second leader after Jyotiraditya Scindia, who was also considered close to Rahul Gandhi, to join the saffron fold. The Congress is abuzz with renewed speculation that Sachin Pilot could also switch camp amid ongoing rumours that Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot could face fresh challenge from the Pilot camp after last year's political crisis.

In political circles speculation had been rife since early 2019 that Mr Prasada could switch camp as he was feeling sidelined.

Since 2014, Mr Prasada has lost all the elections he contested. He lost last two Lok Sabha polls - 2014 and 2019 - from Dhaula Khas Lok Sabha seat in Lakhimpur Kheri and the 2017 Assembly polls and was said to be miffed after the Congress leadership decided to

appoint Ajay Kumar Laloo as the UPCC chief, a post Mr Prasada was said to be eyeing.

A former Union minister, Mr Prasada was member of the Congress Working Committee and the Congress' election in-

charge for the recently concluded Assembly polls in West Bengal where the party failed to win even a single seat.

In an obvious reference to the development, Congress leader Milind Deora tweeted, "I believe in @INCIndia as a party that can and must reclaim its position as India's big tent party. We still have a strong bench that if empowered and optimally utilised, can deliver." While Mr Pilot said, "It's very, very sad that Jitin Prasada has quit the Congress." There has also been talk of Mr Deora leaving the party.

During the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Mr Prasada was on the verge of switching sides but was persuaded by the then Congress incharge, Jyotiraditya Scindia, who is currently in the BJP.

Once considered an integral part of team Rahul Gandhi, Mr Prasada has left the Congress when Mr Gandhi is expected to return to the helm following the party's organisational elections.

No Uma in MP
BJP working committee

RABINDRA NATH
CHOURDHURY | DC
BHOJAL, JUNE 9

Rajya Sabha member Jyotiraditya Scindia's supporters dominated the working committee of the Madhya Pradesh unit of BJP, constituted late on Tuesday night.

As many as 63 leaders including five ministers in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan ministry, considered loyalists of Mr Scindia, have found place in the committee headed by state BJP president Vishnu Dutt Sharma.

All these leaders had quit Congress along with Mr Scindia in March 2020 and joined BJP.

The jumbo committee has also accommodated loyalists of other senior leaders of the party including Shivraj Singh Chouhan, BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya and state home minister

Narottam Mishra. The committee comprises 162 members, 218 special invitees and 23 permanent invitees. Surprisingly, former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Uma Bharti could not make it to the body.

Ms Bharti, considered a prominent leader of Lodhi community, has of late intensified her efforts to stage a comeback to the center stage of state politics.

Ms Bharti who won the Jhansi Lok Sabha seat in 2014 polls had refused to contest the 2019 parliamentary elections 'to take a brief break' from electoral politics.

She has of late intensified her political activities in MP with an objective to return to state politics. Her omission in the state working committee of the party has dealt a jolt to her move to shift to MP politics.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
O/o THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.R. KHAMMAM.
e-Procurement Tender Notice (Amendment)

Online tenders are invited for the NIT No 25/2021-22 and 26/2021-22, Dt:24-05-2021 Amendment Dt: 08-06-2021 from the eligible registered contractors for two works sanctioned under HUDCO with an estimate cost of 140.00 Lakhs. Description of items ECW, EMD, available of tender documents, important dates, tender conditions, eligibility of tender and all other details are available from 11-06-2021 onwards on https://tender.telangana.gov.in. The last date for online tender is 21-06-2021.

Ro.No.:220-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22, Dt:09-06-2021 SD/- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.R. KHAMMAM.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
WOMEN DEVELOPMENT AND CHILD WELFARE DEPT., HYDERABAD.
Phone.No.:040-23733848, e-Mail-ID: tgwdcw@gmail.com

e-TENDER NOTICE

Advt.No.1256/CDS-2/2017, Date : 07-06-2021

E-quotations are invited from reputed Government or Private Organizations for Procurement and Supply of Medicine Kits to the Anganwadi Centers in the State for the year 2020-21 through e-procurement i.e., from 10-06-2021 to 24-06-2021 at 01:00 PM. For other details please visit website: www.wdcw.tg.nic.in.

Ro.No.:221-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22, Dt:09-06-2021 Sd/- Smt.D.L.Nisha, I.A.S. Commissioner

RAIL COACH FACTORY,
KAPURTHALA

E-TENDER NOTICE

On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr.No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Description	Qty. (Nos/Sets)	EMD(Rs.)
1.	14211094 / 02.07.2021	Adhesive for LHB Coaches.	47736 Litre	838620/-
2.	01211131 / 30.06.2021	Primary Spring for LHB Coaches (Inner)	1218 Nos	1,08,830/-
3.	05211088 / 01.07.2021	Front Sheets (Two Types)	724 Nos	1,28,250/-

1. For details and making On-line bids, visit Website <http://ireps.gov.in>. Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website <http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in>. Class III digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at <http://www.cce.gov.in>. All Limited tenders and Advertised tenders will normally close at 11:25 Hrs and 11:30 Hrs and 14:30 Hrs. 3. Tenders at Sr. No. 1 will be opened at RCF, Kapurthala and Sr. No. 2 & 3 will be opened at RCF, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002. 4. For queries contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF Helpdesk at 011-23738658. NOTE: "GST No. of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them".

Corrigendum : Tender No. 04211008, Description : Set of Readymade Aluminium Feeder Pipes & Accessories. Due Date may be read as 15.06.2021 instead of 07.06.2021.

Notice No.: G-RCF/122-01/Stores/024/2021-22 Dated: 09.06.2021 PCMM

TWO WOMEN
ARMY OFFICERS
TO TRAIN AS
COMBAT PILOTS

New Delhi, Jun 9: In a historic move, the Army has selected two women officers to train as combat helicopter pilots for its aviation wing, officials said on Wednesday.

The selection came six months after Army Chief General MM Naravane cleared a proposal to induct women as pilots.

As of now, women are allowed in air traffic control and ground duties in the Army aviation wing.

The two women officers will undergo training at the Combat Army Aviation Training School at Nashik in Maharashtra, the officials said.

Fifteen women officers volunteered to join the Army aviation wing. However, only two have qualified through the stringent selection process, the officials said.

The two women officers will join flying duties by July next year on a successful completion of the training period, they added.

In 2018, Flying Officer Avani Chaturvedi of the Indian Air Force scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo. She flew a MiG-21 bison in her first solo flight.

Chaturvedi was part of a three-member women team commissioned as flying officers in July 2016, less than a year after the government decided to open the fighter stream for women on an experimental basis.

Last year, the Navy announced deploying its first batch of women pilots on the Dornier maritime aircraft. In a significant move, the Army in 2019 began the process of inducting women into the military police.

The role of the military police includes policing cantonments and Army establishments, preventing breach of rules and regulations by soldiers, maintaining movement of soldiers as well as logistics during peace and war, and extending aid to civil police, whenever required. — PTI

IN 2018, FLYING Officer Avani Chaturvedi of the Indian Air Force scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo. She flew a MiG-21 bison in her first solo flight.

PFRDA NEVER MAKES CALLS TO INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING THEM TO DEPOSIT MONEY FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS FROM NPS/PFRDA. ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION RECEIVED TO DEFLAUD MAY BE INFORMED TO POLICE IMMEDIATELY.

prda

Maha to amend
agri law to protect
interest of farmers

Vishwaajeet Kadam.

"We also discussed the Centre's new law on cooperative banking which we feel will hurt the cooperative sector," Mr Thorat added.

Thousands of farmers have been protesting on the different borders of New Delhi since November 26 against the three newly enacted farm laws - Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Farmers Empowerment and Protection (Agreement on Price Assurance and farm Services Act 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

Meanwhile, The Congress asserted that the only way to end the ongoing farmers' protest is to withdraw the three contentious farm laws, and demanded Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar's resignation over what it said was his "egoistic" stance on the issue.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi expressed support for the farmers who have been agitating against the Centre's farm laws for over six months now, and said they have died fearlessly defending their farms.

"Farmers have died while defending their farms and the country. And yet the farmers continue to be fearless and true," he said in a tweet in Hindi, using the hash tag "#500DeathsAtFarmersProt est".

PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

B-14/A, Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhawan,
Qutub Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai,
New Delhi-110016

SHORT TAKES

COVID FATALITIES MAJOR CONCERN FOR ODISHAAKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 9

A sudden spurt in Covid-19 fatalities in Odisha has emerged as a major concern for the Odisha government though it has successfully brought the new infection rate almost under control.

