

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 30 MAY 2021



WEATHER

Max: 39.6°C
Min: 26.6°C
RH: 47%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy.
Thunderstorms likely.
Max/Min temp. 38/26°C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana
Tithi: Vaishakha Bahula
Panchami till 2.15 am (Monday)
Star: Uttarashada till 4.46 pm
Varjyam: 8.39 pm to 10.13 pm
Durmuhuram: 4.58 pm to 5.50 pm

Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
HJRI CALENDAR

Shawali 17,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 4.32 am
Zohar: 12.23 pm
Asar: 4.48 pm
Magrib: 6.52 pm
Isha: 8.08 pm

SUNSET TODAY 646 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.41 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 10.58 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 9.23 AM

COUNTER POINT



Package includes vaccine,
lunch, medicine for fever
and massage for body pain!

SHORT TAKES

Resident docs on
stir over Ramdev

New Delhi: Upset over Yoga guru Ramdev's remarks on allopathy, members of the federation of resident doctors' associations on Saturday said they will hold a nationwide protest on June 1 and observe it as a 'black day'. In a statement, the federation has also sought an "unconditional open public apology" from Ramdev for questioning some of the medicines being used to treat the Covid infections.

Petrol over ₹100
a litre in Mumbai

New Delhi: Petrol price on Saturday crossed the ₹100-a-litre mark in Mumbai after the 15th increase in fuel prices this month. Petrol price was increased by 26 paise per litre and diesel by 28 paise a litre, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

The increase — 15th this month — took petrol and diesel prices to a fresh all-time high across the country.

CRPF chief gets
charge of NIA

New Delhi: CRPF chief Kuldip Singh has been given additional charge of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), replacing Y S. Modi who retires as director general of the anti-terror probe agency on Monday, a Home Ministry order said. Modi, a 1984-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was appointed NIA chief in September 2017.

7 dead in Maha
slab collapse

Mumbai: Seven people were killed after a slab of a five-storey residential building collapsed in Ulhasnagar town near Mumbai. The Maharashtra Government has announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the kin of each deceased. According to fire officials of the Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation (UMC), a slab of the upper floor of five-storey Sai Shakti building crashed on late Friday night. This is the second building collapse incident in Ulhasnagar town in the last fortnight.

WORLD | 11

Covid rise: Chinese city in lockdown

SPORTS | 12

French Open
begins today

TABLOID

Beyond male
and female

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₹10L, free education for Covid-19 orphans

PM-CARES fund to open fixed deposit for kids

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MAY 29

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced a slew of welfare measures for children who lost their parents to Covid-19, including free education and a corpus of ₹10 lakh when they turn 18. To assist those families who lost their earning members to the pandemic, the government announced pension for dependents and enhanced insurance benefits under the Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance (EDLI) scheme. Mr. Modi said these steps will help mitigate financial difficulties faced by these families.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

said in a statement that fixed deposits will be opened in the name of children who lost their parents to Covid and the PM-Cares fund will contribute to it through a specially designed scheme — PM Cares-For Children — to create a corpus of ₹10 lakh

for each of them when he or she reaches 18 years of age. The corpus will be used to give a monthly stipend to the children from 18-23 years of age to take care of their personal requirements during the period of higher education. On reaching the age of 23, they will get the corpus amount as a lump sum. The government will also ensure free education for these children.

Highlighting measures for their education, the PMO said children under 10 years will be given admission to the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in

a private school as a day scholar. Those between 11-18 years of age will be given admission to any Central government residential school such as Sainik School and Navodaya Vidyalaya. In case the child remains under the care of a guardian or extended family, then he or she will be given admission to the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar.

If the child is admitted to a private school, fees as prescribed under the Right to Education Act norms will be given from the PM-Cares fund, along with the expenditure on uniform, textbooks and notebooks, the PMO added.

"Children represent the future of the country and we will do everything to support and protect the children. It is our duty, as a society, to care for our children and instill hope for a bright future," PM Modi said while announcing the relief on Saturday.

KCR okays ₹5K per acre for farmers from June 15

Rythu Bandhu dole to be deposited into bank accounts

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

K. Chandrashekhar Rao

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Saturday announced that the state government would deposit Rythu Bandhu amount of ₹5,000 per acre into the bank accounts of farmers from June 15 to 25 for the upcoming kharif season.

Rao said despite the Covid-19-induced financial crisis taking a heavy toll on the state government's revenue earnings, the TRS government was committed to the welfare of farmers and would continue Rythu Bandhu as usual. He said nearly ₹7,300 crore would be deposited in the bank accounts of about 61 lakh farmers for the kharif season.

"Children represent the future of the country and we will do everything to support and protect the children. It is our duty, as a society, to care for our children and instill hope for a bright future," PM Modi said while announcing the relief on Saturday.

The Chief Minister held a review meeting on agriculture with agriculture

minister S. Niranjan Reddy and senior officials at Pragathi Bhavan. He said the agriculture sector had achieved rapid growth in the last seven years of the TRS regime.

"From a parched state in 2014 when Telangana state was formed, today 75 per cent of the tanks and reservoirs are brimming with water even in summer due to new irrigation projects and Mission Kakatiya taken up by the state government. Telangana stands only next to Punjab in the country in agriculture production. The day

is not far when we will beat even Punjab and become No. 1 state in the country," the Chief Minister remarked.

He directed the officials to keep required seeds, fertilisers and pesticides ready for kharif season as there are indications of abundant rains this monsoon.

He ordered the police, intelligence and agriculture officials to crack whip against those indulging in sale of spurious seeds, fertilisers and pesticides and book them under PD Act (Preventive Detention).

The Chief Minister also directed officials to strictly implement QR codes for seeds and seed traceability system for kharif. Upon scanning the QR code through mobile phones, the farmers can assess and learn about the quality and genuineness of seeds. Once the QR code is scanned, immediately, all details about seeds, including the place of manufacture, time and manufacturer details, processing and packing locations, seed quality tests results, tests date and expiry details are flashed on the screen.

The CM directed chief secretary Somesh Kumar to issue an ordinance if need to check spurious seeds and fertilisers. He warned agriculture officials against colluding with traders of spurious seeds. If caught, such officials will not just be dismissed from the service immediately but also will be imprisoned for 10 years, he said.

Orderly vaccination



Beneficiaries are seated in a line to receive the Covid-19 vaccine dose at a vaccination camp at Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

— PTI

Mercury soars in monsoon wait

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

The Southwest Monsoon may be just a couple of weeks away from bringing moisture laden clouds over Telangana. And then there were, for the current period, the predicted isolated thunderstorms across the state beginning Saturday.

However, the sun on Saturday sizzled sending temperatures soaring past the 44°C mark at several locations in Telangana,

even as 21 of the 33 districts in the state reported temperatures upwards of 40 degrees Celsius.

The day's highest temperature was reported from Manthani in Peddapalli district which recorded a scorching 44.6°C.

The lowest maximum for the day — 33°C — was reported from Vatvarlapally village in Nagarkurnool district's Amrabad mandal.

According to the Telangana State Planning

and Development Society, which has more than 1,000 automated weather observation centres dotting the state, temperatures of 44°C and more, were reported from Sarvaipet (44.5) in JS Bhopalpally, Eligadai (44.3) in Peddapalli, Mutharamahadevpur and Jannaram (44.1) in JS Bhopalpally and Mancherial districts respectively.

Dharmaram and Eesala Takkallapalli in Peddapalli, Velganoor and Chennur in Mancherial, recorded 44°C each.

The districts that reported

between 40 and 44 degrees Celsius were Warangal Rural, Karimnagar, Bhadrakot, Kothagudem, Mulugu, Jagital, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Warangal Urban, Mahabubabad, Khammam, Adilabad, Rajanna Sircilla, Nizamabad, Nirmal, Jangaon, Suretyapet, Siddipet, Nalgonda, and Yadadri-Bhongir.

Hours later the Centre issued an order recalling West Bengal's Chief Secretary.

— Page 5: IMD predicts isolated thunderstorms

PREMIER LEAGUE

Cricket board wants to complete 31 remaining games on priority

BCCI confirms IPL to be held in UAE

New Delhi, May 29: The general body of the BCCI on Saturday approved the IPL's resumption in September in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The Special General Meeting (SGM), held virtually, lasted for about 50 minutes as the members were unanimous in their approval of the two agenda items.

"Even today he is somewhere around looking at me. I can feel that he is just holding me and saying 'we did it'. I just love you Vibhu. I really love you."

"The SGM approved the decision to hold the remaining matches of IPL

between September and October. The dates will be intimated later," a senior state association member, who was present in the meeting said.

"In September, it's the time for retreating monsoon in India. Also the fact that three grounds in the UAE makes it easier as we had seen in 2020."

The likely dates will be between September 18 and October 10.

While IPL's UAE shift was a foregone conclusion, the office bearers intimated the general body about

the issue of availability of players.

"The BCCI is pretty clear that even if there is a case of unavailability of English players due to their series against Pakistan, we are not going to plead to any of the boards about releasing their players."

"The first and foremost thing is to complete the 31 remaining games of IPL. We believe other aspects will be taken care

of," he added.

The IPL, the world's richest cricket tournament, was half finished when it was halted on May 4 after a number of players and team officials caught Coronavirus despite being in bio-secure bubbles.

The board has since been in tough negotiations with other countries and the ICC on when to squeeze the remaining matches.

— Agencies

80 DIED DUE TO COVID: TRANSCO, GENCO CMD

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

Over 3,000 employees of the Telangana State Transco (TS Transco) and Genco have been infected with Coronavirus during the first and second Covid wave since March 2020, and over 80 employees lost their lives, acknowledged TS Transco and Genco CMD Devulapalli Prabhakar Rao.

■ Report on Page 3

CLASSIFIEDS

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 30 MAY 2021

pg 2

FOR SALE PROPERTY

COMMERCIAL

LAND AT Balanagar, Kukatpally, Hyderabad, Industrial area 1600sqyds. for sale with power shed. Contact srikishan Agarwal. Ph:9849013260. (HYMM/2122/C0119)

PRIME PROPERTY for Sale, 3600 sq.yards. Begumpet, located next to American Consulate. Excellent Vastu. Suitable for high end apartments / Corporate Offices. Brokers excuse. Contact 98496-09440 (W/2122/AT00165)

500 YARDS 10000 sft Chanda nagar main road second semi Commercial running Hotel 6.0 cr negotiable. 9963432646 (HYMM/2122/C0128)

COMMERCIAL COMPLEX for Sale/lease, including 2 AC MOVIE THEATERS, 2 AC FUNCTION HALLS, and 2 FLOORS RETAIL SPACE. 115,000 sqft. including cellar parking. Located on NH 16, Chikaluripet, Contact: +913109901838 (USA) (HYMM/2122/C0126)

JUBILEE hills commercial plots road no: 45 1400 yds north, road no: 10 1500 south, Komppala main road 3000 yards contact: 8522015555, 9704222345 (W/2122/AT00174)

750 SQ.YARDS East Facing, Commercial Building For Sale, Brand New All including G+5 Floors, Road Facing 100 Feet Road, My Home Mangala Kondapur Road, Bulutup Area 22500 Sqft, Ph: 789321760 (HYMM/2122/C0129)

PRIME COMMERCIAL Open Plot 700 Sq.yds, very good frontage & very good location, near Cyber Towers, Madhapur for sale. Ph:9381577547. (A/2122/C00115)

MALKAJGIRI @JAINS Balaji Big Town, G+5 Floors Commercial Property in Prime Location at Malkajgiri. Hypermarket, Showroom, Shops & Office Spaces Available. Handover in 6 months. Ph:8123002626. (HYCL/2122/C00414)

JAINS FRIENDS Square, G+5 Floors Commercial Property in Prime Location at Suchitra Circle, E/F 4th & 5th Floor Best suitable office Spaces available. Sizes-2000sqft to 4,000sqft. Handover in 3 Months. Ph:9010755552. (HYCL/2122/C00413)

FARM HOUSES-SITES

4200 YARDS (35 GUNTAS) Clear title Shamshabad to Manchikalpally Highway East Face Commercial Urban Land for Sale, Good for shutters, godowns, schools, resorts, farm house, patio dhaba, water plants, nursery, dairy farms, poly house. 40% discount . Before ORR ph:9948654355 / 9100133014 (HYMM/2122/C01264)

FLATS

DOUBLE BEDROOM

ADIBATA "S.V.REGALIA" 2BHK Flats Ready to move Rs:31 Lakhs onwards, opp: Police Station. Ph:8374189206/ 9848892582. (HYCL/2122/C00407)

FLATS FOR Sale Newly Constructed 2BHK & 3BHK Flats @ Hayathnagar, Shantivanam Township. @3875/- Sft. Ready to occupy. Loan Facility Available From Banks. Cont: 9581582581 (HYMM/2122/C01308)

WELL DESIGNED Vaasthu Flats 2 BHK & 3 BHK coming up in Tallagadda near Mehdipatnam for sale. Parking lift all amenities. 6304419823 (HYMM/2122/C01289)

NAGARAM, NEAR Indian oil Station, "S.V.Shanthikanthi" Flats Ready to move 2 & 3BHK Rs.34 Lakhs onwards. Ph:8374189206/ 9848892582. (HYCL/2122/C00426)

2 BHK 1000 sft, Second Floor, East facing, Double car parking, at Ghor Nagar, Old Bowenpally, Secunderabad. Contact: 812082328. (A/2122/C00093)

PANJAGUTTA, 2BHK Flat, 900Sft, 51sq.yards, Undivided Share, Rs:65Lakhs Negotiable. 25.000 Present Rental income. Near Irrum Manzil. Metro Station. Ph:9052325453 (HYMM/2122/C01174)

2BHK FLATS under construction 1000sft built-up area near Olive hotel next to Salarpuria Colony. Car parking, 24hrs water, CCTV, wash and slaughter area. Ph:7075964552, 9951710495. (HYMM/2122/C01242)

3 BHK Luxury Flats @ 3700/- Sft in Gated Community with club house & amenities at Gajularamaram, Kukatpally, 2 BHK starts from 29.71 Lakhs onwards. Modis Builders 7677120120. (B/2122/C00137)

LUXURY 3BHK flat 1778 sft in VIP area MLA City Banjara Hills 100% security 3Baths Balcony lift security parking store room Contact 9177830055 (W/2122/AT00149)

BEGUMPET: CHIKOTI gardens, Very prime location, close to metro railway station, 3 BHK 2340 sfts, New Apartment, Contact No. 9395118888. (HYMM/2122/C01268)

JBLEEHILLS, SHAIKPET Prime Location, Ready to Occupy 4.5BHK Ultra Luxurious Hi-Profile Premium Gated Community Flat Sizes 3900-4600 Sft & 7100 Sfts, Each Floor 1&2 Flats only. Price 10k Per Sft., 5 Acres with 5 High-rise towers, Grand Club House, Swimming pool with all World class Amenities. Genuine Buyers Call:9866100245. (HYMM/2122/C01203)

3BHK FLAT in 3rd floor Prithvi block, Sree Vensai Towers Kompally for sale. Contact 9440412464 Brokers excuse (W/2122/AT00160)

AT KOMPALLY, Ready to Move-in Premium 28 3BHK Flats, near Asian Cine Planet. Price starts from 50Lakhs - 70Lakhs. RERA Approved. Ph:7997848777, 9705001777. (HYCL/2122/C00422)

