

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 23 MAY 2021

WEATHER

Max: 38.2°C
Min: 25.5°C
RH: 39%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Thunderstorms likely.
Max/Min temp. 38/27°C



WORLD | 11

Nepal House dissolved, poll in Nov.

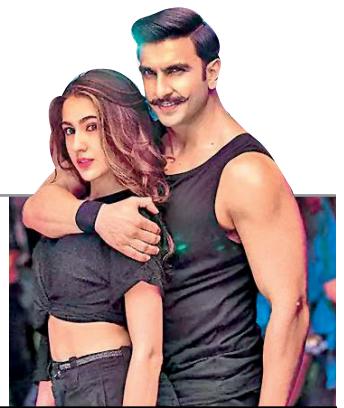


SPORTS | 12

Olympics on track:
IOC chief

TABLOID

Women empowerment:
Most wanted in cinema



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ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana
Tithi: Vaishakha Shuddha Ekadasi till 6.41 am; then
Vaishakha Shuddha Dwadashi till
3.37 am (Monday)

Star: Hasta till 12.08 pm
Varjyanam: 7.21 pm to 8.47 pm
Durmuhuram: 4.57 pm to
5.48 pm

Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Shawwal 10,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajr: 4.35 am

Zohar: 12.23 pm

Asar: 4.45 pm

Maghrib: 6.50 pm

Isha: 8.04 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.43 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.42 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 2.36 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 2.21 AM

COUNTER POINT



Unboxed medicines? Don't throw them away... Let's try them on Covid patients!

SHORT TAKES

Music director Raam laxman dead

Mumbai: Veteran music director Raam laxman, best known for his work on Rajshri Productions' blockbuster movies — *Maine Pyar Kiya, Hum Apke Hain Koun..! and Hum Saath Saath Hain* — died due to a cardiac arrest. He was 78. The composer, whose real name was Vijay Patil, passed away at his residence in Nagpur in the early hours of Saturday, his son Amar said.

■ Report on tabloid

Class XII: Exams for big subjects

New Delhi: Conducting exams for only major subjects, planning them in two phases keeping in mind the Covid-19 situation in respective states or devising an internal assessment scheme — these are among the suggestions likely to be discussed at a high-level meeting on Sunday to decide the fate of pending class 12 board examination.

■ Another report inside

Assam plans Bill to protect cows

Gauhati: Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi on Saturday said the government is planning to introduce a cow protection bill in the next assembly session to ban transport of the animal outside the state. Addressing the first session of the 15th Assam Legislative Assembly, Mukhi said people revere and worship cows, considering it a sacred animal.

IMA seeks action on Baba Ramdev

New Delhi: The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Saturday demanded that the Centre should take strict action against yoga guru Ramdev for allegedly misleading people by making "unlearned" comments and describing modern medicine as "stupid science", remarks which were denied as "false" by the Hardikar Panjali Yogpeeth Trust.

■ Another report inside

TS names VCs for 10 varsities

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Universities in Telangana state finally got Vice-Chancellors (VCs) after nearly two years. The state government on Saturday issued orders appointing VCs for 10 state universities. The orders were issued after Governor and Chancellor of Universities Dr Tamilsai Soundararajan gave her nod on Saturday to the names referred by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao for approval.

Only one woman figures in the list of VCs. While six from OC category made it to the selection list, there are two from BCs and one each from SC and ST categories. The VCs of Osmania and Kakatiya universities belong to the BC communities, Satavahan University belongs to the SC Mala community and Palamuru University to the ST community.

■ Page 6: VCs did not have VCs for 2 years

THE NEW VCS

OU: Prof D. Ravinder Yadav (BC)
Kakatiya University: Prof. T. Ramesh (BC)
Telangana University (Nizamabad): Prof. D. Ravinder (OC)
Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University (Hyderabad): Prof. Sitarama Rao (OC)
Potti Sriramulu Telugu University (Hyderabad): Prof. T. Kishan Rao (OC)
Palamuru University (Mahabubnagar): Prof. Laxmikanth Rathode (ST)
MG University (Nalgonda): Prof. Ch. Gopal Reddy (OC)
JNTU Hyderabad: Prof. Katta Narsimha Reddy, (OC)
Satavahan University, Karimnagar: Prof. Malleshem (SC Mala)
Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University: Kavita Daryani (OC)

Suvendu kin get Y-level security

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

In a move that could further escalate tension between Centre and West Bengal government, the Union home ministry has now decided to provide Y-category security cover to Sisir Kumar Adhikari—Lok Sabha MPs and the father and brother of Suvendu Adhikari, who defeated Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from Nandigram during the recent Assembly elections in Bengal.

The entire Adhikari

family, which has considerable political influence, in the Nandigram region of West Bengal was earlier a part of the TMC before switching sides to the BJP. The move to provide security cover to the duo comes close on the heels of home ministry earlier providing Central security cover to all the newly elected 77 BJP legislators in West Bengal. The Adhikaris and most BJP MLAs now have a Y+ category security under the CRPF. They will be protected by a personal security officer along with 11 armed policemen.

LOCKDOWN | TROUBLE

Bikes seized, many penalised ₹1,000 as police step up vigil; KTR steps in after protests

User charges at graveyards to be regulated

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

It took Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's admonishment for Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) officials to finally issue instructions to graveyards about collecting only the stipulated "user charges" from families for performing the last rites of their dead, whether the cause of death is Covid-19 or otherwise.

There have been numer-

ous complaints since March this year about crematoria collecting huge amounts, sometimes ranging from ₹80,000 to ₹1.2 lakh, for cremating those who die after contracting Coronavirus. Families felt this was atrocious after they have already paid huge amounts to hospitals while trying to save their kin. Numerous complaints had been lodged through various platforms but GHMC officials remained oblivious to

what is happening. It all changed after the Chief Minister held a review meeting on Friday after visiting the MGM Hospital in Warangal. At the meet-

ing, he pulled up officials of GHMC, including commissioner Lokesh Kumar, as well as those of municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) department over the state of affairs.

The Chief Minister instructed them to act immediately and regulate user charges at graveyards and crematoriums.

This led to a cascading effect, with GHMC zonal commissioners asked to inspect graveyards and crematoriums and ensure

that user charges are being collected as per norms. Zonal commissioners have carried out inspections and posed for a few pictures too at the crematoriums.

However, *Deccan Chronicle* has found that user charges at all major crematoriums and graveyards remained the same on Saturday too, with no relief to kin of the deceased.

■ Page 6: Action to be taken on those charging extra

Cops stop food delivery execs, firms halt services

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

The attempts on Saturday by the city police to strictly enforce the lockdown resulted in sudden stoppage of services by food delivery agencies that said they were pulling their staff out of the streets because of police officials preventing them from taking their delivery routes.

Two major food delivery companies, Zomato and Swiggy, said they were suspending their services as police officials were stopping their staff at check posts. "This has caused a lot of inconvenience to people staying isolated because of Covid, or those needing other food delivery services," they said.

Meanwhile, customers of food delivery apps in certain parts of Hyderabad received in-app notifica-

tion that "as per mandate, all restaurants will remain closed from 2.45 pm to 6 am."

■ MINISTER K.T. RAMA RAO said he will discuss the matter with the director general of police

identity of food delivery services and hence carrying out verifications. The delivery executives are not being stopped. Once their details are verified, they are allowed to leave," he said.

"While the recent directive by the government allows Swiggy to operate as an essential service not just for our food deliveries but also Genie and other services, we have paused our operations due to the on-ground challenges on Saturday. We are prioritising the safety of delivery partners while we await clarity on this matter," a Swiggy spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, Zomato executives told the media that they were notified that the app would be in service till 4 pm on Saturday evening.

■ Page 6: Zomato: Unforeseen development



A large number of motorists stand in line to pay fine for violating lockdown orders near Parade Ground in Secunderabad on Saturday. Many of them were executives of food delivery companies.

A NOTICE issued by the IT ministry stated that a "false statement" is circulated online that implies that an 'Indian variant' of coronavirus is spreading abroad

across the countries.

The IT ministry said the matter has already been clarified by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on May 12, 2021 through a press statement.

The social media platforms have been asked to "remove all the content that names, refers to, or implies 'Indian variant' of corona virus from your platform immediately".

Previously, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had issued advisories regarding curbing of false news/misinformation on social media platforms.

— PTI

Remove posts on 'Indian variant', Centre orders SM

New Delhi, May 22: The government has asked social media companies to immediately remove any content on their platform which mentions or refers to the term 'Indian variant' of Coronavirus, in a bid to curb spread of misinformation around Covid-19.

Digital platforms said they have received the latest advisory.

On Friday, the Information Technology ministry wrote to all social media platforms emphasising that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has not associated the term "Indian Variant" with the B.1.617 variant of the coronavirus in any of its reports.

A notice issued in this regard by the IT ministry states that a "false statement" is being circulated online that implies that an 'Indian variant' of coronavirus is spreading

ed near Jalandhar. His associate Ajay Kumar, accused in the case, has also been arrested," a source told a news agency.

On May 18, Kumar had moved an anticipatory bail in New Delhi's Rohini court, but the court rejected his bail plea.

■ Report on Page 12

■ New Delhi, May 22: India's two-time Olympic medallist wrestler Sushil Kumar, who was on the run for over a fortnight for alleged links with the murder of former international wrestler Sagar Dhanakar, was arrested by Delhi Police in Punjab on Saturday, according to a source.

"Kumar has been arrest-

ed near Jalandhar. His associate Ajay Kumar, accused in the case, has also been arrested," a source told a news agency.

On May 18, Kumar had moved an anticipatory bail in New Delhi's Rohini court, but the court rejected his bail plea.

■ Report on Page 12

CLASSIFIEDS

DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 23 MAY 2021

pg 2

FOR SALE PROPERTY

COMMERCIAL

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/AT000158)

GRADE A warm shell(Power, 100%Power backup, A/C) office space operational building housing many MNC clients with OC available for sale/lease , beside DSL Virtual Mall. 2,000- 60,000 Sqft. Contact: 9000033726 (W/2122/AT000158)

KAVURI HILLS Prime Location Commercial Space Available in Ground+ Mezzanine 5300sqft. For sale. Price: 22k Per- Sft. Serious Buyers. Contact: 986610024. (HYMM/2122/C01177)

COMMERCIAL BUILDING at LB Nagar, Hyderabad Is for Sale. 4 floors with Stilt Parking 1500Sft, 61 Sq. yds. East main road Facing, two side roads, Single Tenant, with long lease, Getting Rs.4,60,000 Rent. Genuine buyers only. Contact: 9849779988,9949099242. (HYMM/2122/C01247)

MALKAJGIRI @JAINS Balaji Big Town, G+5 Floors Commercial Property in Prime Location at Malkajgiri. Showroom, Shops & Office Spaces Available. Handover in 6 months. Ph:812030266 (HYCL/2122/C00414)

COMMERCIAL OFFICE space at Punjagutta, renovated, central location, 1600sqft, 3 reserved car parking areas, modular work stations and cabins. Sale price: 1.2cr. Contact: 8121171819 (HYMM/2122/C01047)

JAINS FRIENDS Square, G+5 Floors Commercial Property. Prime Location at Surbita Ctr, E/F 4th & 5th Floor. Best suitable office Spaces available. Sizes, 2000sqft to 4,000sqft. Handover in 3 Months. Ph:901075552. (HYCL/2122/C00413)

FLATS

DOUBLE BEDROOM

BEGUMPET AREA Gurumurthy lane 2 BHK 1000 Sft including one Car Park ready for Occupation. Contact: 9849693729/ 798930523. (S/2122/C00307)

PANJAGUTTA, 2BHK Flat, 900Sft, 51Sq.yards. Undivided Share, Rs:65Lakhs Negotiable. 25,000 Present Rental income. Near Irum Manzi Metro Station, Ph:9052325453 (HYMM/2122/C01174)

RTC X'ROAD 1500Sft 2bhk spacious E/F new flat for sale 4thfloor ready to move per sq ft 5500/- negotiable. Ph:9704499989/ 8096426365 (HYMM/2122/C01066)

NEW FLATS For sale @ Airawathan Kapra Sainikpu 2Bhk -Facing North, East & West Spacious & Perfect Vastu Ph:808813335, 912105150 (HYMM/2122/C01072)

2BHK FLATS under construction 1000sf built up area near Olive hospital next to Salarjung Colony. Car parking, 24hrs water, CCTV, wash and slaughter area. Ph:707964552, 9951710495. (HYMM/2122/C01242)

HOUSE FOR SALE Siddi Vinayakan Aked, 3rd floor, Flr. No-302, 780 Sq. ft. with furniture. Location: Bapanchi, Namalangudi, Secunderabad. Contact: 9866112072. (S/2122/C00304)

THREE & MORE

3 BHK Luxury Flats @ 3550/- Sft in gated community with club house & amenities @ Pocharam, Near New Infosys Campus from Rs.48.28 Lacs onwards. Modi Builders. Ph:7677120120. (B/2122/C00132)

2/3 BHK Luxury Flats @ 3700/- Sft in Gated Community with Club House & Amenities @ Hayathnagar near LB Nagar, 2 BHK @ 26.67 Lacs & 3 BHK starts from 44.25 Lacs onwards. Modi Builders. 7677120120. (B/2122/C00133)

LUXURY 3BHK flat1778 sft in VIP area MLA Cly Banjara Hills,100% Vastu. 3Baths Balcony lift security parking store room Contact 9177830055 (W/2122/AT00104)

BEGUMPET - LEELANAGAR 3BHK Flat 1690Sft First Floor in Imperial Prestige Apartments, West Facing, Crone For Sale. Ph:9848261324. (No Brokers). (HYMM/2122/C00892)

BEGUMPET: CHIKOT Gardens, Very prime location, close to metro railway station, 3 BHK 2340 sfts. New Apartment. Contact: 9395118888. (HYMM/2122/C01216)

HAYATHNAGAR: 3BHK Apartments 1381st, N / E Facing, GHMC Approved, Avail 80% Bank Loans. Ph:9182135265 (HYMM/2122/C01155)

HIMAYATHNAGAR, FAST Completing 3Bedroom and Duplex Apartments. Luxurious Highrise Apartments with Swimming Pool, Gym, Vastu Etc. Possession in December 2021 Contact: 9849023453 (HYMM/2122/C01098)

JUBLEEHILLS, SHAIKPET Prime Location, Ready to Occupy 100% BHK Ultra Luxurious Hi-Profile Premium Gated Community. Sizes 3000 Sft & 7100 Sft. Each 18x12 Feet 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)

KONDAPUR FLAT to move 3BHK corner Deluxe flats 1657, 1702Sft East & West facing 100% vastu. Ph:9100010709, 9100774959 (HYMM/2122/C01172)

L.B.NAGAR, SAGR Road new premium Flat for sale. 2000 sqft, 3BHK, 2 carpark & Roof Top Garden. Ph:7077000077. (HYCL/2122/C00398)

SRINAGAR, DWARKAPURI Colony, luxury apartment ready to occupy in brand new flat 2255 sft. 3BHK, 4th Floor, North facing, 2 car parking, in Kapur Towers, opp: Union Bank of India. Contact: 7670946860, 9700550488, 812151157. (A/2122/C00104)

3 BHK premium flats. Gated community with clubhouse and swimming pool on 200 ft wide Mallapur Main road. Model flats Ready! Must see! Ph:703276321. (S/2122/C00308)