Since June 1, 369 persons have died of the disease. On Wednesday, the state reported 6,019 fresh Covid-19 cases while 43 persons succumbed to the dreaded pandemic, taking the total death toll to 3,123.

Khurda district continued to record highest single-day deaths of five followed by Angul, Cuttack, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts with four each.

Odisha has so far tested a total of 1,23,87,968 samples including 68,778 examined on Tuesday. The state's test positivity rate (TPR) stands at 6.71 per cent. On Tuesday evening, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had reviewed the Coronavirus situation in the state and steps taken to control the current conditions.

"Even though the situation has improved in the state, we are still not completely free from the effects of the second wave, so with the advent of various festivals, we need to be more vigilant," cautioned the Chief Minister.

KOLKATA: TWO GANGSTERS KILLED IN ENCOUNTERDC CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA, JUNE 9

Two notorious gangsters, wanted in multiple criminal cases over the last five years in Punjab, were gunned down after they shot at a cop during an encounter with the Special Task Force (STF) of the West Bengal Police inside an upscale housing complex in New Town on Wednesday afternoon.

A huge cache of sophisticated arms and ammunition and large amounts of cash were also recovered after the daring operation at Shapoorji Pallonji Housing Complex in Action Area III of New Town. The two deceased gangsters were Jaipal Singh Bhullar and his aide Jaspreet Singh.

Their bullet-ridden bodies were found inside their flat no. 201 at the top floor of a five-storeyed apartment of the residential complex. They were accused of shooting dead two officers, Bhagwan Singh and Dalwinder Singh, posted as assistant sub-inspectors of the criminal investigation agency of the Punjab Police, in Ludhiana on May 15.

MY MARRIAGE IS 'NOT LEGAL': TMC MP NUSRAT JAHANRAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, JUNE 9

Trinamul Congress MP and actress Nusrat Jahan claimed on Wednesday that her marriage to businessman Nikhil Jain was not valid in India and it was only a live-in relationship, adding that their separation happened long back.

Jahan's explanation came amid speculation about her relationship with Tollywood actor Yash Dasgupta, who contested the West Bengal Assembly election this time as a BJP candidate but lost, and her pregnancy.

Jahan's claim has triggered a controversy as the Lok Sabha website shows her status as "married" to Jain following their much hyped wedding on June 19, 2019, a month after she was elected MP of Bisrhat in North 24 Parganas.

Countering her claim, Jain said that he has already moved the court for their separation. They have been staying separately since last November.

In a detailed statement issued on Wednesday, Jahan said, "Being on a foreign land as per Turkish Marriage Regulation, the ceremony is invalid. Moreover, since it was an interfaith marriage, it requires validation under the Special Marriage Act in India, which did not happen. As per court of law it is not a marriage, but a relationship or a live-in relationship. Thus, the question of divorce does not arise. Our separation happened long back, but I did not speak about it as intended to keep my private life to myself. Thus, my actions must not be questioned based on 'separation' by the media or anybody I am not related to. The alleged marriage is not legal, valid and tenable and thus was not a marriage at all in the eye of law."



Beneficiaries wait to get Covid-19 vaccine at a vaccination-on-wheel camp in Howrah on Wednesday.

K'taka 'unlock' may happen in 4 to 5 phases

THE CHIEF MINISTER is likely to call a meeting of ministers, officials and experts on June 11 or 12, to discuss and take a decision on the unlocking process.

Bengaluru, June 9:

Karnataka revenue minister R. Ashoka on Wednesday indicated that the state may go for unlocking in four to five phases after June 14, as the Covid-19 induced lockdown comes to an end.

"Keeping the number of daily cases in Bengaluru is still hovering in the 2,000 range, Ashoka, who is also the vice-chairman of Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority, said it has to come below 500. "We will also have to keep in mind the rise in positive cases as we unlock," he said.

Noting that the number of daily cases in Bengaluru is still hovering in the 2,000 range, Ashoka, who is also the vice-chairman of Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority, said it has to come below 500. "We will also have to keep in mind the rise in positive cases as we unlock," he said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said lockdown will be relaxed in phases, most probably it may be done in four to five phases. "First will be timings, now the relaxation (for shopping) that is there between 6 to 10 am, it may get extended further. Also those who go for a walk at parks may get some relief.

All this is subjected to a final decision by the Chief Minister. Lockdown will not be relaxed at one go," he added.

Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa is likely to call a meeting of ministers, officials and experts on June 11 or 12, to discuss and take a decision on the unlocking process.

The State Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), comprising experts, is also said to have recommended a gradual unlocking of activities in the state.

Later in the day, health minister K. Sudhakar too said lifting all restrictions at once may trigger a surge in cases. So the curbs will be eased in a staggered manner and the CM will take a final decision on the modalities of unlocking, he said.

Noting that some sectors will be opened up and restrictions will continue on some activities, he said, "advice of experts will be conveyed to the CM, who will take a final decision after discussion with senior ministers."

— PTI

Madrasa teachers roped in to combat vaccine hesitancy

Task force set up to deal with vaccine hesitancy among tribals, villagers

YOJNA GUSAJ | DC
with agency inputs
NEW DELHI, JUNE 9

From madrasa teachers to panchkarma practitioners to medical lab technicians, frontline health workers among others, have been roped in by the minority affairs ministry to participate in the campaign to combat Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy. India has set an ambitious goal of vaccinating all above 18 years by December.

Amid reports of the hesitancy coming mainly from rural, tribal and minority dominated areas, the ministry has set up task forces to check such cases.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had himself addressed the vaccine hesitancy issue by getting vaccinated and has on many occasions urged people to get vaccinated.

Sources said minority affairs minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi had himself called up some prominent

VACCINE COUNT	
Over 3 lakh	Doses to be received by states soon
Over 23 crore	Doses used completely by states including wastage
Over 25 crore	Doses so far provided to states and UTs

people of the minority and community after their reported remarks were seen fuelling vaccine hesitancy.

Most of the professionals helping the ministry in spreading awareness are professionals who had benefitted from the ministry's various schemes, including the skill development schemes. Many youths who had got training in various fields like lab technicians, panchkarma

practitioners and other skills have been reaching out to people in the rural areas.

The minority affairs ministry has also reached out to religious figures among minority communities asking them to use their influence to check vaccine hesitancy.

For instance, the ministry provided health sector training to 1.12 lakh youths in the last two years, who are not only

assisting in the treatment of corona affected people but most of them are also assisting in the awareness campaign. Similarly, more than 3.84 lakh women, who benefitted from the ministry's "Nai Roshi" scheme and self-help groups associated with them have been helping in the awareness campaign.

Many NGO's who have been running various health care programmes under "Garib Nawaz Self Employment Scheme", "Seekho aur Kamao", among others have also been roped in for the campaign.

The country has administered cumulatively 24,24,79,167 vaccine doses, according to a provisional report at 7 pm on Wednesday.

The total include 1,00,12,624 healthcare workers who have taken the first dose and 69,11,311 HCWs who have taken the second dose, 1,64,71,228 frontline workers (FLWs) who have taken the first dose and 87,51,277 FLWs who have received the second dose.

So far, 3,38,08,845 people in the 18-44 age group have received the first dose across states and union territories and 4,05,114 have got the second dose.

Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal have administered the first dose to more than 10 lakh beneficiaries in the 18-44 age group each, the ministry said.

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said

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People not adhering to social distancing guidelines wait to receive ration kit from a government office in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

— PTI

Anup Pandey named new EC

New Delhi, June 9: Former Uttar Pradesh cadre IAS officer Anup Chandra Pandey was appointed as an election commissioner on Tuesday.

The legislative department in the law ministry said the president is pleased to appoint Pandey, a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1984 batch, as an election commissioner with effect from the date he assumes office.

There was a vacancy in the poll panel. Sunil Arora demitted office as the chief election commissioner (CEC) on April 12.

While Sushil Chandra is the CEC, Rajiv Kumar is the other election com-

HC: Take on Covid like surgical strikeSHAHAB ANSARI | DC
MUMBAI, JUNE 9

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday told the Central government that its approach towards fighting the Coronavirus should be like "surgical strike" instead of gathering its forces on the border and waiting for the virus to come out.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing a public interest litigation filed by two advocates — Dhruvit Kapadia and Kunal Tiwari — seeking a direction to the government to start a door-to-door vaccination programme for senior citizens above the age of 75, specially-abled persons and those who are wheelchair-bound or bedridden.

During the hearing, the court said the government was taking decisions for the welfare of the public at large, but they were delayed which has resulted in the loss of several lives.

The Union government on June 8, had told the HC that "near to door" vaccination was more convenient than "door-to-door" vaccination drive.