KONDAPUR READY to move 3BHK Corner Deluxe Flats 1657, 1702 sft, East & West Facing, 100% Vaastu. Ph:9100010709, 9100774959. (HYCL/2122/C00436)

L.B.NAGAR, SAGR Road new premium Flat for sale. 2000 sqft, 3BHK, 2 carpark & Roof Top Garden. Ph:7077000077. (HYCL/2122/C00431)

FLAT FOR Sale 10th Floor, Jayavu Towers, Lower Tank Bund Rd, 4Bd/ 3Bth/ 3Balc. 1651sft, Resv, Ptk, Beaufl. views 1.25cr. Ph:9997777159. (HYCL/2122/C00432)

Srinagar COLONY 3BHK 1650sft Car parking, posh building, fully furnished & woodwork, Good Community price 90Lacs. Ph: 9963956391 (HYMM/2122/C01304)

MULTIPLE FLATS

FOR SALE Multiple 2 & 3 BHK Brand new flats, Ready to occupy. Ranging from 1225 to 1525 Sqt. @ Kavoor Hills near 100 ft. road. Kindly contact - 703234004 for further details. (W/2122/AT00170)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

DOUBLE BEDROOM

DIAMOND POINT Independent houses Jawar rail 167 Wf/G+1. Rail colony 233 Wf G.S.C.Poly 300 w/s Land new Flat 1920sft 3BHK, SMR 1925St. 3BHK. 20years. Ph:9989344401, 9391314112. (HYMM/2122/C0108)

THREE & MORE

LUXURY VILLAS in Gated Community @ 4450/- Sft with club house & other amenities starting from Rs.1.06 Crore onwards @ Rampally near New Infosys Campus on Warangal Highway. Modi Builders 7677120120 (B/2122/C00138)

BANJARAHILLS, EAST

Facing, 760 Square yards, 8 BHK, Attached Bathrooms, Perfect Vastu, Garden, Luxury Independent House in a Prime Colony, 6Car Parkings, 3Servants Quarters, Square Bit. More Chance Properties Available And Required To Buy Plots, Lands, Residential And Commercial, Hyderabad And Outskirts. Ph: 8374399578, 6303107421. (HYMM/2122/C0237)

OPEN PLOT: for sale, Surabhi Enclave, gated colony, 22 sq yards, East facing, HUDA approved, Koorkowar main road. contact no.9246553417, 8977470945. (W/2000183)

DIAMOND POINT near Gunrock 420, 3BHK, R&D colony 360sqy 4BHK, Center point 700sqy G+2, Surya Enclosure 240sqy BHK, Dairy farm 167sqy G+2, Bowenpally. Plots available Deepika Real Estate. Ph: 8374399578/ 6303107421. (HYMM/2122/C01298)

BANJARA ROAD no 3 and 5, Brand new Luxury 4 and 5 BHK independent houses 4.5 cr. onwards. Perfect Vastu Estates (Builders, contractors, Interiors) 9391015374 (W/2122/AT00176)

VILLA FOR sale, at Athem villas, kompally, Gundlapochampally area 1000 sq.yards and built up area 4195 sq.ft, North facing, contact 9246530679. (HYMM/2122/C01284)

PREMIUM VILLAS in Gated community for Sale at Mokila @ 1.80 crs (Special Offer available). For further details, Contact 735385538 (HYMM/2122/C01302)

NARSHINGI- BESIDE ORR, Aparna Elxii Villa, 400 Sq.yards 4800 Builtup Area 4BHK And Home Theatre Duplex House With Lift. Geted Community All Amenites Prim Location East Facing. Fully Furnished, Brand New Property. Ph: 7893927160 (HYMM/2122/C01300)

NEREDMET, SAINKPURU, 150 Sq Yds, 3 BHK, Independent House, Rs 1.60 Cr. Negotiable. Brokers/ Agents excuse, genuine buyers please. Contact: 939491362. (S/2122/C00298)

CHEERAPALLY, 3 BHK duplex villas- 2,040 Sft on 161 Sq.Yds. First phase completed and sold out! Gated community with Clubhouse & Swimming pool. Visit Now! Call: 9949993587. (S/2122/C00424)

SERILINGAMPALLY, DOYENS Township, Opp: Alind Factory 400 sq.yds, North Face, G+2 Corner House for Sale, Gated Community. No Brokers. Ph:9703335717. (HYCL/2122/C00403)

REAL ESTATE

LAND REQUIRED

REQUIRED 50-100 Acres of Land within 100kms or above, from Hyderabad either for Sale or Long Lease. Contact: 8374570088. (HYMM/2122/C01297)

PLOT REQUIRED

GENUINELY SELF Required 200 to 600 Sqds Huda Final approved Plots Nallagandia, Telapur surrounding areas Direct Registration. Contact: 9849155045. (HYMM/2122/C01229)

REQUIRED

REQUIRED PLOT/LAND for development from 500 yards to 3Acres for MNC to good locations. for residential purpose. Contact 9849155045. (HYMM/2122/C01229)

RENTALS

FOR SALE, Industrial Land, IDA, Uppal, 350 Sq.yds with Shed C- 16/3, East Facing. Contact: 9866651350 (HYMM/2122/C01283)

INDUSTRIAL LAND

FOR SALE, Industrial Land, IDA, Uppal, 350 Sq.yds with Shed C- 16/3, East Facing. Contact: 9866651350 (HYMM/2122/C01283)

LAND

4 ACRES Thota (34km from Shamshabad Airport) with White Sandie, Seethaphal, Redsandale, Malabar well developed Farm, 1 bore+3 Rooms, very near to RRR. Per acre 1crore 20 Lakhs @Keshmet (Vl&Mdl), Rangreddy (Dist). Ph:9949424759, 9865046539. (A/2122/C0116)

PRIME RESIDENTIAL Property at pristine location, 2250 sq.yards, located off Road no 12, Banjara Hills. Two sides road. Excellent Vastu. Brokers excuse. Contact 98496-0940 (W/2122/AT00167)

✓ BEGUMPET: CHIKOTI gardens, Very prime location, close to metro railway station, 3 BHK 2340 sfts, New Apartment, Contact No. 9395118888. (HYMM/2122/C01268)

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Srinagar COLONY 3BHK 1650sft Car parking, posh building, fully furnished & woodwork, Good Community price 90Lacs. Ph: 9963956391 (HYMM/2122/C01304)

✓ PLOT FOR Sale @ Gandipet Dreamvalley Pecac Homes Manchirevula 1200sq.yds 30feet permission. Immediate Sale. Call: 7993744469, 9849949913. (HYCL/2122/C00424)

GEMINI COLONY 3BHK, Ramgarh-MSR 200 Sq.Yds 40X45 E/F' 20' Road One Lakh/ Sq.Yrd. Genuine Buyers onetime payment NRIs preferred. Ph:9988939975. (S/2122/C00312)

SHANTHI NAGAR, Masab tank 459 sq.yards East facing, old building, 100% vastu, Fancy plot, Ph. No. 7732048609. (W/2122/AT00152)

✓ ISNAPUR X Road 6600 sq.yards plot for sale mumbai road interested parties contact: 9700047474 (HYMM/2122/C01210)

✓ JUBILEE hills 600 East BHK houses are available and commercial plots are available in hills & banjara. contact: 8522015555, 9704222345 (W/2122

SHORT TAKES
COVID VAX FOR SUPERSpreadERS CONTINUES

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

The second day of 10-day drive to vaccinate superspreaders, as identified by the state government, went on smoothly on Saturday. Authorities took measures to prevent incidents like the one at Red Rose Function Palace in Nampally, where two officials had been served notices after Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar identified that one of the persons, who had been vaccinated, did not belong to the superspreaders category.

The state government has identified around 25-30 lakh people as super spreaders who are being vaccinated at different centres. The government hopes that vaccinating such spreaders will help bring down the number of Covid-19 cases in Telangana.

Vaccinations at most of the centres are starting on schedule at 8 am. But maximum people are turning up only after 10 pm, most of them small-time businesspersons, including push-cart vendors. They are reaching the centres after the lockdown is over at 10 a.m. Such people are, however, being vaccinated even though they are late. These vendors are then proceeding to their houses and, if stopped by police, presenting their proof of taking the jab.

About 150 staff had been deployed at Government High School in Musheerabad on Saturday for taking up sanitization works before and after the vaccination drive. Amenities like drinking water had been made available.

Narsimha, who is popular as sanitary Jawa at the Musheerabad centre, said they are constantly cleaning the place to ensure that cleanliness is maintained.

TS RECORDS 2,982 NEW COVID CASES, 21 DEATHS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

Telangana health authorities have increased the number of tests for Coronavirus to 1,00,677.

According to a medical bulletin issued by the authorities, the recovery rate from Covid-19 is 93 per cent.

However, cases in home and institutional isolation continue to be high at 36,917. This indicates that the decline in new and mild cases is very slow.

The number of new cases in the state is 2,982 and deaths 21. With this the total number of cases has reached 5,74,026 and total deaths are 3,247. Daily deaths are continuing to be high and the drop in their rates is also low.

A senior doctor, on condition of anonymity, says, "These numbers do not reflect those cases, where patients are discharged from hospitals but die at home. There are also conflicting reports from the ground as Gandhi Hospital is recording more deaths every day than what is reflecting in the bulletin. Since Gandhi is the nodal Coronavirus centre, those who have died there are all Covid-19 patients. It is high time we gave proper numbers, as that will help plan better in controlling the next wave of pandemic."

Experts state that till the vaccination drive is accelerated, there will not be much of a respite from new cases.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation continues to record high numbers at 436, with Medchal Malkajgiri reporting 153 and Ranga Reddy 174 cases. Districts with high case-load are Bhadrakali Kothagudem reporting 118 cases, Karimnagar 143, Khammam 176, Mahbubnagar 101, Mahbubabad 115, Peddapalli 129, Siddipet 109 and Suryapet 117.

There has been a slight decline in Warangal Rural with 79 cases while Warangal Urban has reported 87 cases.

Continuously monitoring rural areas of the state is important, as the caseload in districts is high. There is also a need to deploy ASHA workers at the ground level to monitor fever and oxygen levels, which will help deal with hypoxia and bring severe Covid-19 cases to light, public health specialists say.

Experts point out that decline in cases does not mean that the virus is not around. Inappropriate behaviour and lapses in safety protocols post lockdown can lead to a spike in cases once again, they warn.

EXPERTS STATE that till the vaccination drive is accelerated, there will not be much of a respite from new cases.

Cyber fraudsters flourish on fake promises of Covid drugs

15 complaints registered in three police commissionerates so far

DURGA PRASAD
SUNKU | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

Amid rise in Covid-19 related complications like black fungus cases in the state, cyber fraudsters are exploiting innocent citizens who are trying to buy medicines and other related equipment online.

One of the victims, Dhananjay Aswathi, tagging IT minister K.T. Rama Rao and Hyderabad cybercrime police official on their Twitter handles and tweeted, "My dad is struggling for his life with black fungus we got cheated of ₹1.3 lakh on account of the scarcity of medicines. Requesting police to nab these fraudsters — who are thriving in people's life crisis so that this is not repeated (sic)." Replying to the same, Rama Rao requested police to take strict action.

In the three Commissionerate limits, comprising Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda around 15 cases have been registered. There might be several other such cases going unreported as well.

In Hyderabad Commissionerate limits, four cases regarding oxygen concentrators, two cases regarding selling of medicines like Tocilizumab which is an anti-inflammatory drug like remdesivir used in treatment for Covid-19 patients were reported.

In addition to that, in one of the cases, fraudsters siphoned around ₹2 lakh under the guise of providing the victim with Covid vaccine. The victim believing it to be true transferred the money and later realised that he was duped and approached Hyderabad cybercrime police.

Speaking to this newspaper, Hyderabad cybercrime assistant commissioner of police (ACP) KVM Prasad said, "Unlike big e-commerce companies, others don't even

have verified sellers. The company's executives usually visit the seller's place and take pictures and information. However, others don't even know about the seller and place their advertisement on the e-commerce websites. It is also difficult to trace those fraudsters if a victim places an order on unscrupulous websites."

Meanwhile, on Friday Cyberabad police revealed that in one of the cases, cyber fraudsters duped a citizen under the guise of providing medicines for black fungus and siphoned off ₹8 lakh. Cyberabad cybercrime ACP K. Balakrishna Reddy said, "Taking advantage of the pandemic, cyber criminals are thriving. So far we received around half a dozen complaints regarding Covid-19 related cheating cases."

Fraudsters are cheating citizens under the name of medicines for Covid-19, black fungus like remdesivir, amphotericin B, and supplying oxygen concentrators," he added.

When one of the traders contacted a fake supplier online for delivering oxygen concentrators, the accused cheated him of ₹20 lakhs under Cyberabad commissionerate limits, said an official.

Explaining the modus operandi of these types of frauds, Rachakonda cybercrime ACP S. Harinath said, "Usually when a person searches for anything in e-commerce sites, they are receiving calls from the fraudster. Fraudsters are equipping themselves with new technology and stealing all the data and approaching them."

The police are also receiving complaints regarding fraudsters lurking netizens under the guise of providing masks, oxygen concentrators and medicines. Everyone should cross check before sending money to unknown persons and verifying the details," he said.

The police urged the public to contact the director of medical education, Telangana state on email dme@telangana.gov.in for



Woman infected with black fungus arrives at the Sarojini Eye Hospital in Hyderabad for testing on Saturday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

City continues to report more black fungus cases

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

Around 30 new patients with black fungus were admitted in the ENT Hospital and 20 in Gandhi Hospital on Saturday.

Approximately, 276 patients are undergoing

treatment in the government ENT Hospital. With 20 surgeries carried out on Saturday, the total number of surgeries has touched 162.

Around 10 patients were discharged after their recovery from black fungus and they will be under oral medical treatment at home, said doctors.

Gandhi Hospital has earmarked two floors for treating black fungus patients.

A senior doctor, on condition of anonymity, said "We are now having more admissions for black fungus than Covid-19."

if the details," he said.

The police urged the public to contact the director of medical education, Telangana state on email dme@telangana.gov.in for

various drugs related to Covid and related diseases.

IIT-H develops oral drug for fungus

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) have claimed to have come up with an oral solution for black fungus, and is now ready for technology transfer for large-scale production to pharma companies.

The team of researchers at the institute, comprising Prof. Saptarshi Majumdar and Dr. Chandra Shekhar Sharma from the Department of Chemical Engineering, who have studied the Kala-Azr virus and its treatment since 2019, said that presently the Kala-Azr treatment is being used for black and other fungi in the country and its availability and affordability make it essential to allow emergency and immediate trial of this oral drug fabricated of nanofibrous tablets of Amphotericin B.

However, the drug has so far not been tested on black fungus patients. The researchers have said that because there is no difference in the treatment of the two different fungal infections, the need to test it on patients does not arise.

"The purpose was to increase drug absorption and reduce aggregation, to lower the drug toxicity. For this, the team has selected gelatin, an FDA-approved polymer, as an excipient for drug molecules," they added.

The technology developed has been made free

from patents, so that it

can be mass-produced

and is available to the

public, Dr Sharma said.

Among those present at

the event were education

minister Sabitha Indra

Reddy, MP Asaduddin

Owaisi, mayor G.

Vijayalakshmi, deputy

mayor Mothe Srilatha

Reddy, MLC Vani Devi,

MLAs T. Prakash Goud

and Kale Yadaiah, senior

officials of GHMC, HMDA, corporators and

TRS party leaders.