MLA COLONY-ROAD no.12 Banjara-Hills perfect-Vastu 3yr-Old Fully Furnished 3000-sft. Fantastic-view 1-flat per-floor fully air-conditioned with-TV-Fridge-WIFI Washing-Machine complete-furniture. 3.75cr 9963699000. (W/2122/AT000161)

SRINAGAR COLONY 3BHK 1650Sft Car parking, posh area, fully furnished & woodwork, price: 90Lacs & ph: 9963951691 (HYMM/2122/C01253)

MULTIPLE FLATS

1200SQFEET 6FLATS @ Mahendrashah, thukarampet, near.marepally, Groundfloor, firstfloor 4flats & penthouse, 15years old, bikerapping flatrate:36Lakh's & carparking flat : 45Lakh's,loan available,rent:15kpm & Gandhibavan, nampally old apartment & bowpenly vegetablemarket 4oldapartments (W/2122/AT000132)

GACHIBOWLI 245 sq.yds, HIG hight plot commercial permission. Immediate sale, adjacent to DLF. Suitable for hotel, hotel, 9394050289. (A/2122/C00111)

GEMINI COLONY, Rammang-MSRD 200 Sq.Yds 40X50 E/F, 200 One Lakh Sq.Yrd. Genuine Buyers onetime payment. NPL's preferred. Ph:9989939975. (S/2122/C0012)

SHANTHI NAGAR, Masab tank, 45sq.yards East facing, building,100% vastu, Fancy plot Ph. No. 7732048609 (W/2122/AT000152)

3000 ACRES Resorts Project, Sagar Road, Ibrahimpatnam 1 Acre 20L buyback in 2 years. Ph:866507/234. (HYCL/2122/C00411)

SNAPUR X ROAD 6600 sq.yards, South Face (Veedhipotu), Old House, 3 Rooms Slab+ 3 Rooms Penku, 30,00/- per Sq.yard, Beside Haya greevachary Compound, Srinivasa Colony, Balasamudram, Hanmakonda, Warangal. Ph:994424759, 998974355. (HYCL/2122/C0007)

BANJARA HILLS, Road 3 and 5, Luxury 5 BHK independent villas, with car park, swimming pool, Kitchen garden, open air Barbeque, Italian Marble flooring, German luxury bath fittings, etc. 4.5 cr onwards. R.K.Estates (Builders, Contractors, Interiors) 9391015374 (W/2122/AT000163)

CHANCE PROPERTY (Plot) 700 Sq.yards, North East Corner, Mohan Nagar, Kotahpet, Hyderabad. Prime Location, And More Chance Properties Available in Hyderabad And Outskirts. Ph: 8374399578/ 6303107421. (HYMM/2122/C01237)

LAYOUT PLOTS for sale. 56.57, 58, 69 to 74 at New Sun city, Survey no:200 Hydhabad Village, Shabd Mandala, Chitradhama, 971561021300 Chid Pasha: 7729020118 (S/2122/C00315)

MALLAPUR 907.8 sqyd Commercial 3 side road north east corner plot for sale near Narasimha Colony contact 7981189610 (W/2122/AT000145)

575 SQ.YARDS East Facing Plot Near Suchitra Junction. Suitable for Commercial/ Residential/ Row Houses. Reasonably Priced, Clear Title. Contact: 9652697697. (HYCL/2122/C00410)

MACHINERY

GOOD RUNNING Condition 45 MM Camera Machine Complete Set & One Black Ink Linx Printer for Sale@ Hyd. Cont: 9848093292 (HYMM/2122/C01105)

REQUIRE SECOND Hand, OD Protector/ Angle Board Making Machine Complete set. (Reel stand, Glue tank & winder with Synchronise cutting & Punching Machine) Pls contact: Gopal Krishna Packaging Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai. Contact Ph:735950908. E-mail: ashok@qkpapers.com (HYCL/2122/C00345)

SERILINGAMPALY, 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)

SRINAGAR COLONY, 330 Sq.Yds, 400, 220, 3BHK Flats, 1.2, 1.7, 1.8Cr available. Kolt (Sultan Bazar) 530 Sq.Yds. Prime location. Ph:9989695031. (A/2122/C0109)

TIRUMULHERY EXCELLENT 3 Bed Room Duplex house RT colony 83yards 1200Sft Close to Main Road Contact: Satyanarayana 9848118990 (HYMM/2122/C01175)

DELUXE HOUSE for Sale. West Maredapally, 240 Sq.Yds, G+2 with Pent. Lift, Parking sufficient water, 1Lk Rent. Total income, total 6700 Sq.Ft. Going USA. Ph:701355181. (S/2122/C00309)

YAPRAL: TRIPLEX Villa Sale, Andal Homes, Gated, Community, 3000.sft Built Up, 1675.yds, East Facing, Rs.1.8cr

For Sale, Contact: 9849022033 (HYMM/2122/C01068)

INDUSTRIAL LAND

INDUSTRIAL LANDS/ Sheds Sale/ Buy/ Rent 500yds, 2acres @Phasaiyalaram & Patancheri. Likitha Consultancy Ph:9308621324. (HYMM/2122/C01154)

FOR SALE: Industrial Land, IDA, Uppal, 350 Sq.yds with Shd, C-16/3, East Facing. Contact: 9866615350 (HYMM/2122/C01116)

LAND

1000SQ.YDS LAND East Facing On Road. Wide 30'-0" Singe Wide Car title at No-3, Jeevanpuri. Ph:91.35.0000- Fixed and Another Property. 467 Sq.yds East Facing On 30' Wide Road. Clear Title Out Rate 15,500. Fixed. For Sale. Genuine Owner Can Contact, Agents Excuse. Please Contact: 773086155. (HYCL/2122/C00415)

MAIN ROAD, Land for Sale. 7000 Sq.Yds Silent wald layout, LRS clear, Thimailpaig Village, near BITS Pilani. Ph:8919386685. (S/2122/C00305)

PRIME RESIDENTIAL Property at pristine location, 2250+ sq.yards, located off Road no. 12, Banjara Hills. Two sides road, Excellent Bumper. 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 Priti block, Sree Vensal Towers Kompli for sale. Contact: 9440412464 Brokers excuse (W/2122/AT000160)

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3 BHK premium flats. Gated community with clubhouse and swimming pool on 200 ft wide Mallapur Main road. Model flats Ready! Must see! Ph:703276321. (S/2122/C00308)

PILOTS

JANACHAITANYA HOUSING Private Venture's Plots. At Attapur, Miyapur & Jiyawada Highway. Sell Or Buy: Contact: 9346666329. (HYCL/2122/C00343)

BANJARA HILLS 250 yards 300' 600', Jubilee hills 200, navanirman nagar colony 390 yards South facing KBR park view 100% Vastu. 500' East 600' East 71' East 1200' 1500' West. Banjara hills independent houses/Residential plots & All Gated Community Villas 10cr to 50cr. 9966991449, 9394022449. (W/2122/AT000161)

GACHIBOWLI 245 sq.yds, HIGH hight plot commercial permission. Immediate sale, adjacent to DLF. Suitable for hotel, hotel, 9394050289. (A/2122/C00111)

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THREE & MORE

SHORT TAKES

BJP LEADER WANTS FOOD SERVICES ALLOWED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Bharatiya Janata Party senior leader Gudur Narayana Reddy on Saturday urged the state government to allow food delivery executives to deliver food to homes in view of the lockdown in Hyderabad and in other parts of the state.

In a media statement, he said that food delivery to homes had come to halt on Saturday suddenly as the police were not allowing the delivery staff to travel on the roads after 10 am. Delivery staff and those who had ordered the food online were caught unawares by this sudden development on Saturday morning.

Narayana Reddy said that till Friday food delivery had been allowed in the city though the lockdown was in force. On Saturday, he said, police stopped the delivery staff on the roads and allegedly beat some of them up.

He said that stopping food delivery would leave thousands starving. "In Hyderabad there are thousands of aged people who order for food online as they cannot cook due to ill-health and physical weakness. Many bachelors depend on eateries and hotels.

OWAISI SLAMS ACTION ON DELIVERY EXECS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Asaduddin Owaisi, Hyderabad MP and president of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), on Saturday took strong objection to the city police stopping food delivery executives from carrying out their duties.

Reacting to the police action of stopping these executives at various locations in the city, Owaisi pointed out that the Telangana government order on lockdown had allowed free movement of food delivery executives. "The GO on lockdown in Telangana clearly states that food delivery is permitted. Why are delivery personnel being detained then? They must be released along with their vehicles immediately. These are poor youths trying to get by," (sic) the MP tweeted while tagging the Telangana DGP, and heads of all the three commissionates in his tweet.

In another tweet that tagged the Telangana chief secretary, the Hyderabad MP said, "If the govt has decided to not allow food delivery, then please amend the GO. Till such an amendment is made, food delivery personnel should not be stopped."

Cops out in full force for curbs

Seize over 5,600 vehicles in one day

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

The police on Saturday was out in full force as it took the lockdown enforcement up by several notches, cracking down on those out on the streets. In the process, the cops fairly liberally put to work their sticks even as they went about seizing some 5,600 vehicles during the day, just inside the city limits and also booked a large number of cases against people for violating the lockdown.

City police commissioner Anjani Kumar who on Friday warned of a strict implementation of the lockdown, reiterated on Saturday the resolve of the police to keep those people who have no business to be outside their homes off the streets. The police chiefs of Cyberabad and Rachakonda commissioners — V.C. Sajjanar and Mahesh Bhagwat — too, were out on the streets, as was the Hyderabad city police chief, overseeing the lockdown enforcement. Anjani Kumar said that only individuals allowed to be on work as part of the health services, other

AD-ECHALN
Your OTP is 4745 to verify your mobile number with Telangana State Police.
Sir/Madam, you are involved in a violation 1. Disobedience of orders in LOCKDOWN (S 51(b) of DM Act) for which a challan No. HYD48FM21092026, on your ID: 9701671285 date & Time: 22/MAY/2021 11:48, with a direction to pay the amount rupees 1000/-Rs at all of the following designated places. eSeva/MeeSeva/TSONline or Online/PayTM/T-Wallet/ SBIL/BILLDESK/ICICI, etc) payment through our website

Picture of the Challan imposed on violators.

seen using their sticks quite freely on the backs, legs and even on the bikes that many youth were travelling on at various checkpoints as they tried to impress upon youngsters that they should stay home and not roam about during the lockdown hours.

However, the enthusiasm of the police officials at some places got the better of them as in the case of a young man who was rushing to Osmania General Hospital to donate blood to a pregnant woman who urgently needed an infusion. The young man, Goutham, in a video posted on social media platforms, said he was stopped by the police near Dilsukhnagar while he was on his way to OGH as a pregnant woman needed B+ blood, which was his blood group.

"I explained that I was on my way to do this and also showed a related medical report about the blood requirement. However, I was fined ₹1,000 for lockdown violation. After that I went to the hospital and donated the blood and was given a blood donor certificate by the hospital," he said.

Meanwhile, cops were

CRIES OF PENNLESS GO UNHEARD WITH FOCUS ON MEDICARE

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Unlike during the lockdown imposed last year, this year marginalised communities seem to be hit harder as government agencies, NGOs and philanthropists have focused more on medical needs than livelihood and food.

During the second spell of lockdown, poor and lower-middle-class people are neither getting economic support and household provision, nor a day's food to satisfy their hunger. This time, these NGOs and individuals are focusing on providing medical aid instead of distributing groceries and cooked food.

It is not just the economically poor who are facing the impact of lockdown, but lower-middle-class families with meagre income are badly hit too. Teachers of budget schools, taxi drivers, auto-rickshaw drivers, mobile phone repairs workers, motor mechanics, small printers, employees outsourced in government departments, beauticians, housemaids, salespersons and others who fall into ₹10,000 to ₹15,000 monthly income groups, are the worst hit. Most of them are not in a position to provide bread and butter to their family members.

Farhatunnisa of Aziz Bagh, a teacher in a private school in the Old City, said last year the school management had paid the 75 per cent to 50 per cent salary during the lockdown, but this year they were not getting salaries after the announcement by the government about financial aid to employees of private schools.

"It is true that last year many NGOs had come forward to help us, but this year they also are keeping quiet, she said. Moulana Ahmed Abdur-Rahman Siddique who distributed 9,000 kits containing grocery articles during the first lockdown last year, said this time they were distributing in a limited manner as those who supported them in this cause were now giving priority to providing medical



Additional commissioner of police Shikha Goel ensures strict lockdown near Koti as motorists violate lockdown rules in Hyderabad on Saturday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Cops seize 205 vehicles in south zone for violations

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

SENIOR POLICE officials were seen in action on roads in different places. Vehicles of those who tried to argue with the police were seized.

Special check posts were established at Madina Circle, Azakhana Zehra Circle, City College, Mir Chowk, Falaknuma, Lal Darwaza, Shah Ali Banda, Hussaini Alam and Bahadurpura Road. At Azakhana Zehra, cops intercepted three transgenders coming on a Scooty. They initially pleaded with the policemen to allow them to proceed, and when their request was refused, they created a scene, the police said.

Senior police officials were seen in action on roads in different places. Vehicles of those who tried to argue with the police were seized. Several food delivery executives from Zomato and Swiggy, apart from other e-commerce services were caught at Mehdiyapatnam, Asifnagar, Nampally, MJ Market, Charminar, Mir Alam Mandi, Shah Ali Banda and other places.

Senior police officials were seen in action on roads in different places. Vehicles of those who tried to argue with the police were seized. Several food delivery executives from Zomato and Swiggy, apart from other e-commerce services were caught at Mehdiyapatnam, Asifnagar, Nampally, MJ Market, Charminar, Mir Alam Mandi, Shah Ali Banda and other places.

Syed Ali Jeffery, a resident of Chaderghat, said he was returning home from the hospital after administering chemotherapy to his mother, when he was intercepted at three places at Masab Tank, Koti and Abids. The cops were not ready to verify the prescription and patients. He could not convince them that he was coming from the hospital, he said.

DCP South Zone, Dr Gajarao Bhupal said a special drive was launched on Saturday to ensure strict implementation of lockdown. In the South Zone, 205 vehicles were seized till 4:00 pm and the riders were booked under the Disaster Management Act and Pandemic Act. He said it was observed that the pandemic situation was coming under control after imposing the lockdown. "If we implement lockdown strictly, we can get rid of Corona cases and we hope that the cases will be under control by May end," he said.

Meanwhile, AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi objected to the police action on vehicle users.

Entry to TS from other states to be closed: DGP

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

lockdown would be seized and handed over to the owners concerned only after lockdown," the DGP said.

"If anyone attempts to step out on the pretext of buying medicines with old prescriptions given by doctors, then action would be taken against them and their vehicle would also be seized," Mahendar Reddy said. He also asked the shopkeepers and hawkers not to allow customers after 9:30 am during lockdown relaxation timings. The shop owners and hawkers must see that customers complete their transaction by 9:30 am so that he or she could reach their residence before 10 am.

Since there is heavy movement of goods vehicles during lockdown, the movement of such vehicles would be permitted from 9 pm till 8 am the next day for loading and unloading of commodities and other material and between 10 am and 9 pm no goods vehicles would be allowed.