Reacting to this the bench observed that the Union government's new "near to home" vaccination programme was like waiting for the virus carrier to come to the Centre.

The court said the Centre's approach against Coronavirus, which is the society's biggest enemy at present, should be "like a surgical strike" instead of standing at the borders waiting for the virus to come out.

The Chief Justice further said, "Coronavirus is our biggest enemy. We need to strike it down. The enemy is residing in certain areas and in some people who are unable to come out. Your (government) approach should be like a surgical strike. You are standing at the

NO MALAYALAM ORDER: DELHI HOSP. APOLOGIES TO EMPLOYEES

New Delhi, June 9: The nursing superintendent of GB Pant Hospital here has apologised for issuing controversial circular that barred nursing staff from speaking in Malayalam on duty, saying he had "no intention to disrespect any Indian language, region, or religion".

The hospital had withdrawn the circular, which asked the nursing staff to converse only in Hindi and English, on Sunday, saying it was issued without any instruction or knowledge of the hospital administration and the Delhi government.

In a letter to the medical director of the hospital on Monday, the nursing superintendent explained the reasons behind issuing the circular and said it was issued in "a positive sense and there was no bad intention against Malayalam-speaking staff. In fact, the circular was misinterpreted and I didn't even get a chance to explain the same." The official said he had acted on the basis of complaints received on May 31, June 1 and June 2.

The gist of the complaint was that most of the staff communicates in regional language due to which other staff members as well as attendants of the patients feel helpless. It was requested to sort out the matter. Complainant clearly mentioned Malayalam language, the letter by the nursing superintendent read. Earlier, too, patients and attendants had complained verbally to seniors about some staff members using regional language, he said. — PTI

Admin chalking out roadmap to take vaccination drive to every village**Arunachal villagers get free rice in return for jabs**

Itanagar, June 9: Free rice in return for a Covid-19 jab, and as much as 20 kg. The prospect turned out to be lucrative enough to dispel rumours around vaccination among villagers of an administrative circle in Arunachal Pradesh, as over 80 of them turned up on foot for the inoculation within days of the announcement of the sop.

The brainchild of Circle Officer Tashi Wangchuk Thongdok of Yazali in Lower Subansiri district, the offer of free rice for those getting vaccinated in the 45-plus age group was launched on Monday and was valid till Wednesday.

"We are constantly trying to work out strategies to improve vaccination

coverage in the circle and in the district. Till today noon, 80 people have come to receive the jabs. Our aim is to achieve 100 per cent inoculation in the circle by June 20," Thongdok, a 2016-batch APSC officer, said.

There are 1,399 people above the age of 45 in the Yazali Circle, officials said. Many of those who came to get themselves vaccinated came on foot from far-flung villages, braving inclement weather, Thongdok said.

He said the administration is chalking out a roadmap for taking the vaccination drive to every village of the circle.

"We are planning door-to-door visits on Friday and Saturday to administer vaccines to people

so far in the state. — PTI

above 45 years of age. Our offer will continue but the quantity of rice will be 10 kg instead of 20 kg," Thongdok said.

Two former students of Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya have donated the rice for distribution among the beneficiaries, he added.

Rumours surrounding the Covid-19 immunisation, including severe ailments post inoculation and the possibility of microscopic tracking devices being injected through the serum, have turned many sceptical in the northeast, the officials said.

State Immunisation Officer Dimong Padung said a total of 3,95,445 people have been vaccinated so far in the state. — PTI

In a bid to shed vaccine hesitancy among the people, departmental stores, restaurants and various other business establishments have started offering discounts on their products to the customers if they produce inoculation certificates.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Revenue (Land Acquisition) Department
FORM-VII
(State Rule 25 (1) in section 19 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 (Central Act 30/2013))
DECLARATION

Gazette No.67/2021 Date: 05-06-2021
District Collector, Siddipet Proc. Date: 05-06-2021
Revenue Divisional Officer Husnabad Date: 04-06-2021

Government of Telangana / District Collector, Siddipet, it is hereby decided to acquire land of admeasuring Ac. 24.08 guntas in the village of Baswapur, Koheda Mandal, Siddipet District for public purpose namely for constructions of RMC LD-6 canal Sri Ranganayaka Sagar right canal under construction of Kaleshwaram project. Section 19(1) of the right to fair compensation and transparency in land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement act 2013.

Therefore the declaration is made for acquisition of the following land of total Ac. 24.08 gts. required for construction of project in the village of Baswapur, Koheda Mandal, Siddipet District.

SCHEDULE-I

Village: Baswapur Mandal: Koheda District: Siddipet

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Name of Land	Type of Land	Area to be acquired	Name of Pattadar	Name of Employer	Structures (Trees, Bushes and others)	District	Schedule	
1	1164	Patta	Dry	1.05	1. Tammadaboina Chenna Gattiah s/o Mallaiah 2. Tammadaboina Narsaiah s/o Chenna Mallaiyah 3. Moutam Sattavva w/o Komuriah 4. Dusetti Sridhar s/o Aagam Reddy Pod: Details: 1.Kedika Vijaya w/Bal Reddy 2. Kedika Prabhakar Reddy s/o Venkatesh Reddy Total Extent: 0.15 3. Dusetti Aagam Reddy s/o Venkat Reddy 0.24 4.Chada Laxma Reddy s/o Malla Reddy 0.01 5.Tammadaboina Narsaiah s/o Chenna Mallaiyah 0.05	1. Tammadaboina Chenna Gattiah s/o Mallaiah 2.Tammadaboina Narsaiah s/o Chenna Mallaiyah 3. Moutam Sattavva w/o Komuriah 4. Dusetti Sridhar s/o Aagam Reddy Pod: Details: 1.Kedika Vijaya w/Bal Reddy 2. Kedika Prabhakar Reddy s/o Venkatesh Reddy Total Extent: 0.15 3. Dusetti Aagam Reddy s/o Venkat Reddy 0.24 4.Chada Laxma Reddy s/o Malla Reddy 0.01 5.Tammadaboina Narsaiah s/o Chenna Mallaiyah 0.05	Nil	4	Ceiling Data	Dry
2	1157	Ceiling Data	Dry	1.05	1. Kalva Laxmaiah s/o Hanumaiyah 2. Kalva Ayilava w/o Narsaiah 3. Velupla Rajaiyah s/o Narsaiah 4. Kalva Saroja w/o Rajaiyah 5. Chitti Mallawa w/o Narayana 6. Kedika Buchava w/o Kista Reddy 7. Yedabina Raji Reddy s/o Nara-yana Reddy 8. Kedika Prabhakar Reddy w/o Kista Reddy 9. Kedika Vijaya w/o Bal Reddy 10. Kedika Buchava w/o Vasantha w/o Yadi Reddy 11. Chada Laxma Reddy s/o Malla Reddy 12. Bashavena Rajaiyah s/o Narsaiah 13. Kalva Hanumaiyah s/o Narsaiah 14. Kalva Rajaiyah s/o Komuriah 15. Kalva Chandraiah s/o Komuriah 16. Tammadaboina Bakkaiyah s/o Dammaiah 17. Aamaragani Yellava w/o Odaiah Pod: Details: 1.Aamaragani Rajender s/o Oraiah 2. Kalva Bondaiyah s/o Narsaiah 3. Kalva Rajaiyah s/o Komuriah 4. Kalva Hanumaiyah s/o Narsaiah 5. Tammadaboina Bakkaiyah s/o Dammaiah 6. Basaboina Komuriah s/o Narsaiah Total Extent: 0.19 7. Chitti Mallawa w/o Narayana 8. Kedika Prabhakar Reddy w/o Kista Reddy 0.10 9. Kedika Buchava w/o Kista Reddy 0.10 10. Yedabina Raji Reddy s/o Nara-yana Reddy 0.10 11. Chada Laxma Reddy s/o Malla Reddy 0.10 12. Kedika Prabhakar Reddy w/o Kista Reddy 0.02 13. Kedika Vijaya w/o Bal Reddy 0.01	1. Kalva Laxmaiah s/o Hanumaiyah 2. Kalva Ayilava w/o Narsaiah 3. Velupla Rajaiyah s/o Narsaiah 4. Kalva Saroja w/o Rajaiyah 5. Chitti Mallawa w/o Narayana 6. Kedika Buchava w/o Kista Reddy 7. Yedabina Raji Reddy s/o Nara-yana Reddy 8. Kedika Prabhakar Reddy w/o Kista Reddy 9. Kedika Vijaya w/o Bal Reddy 10. Kedika Buchava w/o Vasantha w/o Yadi Reddy 11. Chada Laxma Reddy s/o Malla Reddy 12. Bashavena Rajaiyah s/o Narsaiah 13. Kalva Hanumaiyah s/o Narsaiah 14. Kalva Rajaiyah s/o Komuriah 15. Kalva Chandraiah s/o Komuriah 16. Tammadaboina Bakkaiyah s/o Dammaiah 17. Aamaragani Yellava w/o Odaiah Pod: Details: 1.Aamaragani Rajender s/o Oraiah 2. Kalva Bondaiyah s/o Narsaiah 3. Kalva Rajaiyah s/o Komuriah 4. Kalva Hanumaiyah s/o Narsaiah 5. Tammadaboina Bakkaiyah s/o Dammaiah 6. Basaboina Komuriah s/o Narsaiah Total Extent: 0.19 7. Chitti Mallawa w/o Narayana 8. Kedika Prabhakar Reddy w/o Kista Reddy 0.10 9. Kedika Buchava w/o Kista Reddy 0.10 10. Yedabina Raji Reddy s/o Nara-yana Reddy 0.10 11. Chada Laxma Reddy s/o Malla Reddy 0.10 12. Kedika Prabhakar Reddy w/o Kista Reddy 0.02 13. Kedika Vijaya w/o Bal Reddy 0.01	Nil	4	Ceiling Data	Dry
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10 MINE-CLEARING WORKERS KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