KTR inaugurates ramps at PVNR Expressway

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development K.T. Rama Rao on Saturday inaugurated two ramps at PVNR Expressway, one for going up and another for coming down.

The ramp going up rises

from Pillar No 161 on the

Mehdipatnam - R.G.

International Airport

road in Attapur while the

down ramp lands on the

road at Pillar No. 163 of

the Expressway. The two

ramps, construction of

which began in February

last year, were built by

Hyderabad Metropolitan

Development Authority

(HMDA) at a cost of ₹22.08 crore.

The PVNR Express way

is 11.6 km long and pro-

vides a road connection

from Mehdipatnam to

Aramghar.

While Rama Rao

unveiled a plaque to mark

the occasion, Somesh

Kumar cut the ribbon throw-

ing open the ramps.

Among those present at

the event were education

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QUESTIONABLE BEHAVIOUR A total of 79 hospitals have received show-cause notices for fleecing patients

5 more TS hосрѕ barred from Covid treatment

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

The five hospitals barred on Saturday include Image Hospitals at Ameerpet, Ankura Hospitals at LB Nagar, Sia Life Hospital at Kondapur, Panchavati Hospital at Bhothpur Mahabubnagar and Sai Siddhartha Hospital in Shapur Nagar in Sanga Reddy.

The director of public health and family welfare said, "We have sent show-cause notices to the emails that have been provided to us and also to the respective hospitals. Show-cause notices have been issued to all 79 hospitals but some hospitals

stated that they have not received any such notices. Stating that they were caught unaware, they said that they are trying to check the grievances of patients and would shortly reply to the government.

Dr G. Srinivas Rao, director of public health and family welfare said, "We have sent show-cause notices to the emails that have been provided to us and also to the respective hospitals. Show-cause notices have been issued to all 79 hospitals but some hospitals

3K Transco, Genco staff infected, 80 die, CMD shifts blame

L. VENKAT RAM
REDDY | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

Over 3,000 employees of the Telangana State Transco (TS Transco) and Genco have been infected with Coronavirus during the first and second Covid wave since March 2020, and over 80 employees lost their lives, acknowledged TS Transco and Genco CMD Devulapalli Prabhakar Rao on Saturday, even as the employees opine they were by and large left to fend for themselves.

Rao, speaking to mediapersons possibly for the first time since the pandemic began, on the occasion of handing over a cheque of ₹70 lakh to Nims, Hyderabad to purchase ventilators, stubbornly defended the management role, saying, "we have done our best. No one can fault me. We did everything possible. We gave the best support anyone could have given."

However, power company employees strongly pooh

SHORT TAKES

HARISH RAO IN GST PANEL ON RELIEF MATERIALDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

Telangana finance minister T. Harish Rao has been inducted as a member of the Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the issue of GST concession/exemption to Covid-19 relief material.

The Union ministry of finance has constituted an eight-member GoM on Saturday as per the decision taken in the GST Council meeting held on Friday through videoconferencing.

The GoM includes Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma as convenor while the members are Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitinbhai Patel, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Goa transport minister Mauvin Godinho, Kerala finance minister KN Balagopal, Odisha finance minister Niranjan Pujari, Telangana finance minister T. Harish Rao and Uttar Pradesh finance minister Suresh Kr Khanna.

The deadline for GoM to submit its report is June 8.

The GoM will examine the need for GST concession/exemption and make recommendations on Covid-19 vaccines, drugs and medicines for treatment. This also includes testing kits for Covid-19 detection.

3-DAY VAX DRIVE FOR RTC STAFF FROM TODAYDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

Finance minister T. Harish Rao on Saturday announced that as part of the Covid-19 vaccination drive for high-risk groups, a special drive would be launched on Sunday to vaccinate all employees of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC).

Harish Rao said following instructions from Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao for vaccinating all individuals in high-risk groups, 47,000-odd RTC staff including 17,000 bus drivers, conductors, and others must begin inoculation on Sunday and complete in three days. The TSRTC officials were directed to make all necessary arrangements for the vaccination drive.

The vaccinations will be done at Bus Bhavan, RTC Hospital, Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station, Jubilee Bus Station, and the Kukatpally Bus Station in the twin cities and other important RTC centres in the state. E. Yadgiri, executive director, operations and administration TSRTC, said "Conductors and drivers have to work in close proximity with commuters. This initiative by the state government will safeguard these employees and also curb the further spread of this deadly virus."

JUH DEMANDS RELIEF DUE TO LOCKDOWN CURBSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

Jamiat Ulema Hind (JUH) has demanded that in case lockdown is extended beyond May 30, the relaxation time should be extended from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., so that daily wagers can earn their livelihood. Currently, lockdown is being relaxed only between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. for people to make any emergency purchases.

JUH state president Hafiz Peer Shabbir Ahmed, in a letter to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, pointed out that many poorer sections of the society are daily wagers. They have not been able to earn anything during the lockdown period and are facing tremendous hardships. On top of it, they are bearing additional expenses in cases any family member has become a victim of Coronavirus.

Under the circumstances, he requested the state government to increase the lockdown relaxation time from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., so that daily wagers could earn some money.

The JUH state president further sought waiver of electricity charges, water cess and property tax during the lockdown period. He pointed out that the poor will be unable to pay these charges, as they have not been able to earn anything during the lockdown.

Hafiz Shabbir hoped waiver of these payments and lockdown relaxation will be considered when the state cabinet meets shortly to take stock of the situation.



Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar appreciates the team of painters for their innovative portrait to create awareness on Covid-19 in Hyderabad on Saturday.

Kishan: Central rice not yet given to poor

Union minister urges CM to take necessary measures

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

● **IN A LETTER** to CM on Saturday, he pointed out that though Food Corporation of India has kept the required rice ready for distribution in Telangana, it has not yet reached the ration shops.

that though Food Corporation of India has kept the required rice ready for distribution in Telangana, it has not yet started. It has come to our notice that Telangana govern-

ment is distributing only its regular quota of rice to beneficiaries through ration shops, while denying the benefit of additional 5-kg rice under PMGKA," Kishan Reddy stated.

The union minister urged the Chief Minister to issue necessary instructions to field-level officers and ration shop dealers to expedite the process of distributing PMGKA rice.

Part-time govt teachers not paid for over a yearHARLEEN
MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

● **GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES**, including education minister Sabitha Indra Reddy, have claimed that they have met them over the past several months, and assured to resolve the issue soon. However, there has been no change till date even as teachers are subject to anguish and turmoil.

As many as 2,600 families that depend on this income are on the verge of collapse due to non-payment of salaries on the pretext of 'Covid-19 compulsions'—several vocational teachers working in various government schools across the state have said.

Rayees Fathima, state vice-president of Telangana Art Craft PET's Teachers Union said that due to non-availability of jobs given the pandemic, many anguished teachers have committed suicide because the government did not address their demands for release of salaries and permanent appointments.

"Schools have not

reopened in over 18 months. Ironically, while other government teachers are getting their salaries regularly, despite several representations and assurances from the government authorities, we are being denied. How do they think that we can manage?" she wondered.

Another grievance of vocational teachers pertains to the difference in salaries for teachers in neighbouring states under the same Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan scheme.

"Part-time instructors in Telangana received about ₹9,000 as salary whereas in

states like Kerala it is over ₹30,000 per month. Why do we see such a huge difference, when all of us are hired and re-engaged each year under the same scheme and the same GO?" asked a teacher.

Government authorities, including education minister Sabitha Indra Reddy, have claimed that they have met them over the past several months, and assured to resolve the issue soon. However, there has been no change till date even as teachers are subject to anguish and turmoil.

"We have been told that because the government is now supporting private teachers through the ₹2000 cash and 25-kg ration scheme, they don't have the money to give to us. But when were funds released exclusively for us?" D. Sandeep Kumar, a part-time crafts teacher in Hyderabad, said.

While this correspondent tried to contact state education department officials, there was no response from them.

BITS PILANI, HRDA TO SUPPORT COVID HOSPITALSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

Around 10 students from BITS Pilani, Hyderabad, along with four faculty members, have volunteered to support Covid hospitals in the city, with respect to better utilization of Bi-pap, Cpap, ventilators and other emergency use equipment.

The programme will begin from Gandhi hospital on Sunday and will later be expanded to other facilities in the city.

The project is being undertaken in collaboration with Healthcare Reforms Doctors Association, Hyderabad, which will provide support by way of resources and financial assistance for component procurement and other recurring costs for the BITS Pilani team. The objective of the project is to help doctors and medical staff in effectively using the technical equipment, like ventilators, which the team during their visit to Gandhi hospital earlier this month assessed was a big hurdle in utilization for the medical staff.

The 10 students have been inducted from streams like mechanical engineering, EEE, Computer science and civil engineering, who will help in programming and development of these equipment.

Painters help create Covid-19 awarenessDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

A team of painters drew an innovative portrait on the road to spread their message on exercising caution during the second wave of Coronavirus in Telangana.

The painters led by Rajan drew Coronavirus on the road with the slogan "You have to stay at home. I will come to your house if you come on road".

Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar appreciated the team of painters for their innovative portrait. Speaking at the police check post near Madina cross road, he said, "The people of Hyderabad have been very supportive for the past 16 days of the lockdown. Police are on duty 24/7 at 180 check posts across Hyderabad city."

At the same time, Anjani Kumar said they are registering cases against violators of the lockdown and also issuing challans. Hyderabad City police have so far registered 11,513 cases for various violations including not wearing masks.

HYDERABAD POLICE

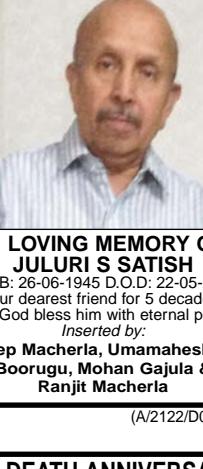
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SHRADHANJALI

Sri K. CHENNA KESAVA RAO
MA, B.Ed, MA, B.P.Ed
Birth: 17.10.1929 Death: 20.05.2021
A KARMA YOGI who taught us love, affection, education, culture, virtue, and humanism. You were a loving husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather and an all-encompassing soul. The way you lived your life inspired us. You will be missed but as your family members we constantly strive to uphold your aspirations and legacy. We pray for your soul to rest in peace.

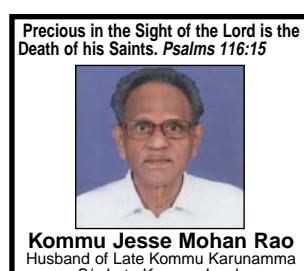
Wife: Smt Khambammettu Kanaka Durga, Son, Daughter, Daughter-in-Law, Son-in-Law(s), and Grand Children.
Request: Please visit the memorial website given below and share the "POSITIVE" Memories and Stories you have of him at <http://www.forevermissed.com/chennakesava-rao-khambammettu/about>

SHRADHANJALI

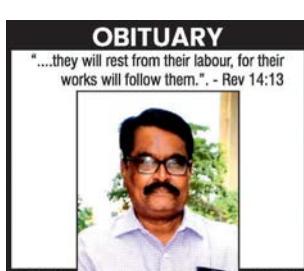
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JULURI S SATISH
D.O.B: 26-06-1955 D.O.D: 22-05-2021
Our dearest friend for 5 decades
May God bless him with eternal peace.
Inserted by:
Dileep Macherla, Umamaheshwar Boorugu, Mohan Gajula & Ranjit Macherla
(A/2122/D00013)



TEKUMALLA ANASUYA
W/o TEKUMALLA VIJAYA GOPAL
6-16-3, Vihari Colony, Street
No:2, Medipally, Uppal.
Inserted by: Tekumalla Family
(S/2122/D00254)



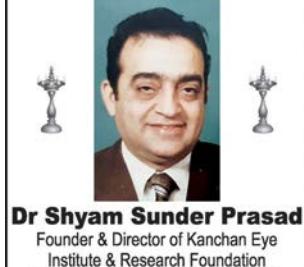
Precious in the Sight of the Lord is the Death of his Saints. Psalms 116:15
Arava Philomena
W/o Late A. Solomon Raj
D.O.B: 04-03-1936 D.O.D: 20-May-2021
We Miss You Amma
Inserted by:
Daughters, Son-in-laws
Sons, Daughter-laws
Arava's Family
(CA-3627)



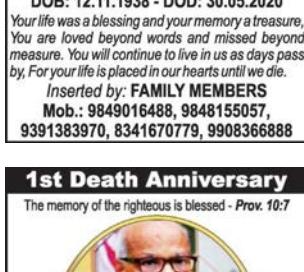
Kommu Jesse Mohan Rao
Husband of Late Kommu Karunamma
S/o Late Kommu Jacob
DOB: 21-11-1941 DOD: 30-04-2021
Resident of Guntur Nagar, Bakaram, Hyderabad, Telangana 500080
Retired Process Control Engineer
IDPL (Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd)
And Member of Baptist Church Narayanguda, Hyderabad
Inserted by: Son, Jesse Japheth K. Jesu and his wife
Contact: K. Elia - 9866239170
(S/2122/D00260)



OBITUARY
....they will rest from their labour, for their works will follow them." - Rev 14:13
Mr. Konda Vasanth Kumar, IRSME
Retd. IIME / SCR
We marvel at your immeasurable Christian Faith, your departure left us with an immeasurable void. Cherishing sweet memories we bide time and tide. Memorial Service Sunday 30th May, 8:30 pm Zoom ID: 953713265 Password: 12345
Mrs. & Mr. K. Vijay Kumar, Sampson, Sujatha Theodore, Leona & Sameeksha



1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY
The memory of the righteous is a blessing
Prov: 10:7
Not a single day passed without thinking of you. Your precious Memories are always fresh in our hearts for ever.
From your loving Family Members and Loved ones
Contact: K. Elia - 9866239170
(S/2122/D00265)



IRREPLACABLE
MAJOR
A man for all seasons - Generous to a fault
Grieflessly missed by
A.S. Gopala Krishna, T.N. Hari Gopal,
Dr. G. Harinath Rao, V.K. Jagann Mohan,
Dr. P.C. Rajender, A.R. Vachakumar,
and Countless Friends.



1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY
The memory of the righteous is blessed - Prov. 10:7
Rev. Dr. Katta Jayaprasad
DOB: 27.06.1949 - DOD: 30.05.2020
We miss you every moment in our life. Lovingly remembered every day. No longer in our life to share. Your memory is stored in our hearts and minds.
Inserted by: Family Members
Mob.: 9849016488, 9848155057,
9391383970, 8341670779, 9908366888

Covid blues Borrowers have no clue about penalties**BPL families in loan trap**ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

this time no one is coming forward. "They must be thinking that due to the four-hour relaxation, people are earning something. But then there are many like me, who have no source of livelihood."

"Having lost all hopes, I feel like ending my life but who will look after my kids is a worry that is holding me back. I took a loan against the gold I have" says Irfana Begum (name changed) from Vatteppal.

Speaking to DC, he said during the first lockdown many NGOs and individuals helped him by providing food but

cars for a multinational educational institution and no foreigner has arrived. He is doing some odd work, she said. Irfana Begum of M. M. Padhi said she asked her daughter to give her jewellery and mortgaged it with a pawnbroker and availed a loan of ₹4,000 to pay rent. She said her husband is a construction labourer and has been unemployed as the site where he worked has been closed for the last few days.