"The management of various industries, which are permitted to operate during lockdown, were asked to adjust shift timings of their employees to avoid movement during lockdown. The Station House Officers (SHOs) would discuss the matter with the managements' in their jurisdiction," he concluded.

Jagadish Reddy fumes at police

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Energy minister G Jagadish Reddy on Saturday expressed severe anger at the police department for preventing power staff from attending to emergency duties and beating them up in the name of lockdown restrictions, though the power department comes under emergency services and power staff are exempt from the lockdown.

Jagadish Reddy, who was touring Suryapet district, called DGP P. Mahendar Reddy over phone and complained against "police excesses" in Nalgonda, Hyderabad and elsewhere.

He asked the DGP to identify the policemen who "attacked" power staff and initiate stringent action against them. He asked the DGP to ensure that such instances do not repeat in future.

The power staff went on flash strike in Nalgonda and stopped power supply for two hours against the alleged police high-handedness. They restored power supply only after the minister assured them of action against errant policemen.

Power staff in Hyderabad and Nalgonda brought to the notice of the minister that they were being beaten up by police on the roads when they were going to attend emergency duties to

ensure uninterrupted power supply.

They complained that police attacked them and seized their vehicles though they showed them their ID cards, arguing that they were asked to enforce lockdown strictly by their 'high-uppers' as per the directions of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao to enforce lockdown more strictly from Saturday.

Jagadish Reddy also took up the issue with Nalgonda SP G. Ranganath and ordered him to initiate action against the police personnel who beat up power staff. The minister asked him to ensure that power staff would be allowed to attend duties without

any trouble.

D. Prabhakar Rao, TS Transco and Genco Chairman and Managing Director, also took strong exception to the police beating up power staff.

He said power staff were working day and night to ensure 24x7 power supply to hospitals and consumers in these difficult Covid times by risking their own lives. He said hundreds of power staff have been infected with the Coronavirus so far.

Prabhakar Rao urged the police department not to attack power staff and seize their vehicles and allow them to attend emergency duties after verifying their identity cards.

Thalassemia patients affected most

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

The police crackdown on people moving about during the lockdown hours that began at 10 am led to some serious confusion and severe anxiety among Thalassemia patients in the city on Saturday.

According to the Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society's joint secretary Aleem Baig, the police stopped registered blood donors from reaching the treatment centre for donating blood, which in turn is the lifeline for thalassemia patients.

He said thalassemia patients require blood transfusions every 15 days without which their health deteriorates severely. "If the police stop the donors from coming here, then the lives of these young patients here



Two blood donors with a young thalassemia patient at the Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society in Hyderabad on Saturday.

will be in jeopardy."

Baig said the Society had several times in the past represented to the Director General of Police to allow

such donors to help save the lives of thalassemia patients.

"Today, donors coming from Lingampally were stopped near Langer Houz and I appeal to city police commissioner Anjani Kumar to please allow donors with registered donor card issued by the Society to come and help save the lives of young patients," he said.

Among those stopped were parents of six-year-old V. Arvind of Karasgutti village, Sangareddy district, along with K. Balaramu of Lingampally. When Baig was informed about it, he rushed to the spot and convinced the cops that if blood was not transfused the boy would die, after which the police allowed the boy and the others to proceed.

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4.	P.G. Diploma Course in Sugarcane Productivity & Maturity Management [DSPMM]	B.Sc / B.Sc. Agriculture	20
5.	P.G. Diploma Course in Industrial Instrumentation & Process Automation [DIIPA]	Bachelor's Degree or A.M.I.E (from The Institutions of Engineers, India) in Electronics & Instrumentation/Electronics/Instrumentation/ Electrical & Electronics/ Applied Electronics & Instrumentation/Electronics/Communication/Instrumentation & Control	17
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IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

On-line submission of application forms	From 19th April, 2021 onwards
Last date for submission of on-line Applications (Foreign Candidates)	28th May, 2021 upto 5:00 PM
Last date for submission of on-line Applications (Indian Candidates)	25th June, 2021 upto 5:0

SHORT TAKES

FOREST DEPT
HEAD WARNS
ERRING STAFFDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

The state forest department was receiving complaints of complicity by some of its officials and staff in cases related to violation of forest protection laws, and every such instance will be probed and strict action will be taken against any official involved in such acts, the department head warned on Saturday.

Addressing a video conference attended by around 250 department officials from across the state, principal chief conservator of forests R. Shobha said it was the responsibility of department officials and staff to protect the forests and educate people living near forest areas on the importance of protecting the forests.

Telangana state has a total forest area of 66,64,161 acres, of which, as of mid 2020, 7,00,111 acres were under encroachment. Every year before the onset of the monsoon season, there are fresh attempts to encroach upon forest land by people seeking to fell trees and clear the land for agriculture, Shobha said.

TWO HELD FOR
ILLEGAL SALE OF
REMDESIVIRDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Two men were held in different instances by the teams of Commissioner's Task Force on Saturday for illegally procuring and selling remdesivir injection vials to customers in the black market.

In the first case, the South Zone Task Force along with the Amberpet police and a drugs inspector apprehended Jillala Anil Kumar, 24, an HR manager at a nursing home in Uppal, who was found in possession of four injection vials.

"He purchased the injections for ₹4,500 each and was selling it for ₹20,000 to ₹25,000, depending on the urgency of the customers," said the police. Anil Kumar was later handed over to the Amberpet police for further investigation.

In the second case, the West Zone Task Force nabbed Marthi Raja, 22, nurse at a hospital in Musheerabad, and seized four vials of the injection from him. He was procuring the vials for ₹2,450 and was selling the same for ₹18,000, officials said. The accused, along with seized material, was handed over to Habebnagar police for further action.

TRS leaders lure
Etala followers

Mandal-level leaders vow support to party, to move out of Rajendar orbit

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Finance minister T. Harish Rao and former MP B. Vinod Kumar have been successful in luring ousted health minister Etala Rajendar's followers in his native Kamalapur mandal to the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) fold.

Both the leaders held a meeting with mandal leaders and cadres in ministers' quarters in Hyderabad on Saturday and assured that the TRS leadership would stand by them.

Following this, the party's Kamalapur mandal leaders expressed support to the TRS and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and vowed to work under the leadership of the latter. They said development of Huzurabad constituency and implementation of welfare schemes would be possible only under the

leadership of Chandrashekhar Rao.

Kamalapur mandal parishad president T. Srikanth, primary agriculture cooperative society chairman P. Sampath Rao, Karimnagar DCCB director P. Krishna Prasad, mandal Rythu Bandhu president Srinivas, party senior leader Kumaraswamy were among those who vowed to continue in the TRS. They said they were working with the TRS since its inception in 2001 and would continue to work under the leadership of Chandrashekhar Rao.

While minister Gangula Kamalakanta is in constant touch with party leaders in Kamalapur, Veenavanka, Jammikunta, and Huzurabad under the name of 'Operation Gangula' in the district since Rajendar was dismissed from the Cabinet on May 2, Chandrashekhar Rao has appointed Harish Rao and Vinod Kumar

recently as state-level in-charges to handle Huzurabad affairs.

Both the leaders have begun consultations with Rajendar's supporters besides TRS local leaders and cadre in Huzurabad to ensure that they stick with the TRS.

Though the suspense continues over the resignation of Rajendar from the TRS and his resignation as an MLA, the strategies executed by the TRS leadership seem to be yielding good results. Several local TRS seniors who had waited for 20 days are now making their stance clear by holding press conferences to announce that they would not follow Rajendar and would stick to the TRS.

While Rajendar has stated that he will announce his future decision after the Covid pandemic subsides, several local leaders who previously supported him are abandoning him one by one.

Uttam slams TRS govt
for Covid crisis in stateDC CORRESPONDENT
HUZURNAGAR, MAY 22

TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that Covid-19 treatment should be provided free in private hospitals to all the 80 lakh BPL families and they should also be provided with free ambulance services. He said no steps have been taken to provide free treatment in private hospitals even though they have submitted a memorandum to the Governor.

The TPCC chief said that the state government had been covering up its inefficiency and was even avoiding implementation of High Court orders. He said that there was a big mismatch between the number of positive cases and deaths being announced by the government and what was happening

on the ground. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that Covid-19 treatment should be provided free in private hospitals to all the 80 lakh BPL families and they should also be provided with free ambulance services. He said no steps have been taken to provide free treatment in private hospitals even though they have submitted a memorandum to the Governor.

He wanted to know why the Telangana state government was going back on providing free treatment to Covid-19 patients in private hospitals while Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra states were able to do.

He said that the second wave of Covid-19 would have been controlled if the government had taken up extensive RT-PCR testing which would have costed just ₹9 crore to the exchequer during the first wave of the pandemic.

He alleged that there was no control on the

private hospitals in the state. Some were charging ₹50,000 for oxygen beds and ₹1.5 lakh for ventilator beds. Government orders on regulating the charges have gone for toss.

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Tigers on prowl
deprive tribals
of livelihoodPILLALAMARI
SRINIVAS I DC
ADILABAD, MAY 22

Adivasis and non-tribal members living in the interior areas of undivided Adilabad district are afraid to venture into the deep forests for making a living due to the presence of tigers. The fear of tiger attacks is stopping them from going to collect beedi (tendu) leaves, the only occupation to make ends meet.

Forest officials asked the Adivasis not to venture into the deep. An Adivasi teenage cattle grazer was injured in a leopard attack in Pothaguda village in Adilabad Rural mandal on May 20. Tigers have been reportedly moving in the Kagaznagar forest division. It may be remembered that a tiger killed two persons last year in the district.

● TIGERS HAVE been reportedly moving in the Kagaznagar forest division. It may be remembered that a tiger killed two persons last year in the district.

mer, sometimes venturing deep into the forests. There were incidents of people unknowingly entering into the territory of tigers where they were taking rest under trees or. In summer, the tigers also take rest near water bodies after quenching their thirst.

A leopard attacked an Adivasi youth Kumram Laxman of Pothaguda while he was grazing cattle in the forests near his village in the afternoon. The leopard pounced on him and caused injuries on his neck in Adilabad Rural mandal. However, his condition was stable after getting treatment.

In the resting day, Laxman's two pet dogs chased the leopard to some distance on seeing the animal attacking him. Subsequently, the leopard disappeared into the forests.

A village elder Vedma Ramu of Pothaguda said many Adivasis were not going for beedi leaves collection due to fear of animal attacks especially leopards and wild boars.

According to the forest officials, tigers are moving in the forests in Penchikalpet, Bejjur and Chinthalamaneppalli mandals. Unlike in the past, many Adivasis are not showing interest in beedi leaves collection due to the fear of tiger attacks in these mandals.

Generally, Adivasis make a livelihood or get additional income on the collection of beedi leaves during the sum-

BLACK FUNGUS:
CENTRE ALLOTS 3K
INJECTIONS TO TSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

The Centre has allocated an additional 3,200 vials of amphotericin-B injections to Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh on Saturday in view of the increasing cases of mucormycosis, or black fungus, in the two states.

There were at least 1,260 cases of mucormycosis in the Telugu states as on Saturday, as per data released by the Union ministry for fertilisers and chemicals, whose minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda said that there were 8,848 cases across the country. As many as 23,680 vials of the drug were allocated to different states on Saturday.

There were 350 cases as on Saturday and Andhra Pradesh had 910, Gowda said. Telangana state was provided with an additional 890 vials of amphotericin-B vials, while Andhra Pradesh was allotted 2,310. Mucormycosis is a potentially deadly fungal infection which is mostly affecting Covid-19 patients, or those who recovered from this disease, across the country.

Only 13 states and Union Territories were free of black fungus on Saturday: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep Islands, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, and Sikkim.

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ELEPHANT DIES

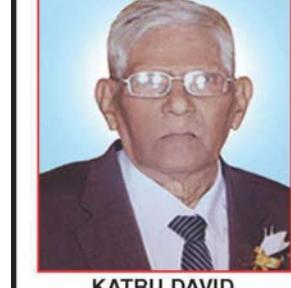
Nellore: The lone wild elephant which was creating havoc in the eastern parts of Chittoor district, was electrocuted at about 6 pm in the farm of one Chiranjeevi Naidu, located between Subba Naidu, Kandriga and Govindappa Naidu Kandriga, of Narayananam mandal in Chittoor district.

SHRADHANJALI



FOND REMEMBRANCE

The memory of the just is blessed Prov.10:7



KATRU DAVID
Headmaster (Retd.) Wesley Boys High School Sec'dad.

Called to glory on 23rd May 2019.

Time flew so fast, it's been two years
No day passes without our silent tears
So many memories, So many thoughts
Keep rolling in our broken hearts
You fostered a strong sense of pride
Being there always by our side

May each fond memory and each tear
Be a note of love rising to meet you dear.

Fondly remembered by:
Children, Grand Children and Great Grand Children

RACHAMALLA VENKATESH

Your sweet memories will remain in our hearts forever and ever.

Inserted by:
Amar Investments and Amar Finances

IN THE LOVING MEMORY



D.O.B. 31-10-1964 | D.O.D. 29-05-2021

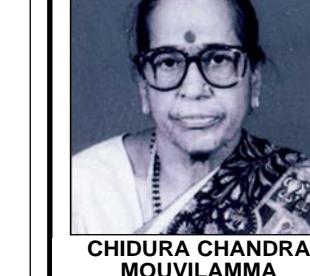
SRI MUTHYALA VENKATA NARASIMHA TATAJI GARU

Proprietor: Godavari Realtors

Wife: Mrs. M. Venkateshwari & Family Members

BS Reddy, Roshan Agarwal, Anand Baradi, Sultan Ali Rupani

12th Death Anniversary



D.O.B. 31-10-1964 | D.O.D. 29-05-2021

SRI MUTHYALA VENKATA NARASIMHA TATAJI GARU

Chief Advisor: Telangana Realtors Association (TRA)

Wife: Mrs. M. Venkateshwari & Family Members

BS Reddy, Rajesh Agarwal, Uma Mahesh, Murali B

1st Week Remembrance

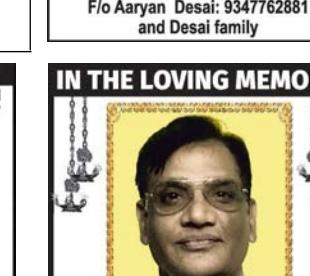


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Inserted by: S/o Dilip Desai: 9866331904 / F/o Aaryan Desai: 9347762881 and Desai family

PRAISE JESUS CHRIST 3RD DAY CEREMONY



D.O.B. 31-10-1964 | D.O.D. 29-05-2021

SRI MUTHYALA VENKATA NARASIMHA TATAJI GARU

Chief Advisor: Telangana Realtors Association (TRA)

Wife: Mrs. M. Venkateshwari & Family Members

BS Reddy, Srisallam, Prashant, K S Krishna

10th DAY CEREMONY



D.O.B. 14.05.2021 | D.O.D. 21-5-2021

With Love: Son, Daughter, Son-in-law, Daughters-in-law's, Grand Children.

PHILOMENA RODGERS

I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER PSALMS 23:6

DOB: 17-11-1953 | D.O.D: 21-5-2021

With Love: Son, Daughter, Son-in-law, Daughters-in-law's, Grand Children.

PHILOMENA RODGERS

I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER PSALMS 23:6

DOB: 17-11-1953 | D.O.D: 21-5-2021

With Love: Son, Daughter, Son-in-law, Daughters-in-law's, Grand Children.