Kunduz, June 9: Masked gunmen killed 10 people working for the HALO Trust mine-clearing organisation in northern Afghanistan, the interior ministry said Wednesday, blaming the

Taliban for the latest attack to rock the violence-wracked country.

The raid happened on Tuesday evening as dozens of deminers were relaxing at a HALO compound in Baghlan province,

around 260 kilometres north of the capital, after a day spent looking for ordnance in the area.

Baghlan has seen fierce fighting in recent months, with near-daily battles between the

Taliban and government forces. A survivor said that five or six armed men scaled the compound walls and gathered everyone together before asking if there were any Hazara present.



Kamala Harris

US passes bill to combat Beijing

China to be accountable for predatory tactics

HARRIS DEFENDS BORDER CRITICISM

Washington, June 9: The United States Senate has passed a major legislative package aimed at improving the country's economic competition with China and holding its Communist government accountable for predatory tactics.

The important anti-China bill was passed by the Senate with 68-32 votes. It is considered a major political victory by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer who had made it a top priority.

The US Innovation and Competition Act invests more than \$100 billion of taxpayer funds to solidify the United States' leadership in scientific and technological innovation critical to national security and economic competitiveness.

It will also strengthen the security of essential supply chains, and US ability to solve supply-chain disruptions during crises. Additionally, the bill increases funding for National Science Foundation activities.

"Passing this bill — now called the US Innovation and Competition Act — is the moment when the while it was "legitimate" to be concerned about the situation at the border, it wouldn't be addressed with a simple visit." As she closed out a two-day visit to Guatemala and Mexico aimed at strengthening diplomatic ties to help deal with migration to the US, Harris declared: "When I'm in Guatemala dealing with root causes, I think we should have a conversation about what's going on in Guatemala."

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This legislation will go down as one of the most significant, bipartisan achievements of the US Senate in recent history, the senior Democratic Senator said.

"Around the globe, authoritarian governments believe that squabbling democracies like ours can't unite around national priorities. They believe that democracy itself is a relic of the past, and that by beating us to emerging technologies, many of them will be able to re-shape the world in their own image," he said.

The ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) has made no bones about its desire for global economic dominance through whatever means necessary. They're actively working to buy up, influence, spy on and steal American innovation, Senator Chuck Grassley said.

"They've sought to spread pro-China propaganda at our research and academic institutions. And while their ill-gotten approach to economic advancement has boosted their status in the world, they

dispute with China over barley and expects other nations to become involved in the case.

China effectively ended imports of Australian barley in May 2020 by putting tariffs of more than 80 per cent on the crop, accusing Australia of breaching WTO rules by subsidising barley production and selling the grain in China at below production cost.

Trade in Australian seafood, wood, beef, wine and coal has also been disrupted since Australia angered China by requesting an independent inquiry into the origins of the Coronavirus pandemic.

"A well-functioning WTO that sets clear rules, arbitrates disputes objectively and efficiently penalises bad behaviour when it occurs." In my discussions with many leaders, I've taken great encouragement from the support shown for Australia's preparedness to withstand economic coercion in recent times," Morrison said in a speech delivered in the Australian west coast city of Perth before leaving for the G7 meeting in Cornwall. The Australian government announced in December it would ask the WTO to intervene in its

— AP

CICADAS DELAY WH PRESS BEFORE BIDEN TRIP

Washington, June 9: Reporters travelling to the United Kingdom for President Joe Biden's first overseas trip were delayed seven hours after their chartered plane was overrun by cicadas.

The Washington, DC, area is among the many parts of the country that have been swarmed by Brood X cicadas, a large emergence of the loud 17-year insects that take to dive-bombing onto moving vehicles and unsuppecting passersby. Even Biden wasn't spared.

The president brushed a cicada from the back of his neck as he chatted with his Air Force greeter after arriving at Joint Base Andrews for Wednesday's flight.

"Watch out for the cicadas," Biden then told reporters. "I just got one. It just got me." It was unclear how cicadas disrupted the mechanics of the press plane.

— AP

EL SALVADOR FIRST TO ADOPT BITCOIN AS LEGAL TENDER

San Salvador, June 9: Bitcoin is to become legal tender in El Salvador, the country's president said, making it the first nation to adopt a cryptocurrency for everyday use.

Lawmakers in the Central American nation's

just been approved by a qualified majority" in the legislative assembly, President Nayib Bukele tweeted after the vote late Tuesday.

"History!" the president added.

— AFP

Russian court mulls motion to outlaw Navalny organisations

Moscow, June 9: A Moscow court on Wednesday considered a request by prosecutors to outlaw the organisations founded by Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny — part of authorities' efforts to muzzle critics ahead of a crucial parliamentary election in September.

The land is being acquired for project, the Coal, Iron, Stone, Slate and other minerals from mining, dredging of mines, minerals, in construction phase under such land or any part of the such land will be accepted are will not be accepted.

A Plan of the land to be acquired may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer and Revenue Divisional Officer, Husnabad on any working day during office hours.

The Moscow City Court is expected to grant the request to designate Navalny's Foundation for Fighting Corruption and his sprawling network of regional offices across Russia as extremist organisations. In conjunction with a new law,

his activities pending the court's ruling. But, the dissident's associates have vowed to continue their work in different formats.

Navalny, the most adamantine political foe of President Vladimir Putin, was arrested in January upon returning from Germany where he spent five months convalescing after a nerve agent poisoning that he blamed on the Kremlin — that Russian officials reject. In February, Navalny was given a two-and-a-half-year prison term for violating the terms of a suspended sentence from a 2014

conviction that he dismissed as politically driven. His foundation, started 10 years ago, has been relentlessly targeting senior government officials with colourful and widely watched videos that detail corruption allegations against them.

One of its latest productions, which received 117 million views on YouTube, claimed that a lavish palace on the Black Sea shore was built for Putin through an elaborate corruption scheme. The Kremlin has denied any links to Putin.

— AP

SHORT TAKES
IRAQI MILITARY COMMANDER RELEASED

Baghdad, June 9: An Iraqi militia commander whose arrest last month sparked a standoff between the government and paramilitary groups was freed Wednesday after a judge ordered his release.

Supporters of Qassim Mahmood Musleh greeted him with hugs and kisses on Baghdad's central Jadriya Bridge after his release, taking photos and videos with him to celebrate. Two Iraqi officials said Musleh was released at 8 am and he returned to the southern city of Karbala, his hometown, where supporters also greeted him. Musleh is head of the Popular Mobilisation Forces in Anbar province. He was arrested May 27 on terrorism charges following a judicial probe.

C.A.R. ACCUSES FRENCH NATIONAL OF SPYING

Bangui, June 9: Prosecutors in the Central African Republic (CAR) on Wednesday accused a French national of espionage, conspiracy and harming state security, in a case that has sparked tension with CAR's former colonial power.

Juan Remy Quignolot, who was arrested in the capital Bangui on May 10, "has been placed in custody" pending an inquiry by an investigating magistrate, said public prosecutor Eric Didier Tambo.

"The accusations are of espionage, illegal possession of military and hunting weapons, criminal association, harming domestic state security and conspiracy," said Tambo. He made no reference to any country or organisation for whom Quignolot allegedly worked.

MIG-29 CRASHES, BULGARIAN PILOT MISSING

Sofia, June 9: A Soviet-built MiG-29 fighter jet from Bulgaria's air force crashed into the Black Sea during a military exercise and the pilot is missing, the Bulgarian Defence Ministry said Wednesday.