Abu Aimal, a journalist and activist who is helping such people away from the interest menaces, said there are many others like them, forced to opt for gold loans, just to survive. The pawnbrokers charge three per cent interest, payable at an interval of three months. Most of the borrowers do not know the rate of interest and penalties.

He said many petty traders had obtained loans against higher interest rates hoping for a good business during Ramzan, but they could not earn sufficiently.

They are now unable to repay the loan.

4TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Late. P. SARASIJA DEVI
"Your loving memories will remain with us forever."
Inserted by: Family Members

**1st Death Anniversary**

Rita Lopes
DOB: 30.05.2020
We miss you every moment in our life. Lovingly remembered every day. No longer in our life to share. Your memory is stored in our hearts and minds.
Inserted by: Daughters, Son's-in-law, Grand Children and Great Grand Son Mob.: 9849324251



IN BRIEF
IMD predicts thundershowers

FROM PAGE 1
Hyderabad: The IMD said isolated thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds can be expected on Sunday in Hyderabad, Adilabad, Komaram Bheem-Apisabadi, Mancherial, Jagtial, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, JS-Bhupalpally, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahbubabad, Warangal Rural and Urban, Jangaon, Ranga Reddy, Yadadri-Bhongir, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Sangareddy, and Kamareddy districts. The IMD also reiterated that the conditions were favourable for the Southwest Monsoon to touch the Indian coast over Kerala on May 31. Typically, it takes about a week to 10 days before the monsoon progresses from there to over Telangana.

CM wants to reach 5% positivity rate

FROM PAGE 1
The state government had initially imposed night curfew from 8 pm to 7 am from April 20 after the Covid second wave led to a steep increase in coronavirus positive cases and deaths. It was followed by the imposition of a 20-hour lockdown from May 12. Sources said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao wanted to achieve a below 5% positivity rate in the state and to continue these restrictions for a few more days to bring Covid under complete control.

POLICE: VIDEO OF COP BEING THRASHED FAKE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

A fake video claiming that members from a particular religion are beating a police officer in the Kondapur area has been circulating in social media. Subsequently, Cyberabad police stated that it is a fake video and warned of stringent action. However, they are yet to trace the exact location of the video.

Police said that no such incident has taken place anywhere in their limits and this news was a fake. "Legal action will be initiated against persons who share such false information with ulterior motives," said police.

FOREST STAFF GETS ACCESS TO TELEMEDICINE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

The state forest department, which has so far lost 21 of its officers and staff to Covid-19, has begun offering telemedicine services to its employees, most of them who work in forested areas. The service will also be available to their families.

Principal chief conservator of forests R. Shobha said on Saturday that the department entered into an agreement with Helping Hands Foundation, which will provide the services, through its network of volunteer doctors.

Addressing a video conference with department officials from all districts, Shobha said telemedicine services will help even those working in remote locations to access medical advice and seek guidance.

WORLD TOBACCO DAY

TS, AP remove blocks for wildlife to cross in peace

No more human disturbance at stretches of river Krishna

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

There is good news for tigers and other wild animals crossing River Krishna between Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR) in Telangana and Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve (NSTR) in Andhra Pradesh, two of India's largest protected areas for tigers.

The wild animals are now able to cross over in peace, thanks to a joint effort by the two Telugu states in removing human disturbance over some stretches of the river designated as wildlife crossing areas.

Krishna River forms a natural boundary between the two tiger reserves that in united Andhra Pradesh came under Rajiv Gandhi Tiger Reserve. When Telangana was formed, part of forests on Nallamala hill ranges in Telangana became Amrabad Tiger Reserve, while the Nallamala forests in Andhra Pradesh became the Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve.

Every year, hundreds of fishermen, encouraged by fishing contractors, set up



Officials from Amrabad Tiger Reserve check on the catch of fishermen on River Krishna running next to the reserve.

temporary settlements during summer months along the river both upstream and downstream of Srisailam dam. Their presence have become a deterrent for wild animals in crossing the river from one side to the other and return to their familiar territories.

"This year, we decided to reduce human disturbance to wildlife along identified stretches of Krishna River to ensure that the animals have undisturbed riverine corridors," Amrabad Tiger Reserve field director B. Srinivas told *Deccan Chronicle*. As part of this effort, tiger reserves' officials and staff have launched a campaign to inform fishermen to keep away from some stretches of

the river that are known crossings. The efforts have started paying off.

Cooperation between officials of both tiger reserves was essential as fishermen asked not to make their camps in some stretches along the river would move on to the neighbouring state.

"So, we began working with officials and staff from NSTR to keep these stretches of the river also clear of human disturbances," Srinivas said.

He underlined that they are not asking fishermen to totally stop fishing. The fishermen have to keep away only from the river stretch between Pogilla to the check dam, which is about a couple of kilome-

tres from Srisailam Dam. This is where wildlife is crossing over from one reserve to another.

Another stretch where fishing is not allowed is between Akkama Caves and Bollararam village on Telangana side, and Chendutippa on Andhra Pradesh side.

"We are receiving good cooperation from the fishermen, as we have ensured that their livelihoods are not affected. At the same time, we have been able to provide safe corridors on the river for wild animals," the Amrabad reserve field director stated.

These riverine corridors on Krishna have been identified keeping in view the depth of the water, where wild animals, whether tigers, deer, or others can safely cross.

While tigers are expert swimmers, other wild animals are not. Others require shallow stretches over which they can safely wade through.

Camera trap images have confirmed movement of tigers on both sides of the river, confirming the importance of these riverine corridors, Srinivas added.

Con men dupe Covid patients over beds, care

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

Con men are targeting helpless Covid-19 patients promising beds and treatment at government hospitals in the city.

The matter came to light when a person Krishna Reddy brought his mother Sugunamma, a Covid patient, to Nims Hospital in Panjagutta area of the city. There he met a person Prashanth, who promised that he will get Krishna Reddy's mother treated, provided he was paid ₹1 lakh.

Prashanth said he had to pay money to those who allot beds. Since his mother's health was critical, Krishna Reddy fell into Prashanth's trap and paid ₹1 lakh through

Google Pay and got his mother admitted. Subsequently, Prashanth demanded another ₹1 lakh for continuing the treatment. The con man then went on to say a normal treatment will cost ₹3 lakh to ₹4 lakh, while Krishna Reddy will have to pay ₹7 lakh in case Sugunamma requires oxygen bed with ventilator facility.

Suspecting something fishy, Krishna Reddy verified the admission register and found that only ₹1,000 had been recorded as the amount paid. There were no other receipts in the case sheet. The patient's son then approached the NIMS Hospital medical superintendent Dr N. Satyanarayana and lodged a complaint.

Dr Satyanarayana ordered an internal inquiry during which it

was found Prashanth is not an employee or in any way connected with NIMS. However, he seemed to have good contacts with some hospital staff. This way Prashanth had been making money and collecting huge amounts by providing patients admission and treatment at the hospital.

NIMS authorities then approached Panjagutta police of Hyderabad Commissionerate and lodged a formal complaint. A case has been booked under section 406 IPC (punishment for criminal breach of trust) and 420 IPC (cheating). It is suspected there could be more people operating like Prashanth.

Sugunamma is continuing to be treated in NIMS Hospital.

Case for provocative clip

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

ly seen threatening the public.

The police said the uploaded video had an impact on public peace and tranquillity.

"In this pandemic situation, police officers are performing their legitimate duties. Without any evidence,

this person posted a video on YouTube which will give a bad image to the department," said the complainant, who is also a police officer.

Based on the same, Bowenpally police booked a case and started investigation.

HOME GUARD IN RACE FOR PM MEDAL FOR SAVING 10 IN SERVICE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat on Saturday honoured a 45-year-old home guard for saving 10 lives during his career so far. The commissioner announced that he would recommend the name of home guard Manthri Eshwaraiah for being granted the Prime Minister's Police Medal for Life Saving.

During his career as home guard spanning 20 years, Eshwaraiah has rescued 10 people who have attempted suicide by drowning.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle* about the latest case, Eshwaraiah said: "I have been on duty at Saroornagar Lake to ensure that lockdown is implemented strictly. I have thus been sending back all who come to the lake for their walk or recreation. At around 4:30 p.m., I got information that a person had jumped into the lake. I rushed to the spot but could not see anyone. Then I saw a hand coming up at a spot. I jumped into the lake at that spot, fished the person out and gave him first aid," the home guard recounted.

● **SHOBHA SAID** telemedicine services will help even those working in remotest locations to access medical advice and seek guidance on Covid prevention, disease symptoms, as well as direct medical assistance.

Government of Telangana Revenue Land Acquisition Department Office of the District Collector, Siddipet

FORM VII

(See Rule-25 and Section-19(1) of the Act-30/2013)

DECLARATION
Collector's Office File No.G24626/2017 Dt.29.05.2021
Revenue Divisional Officer File No.D2/1040/2018 Dt.29.05.2021
Gazette No.6/2021 Dt.29.05.2021

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana District Collector, Siddipet that a total area of approximately 1,300 Gts is required in Tunkibollaram Village, Mulugu Mandal, Gajwel Division for public purpose, namely, construction of R&R Colony for the PDFs (Project Displaced Families) of the Kaleswaram Project, Kondapochamam Sagar Declaration is made to acquire the land.

Therefore, declaration is made to acquire the land mentioned above for the above said project namely, construction of R&R Colony for the displaced families under Kaleswaram Project, Kondapochamam Sagar in the Village Tunkibollaram, Mulugu Mandal, Gajwel division, Siddipet District whose detailed description is as following:

SCHEME-D-1

Village: Tunkibollaram Mandala: Mutug District: Siddipet

R&R Colony for the PDFs (Project Displaced Families) of the Kondapochamam Sagar

Sl.No	Survey No.	Nature of land	Assigned Area	Assigned Land	Type of land	Extent of land in Hectares	Name & address of the Land Patta Daru (Pa)			Boundaries	Structures/Trees and others (including trees and the like)
							East	West	North		
1	337	337	337	337	Dry	1.2500	Dakuri Sattaiyah (Mallaiyah)	337	340	337	3-Bore, 1-neem, 5-teak, Pipe line
2	337	337	337	337	Dry	1.0000	Dakuri Pochamma (Pentaiyah)	337	340	337	1-Bore, 1-neem, Pipe line
3	337	337	337	337	Dry	0.3000	Dakuri Krishna (Rajaiah)	337	340	337	1-Bore, 1-Neem, 1-Teak, Pipe line
4	337	337	337	337	Dry	0.1200	Dakuri Pochaiyah (Rajaiah)	337	340	337	1-Bore, 1-Neem, Pipe line
5	337	337	337	337	Dry	0.1200	Dakuri Yaddama (Narayana) (Pa)	337	340	337	3-Bore, 59-teak, 3-Coconut
6	337	337	337	337	Dry	0.3600	Dakuri Pochaiyah (Rajaiah) (E)	337	340	337	3-Bore, 1-Neem, 3-Nerdu, 3-Papaya
Total Extent 8.1300											

This declaration is made as no objections were received with in the time limit in response to the preliminary notification for this land acquisition and the said land may be acquired for the purpose of the project as per the Act. As this land acquisition is only for the construction of R&R Colony for the displaced families of the project land acquisition, and there were no displaced families in the village the question of rehabilitation does not arise.

Mines of coal, iron, stone or other materials laying under the said land or any particular portion of the land which may be required to be dug or removed during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land being acquired are not needed.

A plan of the said land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer and Revenue Divisional Officer, Gajwel on any working day during office working hours.

Sd/-
Tahsildar Revenue
Mandla Officer, Gajwel
Sd/-
Additional Collector
District Collector
Siddipet District
Siddipet District

RO No: 173/LA-PP/Adv/Pub/2021-22

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE Baba Gangnath Marg, Munirka, New Delhi - 110067

F.N.O.A.12023/09/2020/21-Admn.I

VACANCY NOTICE FOR DIRECTOR, N.I.H.F.W.

The National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, an autonomous Institute funded by the Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is an apex technical Institute and Think Tank for promoting health and family welfare programmes in the country through Education and Training, Research and Evaluation, Consultancy, Advisory and Specialized Services.

Applications are invited by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) from the eligible citizens of India for the following post.

Sr. No.	Name of the post	No. of post	Pay Level as per 7th CPC
1.	Director	01	Pay Level in Pay Matrix 15-Rs. 1,82,200 + NPA

For details, including Hindi version of this advertisement, please visit Institute's website: "www.nihtfw.org." Or MoHFW's website "www.mohfw.gov.in." Completed applications should reach to Shri Kumar Pranav, Under Secretary (Training Division), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare), Room No. 511, D-Wing, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011, before 30.06.2021.

Davp 17153/1

DECCAN Chronicle

30 MAY 2021



Shreya Sen-Handley

Off the beaten track

Back to 'the future', with a ticket to ride

How often have we said to each other these past pandemic months that we can't wait to 'go back' to how it was? Back to socially-undistanced work and schools. Back to favourite haunts. Back to 'normal'!

But back to the future?

In this film series which celebrated its 35th anniversary last year at the start of the coronavirus crisis, Marty McFly goes back in time, stopping off in different eras, to fix the future. 'Roads?' Doc reminds him, 'Where we're going, we don't need roads'. This is scarily true today because a) we don't get out of the house anymore, b) if we don't survive this, what use are roads, c) but if we do outlive this devastating pandemic, we need to think about a future where we use them less, especially in gas-guzzling vehicles. Dispensing at the same time with a lot else besides.

An uncomfortable thought, but consider that not just Back to the Future, many sci-fi stories with their visions of dystopian futures are coming true right now. If we survive this horror and don't want it repeated, we would need to commit to the kind of lifestyle changes climate activists have been shouting themselves hoarse about for decades.

So, we're not wrong when, in talking about the future these excruciating months, we've obsessed about 'going back'. But this oxymoronic future we're dreaming of simultaneously advancement and return, can never be the 'normal' of our recent past.

An article in the *New York Times* this month, about a gaping hole in the middle of an English city, Nottingham, revealed that people have already cottoned on. A big, ugly 1970s mall at its heart was demolished a couple of years ago to make room for a shiny, new one. Then the pandemic came along and the plan was first parked and later abandoned. Because a consultation with its citizens in the meantime had led to the surprising verdict that instead of malls, they desired parks and heritage preservation. Fitting, as Nottingham of Robin Hood fame was once mostly Sherwood Forest, but a turnup for the books nevertheless when after a hundred years of avid consumerism, a modern urban hub wants to step off the conveyor belt of fast-paced city living, and lead a quieter life.

Can we hope for this in India where there's a burgeoning young population constantly bombarded with ads, the lure of malls, and 'status' conferring products? In not agreeing to carbon-cutting measures that are sorely needed for environmental regeneration at the recent climate summit, the Indian government appears to have answered that. But that's the government, not the people. The Indian people, more than any other, have tragically felt the wrath of an injured planet in the last months, and will surely disagree with their government's reactionary stance, which, in the short-term growth interests of a few, neglects the long-term needs of *all* its citizens, who require a healthy earth to live on.

The lives we led globally before the pandemic might have felt 'normal', but evidence of ever-accelerating environmental degradation proves it wasn't 'natural' at all. And the consequences are hitting home, with this killer virus only the start. Like most 21st century people, I like my modern comforts, but it's becoming uncomfortably clear that we must realign with nature; making a significant, yet sensible, leap into the past.