PHILOMENA RODGERS

I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER PSALMS 23:6

DOB: 17-11-1953 | D.O.D

IN BRIEF

Molnupiravir trial at Yashoda Hosp

Hyderabad: Molnupiravir capsules are going to be given for mild and moderate patients of Covid-19 in phase III clinical trials of the medicine at Yashoda Hospitals. The patients will be monitored till Day 15 of the illness. Drug Controller General of India has given permission to conduct the trial.

GOV.: EXPEDITE SPUTNIK V PRODUCTION

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Saturday called for expediting the production of Sputnik V, the Russian vaccine, in the country to combat Covid-19 and ensure its availability to the maximum number of people at the earliest.

During a review of the progress of production and distribution of the Sputnik V vaccine and the 2DG drug developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation through a video conference with Dr Reddy's Laboratory representatives from Raj Bhavan, the Governor termed as commendable, the company's efforts in expediting the production.

Representatives from the company said that by the end of July, they would get 2 crore doses of vaccine from Russia. Efforts were on to produce the vaccine at five Indian sites and anywhere between 15 crore to 20 crore doses of vaccine could be available during the next six months. The Governor's husband, renowned nephrologist Dr P. Soundararajan took part in the review.

U.S. CONSULATE TAKES ASSAULT CASE SERIOUSLY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Following the incident of a US Consulate staffer allegedly beating a man after deal over a second-hand car reportedly went awry, a spokesperson from the US Consulate General Hyderabad said that the report had been taken seriously.

Specht Ingrid, spokesperson for the US Consulate General, Hyderabad, said, "We are aware of reports about an incident allegedly involving an employee from the US Consulate General in Hyderabad and a private citizen on May 21, 2021. We take these reports very seriously. We do not have any additional information to share at this time." Meanwhile, the city police officials concerned with the case said that the police had no power to register a case against consulate employees.

"The protocol is that we write to our senior officers regarding the issue and they will write to the appropriate authorities who will then talk to the concerned consulate and action will be taken against the person or party involved in the incident," a police official said.

CITY POLICE officials said that the police had no power to register a case against consulate employees.

Character's lost, everything's lost!

When a senior-most official makes a tongue-in-cheek remark against a strong team of workforce that toil day in and day out to fight a calamity, the government is sure to find itself in an embarrassing situation. That is exactly what happened in Andhra Pradesh, when health and family commissioner Karamaneni Bhaskar made satirical remarks and showed an offensive attitude towards healthcare workers who are in the forefront of fighting Covid-19 pandemic.

When the caseload peaked during the second wave, putting a lot of pressure on healthcare workers from district level to paramedics and to ANMs and Asha workers, the official pulled them up, calling them useless and narrating the story of a dog and a donkey reversing their nature of work. In fact, a series of apps he introduced created a lot of confusion among health workers and some of those apps even failed to serve the very purpose.

Vexed with his vitriolic attitude, health-care workers demanded transfer of the official from the health department.

Sensing trouble, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy himself intervened and directed the official to maintain decency and cajole the healthcare staff as everyone is working under immense pressure during the unprecedented Covid crisis. Hope the official learns a lesson or may face the axe!

**Neta's Natter****KOMATIREDDY CONDEMNS LATHICHARGE**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Congress Bhongir MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Saturday strongly condemned the police lathicharge in Nalgonda town in the name of enforcing lockdown strictly.

The MP alleged that police resorted to the lathicharge from 9.40 am though the lockdown relaxation period ended at 10 am.

"Who gave the power to police to beat up people? Police have to act against violators after 10 am. They cannot resort to lathi-charge and seize vehicles from 9.40 am. If the government allows police excesses like this, the Congress will not tolerate it. The consequences will be severe," he warned.

He said the police should allow people to go unchallenged if they were late by 5 or 10 minutes after the relaxation period.

pushed him to end his life. According to the police, the deceased, P. Harish Kumar, 35, who used to work at a hospital in Banjara Hills, used to live with his wife and two children in an apartment at Snehitika Hills in Gandipet, Narsingi.

PVT. HOSPITAL MANAGER DIES BY SUICIDE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

The manager of a private hospital in the city allegedly died by suicide at his house in Gandipet village on Friday night. Police suspect that the work pressure

led to his death.

Tenders are invited from eligible contractors for Tenders Spns.Ottr/2020-21 to OT-04-2020-21 dated 04.05.2021 for supply and installation of various material i.e. Q&M Materials, Protection materials and T&R materials in Ranga Reddy Zone area at the CGM/P/R Zone office building of RR Zone/TSSPDCL in KPHB, Hyderabad.

1. Late date for receipt of Tenders 08.06.2021 from 14:00 Hrs
2. Date of opening of tenders 09.06.2021 on 15:00 Hrs.

For further details regarding detailed notification and specification please visit www.tssouthernpower.com, Ph. No. 040-23431434.

Sd/- Chief General Manager, Operation, R.O.No:12106-PPCL/Advt/1/2021-22

(A Statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways, Government of India)
Unit No. 702-3, 7th Floor, Konnect Tower-II, DMRC Building, Ameri Gate, Delhi-110002; Phone: +91-11-23232854, Fax: +91-11-23232835

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDER (RFP Notice No. RLDA/RFP/CID-19 of 2021 Dated 18.05.2021)

GRANT OF LEASE FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON RAILWAY LAND PARCEL OF 2204.96 Sqm (APMR.) AT NIZAMABAD, TELANGANA STATE FOR 45 YEARS

Land Area Built-Up Area Bid Security Reserve Price
Nizamabad 2204.96 Sqm. 6173.89 Sqm. Rs. 20.00 Lakh Rs. 9.95 Crore

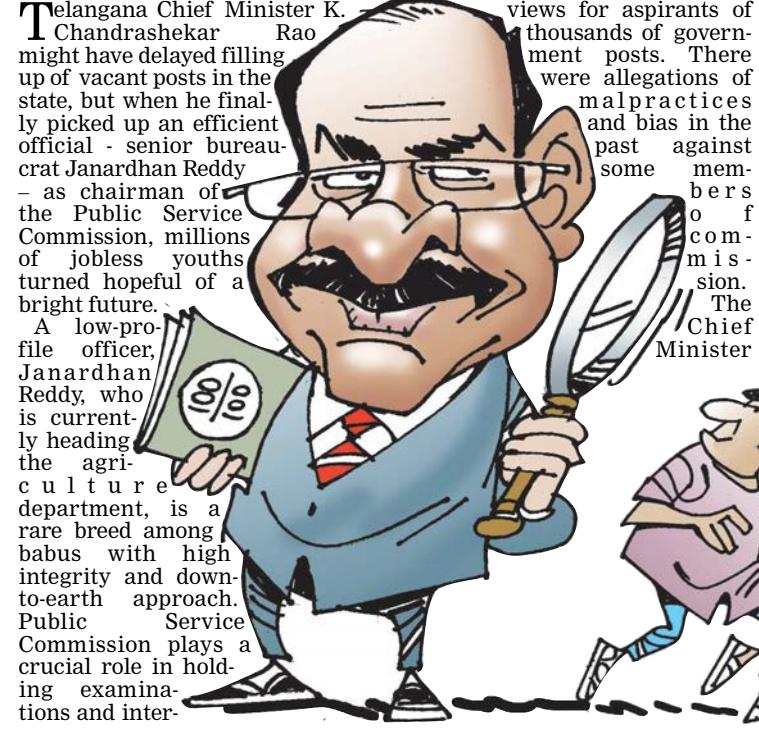
ONLINE PRE-BID MEETING ON WEBEX: 03" JUNE, 2021 AT 11:30 HRS.
(Online Pre-bid meeting details to be obtained from Dy. General Manager/Marketing)

Last Date of Submission of E-bid Online: 26.07.2021 UPTO 15:00 HRS

For further details of the project, please visit our website www.rlda.indianrailways.gov.in or e-procurement Portal [www.tenderwizard.com/RLDA](http://tenderwizard.com/RLDA). Under the heading 'e-tender' For any clarifications, may please contact:-

Dy. General Manager/ Marketing M: 73375 50024 roridasc@gmail.com neg@rlida@gmail.com cpmridasc@gmail.com Mr. Rana Sanjay Prasad M: 98735 57115 ranasanjay@gmail.com Note: Any Corrigendum or Addendum shall be published only on RLDA's website.

DGM/Tender, (Mob): 7703918078

Jobless youth now have a ray of hope

● HIS SMALL idea of switching on and off streetlights right on time proved big help to power utilities and local bodies who could save hundreds of crores of rupees.

who has grandiose plans of filling more than 50,000 government posts picked up Janardhan Reddy for the job. The bureaucrat served more in urban management in different posts and is known for reforms that helped improve public interface. His small idea of switching on and off streetlights right on time proved big help to power utilities and local bodies who could save hundreds of crores of rupees.

Wish the new chairman helps job aspirants in the state to realise their long-cherished dreams!

When social media sticks nose into Chief Secy's snack**One-upmanship in the corridors of power again**

A top bureaucrat, also a close aide of a top politician, was very keen not only to protect the interests of his political bosses but also silence his colleagues. The bureaucrat gets severely offended if his subordinate posts any development in his respective department through any of the social media platforms. The official would just call for an emergency meeting early in the morning, make his colleague sit outside his office for at least five hours just to inform the bureaucrat to come on the next day at the same time.

● THIS MADE all bureaucrats in state to be very inactive in public platforms fearing the ire of the top official.

"Sir was very angry about your social media post pertaining to a development in your department". This made all bureaucrats in state to be very inactive in public platforms fearing the ire of the top official.

one. We are now serving 700 meals per day and have till now served more than 12,000 meals in the last one month. The idea is always to help people in need during the unprecedented difficult times. While I go out with volunteers to deliver food to doorsteps, my wife cooks as well as supervises the kitchen staff," Bhargav said.

"So far, it has cost us over ₹43,400 per day to prepare and deliver these meals. We give rice, dal, veggies and curd in the care package," he added.

The Helping Spot organisation is active at 14 different locations in the city, including Miyapur, Chandanagar, Allyn Crossroads, Hafeezpet, Kondapalli, KPHB, Nizampet, Hydernagar, Shamirpet, Thumuguda, Babaguda, Ameerpet, Beeramguda, and can be reached on 8886686000.

STORY OF HOPE

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Moved by the plight of the poor and the underprivileged during the second wave of pandemic, a young man and his pregnant wife are busy cooking and distributing food among the hungry.

For the past one month, this couple has been serving free home cooked meals to people affected by Covid in the city at 14 different locations, under the banner of Helpingspot Org.

They got the idea of serving people around them at Miyapur in April when Bhargav and his four-month pregnant wife Uma decided to start cooking at home for their neighbours and family. They started spreading the word going door-to-door at Miyapur, and within a week, they started getting 40-50 calls per day asking for meals.



With the help of friends, and a little investment, Bhargav and Uma have built an organisation by renting a kitchen and getting volunteers to prepare and deliver lunch and supper free of cost.

With the help of a few friends, and a little investment, they built the organisation by renting a kitchen and getting some volunteers to prepare and deliver lunch and supper free of cost.

"My friend and teammate B. Sai Chandu has been helping us deliver food and find volunteers from day

one. We are now serving 700 meals per day and have till now served more than 12,000 meals in the last one month. The idea is always to help people in need during the unprecedented difficult times. While I go out with volunteers to deliver food to doorsteps, my wife cooks as well as supervises the kitchen staff," Bhargav said.

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Sub-Total	1.02%
19 447 Patta Dry	0.10 %
20 447 Patta Dry	0.30
21 447 Patta Dry	1.01
Sub-Total	2.01%
22 Govt. Land	0.03
23 407 Patta Dry	1.14
24	0.26
Sub-Total	2.00
25 408 Patta Dry	1.07
26 409 Patta Dry	0.22
Total Extent	30.34

This Notification is made under the provisions of Section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2010 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), as amended by the Right to Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as "the Exemption Act") where 10 A Exemption is given to all whom it may concern.

Land plan and other particulars are kept in the office of the District Collector, Nalgonda. Land Acquisition Officer and Revenue Divisional Officer, Nalgonda, and Taluk Office, Kattangi. The concerned persons may inspect during office working hours in any working day. Government of Telangana / District Collector, Nalgonda is pleased to depute Revenue Divisional Officer, Nalgonda and his staff to this related Land Acquisition Officer, Nalgonda. He / she may take measurements in any place in the above lands and to take up necessary actions permission was granted to the RDO and his staff.

As per Section 11(4) in the proposed land acquisition any kind of transactions like purchases/ sales/mortgages should not take up without prior permission of District Collector, Nalgonda from the date of notification issued.

As per Section 15 any kind of objections regarding land acquisition which are shown in the notification, the concerned individuals may intimate writing to the land acquisition officer within sixty days of the notification issued.

Sd/-
Revenue Divisional Officer & Land Acquisition Officer, Nalgonda
Sd/-
Dist. Collector Nalgonda

RO. No. 141/LA-PP/Advt/Pub/21-22

SHORT TAKES

ZOMATO:
UNFORESEEN
DEVELOPMENT

From Page 1

"Several delivery executives were stopped at checkpoints set up by the police as part of enforcing the lockdown. Their bikes were seized and many were fined ₹1,000. This was an unforeseen development since the government directive allowed food delivery as an essential service. We have paused our operations till we have clarity from the authorities, keeping in mind the safety of our delivery partners," a spokesperson from Zomato said.

VARSITIES DID
NOT HAVE VCs
FOR 2 YEARS

From Page 1

The universities have been functioning without VCs for nearly two years after they retired in July 2019 and the state government failing to take up appointments due to various reasons.

The search committees constituted on the instructions of the Chief Minister undertook the process in tune with the UGC guidelines and recommended the names. "Though there was some delay due to the Corona pandemic, the names were finalised and sent to the Governor for approval. The Governor gave her assent to the appointments on Saturday," said a release issued by the CMO.

CAPTAIN RAO HAS
THE FINANCIAL
STRENGTH

From Page 1

After the emergence of the TRS, Capt. Laxmikantha Rao twice represented Kamalapur constituency (now Huzurabad) as MLA and also served as a minister in the Congress coalition government of Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy between 2004 and 2005. After the formation of Telangana state, he made way for his son V. Sathish Kumar, who is now an MLA from the Husnabad constituency.

He is known to be 'financially strong' who runs a chain of engineering colleges such as KITS-Warangal, KITS-Singapuram, his native village in Karimnagar district, KITS-Ramtek (Maharashtra), Warangal Public School and Vijetha Public School in Hyderabad.

ACTION TO BE
TAKEN ON THOSE
CHARGING EXTRA

From Page 1

Commenting on the issue, a senior GHMC official, requesting anonymity, said government has fixed cremation rates as ₹8,000 for cremating a dead body on wooden pyre and ₹4,000 in case they are disposed of in electric crematoriums. User charges will be the same whether bodies are of Covid-19 or non-Covid-19 deceased.

However, if the body is that of a Coronavirus patient, crematoria staff will have to follow the Covid-19 protocol of hand hygiene and using PPEs while handling bodies.

The official said if management of graveyards and crematoriums collect any additional charges, corporation officials would book criminal cases against such people.

WORKER FALLS
FROM FIFTH
FLOOR, DIESDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

A 27-year-old centring worker allegedly fell to his death from the fifth floor of an under-construction building at Moosarambagh on Saturday afternoon.