The ministry said the fighter jet disappeared from radar at 12:45 a.m. local time over the country's territorial waters. It said a search and rescue operation was launched immediately and is continuing, but the pilot's status remains unknown. The reasons for the crash are unclear, but military officials suspended the Shabla 2021 drill. Two other MiG-29 jets belonging to Bulgaria crashed in 1994 and in 2012. Since joining NATO in 2004, Bulgaria has sought to replace its air fleet of Soviet-made MiG-29 jets.

PAK SCRIBE APOLOGISES FOR ARMY REMARKS

Islamabad, June 9: A prominent Pakistani journalist, who was taken off air indefinitely for making hard-hitting remarks against the country's powerful military establishment in the wake of an attack on a fellow scribe, has apologised and said he had no intention to defame the Army.

Hamid Mir, the popular host of political talk show 'Capital Talk' of Geo News channel, on May 28 delivered a fiery speech at a protest staged by scribes against an attack by three "unknown" persons on journalist and YouTuber Asad Ali Toor in Islamabad.

Mir demanded accountability for the attack, which was a series of such assaults on media persons who are critical of the country's military. Following his speech, he was taken off air on May 30.

A joint statement issued by a committee formed by the Rawalpindi Islamabad Union of Journalists (RIUJ), the National Press Club and Mir on Tuesday said he had no intention to defame the Army and respect it "as an institution from the core of his heart".

EU OKs virus pass, boosting travel hopes

Will allow people to move between Euro nations without having to quarantine or undergo extra virus tests



Visitors gather during a presentation visit of the "Grand Palais Ephémère", with the Eiffel Tower in the background, in Paris. Europe is opening up to Americans and other visitors after more than a year of restrictions. — AP

Illicit online drug sales during lockdowns: EU

Madrid, June 9: Illegal drug production on European soil increased during the Coronavirus pandemic last year as lockdowns helped move drug sales from streets to encrypted online platforms, according to an analysis of continental drug trends released Wednesday.

The vote must still be rubber-stamped by EU nations, but that's likely a formality. It means that beginning July 1 for 12 months, all EU countries must recognise the vaccine certificate. They will be issued free and certify that a person has either been fully vaccinated against the virus, has recently tested negative or has recovered.

US diplomatic show will remain in Kabul: Blinken



Tony Blinken

He said the government which represents the people and their interest, is the government that the United States and the international community will support.

"Right now, there are conversations, discussions, potentially negotiations going on between the government and the Taliban, and to see if they can come to a peaceful accommodation and end the conflict," the secretary of state said.

"But, as it stands, we're withdrawing our forces, we're not withdrawing from Afghanistan. We remain very much engaged. We're determining to maintain a strong embassy presence. Other countries are as well," Blinken on Tuesday told members of the Senate Appropriations Committee during a Congressional hearing on the 2022 Budget Request for the State Department.

Responding to apprehensions of senators about the future of several programmes in Afghanistan, including those for women and children, Blinken assured them that the programmes will continue with the support of the Congress.

authors said that while strict stay-at-home orders in most countries disrupted street drug sales, the market moved to encrypted messaging and social media platforms for negotiating purchases and to home delivery services for distribution.

"This draws attention to whether a long-term impact of the pandemic could be the further digitalization of drug markets," the EMCDDA report states.

There were 46 new drugs detected in 2020 alone, including new synthetic cannabinoids and opioids, the report said. European Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson said "the highly pure and potent substances" found in the surveyed countries were a cause of special concern. Illegal

drug usage in general, she warned, carries environmental, health and security risks for the EU. The issue "corrupts the fabric of our society, fueling violence and risking the health and security of our citizens," Johansson said in a statement.

The EMCDDA described the European drug market as "dynamic and adaptive," as well as "resilient to COVID-19 restrictions," with patterns of drug use "increasingly complex." The report raises specific concerns around the misuse of benzodiazepines, which are prescribed for treating anxiety but have been linked to poisonings and deaths from unauthorized use. Amphetamine and methamphetamine production is on the rise, the report said. — AP

Quad to provide Ibvax to SE Asia

Washington, June 9: The commitment of the Quad nations to provide a billion Covid vaccines to people in Southeast Asia by 2022 is still on track despite a devastating second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic in India, a top White House official has said.

In March, leaders of the Quad — comprising Australia, India, Japan and the United States — during a virtual summit had committed themselves to provide a billion vaccines to Southeast Asia. These vaccines were to be manufactured in India, but due to the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic certain quarters are raising doubts if the Quad can meet its commitment by 2022.

"We have been in close consultations with our partners and with India. Obviously, this is an extremely difficult period for Indian friends. The United States has tried to stand with Delhi and to bring others both in the private and the public sectors to support them," Kurt Campbell, the White House's Indo-Pacific policy director, said.

"Our discussions with both our partners in the private sector and also in government suggests that we are knock-on wood still on track for 2022," he said. Participating in a panel discussion organised by the Center for New American Security, a think-tank in Washington DC, the top White House official said that the most intense efforts right now really are in the short-term.

"I think we're feeling relatively confident as we head into 2022, but we recognise

that what we are facing right now across Asia, in fact, across the world are new strains that spread more rapidly," Campbell said.

So even countries that did extremely well through social distancing and masking are now facing outbreaks even with tremendous stringency, he said.

"So, we understand the only way to be effective to counter this is through vaccine diplomacy. We are trying to step that up more generally," Campbell said. Campbell said that the goal is to hold an in-person Quad meeting and a "very ambitious meeting" here in Washington, in the fall, he said. "With all leaders in attendance, we will ensure that we've taken the necessary steps" on the vaccine deliverable," Campbell said.

"We intend to build on that. We want to do something constructive with respect to infrastructure. We are going to take some other steps to build out the Quad to ensure that as an unofficial gathering, it still is a defining feature of modern diplomacy linking these key maritime democracies in a way that is deeply consequential for the 21st century," he said.

"Our discussions with both our partners in the private sector and also in government suggests that we are knock-on wood still on track for 2022," he said. Participating in a panel discussion organised by the Center for New American Security, a think-tank in Washington DC, the top White House official said that the most intense efforts right now really are in the short-term.

"I think we're feeling relatively confident as we head into 2022, but we recognise

Russia reopens Covid hospitals

Moscow, June 9: Russia on Wednesday reported a spike in Coronavirus infections and announced special hospitals would reopen to treat an influx of patients as officials struggled to encourage Russians to get vaccinated.

The announcements marked a shift in tone for Russia, whose leader Vladimir Putin has repeatedly insisted his country had handled the pandemic better than most and has boasted of the fact that it registered the world's first Covid-19 vaccine — which he claims is also better than all the others. A governmentally Wednesday reported 10,407 new Coronavirus infections across the country, the highest

since March 14.

In Moscow, the epicentre of the outbreak in Russia, the surge in new infections saw the highest number of daily cases registered since January 16. "The situation remains difficult. We're seeing a surge in infections," Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said in televised remarks. He added that around 10,000 hospital beds were occupied by Coronavirus patients and that the city plans to open "several more" field hospitals in the coming days.

A member of the Moscow city government, Yevgeny Danchikov, said Wednesday the city will ramp up policing of mask wearing in public. — AFP

ENTERTAINMENT VENUES ON HOLD IN CHINESE CITY

Beijing, June 9: The southern China metropolis of Guangzhou has ordered the closure of cinemas, theatres, nightclubs and other indoor entertainment venues as authorities seek to contain the country's latest Coronavirus outbreak.

The controls announced Wednesday are even stricter in parts of the city where the risk of infection is categorised as high or moderate. Guangzhou has isolated neighbourhoods where cases have been detected and barred people from leaving the city or the surrounding province of Guangdong unless absolutely necessary. — AP

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH STATE MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY, MADHYA PRADESH (National Health Mission, Link Road No.-03, In front of Patrakar Colony, Bhopal, M.P.) S.No/ S.M.H.A/ M.P/ 2021/9129 Bhopal, Date: 04/06/2021

Advertisement

The Department of Public Health & Family Welfare, Government of M.P invites applications from eligible individuals for nomination as Non-official Members of the State Mental Health Authority (SMHA), M.P. to be continued under the provision of Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 for the following categories under sub-section (1) of Section 46 of the Act, and Mental Healthcare (State Mental Health Authority) Rules, 2018 as notified by the Central Govt.