How about we try the KonMari method of decluttering, discarding habits that no longer "spark joy"? This pandemic has opened my eyes to what's essential in my life; that which provides long-term joy over short-lived superficial pleasure. Unexpectedly diagnosed with diabetes last month, choosing a leaner, closer-to-nature lifestyle has been a no-brainer. Yet, in the mess we're in, with urgent action required to reverse it, isn't it the way forward for everyone? But if the way forward is a going back, is it the early 20th century we must return to? The pre-industrialised 18th, or the Dark Ages perhaps?!

I fancy we could get away with a pick-and-mix approach. What could be better than picking the healthiest habits from every epoch? We've never been better placed to do that than now, with so much hindsight at our disposal, and so much time! Nor do we have to adopt an alien culture or travel far to see how life can be lived in tune with nature. Just visit your nearest gram (but not Gurugram).

To pick and mix would mean we won't have to fully subscribe to any one philosophy, era, or lifestyle. We don't have to go full-on Amish; doing without electricity, or wearing potato sacks. We just need to choose the smartest, greenest ways of life that history has had to offer. We can, as we did so comfortably in the past, opt for sustainable fashion (aka upcycling and hand-me-downs) and grow some of our own food. Or ally the best of pre-automotive living with a solution from more recent times — the electric car. On solo commutes, we should cycle everywhere we can, switching to green public transport where cycling might be hazardous, with the occasional use of an electric car when transporting the whole clan. Good for the planet and healthy for peeps, cycling is also the height of romance! We may once again ride through a quiet lane blossoming with bird-song, with unpolluted wind in our hair like Gregory Peck or Madhubala!

This going back to move forward, advancing to backtrack, may be confusing, even unnerving, but just the ticket for our return to calm. To paraphrase Marty McFly, "You guys may not feel ready for that yet, but your kids are gonna love it!"

Shreya Sen-Handley is the author of the recently published *Strange: Stories, the award-winning Memoirs of My Body*, and a forthcoming book of travel misadventures. Her Twitter and Insta handle is @shreyasenhan.



On solo commutes, we should cycle everywhere we can, with the occasional use of an electric car when transporting the whole clan. Good for the planet and healthy for peeps, cycling is also the height of romance!

Subhani



On vax policy, govt doth indeed protest too much



Pavan K. Varma

Chanakya's View

Gunahgar sam-jhe ki duniya tujhe, bas inti bhi zyada safai na de: The world will conclude that you are guilty, if you give so many explanations to show your innocence." This simple couplet came to my mind while reading the press release issued by PIB on May 27, titled, "Myths and Facts on India's Vaccination Process". The government's adamancy in winning the publicity war even when the case is indefensible leads us to believe that the best of our technocrats, like Dr Vinod Paul, member (health) and chair of the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid 19 (NEGVAC), to author such press releases.

Dr Paul lists out seven "myths" regarding the critique of the government's vaccination policy, and bravely sets out to give the correct "facts". In doing so he ends up only further revealing how highly incompetent the government has been on this front.

Let us take up the seven points raised by Dr Paul. The first is "that the Centre is not doing enough to buy vaccines from abroad". His defence is that "buying vaccines internationally is not similar to buying 'off the shelf' items" and that "vaccines are in limited supply globally". Thank you very much Dr Paul for educating us on these simplicities, but the question is, given these obvious constraints, could not have the government done better?

The answer is an emphatic yes. With the same constraints, the United States has purchased enough vaccines to

inoculate its population three times over, the EU countries have done much the same. Canada has bought five times of what it needs, and Japan four times. These countries had foresight. They were proactive in anticipating the needs of their population. The US even went to the extent of booking orders with pharmaceutical companies even when the trials were still on. Even now the extra stocks with these countries are available for bulk purchase. Contrast our record. We gave away from what precious little we had, and did not aggressively buy in time for our own needs.

"Myth" two is that the government has not approved vaccines available globally. Dr Paul's defence is that "no application of any foreign manufacturer for approval is pending with the drugs controller". This, in fact, is the real lament. Why did the government not move fast enough with foreign vaccine manufacturers well in time so that by now applications would have been cleared or were "pending", and production was on the anvil? To say, in a bureaucratic way, that nothing is pending with us, is no defence for the absence of proactively seeking out such collaborations before the second wave was upon us.

"Myth" three is that "the Centre is not doing enough to ramp up domestic production of vaccines". This "myth" is so much a fact that it barely needs rebuttal. It is now in the public domain how Serum Institute of India (SII) sought financial assistance from the government to ramp up pro-

duction, but that this vital input was not provided till as late as April 2021, when we were in the throes of the second wave. Nor was Bharat Biotech, the producers of Covaxin, encouraged to expand production through adequate funding, and nor was the IPR of their vaccine shared with other indigenous pharma companies to boost total output. All such efforts are being made only now, after the mayhem and suffering we have witnessed during the second wave. Competent governments work in advance, not in hindsight.

"Myth" four is that "the Centre should invoke compulsory licensing". Dr Paul says that "this is not a very attractive option since it is not a 'formula' that matters, but active partnership, training of human resources, sourcing of raw materials and highest levels of bio-safety labs which is required". True, but everybody knows that. The real challenge was to use diplomacy at the right time to persuade foreign pharma companies to part with their technology and know-how, and obtain, either indigenously or otherwise, the material required to make the vaccines. Our foreign minister, Dr Jaishankar, has only now gone to the US for this purpose. What was the government doing for all the months before? Compulsory licensing, and the waiving of patents is permissible under the TRIPS agreement during emergencies, so it is not a question of whether it is

"Myth" five is that "Centre is not taking any steps to vaccinate children". Dr Paul's defence that "no country in the world is giving vaccines to children" may be literally correct, but it ignores the fact that many countries have announced dates when they plan to do so. The basic truth is that when adults are running from pillar to post to get vaccinated, there are just not enough doses for children.

The government has, quite simply, been found starkly wanting on the issue of vaccines. That is the fact. The myth is that there can be a defence of the indefensible.

'Myth' two is that the government has not approved vaccines available globally. Dr Paul's defence, that 'no application of any foreign manufacturer is pending with the drugs controller', is, in fact, is the real lament.

The writer, an author and a former diplomat, is in politics

Anita Katyal



Political Gup-Shup

Bengal BJP split on Roy, Adhikari; Why Uma mum on Ganga bodies?

The West Bengal unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party is witnessing a fierce battle between the party's old timers and newcomers who were inducted into its ranks shortly before the Assembly polls. Though the tension between them was palpable even before the election, it has become far worse after the BJP failed to defeat the Trinamul Congress. Those having a long association with the saffron party are particularly upset that their rightful claims have been overlooked while Surendu Adhikari, who joined the BJP on election-eve, was appointed leader of Opposition. The old timers are also convinced that it is Mr Adhikari who is pushing the BJP to adopt an aggressive approach to the Trinamul Congress which, they believe, is suicidal coming so soon after Mamata Banerjee notched up an emphatic electoral victory. With the Narada bribery scandal back in the news following the arrest of four Trinamul leaders, the BJP's old timers in Kolkata are hoping Mr Adhikari will also be nailed as his name figures in this case.

Meanwhile, they have been making discreet enquiries in Delhi about the CBI's pending request to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for his permission to investigate Mr Adhikari and BJP leader Mukul Roy in connection with this case.

The delay in the reshuffle of the Union Cabinet is testing the patience of many ministerial hopefuls, who have been eagerly awaiting the all-important call from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Jyotiraditya Scindia, who left the Congress last year, has been waiting the longest, for it is no secret that he was promised a Rajya Sabha seat and a ministerial berth when he joined the BJP. Then there are others who were assured they would be suitably accommodated in the government. Sushil Modi, former Bihar deputy chief minister, was expected to move to the Centre when he was denied his old post after the last Assembly election. Similarly, former chief ministers Sarbananda Sonowal and Trivendra Singh Rawat, who had to step aside in favour of their party colleagues, are

also hoping to be rewarded for their "sacrifice". But there is no clarity about the next Cabinet rejig. Mr Modi was earlier expected to reshuffle his ministerial team last year but the exercise was put off because of the coronavirus pandemic. It is the same story again this year as the Modi government is currently preoccupied handling the second wave of the pandemic.

Senior BJP leader Uma Bharti was appointed minister for water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation during the Modi government's first term primarily because of her passion for saving and cleaning the holy river. During her tenure she even took on her Cabinet colleagues when she disagreed with the decision to proceed with the construction of new dams on the Ganga. Despite the public outcry to the spate of media stories and photographs about the unseemly sight of dead bodies of coronavirus patients being dumped in the Ganga, there has been no word from the champion of the holy river. Ms Bharti did, however, post over 30

tweets on a single day earlier this month in which she expressed full faith in the Prime Minister's leadership, was confident that he would do everything possible to save the Himalayas and Ganga and let it be known that conveyed that she is keen to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. But she was silent on the issue of the floating dead bodies. Ms Bharti's tweets are being viewed as a "calling attention motion" since she has been living in virtual oblivion after she was marginalised by the party.

The external affairs ministry finds itself in a diplomatic fix with its neighbours as the Modi government first gifted Covishield vaccines to them in an effort to win brownie points and then abruptly stopped the supplies as it had failed to plan for India's domestic requirements. Predictably, the neighbouring countries, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives, are upset because they have not been able to get sufficient supplies of the vaccine for the second dose. The MEA insists there

is no ban on vaccine exports but the reality is that the neighbours are not getting their full quota of vaccines.

After Chhattisgarh's first chief minister Ajit Jogi passed away last May, his politician wife and son Renu and Amit Jogi find themselves at a loose end. Renu Jogi, an MLA representing the Janata Congress Chhattisgarh, the party floated by Jogi, is said to be sending feelers to the Congress, expressing her desire to support the Bhupesh Baghel government. In exchange, she is seeking a ministerial post for herself. The Congress leadership in Delhi has instead asked Renu Jogi to merge her party with the Congress. However, P.L. Punia, Congress general secretary in charge of Chhattisgarh, and chief minister Bhupesh Baghel are going all out to make sure this compromise does not go through. Mr Baghel and Jogi were locked in a prolonged battle when the latter was in the Congress.

Anita Katyal is a Delhi-based journalist

LETTERS

LOCKDOWN FORMAT

Considering the hardship faced by lakhs of poor people due to the 20-hour lockdown, it is better to increase the relaxation to 12 hours as per letters in these columns.

Government can resolve the sufferings of the common man in this way.

John Samuel
Secunderabad

HCA INFIGHTING

The affairs at the Hyderabad Cricket Association is now clear to everyone (*BCCI could keep HCA out of meet, DC, May 29*). The budding local cricketers will suffer the most after a successful cricket league season. The time has come for the Telangana Sports Ministry or senior cricketers to intervene and settle the matter and avoid embarrassment.

P. Jithender
Hyderabad

INTER SECOND YEAR

Last year the Telangana state government promoted second year Intermediate students. We cannot put life of students in danger by conducting exams. The government must not discriminate among students and courses. Class X and Intermediate first year students are already promoted.

Ghouse Khan
Hyderabad

RAILWAY QUARTERS

There is no proper implementation of lockdown in the railway quarters and railway areas. People are not following Covid-19 regulations and are roaming around, assembling in groups near empty areas, railway tracks and posing as workers. I request authorities to check empty quarters and drive away these people as they could be a pandemic threat.

Keshav Reddy
Secunderabad

VAX SHORTAGE

I agree with Telangana state IT minister K.T. Rama Rao's assessment of the vaccine situation (*Modi govt has no vision for vaccines: KTR, DC, May 29*). The Centre has pushed states to the penury and made our country economically backward. Our PM should have thought out of the box before exporting vaccines.

Masood Ahmed Khan
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

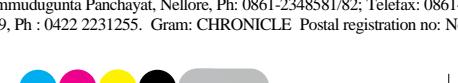
'New spirit' needed, says PM

NEW DELHI, MAY 29.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has said that while the country needed a "root and branch" reform of the administrative procedures, what was even more important was introduction of a "new spirit" in the administration.

In an interview published in the first annual number of "Socialist India," official Congress (R) weekly Mrs. Gandhi said "we are attempting to fight the feudal spirit which still exists in the administration. Once we are able to change this spirit, it will not be difficult to change the forms also."

"Somehow most of people in Government, whether they be Secretaries' of Ministries or policemen or conductors in State owned bus services feel that they are masters whom the people must obey," she said.



SHORT TAKES

STATES HAVE OVER 1.82 CR VACCINE DOSES

New Delhi, May 29: More than 1.82 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses are available with states and union territories, and over 4 lakh will be received by them within the next three days, the Union health ministry said on Saturday.

The Central government has so far provided, through the free of cost category and direct state procurement category, more than 22.77 crore vaccine doses to states and UTs.

Of these, the total consumption, including wastages is 20,80,09,397 doses, according to data available at 8 am on Saturday, the ministry said.

"More than 1.82 crore (1,82,21,403) Covid-19 vaccine doses are still available with the states and UTs to be administered. Furthermore, 4,86,180 vaccine doses are in the pipeline and will be received by the states and UTs within the next 3 days," the ministry said.

As part of the nationwide vaccination drive, the Centre has been supporting the states and UTs by providing them Covid vaccines free of cost.

In addition, it has been facilitating direct procurement of vaccines by the states and UTs.

Vaccination is an integral pillar of the comprehensive strategy of Union government for containment and management of the pandemic, along with test, track, treat and Covid-appropriate behaviour; the ministry said.

Implementation of the liberalised and accelerated phase-3 strategy of Covid vaccination has started from May 1, it said.

MLA STRUGGLES TO FILE FIR AGAINST HOSP

Hardoi (UP), May 29: An Uttar Pradesh BJP legislator, who lost his son to coronavirus in April, said he had been trying for a month to get an FIR registered against a hospital for alleged negligence.

Rajkumar Agrawal, the MLA from Sandila in Hardoi district, claimed he had also written letters complaining about it to the chief minister and health minister.

Agarwal alleged that his 30-year-old son, who was admitted to a hospital in Kakori town in Lucknow district on April 22, died four days later due to negligence.

When contacted, Kakori inspector Brijesh Singh said he assumed charge only three days ago and he had not got the MLA's complaint. He assured that a case would be filed after taking another complaint and the matter would be investigated.

Agarwal said his son's oxygen level was 94 in the morning of April 26, and he was eating and having a conversation.

"Suddenly, in the evening, doctors said his oxygen level was going down," the MLA said. "My other two sons brought oxygen cylinders, but the doctors did not allow it to reach the patient."

"Despite much persuasion, oxygen was not taken and after a while, Ashish died. The carelessness of the hospital resulted in the death," Agarwal said. The hospital was not immediately available for comment.

ODISHA PLACES ORDER FOR 2-DG DRUG

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, MAY 29

The Odisha government on Saturday placed an order for 5,000 sachets of 2-DG (2-deoxy-D-glucose) anti-covid drug for the treatment of hospitalised Covid-19 patients, said state health secretary Pradip Kumar Mohapatra.

The anti-Covid medicine developed by Defence Research Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with the Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Pharma Laboratory is claimed to help faster recovery of hospitalised patients and reduce oxygen dependence.

Dr Reddy's has fixed the price of the drug at ₹990 per sachet. The pharma company, however, has declared to supply the medicine to the states, Centre and various hospitals at discounted prices.

Meanwhile, the Covid-19 related fatalities in Odisha has turned into a major reason of concern as the number of daily deaths is hovering over 30 for a few days now even as the single-day positive cases has come down drastically.