The deceased, Mohd Saleem Pasha, a resident of Chintalmet chowrasta, had gone to work at the site about three days back, said the police.

"A colleague of Pasha informed his brother that Pasha accidentally fell from the fifth floor of the building and succumbed to his injuries on the spot," said the police, who booked a case and started a probe. The body was shifted to Osmania General Hospital for postmortem examination.

Lack of antifungal drugs hit pvt hosps

Paperwork, procurement of amphotericin-B injections hampering timely treatment, say docs

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Time gap between infusions of medicine increases and that challenges the treatment as it will not be effective."

Most patients have undergone surgery with removal of fungus from the nose and the eye region. To ensure that it gets completely eradicated from the body, amphotericin B is the first line of drug which has to be administered.

To manage the gap, patients are being administered alternative anti-fungal oral medicines but that is a challenge. A senior ENT specialist on condition of anonymity said,

"Oral medicines work when the patient goes home after the first line of treatment of complete eradication of the fungus from the body. As there are not sufficient stocks available, we have to give medicines but whether it will help or not, we are not sure."

Other doctors in private hospitals have been instructed by the management that till there is sufficient supply of medicines, more patients must not be admitted. A senior doctor at a private hospital explained, "We have 30 patients and of them three have fungus invasion in

Brain surgery an ordeal for
private, govt hospital doctorsDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Private and government hospitals in Hyderabad that have admitted cases of black fungus cases say that out of 100 patients, 10 are coming with invasion of fungus in the brain.

In the Government ENT Hospital, there are neurosurgeons from Osmania

General Hospital called in to attend to these cases. In private hospitals, there are an approximate of five patients on whom surgeries were carried out and the outcome has been a challenge.

With black fungus now a notifiable disease, private hospitals state that they are reporting the cases to the health department. A

senior doctor at a private hospital on condition of anonymity said, "We had two cases of brain invasion which were operated on. But one of them died and the other is critical."

Despite keyhole brain surgery treatment, outcomes are not preferable and there are deliberations on how must these cases be handled.

● TO MANAGE the gap,
patients were being
administered alternative
antifungal oral medicines.

the brain. All of them have undergone surgery and now relatives are running up and down for medicines. We are not taking in more patients as it is very stressful. The government must provide complete stock for one patient in the coming days as that will ensure effective treatment and early discharge from the hospital."

Those who have undergone brain surgery are now having other complications and they require monitoring by a team of specialists. Doctors say that out of 10 patients, they have one patient with invasion in the brain. There are also side-effects of amphotericin B on the kidney and heart and it requires monitoring of these patients by specialists too.

For this reason, there is a team of doctors and that is adding to the financial stress of the patients.

According to Dr Janardhan Rao Jagini, head of the department and consultant ENT surgeon at KIMS Hospital,

"Most of the patients coming to hospitals with black fungus have been given steroids, antibiotics, Remdesivir, Tocilizumab and their immunity is compromised. Relatives are extremely stressed socially and financially as they have been attending to patients during their Covid-19 treatment and now due to black fungus, it is adding to their stress levels."

ENT surgeons appeal that once sufficient stocks are available in the market, there must be a better mechanism in place for dispensing maximum medicines.

ENT Hospital out
of beds, patients
moved to homesDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

The bed capacity in ENT Hospital is full as there are already more than 200 patients with black fungus. Steps are being taken to increase the bed capacity so that the patients who are coming from districts can be accommodated.

There are many patients who are coming late in the evening and a shelter home has been created where relatives and new patients are staying at night.

A junior doctor, on condition of anonymity, said, "Our bed capacity is 120 but we already admitted 150 patients. There is an extra facility being created. There are expectations that there will be a heavy influx next week as many doctors from districts

are referring these patients to the nodal centre." Those patients admitted in ENT Hospital are being handled by a team of specialists comprising eye, kidney and heart specialists. Doctors state that there are sufficient stocks in government hospitals of amphotericin B.

are referring these patients to the nodal centre."

Those patients admitted in ENT Hospital are being handled by a team of specialists comprising eye, kidney and heart specialists. Doctors state that there are sufficient stocks in government hospitals of amphotericin B. Daily surgeries are being carried out and the patients are immediately put on medication, stated doctors.

Test of patience



Due to lack of amenities, people are forced to wait in unsatisfactory conditions at the scanning department of Osmania General Hospital. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE



Patients infected with the black fungus rest while they are under observation at King Koti Hospital, in Hyderabad on Saturday. — DC

CYBERABAD
POLICE GIVE
GROCERY TO 145
TRANSGENDERDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Cyberabad police commissioner, V.C. Sajjanar, in association with Sunitha Krishnan of Prajwala Foundation, distributed grocery kits to 145 transgenders in the city on Saturday.

The foundation, which arranged the groceries, had 18 items in the kit including 10 kg rice, half-kilo toor dal, moong dal, atta, salt, sugar, spices, tea, etc.

The commissioner emphasised on the world's first-ever transgender desk that had been established by Cyberabad police and spoke about how the desk is doing a good job by taking care of the community's needs.

"The transgender community has been suffering discrimination their entire life and this desk is a small step towards a great journey. We are working towards inclusiveness of the community, facilitating their journey towards a dignified life," Sajjanar said.

Also present at the distribution were DCPs Anasuya and Venkateshwari, ACP Ch Raghuandan and staff of the Transgender Desk staff.

● V.C. SAJANAR emphasised on the world's first-ever transgender desk that had been established by Cyberabad police and spoke about how the desk is doing a good job by taking care of the community's needs.



An empty cryogenic oxygen tanker which was airlifted by IL-76 IAF aircraft from Bangkok, reaches the Begumpet Air Force Base in Hyderabad on Saturday. — PTI

IAF airlifts 3 O2 tankers
from Bangkok to cityDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

With the Coronavirus-triggered storm not subsiding, the Indian Air Force continued its efforts towards securing Covid-19 relief on Saturday. A heavy lift transport aircraft of the IAF, the IL-76 Gajraj, landed at the Air Force Station, Begumpet, in the city with three cryogenic oxygen tankers from Bangkok. This will be followed by a few more ferries in the coming week.

The aircraft took off in the wee hours from Chandigarh and flew over the Bay of Bengal in challenging weather and reached Bangkok around 9 am. The aircraft was loaded with empty cryogenic tankers from Bangkok and landed at Begumpet in the afternoon.

Cryogenic containers are used to transport liquid medical oxygen. India is trying to procure as many cryo-containers as possible from across the globe to reduce the bottlenecks in the transportation of the oxygen to states.

Air Force Station Begumpet is one of the nodal centres of IAF operations towards the fight against Covid-19. Round-the-clock operations for the past one month for airlifting of hundreds of oxygen tankers, oxygen concentrators and cylinders and tonnes of foreign aid have been supported by the air warriors of AFS Begumpet, controllers of Airport Authorities of India (AAI) and employees of Indian Oil Corporation.

● AIR FORCE Station Begumpet is one of the nodal centres of IAF operations towards the fight against Covid-19.



Containers are unloaded from the tenth Oxygen Express that was delivered to Telangana state, at Secunderabad, on Saturday. — DC

SCR delivers
tenth Oxygen
Express to TSDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

The South Central Railways (SCR) delivered two more Oxygen Express trains in Guntur and Krishnapatnam Port, delivering a total of over 230 tonnes of liquid medical oxygen to the two Telugu states on Saturday.

In Andhra Pradesh, the SCR delivered two more Oxygen Express trains in Guntur and Krishnapatnam Port, delivering a total of over 230 tonnes of liquid medical oxygen to the two Telugu states on Saturday.

tions and adequate precautions.

General Manager, SCR, Gajanan Mallya appreciated the staff and officers for the coordination and liaison being maintained with the state governments of both originating and destination stations for expediting the supply of oxygen by these trains.

JAB | WAR AP CM opposes vaccines for private hospitals

Give vax to state first: Jagan

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, MAY 22

● THE CHIEF Minister strongly opposed supply of vaccines to private hospitals without fully ensuring surplus stocks at the government hospitals, as it would only encourage excessive charging.

good idea if there is surplus availability but the situation is different and there is severe vaccine scarcity, he reminded the Prime Minister.

The Chief Minister strongly opposed supply of vaccines to private hospitals without fully ensuring surplus stocks at the government hospitals. This would only encourage excessive charging by the private hospitals, he expressed concern. Supplying vaccines to private hospitals would be a

marked for 'other than Government of India.'

The CM said the AP government had decided to vaccinate people in the 18-44 age group also free of cost. Due to insufficient availability of vaccines under both channels of supply, currently only those who are above 45 years of age are being vaccinated in our State as they are more vulnerable.

The policy decision of the government of India in this regard to allow private hospitals to directly purchase vaccines is sending out wrong signals to the people.

"Due to the price differential offered to them and also the flexibility available to the private hospitals to fix the price of their vaccines, these hos-

pitals are charging as high as ₹2,000 for each dose from the public. This makes these doses one of the costliest in the world and invites criticism from the general public," the CM wrote.

Stating that a vaccine is for a public good and ideally it needs to be given free of cost or at least at affordable rates, the Chief Minister said that in a situation where there is not enough supply to cater to even the 45+ age group completely, and no possibility of taking up the free vaccination of the 18-44 years for the next few months, it appears very unreasonable to allow some private sector hospitals to vaccinate people of all age groups at such exorbitant rates.

● IN ANDHRA PRADESH, the SCR delivered two more Oxygen Express trains in Guntur and Krishnapatnam Port, delivering a total of over 230 tonnes of liquid medical oxygen to the two Telugu states on Saturday. The Indian Railways has been operating Oxygen Express trains along the green corridors, ensuring that they travel with minimal en route deten-

JAB | WAR AP CM opposes vaccines for private hospitals

Give vax to state first: Jagan

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, MAY 22

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure enough Covid-19 vaccine supplies to government hospitals to serve the needy. Only after meeting the needs of government hospitals can those of private hospitals be addressed, he stressed in a letter.

The deceased, Mohd Saleem Pasha, a resident of Chintalmet chowrasta, had gone to work at the site about three days back, said the police.

"A colleague of Pasha informed his brother that Pasha accidentally fell from the fifth floor of the building and succumbed to his injuries on the spot," said the police, who booked a case and started a probe. The body was shifted to Osmania General Hospital for postmortem examination.



SHORT TAKES

TS LOGS 3,308 NEW CASES, 21 DEATHS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

The state health department reported 3,308 new Covid-19 cases and 21 deaths on Saturday, taking the caseload to 5,51,035 and the toll to 3,106. The department said 63,120 tests were conducted during the day.

The recovery rate showed an improvement and stood at 91.64 per cent, the department's Covid-19 bulletin said. There were 42,959 cases in home and institutional isolation.

The GHMC area had 513 new cases, Khammam 228, Ranga Reddy 226, Medchal Malkajgiri 203, Karimnagar 161, Sangareddy 120, Siddipet 110 Mahbubnagar and Warangal Urban 116 each, Peddapalli 101 and Mahbubabad 100.

Khammam district has constantly recorded a high number of cases from May 16, taking the caseload in a week to 1,480. Khammam has only four micro-containment zones.

**CROWDING
DEFEATS IDEA OF
LOCKDOWN**

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, MAY 22

Lockdown relaxations are leading to adverse impact in Covid-19 control as people in large numbers gather during the four-hour easing time. Gandhi Chowk, Nehru Park, Rashtrapati Road, bus stand, Bodhan Road, Big Bazaar, weekly market and other busy centres in Nizamabad witness huge crowds during 6 am to 10 am of relaxation time. To buy essential commodities and vegetables, people in large numbers throng at markets and shops. Social distance norm is utterly neglected due to panic buying. Traffic jams are witnessed at Devi Road Chowrasta, Nikhil Sai Cross-roads, Phulong, collectorate, weekly market and other junctions in the city. Supermarkets and other shops are open by 6 am but shut their doors before 9.30 am. Following the strict instructions from higher-ups, police patrolling vehicles and officials directed shop owners to close shops early.

Speaking to this newspaper, K Sudhakar, a private employee, said he experienced festival season rush at Gandhi Chowk on Saturday. Huge gatherings of people would definitely be super spreaders of Covid-19 virus, he opined.

**REBEL YSRC MP'S
RELEASE NOT
LIKELY TILL TUE.**

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, MAY 22

Narsapur MP K. Raghu Ramakrishna Raju's release on bail, which has been granted by the Supreme Court, may be delayed till Tuesday or Wednesday as there are a lot of legal procedures to be adopted.

Though the apex court granted bail to Raju on Friday, as it remained closed for the weekend, the order has yet to reach the XI Additional Civil Junior Judge Court at Guntur in AP. Once it reaches the court, it will start the paperwork where the MP or his lawyers have to furnish a bail bond of ₹1 lakh and two sureties of like amount. Once it is done, the court will forward the release order of the MP Raju on bail to the district jail in Guntur.

Once all the procedural formalities are completed, the MP is supposed to append his signature on the bail bond to be released from the jail. The MP is to be brought to the jail for the purpose if he is healthy and fit enough to travel as at present he is in Military Hospital in Secunderabad, undergoing treatment after completion of medical examination under judicial custody.

If the MP is to be brought from Secunderabad to Guntur jail, it may take several hours of journey and in case he is unable to reach the jail for any reason, the jail authorities after completion of paperwork on his release order on bail will despatch the bail bond to the Military Hospital in Secunderabad by a registered post, asking them to get the MP's signature on the bail bond and release him if he is fit enough to go out, or to continue the treatment based on the need and at their discretion. Then, the hospital authorities have to send the signed bail bond of the MP back to the jail.

So, it takes at least two to three days for release of the MP on bail.

What's the point of lockdown?



Crowd seen not following any social distancing norms while making their purchases. Hundreds of people come from different places in the city to buy vegetables from the Monda market in Secunderabad on Saturday.

—S. SURENDER REDDY

Fear stalks as ammonia leaks from RFCL's unit

Official agrees lax construction has resulted in leak of toxic gas

PULI SHARAT
KUMAR I DC
KARIMNAGAR, MAY 22

People of villages surrounding Ramagundam Fertiliser and Chemicals Limited (RFCL) are tense over frequent leakage of gas from its ammonia plant since past few days. Last week, three workers had fallen ill when gas leaked from the plant located at Ramagundam in Peddapalli district.

RFCL had been renovated at a cost of ₹6,120.5 crore for manufacturing 12.5 metric tonnes of urea annually. The plant started trial runs from February 28, with part of the urea produced donated to Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala and rest released into the market through National Fertilisers Limited.

RFCL stores around 3,000 tonnes of ammonia for producing urea.

The plant has, however,

been facing technical glitches, leading to stoppage of production on a number of occasions. With issues remaining unresolved, officials shut the plant in March this year for comprehensive repairs. They started trial runs again from May 17.

Ammonia, however, is continuing to leak from pipelines, affecting people living in surrounding areas of Veerlapally, Laksamipur, Yelkapallygate, Vetal Nagar, Shanthi Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Gowthami Nagar, Sanjay Gandhi Nagar and Chaitanya Colony. Residents are worried and complaining that they are being forced to breathe ammonia-laden polluted air.

RFCL union president Ambati Naresh alleges plant officials have not adhered to standards while constructing the ammonia plant. As a result, there are frequent

AMMONIA IS continuing to leak from pipelines, affecting people living in the surrounding areas.