SI.No	Category
1	One eminent psychiatrist (Not working under Govt. sector), having a minimum of 15 years of experience in the field, in terms of Rule 5 (1)
2	One Mental Health Professional, having a minimum of 15 years of experience in the field, in terms of Rule 5 (2)
3	One Psychiatric Social Worker, having a minimum of 15 years of experience in the field, in terms of Rule 5 (2)
4	One Clinical Psychologist, having a minimum of 15 years of experience in the field, in terms of Rule 5 (2)
5	One Mental Health Nurse, having a minimum of 15 years of experience in the field, in terms of Rule 5 (2)
6	Two persons representing persons who have or have had Mental Illness, as per Rule 5 (3)
7	Two persons representing Care-Givers of Persons with Mental Illness or Organizations representin8 Care-Givers, as per Rule 5 (3)
8	Two persons representing Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which provide services to Persons with Mental Illness, as per Rule 5 (3).

Note-1. For application form, Eligibility Criteria, terms etc. login to www.nhmmp.gov.in

2. Last date for submission of application form is 04/07/2021. Applications submitted after that will not be accepted.

Sd/-
(Chief Executive Officer)
State Mental Health Authority
M.P

G-13139/21

Govt. of Bihar

Biharsharif Smart City Limited

CIN - U93000BR2018SGC038181

Registered Office - First Floor, Administrative Building Biharsharif Municipal Corporation, Nalanda

Smart City
email- biharsharifsmartcitylimited@gmail.com, Phone +91-6112-232272

NOTICE FOR EMPLOYMENT (NIT No-05/2021)

Introduction

Biharsharif is the prominent city of Bihar known for its glorious past and rich historical heritage. For making the city more functional, efficient and smart, the Government of Bihar and Biharsharif Municipal Corporation have constituted Biharsharif Smart City Ltd. (BSSCL), a Special Purpose Vehicle Company, for planning and implementation of Biharsharif Smart City Project. For strengthening the organization, BSSCL is inviting application from experienced and dynamic professionals who are motivated to work for the innovative scheme of Smart Cities.

Employment Detail:-

Sr. No	Post	Type of appointment	No. of Positions	Minimum qualification	Experience	Age Limit (As on 1/1/2021)	Honorarium (per month)	Category
1	Chief General Manager (CGM)	Contract based	1	Bachelor/Masters in Civil Engineering with Master of Planning or MBA or Construction Management or Master of Engineering in Urban Infrastructure related subject.	Not less than total 12 Years of Experience water supply, Roads, Sewerage Networks, Urban Infrastructure, project formulation, Review of consultancy report, work and progress monitoring.	55	1,50,000	UR

General Instruction

1. Applications will be accepted through email till 11:59 PM, 19th June, 2021. List of Shortlisted candidates will be published on website <https://nagarserve.bihar.gov.in> by 20th June, 2021.

2. Interview will be conducted on 21st June, 2021 at Vikas Bhawan, Urban Development and Housing Department, Govt. of Bihar, Patna. Candidates are requested to make travel arrangements in advance. Detail information and application form can be downloaded from website: <https://nagarserve.bihar.gov.in>

3. Application form with complete details should be sent through E-mail only on vikash.biharsharif@bihar.gov.in by 11:59 PM on 19.06.2021 with all relevant documents attachment.

4. Shortlisted candidates will be informed about interview and further process through website(<https://nagarserve.bihar.gov.in/>) and email.

5. Any disputes arising shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the appropriate Court of Biharsharif.

6. Managing Director, BSSCL reserves the right to terminate any or all process without assigning any reason whatsoever of this recruitment.

For future details please visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

Managing Director
Biharsharif Smart City Limited

PR. 002100 (NI NI) 2021-22

Nोयत बोरोगा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहाय्य हेतु nagarserve.bihar.gov.in Toll Free No. 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

US lawsuit: Spotlight on missing Saudi royal

Riyadh, June 9: A US-based lawsuit against Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman centred on a Caribbean oil refinery, but unexpectedly highlighted something else — the disappearance of his main rival. Former crown prince Mohammed bin Nayef (MBN), unseated as heir to the throne by his cousin Prince Mohammed in 2017, has not been seen in public since his detention in March last year. MBN, long seen as the CIA's most trusted Saudi ally, served

as the kingdom's interior minister from 2012 before becoming crown prince three years later. The lawsuit pointed to government efforts to keep a tight lid on his whereabouts, with documents showing the detained royal was represented by a US law firm that works for his rival.

The man behind the lawsuit, Saudi businessman Nader Turki Aldossari, is barred from leaving the kingdom along with his family members, according to letters from his lawyer to President Joe Biden and other US officials. The story began in June last year, when Aldossari filed a lawsuit

quick BITES

INDICATORS %

Sensex	51941.64	-0.64
Nifty 50	15635.40	-0.67
S&P 500*	4,233.25	0.14
Dollar (\$)	72.97	-0.09
Pound Sterling (\$)	103.44	-0.38
Euro (\$)	88.95	-0.24
Gold (10gm)* (\$)	48,424*92	0.18
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	71.90	-0.44
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.016	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.501	-0.027

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Blending mustard oil with other oil banned: FSSAI

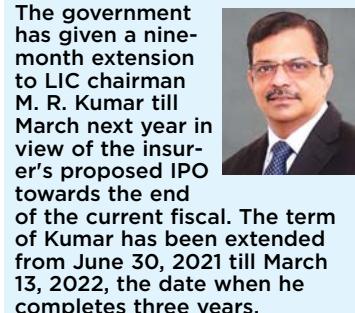
Food regulator FSSAI has asked states to enforce the decision to ban blending of mustard oil with any other cooking oil from June 8. In a March 8 notification, the FSSAI had prohibited the blending of mustard oil for production of multi-sourced edible vegetable oils (MSEVOs) with effect from June 8. It has issued an order on June 8 asking all the Commissioners of Food Safety of states/UTs to carry out an inspection drive.

Expect tax portal to stabilise this week: Infosys



A day after finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman flagged technical glitches in the income tax department's new e-filing website, IT major Infosys said it expects the system to stabilise this week. The portal went live on Monday evening. "Our teams are making progress to address the technical issues. We expect the system to stabilise in the course of this week," Infosys said in a tweet on Wednesday.

LIC chief Kumar gets nine-month extension



The government has given a nine-month extension to LIC chairman M.R. Kumar till March next year in view of the insurer's proposed IPO towards the end of the current fiscal. The term of Kumar has been extended from June 30, 2021 till March 13, 2022, the date when he completes three years.

Agarwal firm to get majority stake in Ravva oilfield

Anil Agarwal's group said it will make an upfront payment of almost \$40 million (about Rs 292 crore) for the acquisition of Videocon Industries Ltd, which will help it become the largest shareholder in the Ravva oil and gas fields in the KG basin. In a London Stock Exchange filing, Agarwal's Volcan Investments said its subsidiary, Twin Star Technologies India Ltd had submitted a resolution plan for Videocon Group companies.

■ 25-30% outlets shut down, 50% in red Restaurants run up losses, many exit

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JUNE 9

Hit by the two waves of the pandemic, almost 30 per cent restaurants in the country have shut shop.

Around 45-50 per cent restaurants and hotels are incurring heavy losses and around 25-30 per cent restaurants and hotels have permanently closed down, says a report by Care Ratings, which tracks the segment.

The apex body of restaurants and hotels also endorses this estimate.

"We too estimate that around 30 per cent of the restaurants would have probably wound up their operations," said Jaison Chacko, secretary general of the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI). More than five lakh restaurants would be operating in the country, the association estimates.

While online delivery of food was permitted during the outbreak of Covid-19 last year, dine-in services were not allowed. Food delivery and take-away contributes to only 10-15 per cent of the total revenue generated.

As the first wave slowly started subsiding, restaurants were allowed to operate with reduced hours of operations and limited seating capacity. The demand for dine-in services started improving from the third quarter of FY21 supported by ease in restrictions on movement of people, opening of



leisure and entertainment activities and places like malls and theatres. The vaccination drive initiated in January 2021 also aided consumer confidence.

However, the rise in caseload since the end of March 2021 has hampered the recovery in demand. Staggered lockdowns and reduced operating hours of business with only takeaway and home deliveries being permitted has hit the top-line of the restaurants.

Even with ease in restrictions from May-June, it is expected that consumer demand for dine-in services may not recover till the second half of FY22 or till consumer confidence returns with significant vaccination coverage. In the absence of proper government support, many restaurants are finding it difficult to survive.

Chacko says the restaurants were eligible for the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme of the government as well as the loan restructuring

scheme for MSMEs. "But very few restaurants have been able to avail of the scheme due to the apathy of the banks. We have come across several instances where banks have declined support under the scheme and procedural delays are making the situation worse," he said. The association has now pinned its hopes on the Reserve Bank of India's recently announced Rs 15,000-crore liquidity support for sectors, including hospitality.