On Saturday, the state reported 35 deaths with Angul registering the highest number of five fatalities.

RESIDENT DOCS PLAN PROTEST AGAINST BABA RAMDEV

New Delhi, May 29: Upset over Yoga guru Baba Ramdev's remarks on allopathy, members of the federation of resident doctors' associations on Saturday said they will hold a nationwide protest on June 1 and observe it as a 'black day'.

In a statement, the federation has also sought an "unconditional open public apology" from Ramdev.

A controversy had erupted after he was heard questioning some of the medicines being used to treat the coronavirus infection and saying that "lakhs have died from taking allopathic medicines for Covid-19".

The remarks were met with vociferous protests, following which Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan asked him to withdraw the "extremely unfortunate" statement. On Sunday, Ramdev was forced to withdraw a statement.

A day later, the yoga guru posed 25 questions to the Indian Medical Association (IMA) in an 'open letter' on his Twitter handle, asking if allopathy offered permanent relief for ailments. - PTI



Health workers and volunteers from Tamil Nadu Muslim Munnetra Kazhagam perform burial of a Covid-19 victim in Chennai on Saturday. Tamil Nadu on Saturday continued to record recoveries outnumbering the new infections for the second day with 30,016 people contracting the contagion and pushing the overall caseload to 20,39,716. Covid-related fatalities remained high with 486 people succumbing to the virus in the last 24 hours taking the toll to 23,261. - PTI

SC to hear case on Covid services and supplies

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, MAY 29

U.P. VILLAGERS CHASE AWAY MEDICAL TEAM

Barabanki (UP) May 29: Peed at being refused ration for not undergoing Covid tests, villagers in Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki district chased away a medical team with sticks, police said on Saturday.

The team of the Kothi community health centre was conducting tests on Friday at the ration shop in Kotwa village, around 50 km east of Lucknow.

Though some people got the tests done, others who came later refused to give samples. The shop owner said he would give them ration only after they got the tests done, but they did not relent, according to police.

The matter is being heard by a bench comprising Justice Chandrachud, Justice L. Nageswara Rao and Justice S. Ravindra Bhat.

Now the matter is listed for hearing on May 31.

The hearing slated for Monday assumes importance as the focus of the hearing will be the Centre's affidavit of May 9, which had defended market driven differential pricing of Covid vaccines asserting that it will incentivise demand, lead to higher production, competition and attract overseas investors.

The Centre has told the top court to keep off from the executive domain, as an "Any overzealous, though well-meaning judicial intervention may lead to unforeseen and unintended consequences, in absence of any expert advice or administrative."

The Centre had further said that in such "grave

Delhi traders: Open mkts in phased way

Process of unlocking to start in Delhi from tomorrow

All govt staffers should get Covid-19 jab, says minister

New Delhi, May 29: The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Saturday demanded reopening of shops and markets by following the same yardstick applied for resumption of construction activities and factories on a day Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal assured unlocking more activities in the coming days.

The traders' body said it will approach Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal and the chief minister to review the decision.

Kejriwal had on Friday said the process of lifting the lockdown gradually in the capital will begin from Monday, starting with resumption of construction activities and reopening of factories for a week.

"The yardstick applied for the opening of construction activities and factories could be applied more judiciously for opening the markets and particularly when the trade associations all over Delhi are more inclined to extend full support of the government," Praveen Khandelwal, secretary general CAIT, said in a statement.

On Saturday, the chief minister noted the national capital recorded around 900 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, and said if new infections continue to decline, more activities will be allowed to open up in the city.

Addressing the traders' concerns on Saturday, the chief minister said when the situation will ease, everything will be opened up.

"I can understand the troubles of the traders and I can understand their

in light of the increase in the number of positive cases, the secretaries/HoDs were told to regulate the attendance of employees at all levels.

earliest," said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel.

As per the instructions issued by the establishment division of the DoPT, he said, since the government has decided to include those aged 18 and above in the inoculation programme to contain the Covid-19, all employees of the group are advised to get vaccinated, according to a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

The measures taken in the department in light of

anxiety I read in the newspapers that they are a bit upset. I want to tell them that it was with great difficulty that we were able to control the situation by imposing a lockdown.

"I can understand their difficulty but they should be patient and should not rush. We also want their markets and shops to open up and as and when the situation comes under control, we will open up everything," he said.

The group of traders held a virtual meeting where they suggested reopening of shops and markets in a phased manner while segregating the

working time for different verticals of Delhi trade".

"The business of Delhi has been completely derailed, how will that business be restored when there is acute financial crunch," Khandelwal said.

He suggested that business activities can be restored in a manner which "may certainly curb any more spreading of coronavirus".

"Working hours can be reduced, Delhi can be divided into different zones, night curfew can be imposed, weekend lockdowns and several other options can be considered but the fundamental is to

have a will to open the shops and markets," he added.

Meanwhile, Kejriwal visited the Delhi government's drive-through Covid-19 vaccination centre at the Chhatrasal Stadium.

"People can come to this centre in a car or on a motorcycle. They are also coming on foot. As soon as we receive vaccines for the 18-44 age group, we will also start this for them," he said.

The Delhi government has floated a global expression of interest for procurement of Covid-19 vaccine on an urgent basis.

- PTI

ANOTHER ASSAM MLA DIES OF COVID-19

Guwahati, May 29: United People's Party Liberal MLA Leho Ram Boro died of Covid-19 at a hospital here on Saturday, the second sitting legislator from Assam to succumb to the infection in less than a week, a doctor at the medical facility said.

Boro, 63, was admitted to Gauhati Medical College and Hospital on Thursday after he tested positive for coronavirus. "His condition deteriorated since Friday night. He suffered a cardiac arrest and died of Covid on Saturday," the doctor of the state-run hospital said.

The first-time UPPL legislator is survived by two sons.

Four-time Gossaigaon MLA Majendra Narzary died due to post-Covid complications on Wednesday.

KERALA TOO EXTENDS LOCKDOWN

Thiruvananthapuram, May 29: The Kerala government on Saturday announced one more week extension of the statewide lockdown till June 9, to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, with some relaxations to perform essential activities.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced the extension of the shutdown at a press conference here. "Although prevalence of the disease is declining significantly in the state, we have not yet reached a stage to remove restrictions. The lockdown will continue in all districts from May 31 to June 9," the chief minister said.

The state has been under lockdown since May 8 following the sharp rise in coronavirus cases.

The chief minister also announced withdrawal of "triple lockdown" in Malappuram district, where the number of cases was high.

However, the general lockdown will continue in the district along with other districts in the state.

GOA PROLONGS CURFEW TILL JUNE 7

Panaji, May 29: With the Covid-19 positivity rate still hovering at 21 per cent, the Goa government on Saturday decided to extend the ongoing "corona curfew", which was supposed to be lifted on May 31, by another week till June 7.

Formal orders on the extension of the corona curfew will be issued by collectors of South Goa and North Goa districts, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

"Government of Goa has decided to extend the curfew till 7 am of 7th June 2021. The orders regarding the same shall be issued by respective District Collectors," the CMO said.

The pandemic-induced curfew was imposed in Goa on May 9. It was supposed to be lifted on May 24.

- PTI

The J&K police in recent times have arrested several hundred of Over Ground Workers OGWS, militant sympathisers pose challenge to forces

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, MAY 29

have independently or with the assistance of various security forces including the Army's counterinsurgency Rashtriya Rifles arrested several hundred OGWs of various militant outfits.

A couple of dozen more are at present under their surveillance, the sources said.

Some time ago, the American officials too had cautioned India of the looming dangers but, at the same time, suggested it to take certain "soft" measures towards tackling the problem amid the reports renaissance by the over-ground supporters

and sympathizers of Kashmiri separatist militants, the idee fixe of Aazadi and the swelling of its ideologies.

In April, Lt. Gen. Devendra Pratap Pandey, Commander of Srinagar-based 15 Army Corps had said that the recruitment of OGWs for the militant outfits was going on also through social media and other online mediums.

He had also said that the security forces had taken two steps to put an end to militancy in Kashmir—one to stop recruitment by OGWs and second, to reduce recruitment by OGWs through social media and other online mediums.

However, some local analysts are of the view that the drift could well drag the ground situation in J&K particularly the Valley back to square one. "It doesn't matter how people establish contacts with various militant groups. The important thing is why do they do that and offer or agree to

become their OGWs. I think this is share sympathy for these groups and their agenda and this is something which should be the cause of worry for the government, especially the security forces," said one of them.

MILITANTS KILL TWO CIVILIANS IN ANANTNAG, MANHUNT LAUNCHED

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, MAY 29

for the killers. They said that the duo were targeted by the militants in Jablipura area of Bijbehara, about 50 km south of Srinagar.

"Both of them received critical bullet wounds. They were evacuated to a nearby hospital where teenager Sanjeev Ahmad Parrey was declared dead. The other civilian, Shahnewaz Ahmed Bhat, too succumbed to injuries," police said.

SHORT TAKES**WOMAN HELD AT U.S. BORDER WITH CROC SKULLS**

Hightgate Springs, May 29: A Montreal woman has been arrested on charges of trying to cross the US border into Canada with numerous undeclared wildlife items, including a three-toed sloth, 18 crocodile skulls and heads and seven crocodile feet, according to documents filed in federal court in Vermont.

Both sloth and crocodile are protected under the US Endangered Species Act and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Bennington Banner reported Friday.

Vanessa Rondeau, the owner of The Old Cavern Boutique in Montreal, also was alleged to be in possession of two horseshoe crabs, 30 sea stars, 23 raccoon feet, eight African antelope horns, one human skull with mounted butterflies, four puffer fish and six shark jaws on Wednesday when she attempted to cross the border at Hightgate Springs, Vermont, according to the criminal complaint.

11 KILLED IN PAK AS VAN PLUNGES INTO DITCH

Islamabad, May 29: At least 11 people, including three children, were killed and 13 others injured when a passenger van carrying them plunged into a ditch in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's (PoK) Muzaffarabad, a media report said on Saturday.

The accident happened on Saturday morning when the passenger van en route to Chakothi sector from Rawalpindi met with an accident and fell into the ditch, Pakistan's ARY News reported.

The passenger van fell in the ditch killing 11 people including 3 children. It is not exactly clear how the vehicle met with the accident, the media report said, quoting a senior police officer.

On getting information, rescue teams and ambulances reached the site and shifted the bodies and injured to a nearby hospital, the report said.

ROADSIDE BOMB KILLS FOUR IN AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, May 29: A roadside bomb exploded near a minivan full of university lecturers and students in Afghanistan's northern Kapisa province on Saturday, killing at least 4 and wounding 11 others, Afghan officials said.

Interior ministry spokesman Tariq Arian said the minivan was targeted while travelling to bring the group to Alberoni University. Provincial police spokesman Shayeq Shores said the bomb was set off by remote control. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Previous deadly attacks on Kabul university in November last year were claimed by the Islamic State group. Large swathes of war-torn Afghanistan have been littered with bombs and land mines. Many have been planted by insurgents to target military convoys, but they often kill civilians instead. Kapisa provincial hospital chief Abdul Qasem Sangin said that doctors were among the casualties in Saturday's minivan attack.

PALESTINIAN KILLED IN WEST BANK PROTEST

Jerusalem, May 29: A Palestinian man was shot at and killed by Israeli troops on Saturday during a protest against settlement expansion in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, health officials said.

The protest erupted over a settlement outpost near the town of Beita — one of dozens dotting hilltops in the West Bank in what Palestinians see as an ongoing Israeli land grab. Several hundred Palestinians gathered on the hilltop.

Dozens burned tires and threw stones at soldiers who fired live rounds, rubber bullets and tear gas. The Palestinian Health Ministry said a 26-year-old Palestinian man was killed by army fire and that five protesters were injured, including two by live fire. The Israeli military did not immediately issue a statement on the shooting. The clash came at a time of heightened tensions following an 11-day war between Israel and the Islamic militant group Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip. More than 250 people, the vast majority Palestinians, were killed in the war which ended a week ago.

GOP blocks 6/1 riot investigation

Loyalty to ex-Prez Trump on full display

Lander is Biden science adviser

Washington, May 29: The Senate has confirmed Eric Lander to be President Joe Biden's chief science adviser, one of the last unfilled Cabinet posts in the Biden administration.

Lander, founding director of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, was approved by a voice vote Friday to serve as director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, a position Biden has elevated to Cabinet rank.

Lander, who also is a mathematician and molecular biologist, was lead author of the first paper announcing the details of the human genome, the so-called "book of life".

His nomination was delayed for months as senators sought more information about meetings he had with the late Jeffrey Epstein, a disgraced financier who was charged with sex trafficking before his apparent suicide.

Lander also was criti-

cised for downplaying the contributions of two Nobel Prize-winning female scientists. At his confirmation hearing last month, Lander apologised for a 2016 article he wrote that downplayed the work of the female scientists.

At the hearing, he also called Epstein "an abhorrent individual". Lander said he "understood the importance of those key advances" by biochemists Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna. The two were later awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. "I felt terrible about it, I made a mistake. And when I make a mistake, I own it and try to do better," Lander said.

"I should have written those paragraphs differently to make my intention crystal clear. I have enormous respect for Doctors Doudna and Charpentier and the important work they've done throughout their careers."

— AP

2001, terror attacks.

The investigations will happen with or without Republicans," declared Louisiana Sen. Bill Cassidy, one of the Republicans who voted to move forward. "To ensure the investigations are fair, impartial and focused on the facts, Republicans need to be involved."

The vote was in part a GOP attempt to placate Trump, or avoid his repre-

sals, as he has kept a firm hold on the party since his defeat by Democrat Joe Biden. The former president told his supporters to fight like hell to overturn his defeat before the siege and continues to falsely say he won the election claims shouted by his supporters as they stormed the building. Trump called the commission legislation a Democrat trap.

— AP

FAA questions stoppage in Boeing plane deliveries

Chicago, May 29: Boeing has again halted deliveries of its 787 jetliner after federal regulators asked for more information about production flaws, including small gaps where panels of the fuselage are joined.

A Boeing spokesman said Friday that the company is working with the Federal Aviation Administration to provide more information about the company's analysis and documentation of work on new 787s. He said the delay affects near-term deliveries.

already been delivered to airline customers.

It is not clear how long deliveries will be held up the spokesman called it a near-term issue.

Chicago-based Boeing gets a large chunk of the

price for a new plane upon delivery, so a prolonged delay could affect the company's cash flow.

CFRA Research analyst Colin Scaramella called it obviously disappointing news for Boeing and its investors.

But the issue appears related to inspection procedures, not a new design or manufacturing problem, and seems likely to be resolved quickly, he said.

Deliveries of 787s were halted for five months, until late March, by the fuselage flaw and other issues.

Boeing shares fell \$3.68, or 1.5 per cent, to close Friday at \$247.02. — AP

Biden's budget: Social spending, taxes on biz

Washington, May 29: President Joe Biden on Friday unveiled a \$6 trillion budget for next year that's piled high with new safety net programmes for the poor and middle class, but his generosity depends on taxing corporations and the wealthy to keep the nation's spiking debt from spiralling totally out of control.

Biden inherited record pandemic-stoked spending and won a major victory on Covid-19 relief earlier this year. Friday's rollout

adds his recently announced infrastructure and social spending initiatives and fleshes out his earlier plans to sharply increase spending for annual Cabinet budgets.