DISTRICT INDUSTRIES department's deputy inspection officer Gangadhar Reddy says that while laying pipelines for the unit, officials should have fixed double valves at certain points and not single valves. This is the reason for the leakage.

leakages through pipelines, affecting plant workers and people living in areas around the plant. District industries department's deputy inspection officer Gangadhar Reddy says while laying pipelines, officials should have fixed double valves at certain points and not single valves. This is causing the leakage. He maintained that RFCL management

should have a system of warning people in surrounding villages whenever there is a gas leakage. People must also be taught about precautions they must take during such times.

Leaders of surrounding villages have submitted a memorandum to the area Pollution Control Board engineer K. Ravidas demanding that immediate action be taken against RFCL for its lapses.

When contacted, RFCL officials maintain that the plant is in primary stages of production and technical issues are common. They will be taken care of before mainstreaming of the plant, officials clarified.

However, union president Naresh has demanded that Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers appoint a High Power Technical Committee to prevent incidents of gas leakages at RFCL.

AP Ayush: Concoction is not Ayurvedic medicine

Preparation 'hero' seen in poor shape

DC CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE, MAY 22

The Ayush department studying the concoction prepared by Bonigi Anandaiah at Krishnapatnam and hawked as a cure for Covid-19 cannot be termed an Ayurvedic medicine.

They said that Ayush protocols and guidelines do not accept these preparations as Ayurvedic drugs. They felt that the preparations were similar to traditional local medicines, hinting that there is no need for any licence.

Speaking to this newspaper, Commissioner of Ayush and head of the team, Col. V. Ramulu, said that there are no harmful ingredients in the substance being given by Anandaiah, including the eye drops.

"Anandaiah prepared all them before us and the process is very simple for anyone to produce. Moreover, he is willing to share the formula with the public," he said.

The Ayush official said that Anandaiah has been using herbs including locally available leaves such as neem, mango and jamun apart from honey, pepper, green camphor, nutmeg, black cumin, turmeric and cinnamon

ed the first video recorded after he was given the eye-drops at Krishnapatnam where he enthusiastically endorsed Anandaiah's preparation and condemned allopathy under the plea that doctors fleeced him.

The video went viral then. In one of the videos, he was seen being admitted to a hospital again. In another video shot when he was lying in his car, he was found weak and frail.

Kotaiah was unable to respond when someone asked him as to why he credited Anandaiah's concoction for the increase in oxygen level when he left the hospital with a saturation level of 95 per cent.

Some TV channels show among many other items, "which we use daily for preparing food items."

In the eye drops, Anandaiah has been using pepper, mulla vankaya and honey, Col Ramulu noted.

He said that the preparation cannot be prescribed for Covid-19 as the formula is one among hundreds

of local remedies for different ailments. Citing an instance, he pointed to the popular Puttur treatment for broken bones.

Col. Ramulu said they would submit a report to the government on their study. It is up to the government to take a decision, he told this newspaper.

TRS leaders dare Modi to visit Covid wards, like KCR

DC CORRESPONDENT
WARANGAL, MAY 22

minister had ever stepped inside a Covid-19 ward.

Prime Minister Modi must take stock of ground realities by visiting Covid-19 wards in hospitals in different states, he demanded.

"Mr Modi is the Prime Minister of the country and not just for Gujarat," he said.

Referring to the short supply of Covid-19 vaccines being sent to the state, he said that Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had decided to procure the vaccines by inviting global tenders.

Addressing a media conference here on Saturday, Dayakar Rao asked if any Chief Minister of the BJP-run states or Union

ing the catastrophic effects of Covid-19. The onus is on Centre to help the states reeling under economic crises," Dayakar Rao said.

He said that Chandrashekhar Rao's decision to construct a super-speciality hospital on the premises of the Warangal Central Prison augurs well for the people in the erstwhile Warangal as well as neighbouring districts and Maharashtra.

"The plans are ready to complete work on the hospital in one year. The works will start on the 23-acre land parcel behind the prison," he said.

Results withheld as school fails to deposit exam fee

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Fate of at least 60 students of St Adam's High School in Musheerabad hangs in balance, as the Board of Secondary Education has withheld their SSC results because the school management chose not to remit the exam fee despite collecting it from students, deputy DEO Hyderabad, Samuel Raj, confirmed.

The school failed to pay the board though it collected fees from students, after which the education department refused to release the results of these students. The deputy DEO said that results would be released only after the school paid the amount. "We have received the exam fee from all other schools in the district, other than St Adam's. Ask them where they used all this money?" he said.

THOUGH THIS correspondent tried to reach the authorities of the school, they were unavailable for a comment. Sources said the owners of the school had fled the place since the results were announced.

Await help



Homeless people wait for food under the Asilmetta flyover during the state lockdown to curb the spread of Covid among the public in Visakhapatnam on Saturday.

— MURALI KRISHNA

COVID | BLUES GHMC cuts salary of those infected with Covid-19

Covid+ workers denied wages

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Over 200 sanitation workers who contracted the deadly Covid-19 virus while performing their duties have not been paid their wages while they were either in home isolation or undergoing treatment. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) officials are said to have marked them absent.

About 18,000 sanitation workers have been hitting the city roads every day during the lockdown. Already 20 of them have fallen prey to the deadly virus. Over 200 sanitary workers have contracted the virus during the last couple of months while carrying out containment activities at VIP houses, who were tested positive.

Though they were informed by their circle and zonal officers, the higher authorities sitting at the GHMC headquarters decided to deduct their pay. Narrating his story, Vikram Narayana (name changed), a sanitary worker, said the corporation did not pay him 20-day wages last month, while five members in his team had contracted Covid-19. "We have lost a colleague who succumbed to the deadly virus last month. All of them were deeply depressed until tested positive.

However, to our shock, the corporation authorities have deducted our salaries for not attending duties," he said. Narayana said despite their efforts, the higher authorities did not respond to their requests and were instead threatening

that they would be sacked from service. Echoing his concern, another worker, Nirajan, said despite the government releasing a GO to pay full salaries to frontline workers if they catch Covid-19 and go on leave, the higher authorities have been ignoring the orders. "Unlike the Karnataka government, the state government is not paying ₹20 lakh compensation for those who succumbed to Covid-19. We are just asking for our wages while we are undergoing treatment for Covid-19," he added. When tried to reach GHMC authorities, they were unavailable for comment.

Though this correspondent tried to reach the authorities of the school, they were unavailable for a comment. Sources said the owners of the school had fled the place since the results were announced. In the SSC results that were announced on Friday, over 2,10,000 students out of the 5,21,000 registered to sit for the exam this year, secured a 10 CGPA in 535 schools. Of these, 5,16,578 were regular students while 4,495 were students who had previously failed. Details of the grades allotted to students on the basis of internal assessment are available on the official website bsetelangana.org and results.bsetelangana.org. The government has also said that in case of any errors in the students' pass memos, the SSC Board can be informed by the concerned school principals, and added that the matter would be rectified immediately.

For the second consecutive year, the Telangana government has cancelled the SSC exams due to the Covid-19 spread in the state now. There has been no update on the conduct of Class 12 or Intermediate exams that were earlier postponed until further notice.

DECCAN Chronicle

23 MAY 2021



Shailaja Khanna

Off the beaten track

Old-world musicians need a helping hand

Eight-year-old Partho struggles to overcome sleep as he is gently woken up as usual at 5 am to start his daily practice of vocal scales for 30 minutes. Up and down, concentrating hard to get the correct pitch, it's a chore he completes, as he has been told time and time again that he is blessed to have inherited the family music genes. His mother, lying in bed, listens resentfully; her baby practising to prepare for a professional career in music seems a total waste of time. Her husband, acknowledged as one of the finest harmonium players in the country hasn't had a paid concert in months. Once, an eagerly sought after accompanist whose concert diary was booked 20 days in a month, Anirban (name changed) has had to break four previously saved FDs to keep the family stove lit. Hospitalisation of his sister due to Covid complications added to the already stretched budget. Things don't look to be improving in the near future, with predictions of a Third Wave destroying the hope that in 2021 his life would "normalise".

Twenty-three-year-old Imtiaz lives in a small house, shared with eight other family members, behind the Jama Masjid area in old Delhi. He has trained for 18 years to be a singer. His uncle was a very erudite vocalist; with over 100 disciples. All his life he had heard his uncle say, music is a sacred art, handed down to us through the generations, whose ultimate goal is "ruh ko maalik se jorrra". To "connect" to a Raga, and to achieve the correct usage of notes, one needs to withdraw from the outside world and to go inwards, introspect, constantly repeat and practise, then finally, the



Girija Devi singing in the intimate baithak style at Sankat Mochan temple, Banaras. — RAKESH SINHA

Raga emerges. It takes a long time; one must be single minded. Today, with no expectation of any concerts or income, Imtiaz queries "we are told today, use technology to connect to a new audience; you can reach the whole world! But where did we have the time to acquire these skills, useful to a performer of today? Like handling technology, knowing how to record oneself, public relations... we were told to stay away from all this and to focus on the music. Concerts would follow; organisations are there whose job is to showcase your talent. Become worthy of them. *Bas hamme ye sikhaya gaya tha...*" he trails off.

Things are no better for the established, seasoned performers. A disconsolate senior vocalist shared, "Right now, teaching online classes is how most of us spend our time. But it's a compromise. Our traditions are not meant to be passed on like this. It's distorting the whole point of it all. Learning music, you need the eye contact to see the Guru's expressions, to copy the exact nuance. Hearing it through a device is not the same. Yet, I need to ensure that the training continues, the students continue their practice; one can't let long gaps come in, and they need to connect at least weekly with me. I really pray this doesn't last long."

But some of the problems in the world of the arts are self-inflicted, and not linked only to the present crisis. A senior sarod exponent said, "My generation has not tried to create a new audience; or even nurture an existing audience, specially in the smaller towns and cities. The classical arts are meant for a niche audience; they can never be for mass entertainment. But exposure to the music of masters results in acquiring a taste for the art, which then needs to be fuelled by periodic concerts. That's how, in the past, we have had great centres of music like Banaras, Patna, Lucknow, Tanjore. Nowadays, only needy artists, who may not be great performers, agree to perform in places where the fees are not good enough. Over the last 30 years, this has affected the audience size, which has really shrunk. Many major music festivals are free as only a limited handful of artists have the drawing power to sell tickets. A handful of popular artists have slowly, steadily, hiked up their fees over the years, even though they are aware that the tickets sales don't justify their fees."

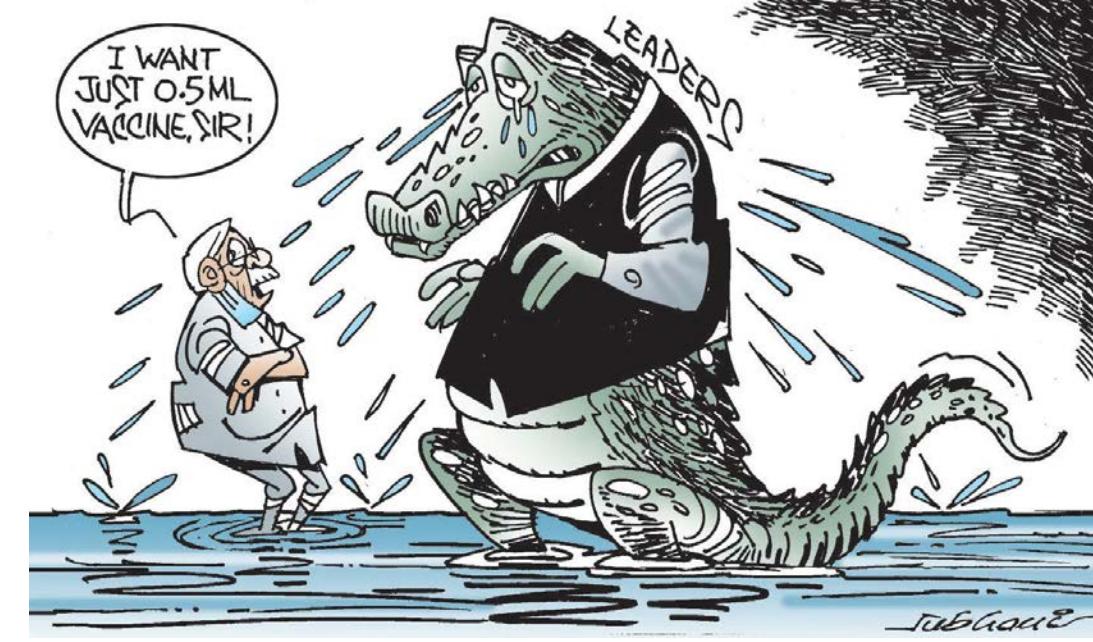
The passing away of several senior musicians due to the virus is another cause of depression in the community. Sixty-four-year-old Pt Sajan Mishra, younger of the famed Mishra duo, rues the unexpected passing away of his elder brother Rajan Mishra due to Covid complications. "It's been 50 years since we have sung together; I can't imagine the concert stage without him. He went so fast; *jab tak soch paayen, sab kuch khatam ho gaya tha. Hanne 2-3 din bahut haath pairr maare*. We tried so many hospitals — Medanta, Fortis... by the time we were offered a ventilator bed at AIIMS, it was too late, he had had a heart attack in the morning and it was considered dangerous to move him. It's God's will; the new DRDO 750-bed hospital in Banaras is named after him, but he is no more. In our country we really need to focus on and spend on education and healthcare; other things can wait."

Who knows what the future holds? An economic recovery would surely help, but perhaps the solution lies in encouraging a shift to new modes — from those mindless do's and don'ts that go against the grain of initiative and artistic freedom, and keep away younger audiences.

Shailaja Khanna writes on music, musicians and matters of music

Subhani

I WANT JUST 0.5ML VACCINE, SIR!



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LETTERS

GOOD BANTER

I enjoyed the Twitter conversation between KTR and Tharoor and had to refer the dictionary (*When KTR, Tharoor's persiflage brings jocundity, DC, May 22*). They were so spontaneous and hilarious especially when KTR said, "Devudaaa..... had to pull out a dictionary & Tharoorosaurus to comprehend,"!

Jyothi David Raj
Hyderabad

HC DIRECTION

It is surprising to note that the honorable High Court had to point out that an officer could not understand the order of the apex court in simple English stating that the elections should be completed in 4 weeks (*Issue fresh notification for rural polls: AP HC, DC, May 22*). The officer should resign or attend a crash course in developing her English comprehension.

B.K. Satyanarayana
Hyderabad

LOCKDOWN

I would like to inform the CM that lockdown is not the solution (*CM calls for strict lockdown in state, DC, May 22*). The government should first send team of doctors on a door-to-door checkup of people because many are afraid of going to hospital due to rush of patients. It should also release accurate data of Covid cases as they are only taking into consideration government hospital data.

Ehsan Raza
Hyderabad

POOR COORDINATION

Poor coordination was clearly exposed during the second wave of Covid-19. Somewhere down the line, complacency sneaked in resulting in insufficient oxygen beds for ICUs, vaccines were exported instead of giving it to all age groups in India, Assembly elections were held as if there was no scope of delaying them, IPL was held without public and the worst of all pilgrims who went to Kumbh mela had the last pilgrimage in their life and infected many people by travelling to other states.