The FHRAI on Tuesday met tourism minister Prahlad Singh Patel and minister of MSME Nitin Gadkari and discussed the deteriorating state of the hospitality and tourism industry and sought immediate fiscal measures to save the segment from an imminent collapse.

It suggested key policy changes, including waiver or relaxation under the EPCG scheme and an extension on moratorium of three years on the principal amount for all loans.

EQUITY MUTUAL FUNDS RECEIVE OVER 10,000 CR INFLOWS IN MAY

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, JUNE 9

The mutual fund industry saw a big jump in inflows in the pure equity funds category to over Rs 10,000 crore in May.

Other fund categories which invest a portion of their funds in the equity market, such as hybrid funds (Rs 6,217 crore) and ETFs (Rs 9,331.98 crore), also saw healthy inflows, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) shows.

However, the debt funds category saw outflows worth Rs 44,512 crore.

Pure equity funds saw inflows of Rs 10,082.98 crore last month compared to Rs 3,437.37 crore in April 2021.

"Equity-oriented mutual funds witnessed their highest monthly net inflows after February 2020, when the segment received a net inflow of 10,795.81 crore. This was the third consecutive month of net inflows for the segment," Morningstar analysts said.

With healthy inflows across fund categories, total assets of the mutual fund industry hit a new all-time high of Rs 33.05 lakh crore.

The monthly contribution to the systematic investment plan rose to Rs 8,189.90 crore from Rs 8,596.25 crore in April.

"Retail equity-oriented contribution continues to be on the upward trend driven by net flows," said N. S. Venkatesh, CEO Amfi.

Petronet shelves \$2.5 bn deal with USA's Tellurian



New Delhi, June 9: An initial non-binding agreement for Petronet LNG Ltd to invest \$2.5 billion in US energy upstart Tellurian's LNG project in Louisiana in return for gas supplies for 40 years has lapsed, the CEO of the Indian firm said on Wednesday.

The deal, which was signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Houston in September 2019, was billed as one of the largest foreign investments in the US to ship shale gas abroad.

Petronet, India's largest gas importer, has opened talks with suppliers such as Qatar for sourcing natural gas in its liquid form (LNG) to meet the growing energy needs of the country, its managing director & CEO A. K. Singh told reporters on a call.

The firm's long-term deal to import 7.5 million tonnes per annum of liquefied natural gas from Qatar ends in March 2028, and the company has time till December 2023, to decide on extending it, he said.

Petronet had on September 21, 2019, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for purchasing up to 5 million tonnes per annum of LNG from Tellurian Inc's proposed Driftwood LNG terminal for 40 years. The deal was concurrent with Petronet making an equity investment of \$2.5 billion for an 18 per cent stake in Driftwood.

"The MoU was not extended. As of today, there is no MoU with us,"

GAIL SPLIT PLAN SCRAPPED, PSU TO MONETISE PIPELINES

New Delhi, June 9: A proposal to bifurcate state-owned gas utility Gail (India) Ltd has been scrapped for now, and instead the company will monetise some of its pipelines by selling a minority stake through an InvIT.

Gail chairman and managing director Manoj Jain said at a call with reporters.

"We are initially monetising the pipeline business through InvIT. Proposals for InvIT for two pipelines have been sent to the ministry. Once it clears, we will start working on monetisation plan," he said.

Gail is India's biggest natural gas marketing

and trading firm and owns nearly three-fourths of the country's 17,126-km gas pipeline network, giving it a stranglehold on the market. To resolve the issue, it was proposed that Gail's pipeline business should be hived off into a separate entity.

"There is no pending proposal in this regard," Jain said at a call with reporters.

"We are initially monetising the pipeline business through InvIT. Proposals for InvIT for two pipelines have been sent to the ministry. Once it clears, we will start working on monetisation plan," he said.

Asked if this meant that the split plan was junked, he said, "it appears so." — PTI

then to December 31, 2020.

Asked about the reasons, Singh said this was not because of Petronet. "We did not get a request from their (Tellurian's) side for an extension," he said.

— PTI

MSP of kharif crops increased

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JUNE 9

production (CoP), aiming at reasonably fair remuneration for the farmers.

The expected returns to farmers over their cost of production are estimated to be highest in case of bajra at 85 per cent followed by urad at 65 per cent and tur 62 per cent.

For the rest of the crops, return to farmers over their CoP is estimated to be at least 50 per cent.

"At an average of 3.6 per cent, MSP rise this year is slightly lesser than 3.7 per cent in the previous year and 3.9 per cent before that. However, we will have to see the procurement levels. If the procurement levels are higher, farmer incomes will go up," said Kruti Shah, economist, Emkay Global Financial Services.

The MSP of both common and grade A paddy has been hiked by Rs 72. With this, the MSP of paddy is 50 per cent higher than the cost of production.

Groundnut MSP was increased by Rs 275 per quintal, niger seed by Rs 235, cotton medium staple by Rs 211 and long staple by Rs 200.

The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year is for sesamum at Rs 452 per quintal followed by tur and urad at Rs 300 per quintal each.

"The increase in MSP for kharif crops for marketing season 2021-22 is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 1.5 times of the all-India weighted average cost of

AIRPORTS SEEK GOVT RELIEF TO SAVE JOBS

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JUNE 9

Fearing large-scale job losses, airports have sought relief measures, including part wages, from the government.

Among large airports, the Delhi airport had generated 1.06 lakh direct and 5.01 lakh indirect employment as in 2014-15. The Mumbai airport had generated 41,000 direct and 4.19 lakh indirect employment in 2009-10, as per a 2017 NCAER study.

The Association of Private Airports Operators finds that several jobs will be lost due to the stress on the airport finances.

The airports in India are estimated to have witnessed a decline in operating income by 61 per cent to Rs 8,400 crore with operating loss of around Rs 1,700 crore and a net loss of Rs 5,400 crore in FY21, says Icra. The overall cash loss for the sector is estimated to be around Rs 3,500 crore in FY21.

"Relief measures are required not only to ensure sustaining operations at airports, but also needed to save jobs and allow economic recovery of the airport sector," said Rahul Bajaria, chief India economist, Barclays, said.

Buying frenzy drives price surge in hidden world of diamonds

THOMAS BIESHEUVEL
JUNE 9

At the latest De Beers diamond auction this week, buyers shopping for the kind of stones used to make an average engagement ring were in for a sticker shock: some prices had ballooned by 10 per cent since the last sale.

News of the unusually sharp increases spread swiftly through the community of 80-odd hand-picked De Beers customers, according to people familiar with the discussions. But what followed was even more remarkable: within hours, some of those same stones were trading hands at a further 10 per cent markup, as buyers who have access to De Beers flipped them to traders and manufacturers that don't.

The spiking prices -- and buyers' willingness to pay them -- are the latest sign of roaring demand in the secretive rough-diamond trade. Just nine months ago, the industry had been brought to a standstill by the pandemic. Now, the cutters and polishers, who form the backbone of the global diamond market, are coming back.

"The rough market is hot. There's enthusiastic buying across all rough categories," said Anish Aggarwal, a partner at specialist diamond advisory firm Gemdax.

There are several reasons behind the surge: major retailers in the US and China are buying aggressively to keep up with strong sales, while rough diamond supply is tight because De Beers and rival Alrosa PJSC have limited supply to put onto the market.

For some in the industry, there are worries the market could be running too hot. It takes about three months to cut, polish and sell a diamond, so stones bought cheaply at the start of the year are now being sold for a big profit.

That also means those buying at today's prices are betting that polished stones will continue to appreciate in value.

And then there's the risk that the renewed consumer interest in diamonds, driven by the lack of competition from other luxuries such as experiences and travel, could cool as more economies open up.

— Bloomberg

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— Bloomberg

ADVENT EXITS CROMPTON FOR ₹1,348 CRORE

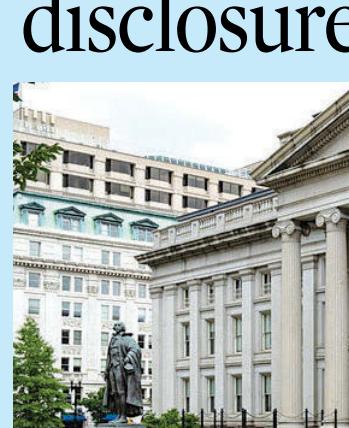
New Delhi, June 9: Private equity firm Advent International Corp on Wednesday divested its entire 5.36 per cent stake in Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals for a little over Rs 1,348 crore through multiple open market transactions.