This year's projected deficit would set a new record of \$3.7 trillion that would drop to \$1.8 trillion next year still almost double pre-pandemic levels. The national debt will soon breach \$30 trillion after more than \$5 trillion in already approved Covid-19 relief.

As a result, the govern-

ment must borrow roughly 50 cents of every dollar it spends this year and next. With the deficit largely unchecked, Biden would use proposed tax hikes on businesses and high-earning people to power huge new social programmes like universal prekindergarten, large subsidies for child care and guaranteed paid leave.

The best way to grow our economy is not from the top down, but from the bottom up and the middle out, Biden said in his budget

message. Our prosperity comes from the people who get up every day, work hard, raise their family, pay their taxes, serve their Nation, and volunteer in their communities.

The budget incorporates the administration's eight-year, \$2.3 trillion infrastructure proposal and its \$1.8 trillion American Families Plan and adds details on his \$1.5 trillion request for annual operating expenditures for the Pentagon and domestic agencies.

Acting White House

budget chief Shalaanda Young said the Biden plan does exactly what the president told the country he would do. Grow the economy, create jobs and do so responsibly by requiring the wealthiest Americans and big corporations to pay their fair share.

Biden's budget is sure to give Republicans fresh ammunition for their criticisms of the new Democratic administration as bent on a tax and spend agenda that would damage the economy and impose a crushing debt burden on younger Americans. Republicans also say he's shorting the military.

"It is insanely expensive. It dramatically increases non-defence spending and taxes and would weaken the Pentagon," said South Carolina Sen Lindsey Graham, top Republican on the Budget Committee and a generally pragmatic GOP voice on spending bills.

There will be serious discussions about government funding. — AP

US TARGETS BELARUS WITH SANCTIONS

Washington, May 29: The United States on Friday announced punitive measures against Belarus targeting the regime of strongman President Alexander Lukashenko, who met with Russian leader Vladimir Putin amid a global outcry over the forced diversion of a European plane.

"Especially, the people in the close proximity to the coastal belt, should remain vigilant and ensure that you do not expose yourself to rain these days," the official said.

— PTI

Remains of 215 children found at shut Indigenous school

Kamloops, May 29: The remains of 215 children, some as young as three years old, have been found buried on the site of what was once Canada's largest Indigenous residential school — one of the institutions that held children taken from families across the nation.

Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlups Secwépemc First Nation said in a news release that the remains were confirmed last weekend with the help of ground-penetrating

radar. More bodies may be found because there are more areas to search on the school grounds, Casimir said Friday.

In an earlier release, she called the discovery an "unthinkable loss that was spoken about but never documented at the Kamloops Indian Residential School." A report more than five years ago by a Truth and Reconciliation Commission detailed harsh mistreatment inflicted on Indigenous children at the institutions.

British Columbia Premier John Horgan said he was "horrified and heart-

broken" to learn of the discovery, calling it a tragedy of "unimaginable proportions" that highlights the violence and consequences of the residential school system.

The Kamloops school operated between 1890 and 1969, when the federal government took over operations from the Catholic Church and operated it as a day school until it closed in 1978. Casimir said it's believed the deaths are undocumented, although a local museum archivist is

working with the Royal British Columbia Museum to see if any records of the deaths can be found.

"Given the size of the school, with up to 500 students registered and attending at any one time, we understand that this confirmed loss affects First Nations communities across British Columbia and beyond," Casimir said in the initial release issued late Thursday.

The leadership of the Tk'emlups community "acknowledges their responsibility to caretake for these lost children," Casimir said. Access to the latest technology allows for a true accounting of the missing children and will hopefully bring some peace and closure to those lives lost, she said in the release.

Casimir said band officials are informing community members and surrounding communities that had children who attended the school.

The First Nations Health Authority called the discovery "extremely painful" and said in a website posting that it "will have a significant impact on the Tk'emlups community and in the communities served by this residential school."

The authority's CEO, Richard Jock, said the discovery "illustrates the damaging and lasting impacts that the residential school system continues to have on First Nations people, their families and communities." — AP

Protest over language in France



Demonstrators hold a banner reading "we're right to revolt ourselves" as they protest in favour of Breton language learning after French court rejected regional language immersion programmes in public schools, in Guingamp on Saturday.

Quad fills crucial gap: Jaishankar EAM: India is imp part of Afghan talks

Washington, May 29:

The informal grouping of four countries in the Indo-Pacific region comprising Australia, India, Japan and the United States fills a very important gap that has emerged in contemporary times, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Saturday. "Quad today fills a very important gap that has emerged in contemporary times, where there are global or regional requirements, which cannot be filled by a single country. It cannot even be filled by one bilateral relationship, and which is not being addressed at the multilateral level," he told a group of Indian reporters as he concluded most of his meetings here.

Jaishankar, who is in the US on an official trip, said the situation in Afghanistan, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar underlined.

Quad was one of the key issues of discussion between Jaishankar and US officials, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.

"In my meeting with the Secretary of Defence, with

the Secretary of State, the Afghanistan issue obviously came up because it is a very important concern," he said.

"The possible scenarios, once the US military draws down is obviously something which matters to us, it matters very much to Afghanistan, it matters to the United States, and it has a larger regional resonance," Jaishankar said.

US President Joe Biden in April announced that all American troops would be withdrawn from Afghanistan by September 11 this year, thus bringing to end the country's longest war, spanning across two decades.

— PTI

Burning vessel may cause slight acid rains in Lanka

Colombo, May 29:

There could be slight acid rains due to the emission of nitrogen dioxide from the Singapore-flagged cargo ship which caught fire near the Colombo beach last week, Sri Lanka's apex environment body has warned, asking people to be vigilant in case of inclement weather.

The cargo vessel — MV X-PRESS PEARL — was carrying a consignment of chemicals and raw materials for cosmetics from

Hazira in Gujarat to Colombo Port. It caught fire 9.5 nautical miles from the coast here, where it was anchored outside the Port of Colombo on May 20. Apart from the 325 metric tonnes of fuel in its tanks, X-PRESS PEARL was loaded with 1,486 containers carrying about 25 tonnes of hazardous nitric acid.

"We observed that the emission of Nitrogen Dioxide from the MV X-PRESS PEARL was massive. With the emission of

Nitrogen Dioxide gas in the rainy season, there could be slight acid rains," Dharshani Lahandapura, Chairperson of Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), was quoted as saying by newsfirst.lk on Friday.

"Especially, the people in the close proximity to the coastal belt, should remain vigilant and ensure that you do not expose yourself to rain these days," the official said.

— PTI

onsibility to caretake for these lost children," Casimir said. Access to the latest technology allows for a true accounting of the missing children and will hopefully bring some peace and closure to those lives lost, she said in the release. Casimir said band officials are informing community members and surrounding communities that had children who attended the school.

The First Nations Health Authority called the discovery "extremely painful" and said in a website posting that it "will have a significant impact on the Tk'emlups community and in the communities served by this residential school."

The authority's CEO, Richard Jock, said the discovery "illustrates the damaging and lasting impacts that the residential school system continues to have on First Nations people, their families and communities." — AP

SHORT TAKES
CHINA CRAFT TO DOCK WITH SPACE STATION

Beijing, May 29: China on Saturday successfully launched an automated cargo space-craft carrying supplies, equipment and propellant for the country's new space station Tianhe. The Long March-7 Y3 rocket, carrying Tianzhou-2, blasted off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on the coast of the southern island province of Hainan, the China Manned Space Agency announced.

Spacecraft Tianzhou-2 is scheduled to dock with core the module of the space station Tianhe to deliver supplies, equipment and propellant.

It was launched after over a week's delay due to "technical reasons". Tianzhou-2 was launched for the first space station supply mission despite the initial delay, state-run *Global Times* reported.

The Tianhe module will act as the management and control hub of the space station Tiangong, meaning Heavenly Palace, with a node that could dock with up to three spacecraft at a time for short stays.

EXODUS AFTER 2ND VOLCANO ERUPTS IN CONGO

Goma, DR Congo, May 29: A second volcano erupted Saturday near the eastern DR Congo city of Goma, a week after Mount Nyiragongo roared back into life, causing devastation and sparking an exodus.

"Today the Murara volcano near an uninhabited area of Virunga erupted," government spokesman Patrick Muyaya said, referring to a wildlife reserve that is home to a quarter of the world's population of critically endangered mountain gorillas.

Murara is a small volcano considered a crater of Nyamuragira, which along with Nyiragongo is known for strong volcanic activity.

The strato-volcano spewed rivers of lava that claimed nearly three dozen lives and destroyed the homes of some 20,000 people before the eruption stopped.

TIMES SQUARE SHOOTING: MAN CHARGED

New York, May 29: The man accused of shooting and injuring three people in Times Square earlier this month has been charged after arriving in New York from Florida where he was arrested.

Farrakhan Muhammad, 31, is charged with attempted murder and multiple counts of assault, reckless endangerment and criminal use of a firearm, the New York Police Department said on Friday.

Muhammad has denied that he is responsible for the shooting on May 8 that wounded two women and a 4-year-old girl. The victims did not know each other.

New York Police Department Chief of Detectives James Essig has said that Muhammad was identified as the gunman by his brother, who told officers he was the intended target of the shooting.

U.S. Marshals arrested Muhammad near Jacksonville, Florida, four days after the shooting, along with a woman who authorities said travelled with him from New York.

LEBANESE SINGER DEPORTED FROM SAUDI ARABIA

Beirut, May 28: A prominent Lebanese singer and composer known for his strong opinions said he has been deported from Saudi Arabia after a 50-day detention — mostly in solitary confinement — because of opinions expressed online in support of Lebanon's president and his ally, the Iran-backed Hezbollah.

Samir Sfeir arrived in Beirut Thursday from Saudi Arabia. He looked haggard and grizzled — having lost his trademark long black bob. He also said he was forgiving of the authorities in Saudi Arabia, telling The Associated Press in a telephone call that he held no grudge. Sfeir, who had residency in the kingdom for five years, said he is now banned from returning. "I was bothed by the manner. I wish they just told me to leave and not come back. I would have done it," he said. Sfeir said he was "a political prisoner" in the Kingdom and his captors only questioned him on political issues, including his links to Hezbollah and President Michel Aoun. No charges were pressed, he said. "My investigator told me that I am making political statements," Sfeir said.

Europe sees dramatic fall in cases

Vaccination rates accelerate while hopes for rebirth of tourism industry being rekindled



Protesters attend an international mobilisation "International SOS for Health" in Brussels, on Saturday. More than 60 groups, associations and unions, in Europe and beyond, called to defend equal access to health. — AFP

Virus upsurge: Chinese city locks down neighbourhood

Beijing, May 29: The southern Chinese city of Guangzhou shut down a neighbourhood and ordered residents to stay home Saturday to be tested for the Coronavirus following an upsurge in infections that has rattled authorities. Guangzhou, a business and industrial centre of 15 million people north of Hong Kong, has reported 20 new infections over the past week. The number is small compared with India's thousands of daily cases but alarmed Chinese authorities who believed they had the disease under control.

The spread of infections was fast and strong, the official *Global Times* newspaper cited health authori-

ties as saying.

Saturday's testing order applied to residents of five streets in Liwan District in the city centre.

Outdoor markets, child care centres and entertainment venues were closed. Indoor restaurant dining was prohibited. Grade schools were told to stop in-person classes. People in parts of four nearby districts were ordered to limit outdoor activity.

China reports a handful of new cases every day but says almost all are believed to be people who were infected abroad. The mainland's official death toll stands at 4,636 out of 91,061 confirmed cases.

On Saturday, the National Health Commission repo-

rted two new locally transmitted cases in Guangzhou and 14 in other parts of the country that it said came from abroad.

Most of the latest infections in Guangzhou are believed to be linked to a 75-year-old man who was found May 21 to have the variant first identified in India, state media say. Most of the others lived together or attended a dinner with the man.

That infection spread to the nearby city of Nanshan, where one new confirmed case and two asymptomatic ones were reported Saturday after people from Guangzhou were tested, according to *The Global Times*. — AP

CHINA REPORTS 16 CONFIRMED VIRUS CASES

Beijing, May 29: China on Saturday reported 16 new confirmed Coronavirus cases, including two authorities said were believed to have been acquired locally.

The two locally transmitted cases were in Guangdong province in the south, adjacent to Hong Kong, the National Health Commission reported. It said the other infections are believed to have been acquired abroad. — AP

Vietnam finds hybrid variant

Hanoi, May 29: Vietnam has discovered a new Covid-19 variant which spreads quickly by air and is a combination of the Indian and British strains, state media reported Saturday.

The country is struggling to deal with fresh outbreaks across more than half of its territory, including industrial zones and big cities such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

More than 6,700 cases including 47 deaths have been reported in Vietnam — the lion's share have occurred since April.

"We have discovered a new hybrid variant from the Indian and the UK

strains," Health Minister Nguyen Thanh Long was quoted telling a national meeting on the pandemic Saturday.

"The characteristic of this strain is that it spreads quickly in the air. The concentration of virus in the throat fluid increases rapidly and spreads very strongly to the surrounding environment."

He did not specify the number of cases recorded with this new variant but said Vietnam will soon announce the discovery in the world's map of genetic variants.

There were seven known Coronavirus variants in Vietnam. — AFP

Island: China, Philippines swap protests

the island, which it said is an integral part of the Philippines over which it has sovereignty and jurisdiction. The 37.2-hectare (92-acre) island is the largest of nine mostly islets, reefs and shoals occupied by Philippine forces in the disputed waters.

The Manila government lists Thitu and outlying outcrops as part of a town in western Palawan province. Aside from Filipino troops and police, the latest flareup in a long simmering territorial feud in the strategic waterway that has escalated in the last two months.

The exchange of protests by the Asian neighbours over the island, internationally called Thitu, is the latest flareup in a long simmering territorial feud in the strategic waterway that has escalated in the last two months.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said Saturday it has filed a diplomatic protest against the incessant deployment, prolonged presence and illegal activities of Chinese maritime assets and fishing vessels in the vicinity of the Pag-asa islands. It used the Philippine name for Thitu, which China calls Zhongye Dao. The department demanded that China withdraws its vessels from near

his Twitter account Thursday night.

"I am deeply embarrassed by my actions and the distress they may have caused anybody who witnessed them," he added. "While accidental and not visible to the public, this was completely unacceptable, and I apologise unreservedly." In April, the MP was caught standing naked between the flags of Canada and Quebec, his private parts hidden by his phone, while connected by video to a Question Time session in Parliament.

video to a Question Time session in Parliament.

Amos, a member of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party, also cla-

imed that was an accident. In the most recent episode, he was caught urinating into a coffee cup, the Conservative opposition said in a statement.

"This is the second time Mr. Amos has been caught exposing himself to his colleagues in the House, and the House of Commons, virtual or otherwise, must be free of this type of unacceptable behaviour," said Conservative MP Karen Vecchio.

"This is a pattern of

behaviour from Mr. Amos and it's now clear that Trudeau's Liberals failed in their duty to ensure a safe work environment following the first incident," she hammered in a statement.

"This is the second time Mr. Amos has been caught exposing himself to his colleagues in the House, and the House of Commons, virtual or otherwise, must be free of this type of unacceptable behaviour," said Conservative MP Karen Vecchio.

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behaviour from Mr. Amos and it's now clear that Trudeau's Liberals failed in their duty to ensure a safe work environment following the first incident," she hammered in a statement.