Milind G. Kulkarni
Hyderabad

EXEMPT SENIORS

I request the Government of India to exempt senior citizens who are not in service to be spared from even filing of income tax returns (*New tax filing site from June 7, DC, May 21*).

Dr Shankar Chatterjee
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Ghaffar Khan offers to mediate: Bangla crisis

NEW DELHI, MAY 22. Pakhtoon leader Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan had offered to mediate for a peaceful settlement of the conflict between East Bengal and West Pakistan. The Taklamakan desert (located in Aksai Chin) not only provides abundant sand but huge reservoirs of fresh water from Himalayan rivers and glaciers. The Shaksgam valley alone is home to 242 glaciers that can serve as the grand reservoir of fresh water for Chinese chip manufacturing. It, therefore, becomes imperative to view the Sino-Indian standoff through this technological lens also.

From 2011 onwards the UPA government had made chip manufacturing a priority. In September 2013 two consortiums, including IBM and ST Microelectronics, had proposed building semiconductor wafer plants in India with an outlay of USD 8 billion. However the proposals died after the NDA/BJP government assumed office in 2014. Finally in the June of 2020 the government finally announced a Performance Linked Incentive for Promotion of Electronic Components and Semiconductors and Electronics Manufacturing Clusters. However, as it is with the current dispensation, it is always a case of too little too late.

The author is a lawyer, Member of Parliament and former Union information and broadcasting minister. The views expressed are personal. Twitter handle @manishstewari.

This was revealed in a recent statement issued by Badshah Khan in Kabul a copy of which was available here today.

Badshah Khan conveyed to Pakistan's Consul at Jalalabad in Afghanistan that he was prepared to offer his services for mediation for a peaceful solution between Banga Bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rehman and the Pakistan Government.

course, It must be reiterated that Israel has to withdraw all its settlements in Gaza. The issue of settlements in the West Bank is not set in stone. In this way, Hamas can be defeated on the Gaza Strip.

Such a proposal, it is felt, would have the backing of all Arab countries. Iran too can be brought on board. Without Iran's support, Hamas cannot be the disruptive force that it is today. Subsequently, after peace is established, both Jordan and Egypt can relinquish their claims on the West Bank and Gaza respectively to pave the way for the establishment of a full-fledged sovereign Palestinian state. This idea may seem hare-brained at first. It is however predicated on the fact that the belligerents want a just and durable peace with an end to violence and the desire for wanting peace is not as hare-brained as remaining in a perpetual state of conflict and suffering.

The writer is a retired lieutenant-general and a former member of the Armed Forces Tribunal and a former director-general of ordnance services



Gautam Moorthy

An 'out of the box' solution to end Israel, Palestine row

As the entire world heaved a sigh of relief, even if with fingers crossed, as the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire came into effect at 2 am local time on Friday, May 21, ending the devastating 11-day conflict that saw over 240 fatalities, most of them civilian, the question uppermost on everyone's mind is if this respite is ensure a permanent truce and an end to the conflict. The conundrum and the antagonism that led to this dispute is the unshakeable belief by both the Israelis and the Palestinians that they are the rightful owners of the land for which they are fighting.

Without going deeply into the genesis of the dispute, it is worth recollecting that much headway has been made on the path to peace, keeping in mind the situation in 1948. Starting with the first Camp David Accord in 1978 between Israel and Egypt, which resulted in Egypt granting full recognition to the State of Israel in return for the Sinai Peninsula, to the Abraham Accords of 2020, much water has flown under the bridge. In between, the Oslo Accord of 1993, leading to the much-publicised Camp

David Accord of 1993, promised a two-state solution which at the last minute failed mainly as Israel refused the right to return of all displaced Palestinians.

With most Arab countries grudgingly accepting the existence of the State of Israel (with back-channel diplomacy active to get Saudi Arabia too on board), the main parties in the dispute, besides Israelis and Palestinians, are the Iranians. Iran is implacably hostile to Israel and to a large extent to Saudi Arabia as well. Iran is known to fund and support Hamas in the same way as it funds and supports Hezbollah in Lebanon. Violence has been the rule, rather than the exception since the first "intifada" of 1987, with brief lulls in between. Therefore, is there any possible solution to end this never-ending cycle of violence? There possibly is, and it is perhaps as "out of the box" as it can get.

Briefly, before the 1967 war, the West Bank was a part of the Kingdom of Jordan from 1948 onwards. Jordan eventually relinquished all claims on the West Bank in 1988 and even deprived the Palestinians of their

Jordanian citizenship. The Gaza Strip has had a more convoluted history and was occupied by Egypt till 1967, when it was captured along with the Sinai Peninsula by Israel. Subsequently, as a result of the Israeli-Egypt peace accord, Egypt relinquished all claims on Gaza, agreed to keep the Sinai Peninsula demilitarised and created a small buffer zone between it and the southern border of Gaza. In 1994, as a result of the Oslo Accords, Gaza came under the control of the Palestinian Authority. Since 2007, however, it has been completely under control of Hamas, which views the Palestinian Authority, now called Fatah, with contempt and is implacably opposed to it. In 2005, Israel withdrew unilaterally from Gaza: its military as well as its settlements. After ousting Fatah, Hamas took complete control of the territory in 2007.

The situation today is that the Palestinians remain hopeful of regaining the West Bank without Israeli settlements, and of a restoration of peace in the Gaza Strip, with the ultimate aim of the establishment of a full-fledged independent

Palestinian state. For this to happen, with of course Israel's grudging acceptance, a new paradigm needs to evolve. Having the same belligerents talking to each other again through well-meaning intermediaries is not going to yield any new result. All that will come of it will be more of the same.

Hence, as a forerunner to any eventual Palestinian state, given the current impasse, and to forestall any further bloodshed, there exists a strong case for Jordan to reclaim the West Bank and for Egypt to reclaim the Gaza Strip, of course with Palestinian consent. Both Jordan and Egypt have good diplomatic relations with Israel. Both have the trust of the Palestinians. If they are sovereign owners of the land, their locus standi improves vastly compared to them being just honest brokers. Their ownership and control of the territories will bestow upon them the necessary authority to deal with Israel on equal terms and not as mere supplicants, as is happening now with Fatah. Once these lands become their sovereign territories, the issue of settlements on the West Bank can be taken up in due



IN BRIEF

EDU MINISTRY
MEET ON CBSE
CLASS 12 TODAY

New Delhi, May 22: The Ministry of Education (MoE) has called a crucial meeting on Sunday to decide on pending Class 12 board exams and subsequent entrance examinations that were postponed due to the second wave of Covid-19. Union Minister Ramesh Pokhrayan 'Nishank' said.

The high-level meeting will be chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani as well as Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar will be among those present. Education ministers and secretaries of all states and union territories have been asked to attend the meeting.

Pokhrayan also sought inputs from all the stakeholders—students, parents, teachers and others—through social media on Saturday.

"A high-level virtual meeting will be convened tomorrow (Sunday) with all states and union territories' education ministers, education secretaries and chairpersons of state examination boards and stakeholders to discuss the proposals for the conduct of exams for Class 12 and entrance examinations for professional courses," he said. "I recently held a meeting with the state education secretaries in this regard."

The consultative process will be further strengthened through the high-level meeting. This virtual meeting will take place at 11.30 am," he added.

IMA WANTS
CENTRE TO ACT
AGAINST RAMDEV

New Delhi, May 22: The Union health ministry should take action against yoga guru Ramdev as he has misled people by making "unlearned" statements against allopathy and defamed scientific medicine, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) said on Saturday.

The Resident Doctors' Associations of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Safdarjung Hospital too condemned Ramdev's statement and demanded "strictest steps" be taken against him.

Citing a video circulating on social media, the IMA said Ramdev has claimed that allopathy is a stupid science" and medicines such as remdesivir, favipiravir, and other drugs approved by the Drugs Controller General of India have failed to treat Covid-19 patients.

Lakhs of patients have died after taking allopathic medicines", the association said quoting the yoga guru.

Ramdev should be prosecuted under the Epidemic Diseases Act as "untutored" statements are "a threat to the literate society of the country as well as to the poor people falling prey to him", the apex doctors' body said in a statement.

It alleged that Ramdev is trying to take advantage of the situation and create a sense of fear and frustration among the people at large.

He is doing this "so that he can sell his illegal and unapproved so-called medicines and make money at the cost of the public at large", the association said.

NO JABS FOR
18-44 FROM
TODAY IN DELHI

New Delhi, May 22: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said Covid-19 vaccination centres for those in the 18-44 years age group are being closed in the national capital due to lack of doses and appealed to the Centre to provide more vaccines.

From Sunday, all vaccination centres for youths in Delhi will be closed as stocks have run out, he said in a press conference.

Delhi requires 80 lakh doses a month to vaccinate its youth. But it only received 16 lakh doses in May. The Centre has further decreased Delhi's quota in June to 8 lakh doses, Kejriwal said.

The national capital needs 2.5 crore doses to vaccinate all adults, he said, urging the Centre to raise the quota and supply to the city.

Kejriwal said that the speed of spread of the coronavirus has significantly slowed down in Delhi.

In the past 24 hours, around 2,200 cases were reported and the positivity rate is 3.5 per cent, he said.



Family members prepare to cremate a Covid-19 victim at the Nigambodh Ghat cremation ground in New Delhi on Saturday. - PTI

Total lockdown in TN for a week starts tomorrow

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, MAY 22

No shops—it includes vegetable and grocery vends too—will be allowed to open for one week from Monday, when the state will be under a total lockdown, permitting the continuation of just a handful of essential services and preventing people from stepping out of their homes.

However, to prepare the people for the lockdown and enable them to stock up on essential goods, all shops would be open till 9 pm on Saturday and from 6 am to 9 pm on Sunday.

Pharmacies, including that of indigenous medicine and veterinary sciences, would be open as usual and daily distribution of milk, water and newspapers be allowed during the total lockdown, the statement said.

Only essential departments in the Secretariat and district administrations will function, while banks, insurance companies and IT firms have been asked to allow their employees work from home. Malls too will not be allowed to open.

Restaurants, as usual, can provide takeaway service from 6 am to 10 am, 12 noon to 3 pm and 6 pm to 9 pm and e-commerce food delivery can also function only during those hours. Other e-commerce services would be allowed between 8 am to 6 pm. Rest of the services

that have been allowed in the earlier relaxation to the lockdown like the functioning of petrol and ATMs, transport of agricultural products and essential goods and inter-district travel for valid reasons like medical emergencies and deaths after e-registration would continue, the statement said.

Travel within the district for medical reasons will be allowed without e-registrations and the functioning of news and media offices and those industries that had already been given exemption like continuous process industries, those manufacturing essential commodities and medical equipment is permitted as usual.

Members of the public have been advised to strictly follow the Corona prevention norms like wearing of face masks, maintaining social distancing and using hand sanitizers.

The Chief Minister said that the government had taken the initiative to increase the oxygen beds and Corona Care Centres.

in the last 24 hours.

Delhi for the second day in a row saw its positivity rate below 5 per cent with 2,260 fresh cases of Covid-19 detected in the last 24 hours.

The death figures too in the national capital show a decline with 182 fatalities in the last 24 hours.

The national figures too show a constant decline as 2,57 lakh fresh cases were detected and 4,194 fatalities recorded out of the 20.66 lakh tests conducted

India's daily positivity rate has declined to 12.45 per cent.

"There are only 7 states that are reporting more than 10,000 cases and 6 states with 5,000-10,000 cases, 6 states are reporting a high number of deaths. These are Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, UP, Punjab and Delhi. There are more than 93 districts where declining case positivity is being noted," said Mr Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary in Union Health Ministry.

This is the sixth consecutive day when new cases remained under three lakhs and daily recoveries outnumbered fresh for ninth consecutive day.

Over 3.57 lakh people bounced back from the illness in last 24 hours.

Agitated locals blocked a road and their protest ended late on Friday night after senior police officers, including ASP Shahi Shekhar Singh, assured the boy's family all help, an impartial probe, and handed over a copy of the FIR.

MP reports white fungus infection

State sees surge in black fungus cases also

RABINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY | DC
Bhopal, May 22

After Bihar, Madhya Pradesh has reported the case of white fungus infection.

A 55-year-old man, who has recovered from Covid-19 this month, was on Saturday detected to have contracted white fungus infection in the government-run Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Medical College and Hospital in Jabalpur.

"This was the first case of white fungus infection in Madhya Pradesh. The fungus was removed in a surgery and the patient is doing absolutely fine after the surgery", Dr Kavita Sachdev, head of the department, ENT, in the medical college hospital told this newspaper.

The case was diagnosed as Aspergillosis, commonly known as white fungus infection, after culture of the fungus in the virology lab of the college, she said.

She, however, said the white fungus infection detected in the patient was different from that found in four patients in Patna Medical College Hospital on May 19.

While it was a case of candidiasis detected in four patients in Patna medical college hospital, it was a case of aspergillosis detected in the patient in the hospital in Jabalpur. According to her, candidiasis affects lungs and is said to be more lethal than black fungus infection, medically known as mucormycosis. But, aspergillosis affects paranasal sinuses (nasal cavity) and is said to be less lethal than black fungus infection.

According to the experts, black fungus infection spreads to lungs and other vital organs through blood and may prove fatal if there is delay in treatment.

The constables and the homeguard have been booked under Indian Penal Code section 302 (murder), they said.

Constables Vijay Chodhury and Simavat have been suspended and homeguard Satyaprakash has been sacked, police said.

The incident had taken place on Friday in the Bhatpuri locality in Unnao district's Bangarmau when the boy was selling vegetables outside his house.

The boy's family alleged that he was caught by a constable for allegedly violating the 'corona curfew' and thrashed with a stick. He was later taken to a police station, where he was again thrashed following which his condition deteriorated and he was rushed to the Community Health Centre, where he was declared dead, the family alleged.

Agitated locals blocked a road and their protest ended late on Friday night after senior police officers, including ASP Shahi Shekhar Singh, assured the boy's family all help, an impartial probe, and handed over a copy of the FIR.

- PTI

WB records first black fungus death

Kolkata, May 22: A 32-year-old woman died of mucormycosis, commonly known as black fungus infection, becoming the first death due to the disease in West Bengal, a state health department official said on Saturday.

Shampa Chakraborty, a resident of the southern part of the city's Haridevpur area, was admitted to the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital with Covid-19. She was later diagnosed with mucormycosis, he said.

The patient, who was highly diabetic and was on insulin, died on Friday.

At present, five patients are undergoing treatment for the disease in the state and all of them are from neighbouring Bihar and Jharkhand, the official said adding, "We are constantly monitoring their condition."

Besides constituting an expert committee to deal with black fungus cases, the state health department has formulated an advisory, titled 'Mucormycosis - if uncar-

tion drug, Amphotericine-B'" experts say.

"The situation of the patients is pathetic due to shortage of the drug", I.D. Chourasia, neurologist of government-run Hamidia hospital here said.

The country faced shortage of Amphotericine-B injections due to sudden surge in cases of black fungus infection after May 4. We were till now dependent on import of the drug.

Madhya Pradesh has so far reported 610 black fungus infection cases", state health commissioner Akash Tripathy said.

The infection has claimed the lives of 31 people so far.

Indore has reported the highest number of 250 cases of black fungus infection in the state, followed by Bhopal where 190 such cases have been reported. "The situation has worsened due to lack of awareness about the disease among the people particularly those who have recovered from Covid-19 as well as acute shortage of the anti-infection drug, Amphotericine-B", experts say.