The shares were bought by over a dozen entities, including foreign investors, domestic mutual funds and insurance companies.

According to block deal data with the BSE, Advent International Corp's Amalfiaco Ltd sold a total of 3,36,67,802 shares, amounting to a 5.36 per cent stake of Crompton. The shares were sold at an average

REVEALING DOCUMENTS Some of America's richest people paid little to no taxes

US probes disclosure of tax records of rich



Treasury Department spokeswoman Lily Adams said in an emailed statement that the matter has been referred to the FBI, which is investigating.

federal prosecutors and two internal Treasury Department watchdogs, "all of whom have independent authority to investigate."

The IRS, part of the Treasury Department, is the nation's tax-collecting agency and many tax records are considered confidential documents. IRS commissioner Charles Rettig also confirmed that an investigation is underway.

"Obviously we take it very seriously," Psaki told a briefing.

SHORT TAKES

Athletics coach Xavier no more

Hyderabad: Athletics coach Xavier Arokiaswamy passed away on Tuesday night in Hyderabad. He was 78 and left behind his wife, daughter, sons and grandchildren.

An NIS and South Central Railway coach, he was also office-bearer of the Hyderabad District Athletics Association and founder of the Runners Club. A passionate coach, he produced some fine athletes of national as well as international repute.

Xavier was a national medalist in 5,000 and 10,000 metres as well as the 3,000m steeple chase and a contemporary of Pan Singh Tomar and Milkha Singh.

He had an all encompassing presence across Ossmania, Lal Bahadur Stadium and RRC grounds in Hyderabad training and motivating athletes across various disciplines.

Office-bearers of the Hyderabad district, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh athletics associations joined the sports fraternity in condoling Xavier's demise.



A. Xavier

BARB-AURA

Barbora sends Gauff packing; Nadal dumps Diego to make semis

Paris, June 9: Unseeded Barbora Krejcikova of the Czech Republic reached her first Grand Slam semi-final at the French Open on Wednesday as she beat 17-year-old Coco Gauff 7-6 (7-6), 6-3.

The 33rd-ranked Krejcikova saved five set points in the opening set and finished off Gauff, the 24th seed, on her sixth match point to set up a clash with reigning champion Iga Swiatek or Maria Sakkari for a spot in the final.

Krejcikova, who is also through to the last four of the women's doubles with Katerina Siniakova, claimed her 10th successive win on the tour having arrived in Paris on the back of a maiden singles title in Strasbourg.

Krejcikova recovered from a rocky start, falling 3-0 and 5-3 behind against Gauff, the youngest Grand Slam quarterfinalist since 2006.

But the Czech saved a set point on the Gauff serve in the ninth game, and fought off two more at 5-6 to secure a vital hold and force a tie-break.

Meanwhile, Maria Sakkari ended defending champion Iga Swiatek's 11-match and 22-set winning streaks at the French Open on Wednesday and reached the semifinals of a major tournament for the first time.

The 17th-seeded Sakkari used strong and steady baseline play to eliminate Swiatek 6-4, 6-4 at Court Philippe Chatrier in the quarterfinals and ensure that the clay-court tournament will end with a new Grand Slam champion.



Czech Republic's Barbora Krejcikova slams a forehand to Coco Gauff of United States during their quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium on Wednesday. Barbora won 7-6 (7-6), 6-3.

In men's single, Rafael Nadal reached a record-extending 14th French Open semi-final on Wednesday with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-0 win over Diego Schwartzman, setting up a potential last-four show-down with world number one Novak Djokovic.

Nadal, bidding for a 14th Roland Garros title and record 21st major triumph, dropped his first set at the tournament since 2019 — ending a run of 36 consecutive sets won in Paris by the Spanish third seed. The 35-year-old Nadal extended his incredible French Open record to 105 wins and two losses as he advanced to his 35th Grand Slam semi-final. He beat Argentine 10th seed Schwartzman in the last four of the 2020 edition.

In another match, Tsitsipas reached his fourth major semifinal and third in a row by upending No. 2 Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 7-6 (3), 7-5 at Court Philippe Chatrier in the last no-spectator night session of this year's tournament.

He escaped two set points held by two-time Slam runner-up Medvedev at 5-4 in the second, but otherwise required only slightly more work than was demanded of 2020 U.S. Open finalist Zverev in his 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 victory over 46th-ranked Alejandro Davidovich Fokina.

That put Zverev in his third career Slam semifinal, first in Paris. Tsitsipas and Zverev both have won Masters 1000 titles on red clay this year. Both have won the season-ending ATP Finals. — Agencies

— AP

Kane out of 2nd Test vs England

Birmingham: New Zealand captain Kane Williamson has been ruled out of the second and final Test against England at Edgbaston with a left elbow problem. However, the Blackcaps are confident he will be fit to lead the team in the inaugural World Test Championship final against India starting on June 18. Williamson, who captained New Zealand in last week's drawn first Test against England at Lord's, has been managing the injury since first missing matches in March.

The world's top-ranked Test batsman withdrew from the second Test on Wednesday, a day before the match is due to start at Birmingham's Edgbaston ground. "It's not an easy decision for Kane to have to miss a Test, but we think it's the right one," New Zealand coach Gary Stead said. — PTI

Dashing Donovan downs Clippers

Los Angeles: Donovan Mitchell scored 45 points and Rudy Gobert made a clutch block at the buzzer as the Utah Jazz rallied to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 112-109 in the opening game of their NBA playoff series on Tuesday. Mitchell scored 32 of his game-high 45 in the second half, carrying the Jazz on his back offensively after the team got off to a sluggish start in the best-of-seven Western Conference second round series. Game two is Thursday in Utah. Mitchell got help on the defensive end from France's Gobert, who is in the running to win his third defensive player of the year award. — AFP

DON'T BE TOO HARSH ON ROBINSON, SAYS HOLDING

London, June 9: West Indies great Michael Holding supports the suspension of England cricketer Ollie Robinson for racist tweets as a teenager but also believes that the pacer should get a second chance if investigation proves that he did not repeat his actions beyond that time.

Robinson was suspended by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), pending an investigation, after his racist and sexist tweets in 2012 and 2013 emerged on social media on the day he made his Test debut.

"(It was) eight, nine years ago. Can the ECB then find out please, if beyond that time, Robinson has kept on behaving like that, saying things like that, tweeting things like that?" Holding told Sky Sports News.

"If he has done something like that nine years ago, and since then he has learnt and he has done nothing like that and he has changed his ways in recent years, then I don't think you should come down too hard on him," the West Indies legend said.

"Yes, suspend him because you want to investigate. You don't allow him to continue playing, like on Thursday, while an investigation is going on at the same time, because if you find out things that are horrible coming out in that investigation. But do it quickly, let's get it over with quickly," he added. — PTI

Jos, Eoin face heat for alleged racist remarks

London, June 9: England's white-ball skipper Eoin Morgan and wicketkeeper batsman Jos Buttler are under investigation by the country's cricket board after their alleged racist tweets, mocking Indians, surfaced on the social media.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has promised "relevant and appropriate action", saying each case will be considered on an individual basis.

The posts, in which Buttler and Morgan used the word 'sir' to mock the Indians, started doing the rounds on social media after the ECB suspended pacer Ollie Robinson for some of his offensive tweets dating back to 2012-13.

"Screenshots have also been shared of a message by Buttler in which he says 'I always reply sir no! else like me like you like me' and, separately, Morgan includes Buttler in a message which says, 'Sir you're my favourite batsman,'" according to a report in the Telegraph.co.uk.

Buttler and Morgan both feature in the Indian Premier League (IPL) with the former playing for the Rajasthan Royals and the latter leading the

Kolkata Knight Riders.

"Although there are questions over the precise context of the tweets, they were written at a time when Buttler and Morgan were established England players and have caused offence on social media," the report added.

The ECB said the matter will be dealt in an appropriate manner.

"Since we were alerted to offensive tweets last week, a number of historical social media posts by other individuals have been questioned publicly as well," an ECB spokesperson said on Tuesday. — PTI

Another Spanish player Covid +ve

Madrid: Diego Llorente has become the second Spain player infected with the Coronavirus ahead of the European Championship.

The Spanish football federation said Llorente tested positive on Tuesday and was put into isolation, two days after captain Sergio Busquets had to leave

the team's training camp because of the virus. Llorente's positive result was made public not long after Spain's under-21 squad beat Lithuania 4-0 on Tuesday in Madrid in a match that was supposed to be played by the senior team as its final warm-up before La Roja opened its Euro 2020 campaign against Sweden on Monday in Seville. — AP

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