After returning from the mountain, Furtenbach estimated more than 100 climbers and support staff have been infected. He said in an interview last week that it was obvious there were many cases at the base camp because he could see people were sick and could hear them coughing in their tents.

Furtenbach of Austria decided to halt his expedition this month and pull out his clients because of an outbreak among team members.

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FINAL PUSH A total of 41 teams continue scaling peak before season ends

Covid-19 fails to deter Everest climbers

Kathmandu, May 29: A year after Mount Everest was closed to climbers as the pandemic swept across the globe, hundreds are making the final push to the summit with only a few more days left in the season, saying they are undeterred by a Coronavirus outbreak in base camp.

Three expedition teams to Everest cancelled their climb this month following reports of people getting sick. But the remaining 41 teams decided to continue with hundreds of

climbers and their guides scaling the 8,849-metre top in the season that ends in May, before bad weather sets in.

"Even though the coronavirus has reached the Everest base camp, it has not made any huge effect like what is being believed outside of the mountain," said Mingma Sherpa of Seven Summit Treks, the biggest expedition operator on Everest.

"No one has really fallen seriously sick because of Covid or died like the rumors that have been

spreading." With 122 clients from 10 teams on Everest, the company led the biggest group but there were no serious illnesses among them, he said. Nepalese officials have downplayed reports of coronavirus cases on Mount Everest, apparently out of concern of creating chaos and confusion in the base camp.

After a gap year of no income from climbers, Nepal has been eager to cash in on this year's season. "Many people made it to the base camp and it is

possible that the people who went there from here could have been infected," Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli said.

"But that does not mean that it (Coronavirus) has reached the entire mountain, maybe a part of the base camp or the area below that."

In April, a Norwegian climber became the first to test positive at the Everest base camp. He was flown by helicopter to Kathmandu, where he was treated and later returned home. Prominent guide Lukas



SHORT TAKES
Jemimah to play for Superchargers

Mumbai: Young India batswoman Jemimah Rodrigues will play for Northern Superchargers in the inaugural edition of The Hundred in the UK starting on July 21. The 20-year-old joins her T20I skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, opener Shafali Verma and all-rounder Deepti Sharma in the 100-ball tournament involving eight men's and women's teams. "I am really looking forward to it (The Hundred). Something new, something different," Rodrigues told the BBC's "Stumped" podcast. "I have played for the Yorkshire Diamonds and my team is the Northern Superchargers. So, I have played a few of them before, Lauren Winfield is our captain," Rodrigues added. Rodrigues was named in India's squad for the tour of England to play a one-off Test in Bristol from June 16, followed by three ODIs and as many T20Is. — PTI

Gangjee moves to third in Mizuno

Okayama (Japan): Indian golfer Rahil Gangjee shot a sensational six-under 66, his best round of the year, to climb to the tied-third after the second round at the Mizuno Open, here on Saturday. With two spots for the 149th Open at Royal St. Georges, on offer this week, Gangjee has a lot to play for. In case he makes it, it will be his maiden appearance at a Major. No Indian has booked a spot as yet. Meanwhile, India's Shubhankar Sharma closed strongly with three birdies in the last five holes for a card of 2-under 69 in the second round to make the cut at the Made at HimmerLand golf tournament. Sharma rose to 3-under for 36 holes and made the cut comfortably in tied 40th place. — AFP

Milkha remains stable: Doctors

Chandigarh: Doctors treating Milkha Singh on Saturday said the condition of the legendary Indian sprinter remained stable but the oxygen requirement of his wife Nirmal Kaur rose marginally days after being admitted to a city hospital with Covid-19 infection. Milkha and his wife, who led the Indian women's volleyball team, continued to be closely monitored by the doctors at Fortis hospital in Mohali, where they are undergoing treatment after contracting the highly contagious virus. In its latest update about the condition of the couple, the hospital said, "Mr Milkha Singh continues to be stable, however Mrs Nirmal Milkha Singh's oxygen requirement has gone up marginally. Both continue to be monitored closely." The hospital had earlier said that they were being treated for Covid pneumonia. — PTI

Bajrang skips event in Poland

New Delhi: India's top wrestler Bajrang Punia will not compete in the upcoming Ranking Series event in Poland, saying more than the ranking points he desperately needs mat-training with strong sparring partners ahead of the Tokyo Olympics since the 65kg category is loaded with top performers. The 27-year-old said the pandemic has adversely impacted his training schedule because neither he could travel abroad nor anyone could be invited to India for practice.

While India's other Olympic-bound wrestlers will travel to Poland, Bajrang will go to Russia with his coach Georgian Shako Bentinidis. — PTI

Tatum scores 50, Celtics claw back

Los Angeles: Jayson Tatum busted out of a mini-slump, exploding for 50 points on Friday as the Boston Celtics clawed their way back into their Eastern Conference first-round series with a 125-119 win over the Brooklyn Nets. Tatum, shot a blistering 16-of-30 from the floor and drained five threes as the Celtics cut the Nets series lead to 2-1.

Tatum also scored 50 points in a win over Washington in a play-in game. — AFP

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CUP CONUNDRUM

BCCI seeks one month for final call on T20 WC

New Delhi, May 29: The BCCI on Saturday decided to seek one month's time from the ICC to assess the Covid-19 situation in India before taking a final call on the ICC T20 World Cup.

A BCCI official said all the members want the T20 World Cup to be held in India in last week of October but no decision can be taken right now.

"The BCCI representatives — president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah — will be seeking time till July 1 after which another SGM will be held to decide on whether we would go ahead with hosting of World T20."

"Right now, the health situation in the country doesn't allow us to take any final decision."

GANGULY, SHAH TO TRAVEL TO DUBAI

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah will join vice-president Rajiv Shukla in Dubai for the ICC Board Meeting on June 1 where there will be discussions on the fate of the T20 World Cup in India in October. "As they will ask for one month's time, the best option for BCCI is to hold it in Maharashtra — three grounds in Mumbai and one in Pune. However, the issue of Pakistan travelling to Mumbai could be more of a political decision where the security will also need to be factored in," the official said.

The senior state association member said there is also a tax rebate issue which is still an ongoing process.

"ICC wants tax waivers but we have to abide by government guidelines. But a World T20 in India means that all the stakeholders happen to gain. But sitting in May, you can't predict the health emergency in October. So we need some time," he said.

— PTI



A file photo of BCCI bigwigs with Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE's minister of culture, youth and social development. The remaining part of the IPL will be held during September-October in the UAE. — IPL

Team India all set for Test worlds

Dubai, May 29: The Indian team will stay in "managed isolation" before the World Test Championship final against New Zealand, the ICC announced on Saturday but did not mention the exact period of hard quarantine upon reaching UK.

World's top two Test teams will fight it out at the Hampshire Bowl in Southampton from June 18-22.

While New Zealand are already in England for a bilateral series against the hosts, the Virat Kohli-led Indian team will arrive in the UK on June 3 after competing a 14-day quarantine period in India.

"The event has now been granted an exemption by the UK government as outlined in The Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel and Operator Liability) (England) Regulations 2021, released on 17 May 2021," the ICC said in a release.

"....Upon landing, they will proceed directly to the on-site hotel at the Hampshire Bowl where they will be tested again before commencing a period of managed isolation," said the ICC release.

However the ICC release doesn't specify the duration of hard (room) quarantine in Southampton. For New Zealand team, ECB made it a three-day

mandatory room quarantine before allowing the players to train.

Regular tests will be conducted during the period of isolation.

The Indian team will enter UK after completing 14-days in a bio-bubble in Mumbai with six RT-PCR negative tests.

Some of the players like R. Ashwin, Mayank Agarwal, Washington Sundar are now allowed to use the hotel gymnasium from May 25 after a week-long room quarantine and three negative tests.

However a few like skipper Virat Kohli, and his wife ball deputy Rohit Sharma, all of whom joined late will have a complete room quarantined before boarding the UK flight.

They have been provided with gym equipments inside their rooms.

In the UK, players' activity will be allowed in a gradually increasing manner after each round of negative testing, moving from exercise in isolation to small group and then larger squad activity, whilst always remaining within the bio-secure venue.

The New Zealand team will move from the ECB bio-secure environment into the World Test Championship Final bubble on June 15 and will be subject to regular testing prior to and post arrival in Southampton. — PTI



The all-Indian Trafford Metrovics team that is making waves in the Cheshire County League in UK. — Sai Guda

Mana team in Manchester

MOSES KONDETY | DC HYDERABAD, MAY 29

A group of middle-aged men are making waves in Manchester, and they're all Indian. Meet the Trafford Metrovics third XI, a cricket team that is punching big in the Cheshire County League in north west England.

The 21-member squad is quite a staggering mix, comprising eight doctors, 10 IT professionals, one civil engineer, one accountant and a music enthusiast. They sure have the patience, drive, foundation, numbers and are on song.

Oh wait! Among these are 12 Telugu players, from Hyderabad, Bangalore, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Anantapur and other areas. Awesome.

They are currently sitting atop the 15-team West Division table, having won all three of their matches so far in their debut season. "We are kind of making a lot of news here. This is stemming from the fact that we still want to play... most of us are around 40 years old," beams player-manager Chanukya.

Fittingly, they play 40-

overs-a-side matches on Sundays that are well attended. "Our wives and kids come along to cheer us and it's like a holiday for them. It's more fun for them whilst we are playing serious cricket. With the families involved, we have become a social group as well," Chanukya chuckles.

However, "it's difficult to pick the playing XI. The leadership group sits down, analyses the opposition and discusses strategy — otherwise we just can't compete with teenagers steaming in and bowling you see," he laughs.

It all started in 2018 when Chanukya, along with captain Kalyan Chukkapalli, co-founded the Trafford Royals, which later became Royals. "Manchester is growing in terms of Asian population — Indians, Pakistanis and the ones from Afghanistan, who are all cricket mad. In the last five or six years there has been a lot of unorganised cricket going on — crazy rules and tennis ball. We played that for year-and-a-half and started kind of getting frustrated," informs Chanukya, who organises concerts by Indian artists and runs a music school too.

"Many of us have played some form of cricket at school or college and were dying to play proper cricket, a game that was part of our evolution back in India and one we hadn't played for long. We thought of setting up a club, pondered purchasing some land one by chipping in money. We then got three friendly matches with the Trafford Metrovics, the chairman of which asked us if we'd be interested in joining them as the third team after he came to know of our plans to have our own club. In terms of time scales, costing and

everything, it was much cheaper to join an existing club.

"And the club have assured us that at no point will they ask us to take any other players. But we don't want to be seen as discriminatory against anyone else and provide a level playing field. However, we will promote this among our community and push them to come and practice, train and be eligible for qualification," Chanukya says.

The team has plans to "set up a conveyor belt to train youngsters as an academy and give a slight advantage to Indian youngsters."

Way to go.

The team: Kalyan Chukkapalli (captain), Chanukya Rajagopal, Dr Aravind Komaravelli, Dr Brahma Peram, Dr Chetan Upadhyaya, Belle, Dr Kiran Chandra, Dr Kishan Sharma, Dr Mahesh D Kumar, Dr Nishan Bhandary, Dr Shashi Chandra-shekarai, Malleswara Reddy, Naveen Kumar Alwala, Parvez Mirza, Pradeep Sathyaranayanan, Praveen Pattisapu, Praveen Tyagi, Ramakrishna Maddi, Shailesh Kumar, Shivaji Rao Janasalay, Sreeshylam Pogaku and Vara Vantapati.

That means Djokovic is scheduled to face Federer in the quarter-finals before a potential semi-final blockbuster with Nadal.

"I see it as completely normal. I'm not worried about it," said Nadal, who is in fine form this year.

At last year's delayed Roland Garros, Nadal swept past Djokovic in straight sets in the final.

It was Nadal's 10th win at the tournament against just two losses since his 2005 title-winning debut.

Nadal, who defeated Djokovic in the Rome final, starts his campaign against Alexei Popyrin of Australia, the world number 62.

Giving Djokovic hope, however, is the knowledge that he was responsible for one of Nadal's losses in Paris, in the 2015 quarter-finals. Federer, with his 40th birthday fast approaching, remains the sentimental favourite.

— AFP



Hyderabad Cricket Association president Mohammed Azharuddin attends BCCI's Special General Meeting from his residence in Hyderabad on Saturday.

Azhar goes one-up, attends BCCI meet

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 29

This shows that the appointments made at the HCA AGM after I concluded the meeting are not recognised by the BCCI.

— MOHAMMED AZHARUDDIN
President, Hyderabad Cricket Association

illegal. It doesn't work like that," he said in reference to the appointment of Suneel Kante as CEO by the rival faction.

Azhar also vowed to have the appointment process audited by the BCCI. "I will make sure of that. According to rules, the BCCI has the right to check if it was in compliance with the constitutional provisions," he said.

The former Indian captain insists he is on the right path. "I am legally right, and am doing everything for the benefit of the Association. I want to do something for the HCA, which I represented on my way to the Indian team," he said.

In the same vein, he assured youngsters that "the local league (which usually starts in June) will not be affected, unless there are Covid-related restrictions."

"Honing talent is of prime importance. All I want to do is improve facilities for the cricketers. As a young boy I used to travel long distances for practice," he added.

Shifting to his differences with other members of the Apex Council, Azhar said:

"15-20 people have disputes with the clubs and the Ombudsman is the right person to sort them."

"You cannot bulldoze governance with numbers. The AGM and Apex Council meetings have to be convened by me, you cannot make appointments behind my back... they are not over yet."

SUSHIL POLICE CUSTODY EXTENDED BY 4 DAYS

New Delhi, May 29: A Delhi court on Saturday extended by four days the police custody of Olympic wrestling medallist Sushil Kumar and Ajay Kumar Sehrawat, arrested in connection with the murder of a 23-year-old grappler, saying that no one is above the law.

Sushil and his associates allegedly assaulted Sagar Dhankar and two of his friends at Delhi's Chhatrasal Stadium. Sagar succumbed to injuries later. Following Sushil and Ajay Kumar's arrest, the court had remanded them in six days police custody on May 23.

On being produced before the court at the end of the remand period on Saturday, the Delhi Police moved an application seeking extension of custody by seven more days, stating that Sushil was the mastermind and several recoveries are yet to be made for which his interrogation is required.

Allowing their interrogation for only four days, Metropolitan Magistrate Mayank Goel said, "No one is above law and law treats everyone equally. Though the Constitution guarantees the right to life and liberty to all persons whether they are accused or not, but that right is also subject to certain exceptions." — PTI

Mary sets her eyes on 6th gold medal

Dubai, May 29: Six-time world champion MC Mary Kom (51kg) will seek her sixth gold when she squares off against Kazakhstan's Nazym Kyzaibay in the women's 51kg final of the Asian Boxing Championships here on Sunday.

The 38-year-old Olympic-bound Mary Kom had prevailed 4-1 over Mongolia's Lutsaikhan Altansetseg in the semifinals on Thursday. She will face a stiff challenge from the two-time world champion Kyzaibay in the summit clash.

Another Olympic-bound boxer Pooja Rani, who received a walk-over in the semi-finals, will fight against an in-form Mavlida Movlonova of Uzbekistan, who ended the challenge of London Olympics medalist Marina Volnova in the last-4 stage.

Anupama (+81kg) and Lalbuatsahi (64kg) will also face strong Kazakh boxers in their respective finals. — PTI