According to the doctors, a patient suffering from black fungus infection needs administration of three doses of the anti-infection injection per day for 20 days for recovery.



A doctor treats a patient infected with the black fungus at the NSCB Medical College and Hospital in Jalandhar on Saturday. - PTI

The number of Adverse Effect From Immunisation cases put out may not be accurate

Reporting AEFI tough job, many may be going unreported

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

owing the administration of Covishield vaccine—with a reporting rate of 0.61 cases/million doses.

However, in the absence of proper reporting mechanism and proactive approach of authorities to trace vaccinated people after they leave the vaccination site, such a claim may not be reflecting the true picture and full magnitude of the AEFI.

Here is a first hand experience of struggle to get AEFI recorded in the national capital. It took me five days to get the AEFI recorded for my 21-year-old son.

My son was vaccinated on May 13 at EDMC PS Tirokpur Site 1 (East Delhi) at around 11.15 am with Covishield. He stayed back for 30 minutes at the site to check for AEFI dur-

ing which he had no other problem other than pain in arm. Back home, he developed 101 degrees C fever at 6.30 pm and complained of very sharp shooting pain in vaccinated arm. I gave him Dolo 650 for fever, as advised by the doctors. He again had fever next morning. But it was the fever on the evening of May 14, that alarmed me. My son reported high fever and numbness in hand. His hand was getting cold and finger nails started turning blue.

A doctor friend saw him through video call and checked his tongue, eyes, palm and hands. He said none of them were blue and only fingernails were getting blue. The doctor asked us to give lots of fluid to him and wait for some time before going to the hospital while he figured where to get him admitted since hospitals were not easily accessible.

Thankfully, in about 30 minutes, his nails started turning pink again. His hands and feet were warm, there was no numbness and sensation was back. I thought of reporting it as AEFI. The real struggle began now.

None of the helpline

numbers given by the government – 1075, 191, +911123978046, 0120-4473222 - were functional or reachable. There are no emails, no phone numbers of doctors available on any government site to report AEFI. No provision on CoWin or Aarogya Setu app.

I went back to the vaccination centre, a school, which was shut after 5 pm and got the number of the doctor on duty. He directed me to a Nodal Officer, who said he can only treat but has no role in recording AEFI.

Meanwhile, I had tagged ICMR, Union Health Ministry, Drugs Controller General of India, Serum Institute of India asking for contact details to report AEFI. There was no response. I also tagged Mr

Adar Poonawala who heads SII to guide me to report AEFI for his vaccine. He too has not responded so far.

Finally, I had to write in the group of health journalists after which my colleagues got active and with the intervention of some senior bureaucrats, I could manage to "report" AEFI of Covishield. This was four days of the AEFI.

After registering my AEFI report the district immunization officer called to take my son for a cardiological checkup. There was a fear of thrombosis. His ECG and blood tests were conducted, which thankfully were normal. But what if I had not made so much noise? What if he actually had thrombosis or some other severe side effect from

Covishield?

I have been hearing horrific stories of people dying of cardiac arrest or other complications after vaccination.

IN BRIEF

STATES GIVEN 19 OXYGEN PLANTS, SAYS CENTRE

New Delhi, May 22: Nineteen oxygen generation plants, 16,530 oxygen concentrators, 15,901 oxygen cylinders and about 6.6 lakh Remdesivir vials received as global aid have been delivered or dispatched to states and union territories since April 27, the Centre said on Saturday.

The Central government has been receiving international cooperation in the form of Covid-19 medical supplies and equipment since April 27 from different countries and organisations.

Through a streamlined and systematic mechanism, various ministries and departments have seamlessly collaborated under the 'whole of government' approach for expeditiously delivering incoming global aid to states and union territories, the Union Health Ministry said.

Cumulatively, 16,530 oxygen concentrators; 15,901 oxygen cylinders; 19 oxygen generation plants; 11,416 ventilators/BiPAP; 6.6 lakh Remdesivir vials have either been delivered or dispatched through road and air to states and union territories from April 27 to May 21, it said.

Effective and immediate allocation, and streamlined delivery to the recipient states/UTs and institutions is an ongoing exercise, the ministry said.

BJP'S SONALI GUHA WANTS TO REJOIN TMC

Kolkata, May 22: Former TMC MLA Sonali Guha, who switched over to the BJP ahead of the elections, on Saturday wrote to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, apologising to her for leaving the party and urging her to take her back.

In the letter, which was shared by Guha on social media, she said that she left the party after being emotional. While the BJP described her overtures as a 'drama', the TMC said no decision has been made by the party on taking her back.

"I am writing this with a broken heart that I took the wrong decision of joining another party after being emotional. I could not get accustomed there," she said.

"The way a fish cannot stay out of the water, I will not be able to live without you, 'Didi'. I seek your forgiveness and if you don't forgive me, I won't be able to live. Please allow me to come back, and spend the rest of my life in your affection," she added.

Guha, a four-time MLA and once considered to be the 'shadow' of the chief minister, was among the slew of TMC leaders who switched over to the BJP ahead of the assembly elections. She was dropped from the TMC's candidates' list this time, following which she left the party after an emotional outburst on TV channels, and joined the BJP.

She did not fight the elections, but had said that she would work for strengthening the BJP's organisation.

When contacted, Guha said that she felt "unwanted" in the BJP.

BJP LEADER HELD FOR POSTS AGAINST PAWAR

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, MAY 22

The cyber cell of the Mumbai Police on Saturday arrested Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Secretary Pradip Gavade for his 'objectionable posts' on social media against NCP president Sharad Pawar and his grandnephew Rohit Pawar on Twitter. However, the BJYM leader said that his arrest was politically motivated and he did not make any unparliamentary comment.

Bandra Cyber Cell Police arrested Mr Gavade from his Pune residence on Saturday morning. A case has been registered against him under sections 295A, 500 and 505/2 of the IPC as well as IT Act 67.

On Friday, May 21, Mr Gavade in a live chat with his followers said he was expecting a reaction from the state government after he filed a case against 54 people associated with the ruling parties in the state some 8 to 10 days ago. According to him, he has been targeted because he dared to question NCP leaders for their disparaging posts.

The BJP has called the arrest politically motivated and accused the police of acting at the behest of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government. Mr Gavade alleged a political conspiracy behind the arrest.

BODO TRIBAL LEADER NAMED SPEAKER OF ASSAM HOUSE

DC CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI, MAY 22

In what may be called the beginning of inclusive politics in Assam, ruling BJP nominated and elected 50-year-old Bodo tribal leader Biswajit Daimary as 21st speaker of Assam Legislative Assembly.

Mr Daimary, son of a farmer and a mahout, who washed glasses in a tea stall to help the family in his school days has come a long way by starting his career as a student leader and being one of the architects of peace in Western Assam, the Bodo heartland.

Mr Daimary, himself a trained elephant mahout, wanted to become a teacher from an early age, thus he joined the Assam Rashtrabhasha Prasar Samiti in Class-V and appeared for Hindi examination passing Visharad when he was in Class IX only.

A former MLA from 2001 to 2006, Mr Daimary represented the state in parliament as a BPF Rajya Sabha MP from 2008 to 2014 and then from 2014 to 2020 and was re-elected as BJP MP in the upper house in 2021.

He resigned from Rajya Sabha to contest the assembly election on a BJP ticket from Paneri, which he won.

Even political opponent of Mr Daimary and former chief of Bodoland Territorial Council Hagrama Mohilary while welcoming the decision of his appointment, thanked the BJP government for honouring a tribal legislature.

He in a social media post said, "Profound thanks to chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for honouring a tribal legislator Biswajit Daimary as the speaker of Assam Legislative Assembly, the first Bodo in this dignified stature. Looking forward to more undiscriminating initiatives by the government for the welfare of Tribal."

On his unanimous election as the speaker of the House, Mr Daimary thanked everyone and said, "I believe I will be able to give a strong and positive message from the House to the people of Assam. All the MLAs will be able to speak their mind here. I will give equal chances to everyone."



Rescuers ready their gear for rescue and relief operations as a low-pressure area in the North Andaman seas that may intensify into a cyclone heads towards Odisha and West Bengal, on Saturday. - PTI

Yaas to hit WB-Odisha coast on Wed evening

Cyclonic storm to hit with wind speed of 120-160 kmph; location of the landfall not yet known; states get ready

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, MAY 22

● THE STATE government is in touch with the Coast Guard personnel patrolling in the deep sea to ensure that no fishing boat remained in the sea

● THE RAILWAYS has cancelled 74 trains passing through East Coast Railway jurisdiction

pours, the IMD said.

According IMD director general Dr Mrutyunjaya Mohapatra, the exact location of the landfall of 'Yaas' was not yet known and the weather agency was examining the course of the cyclone.

"The severe cyclonic storm will pass through Odisha-West Bengal coast on Wednesday morning and we are studying the course of the cyclone to ascertain the exact location where it is most likely to make its landfall," said Dr Mohapatra.

Under the impact of the low-pressure, some parts of coastal Odisha on Saturday experienced light to moderate rainfall. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur in most of the places in the state after May 23, the IMD predicted, adding, rainfall intensity is likely to go up further in next few days with intensification of the system.

The fishermen have been advised to remain away from venturing into the deep Central Bay of Bengal between May 23 and May 27 as the sea condition would remain very rough during the period.

Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik who reviewed the cyclone preparedness on Saturday directed secretaries of all departments concerned and the collectors coastal districts to remain in readiness to address the situation.

A review meeting

chaired by chief secretary Suresh Mohapatra was held on Friday in presence of Special Relief Commissioner P.K. Jena, director general of state police, Shri Abhay, Odisha Fire Services DG and top officers of various departments.

Mr Mohapatra said preparatory measures for the evacuation of affected people, cyclone shelter management and post-cyclone restoration were in full swing.

Five teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) from the third battalion at Mundali in Cuttack which were deputed to Gujarat have been brought back and kept in readiness for deployment.

The Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force and fire services personnel have also been kept ready for action in the areas likely to be hit by the cyclone.

Forcible conversion by marriage to invite imprisonment of three to five years in Guj

Ahmedabad, May 22: Gujarat Governor Acharya Devrat has given his assent to an amendment Bill, which provides for a prison sentence of up to ten years for fraudulent or forcible conversion by marriage, a state minister said on Saturday.

With this, the governor has approved all the 15 Bills that were passed during the budget session of the Assembly as he had earlier cleared seven other bills, he added.

The Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which was passed by the state Legislative Assembly on April 1 this year, has been approved by the governor along with seven other

Bills, state Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama said in a statement.

With this, the governor has approved all the 15 Bills that were passed during the budget session of the Assembly as he had earlier cleared seven other bills, he added.

As per the amended Freedom of Religion Bill, a forcible "conversion by marriage, or by getting a person married, or by aiding a person to get married" shall invite impris-

onment of three to five years and a fine of up to ₹2 lakh.

If the victim is a minor, woman, Dalit or tribal, the offender may be punished with a jail term of four to seven years and a fine of not less than ₹3 lakh. If an organisation violates the law, the person in charge can be sentenced to mini-

mum of three years and maximum of ten years in jail.

During a poll rally in Vadodara on February 14 this year, state Chief Minister Vijay Rupani had said his government would bring a strict law against "love jihad" in the state.

We are going to bring a law against love jihad in the Assembly. Such activities being done in the name of love jihad will not be tolerated. The BJP government will bring strict laws against love jihad in the state.

Other bills that were approved by the governor include Gujarat Professional Medical Education Colleges or Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fees) (Amendment) Bill; Gujarat Panchayats (Amendment) Bill.

the coming days," he had announced.

Before Gujarat, BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh had also enacted similar laws banning "fraudulent" conversions through marriage.

The old guard of the party in the state including Chandy had argued for the continuation of Chennithala in the post.

The pressure from the veterans delayed the decision in the selection of the new Leader of Opposition, the sources said.

Finally, the high command took a tough decision to infuse fresh blood into the system, nominating Satheesan to the key post.

- PTI

Cong's Satheesan to be LOP in Kerala Assembly

Thiruvananthapuram, May 22: After suffering a mauling in the Assembly election from Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF in Kerala, the Congress on Saturday appointed five-time MLA V.D. Satheesan as new Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly.

The party's high command's decision nominating the 56-year-old Satheesan as new opposition leader was announced by KPCC president M. Ullalappa Pillai Ramachandran here.

He replaced senior leader Ramesh Chennithala, who was also re-elected as MLA from his seat Haripad in Alappuzha

district. Satheesan, elected from Paravur Assembly seat in Ernakulam district, will lead a 41-member UDF in the state Assembly against the CPI(M)-led LDF, which retained power in the recent Assembly polls including former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, Chennithala and Ramachandran.

The AICC has nominated Satheesan as the leader of the party's parliamentary party in Kerala assembly.

The KPCC wishes him all success," Ramachandran told reporters.

According to Congress sources, the decision to

make a generational change in the parliamentary party was taken considering the severe drubbing of the party-led UDF in the Assembly polls led by party veterans including former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, Chennithala and Ramachandran.

The young leaders of the party, particularly a section from the youth congress, conducted a campaign seeking removal of the old guard from the state leadership to make it relevant in state politics.

Senior party leader Mallikarjun Kharge and V. Vaidyalingam had visited

the state seeking the opinion of the MLAs and MPs on who should be entrusted with the post of Leader of Opposition for the next five years.

The old guard of the party in the state including Chandy had argued for the continuation of Chennithala in the post.

The pressure from the veterans delayed the decision in the selection of the new Leader of Opposition, the sources said.

Finally, the high command took a tough decision to infuse fresh blood into the system, nominating Satheesan to the key post.



Senior Congress MLA K.Babu (L) felicitates V.D. Satheesan at a press meet in Kochi on Saturday. - PTI

Barge deaths: Pradhan should quit, says Sena

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, MAY 22

After Congress and NCP, the Shiv Sena too has demanded the resignation of Union petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan holding him responsible for deaths of people on board barge P305 that sank off the Mumbai coast during the cyclone.

● THE toll in the tragedy has reached 60.

warnings seriously and recall the 700 workers on the barge. The callous approach of ONGC administration is surprising. Hence a culpable homicide case should be filed against it for its negligence, the Sena said.

Had the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard not launched search and rescue operations, all the 700 people would have drowned in the sea. These workers may be employees of a private company, but they were doing oil rigging for ONGC. Hence, it was the duty of the ONGC administration to protect them, said the Sena, which heads the MVA Government in Maharashtra.

Earlier, the Congress and NCP – the other two constituents of the MVA – had demanded the resignation of Mr Pradhan holding him responsible for the mishap.

However, the BJP alleged that the MVA is politicising the issue only to protect Afcons Infrastructure, which had chartered the barge. Party leader Ashish Shelar demanded that Afcons be charged with culpable homicide. He alleged the state government and the police are trying to shield owners of the firm.

Abducted ONGC employee set free by ULFA(I)

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, MAY 22

In what has brightened the prospect of engaging the elusive Ulfa-I commander-in-chief, Paresh Baruah in peace-process, the outlawed Ulfa-I honouring the appeal of Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma released abducted ONGC employee Ritul Saikia at Longwa village in Mon district of Nagaland at about 7am on Saturday.

Confirming the release of the abducted employee, security sources said, "A team of Assam Rifles personnel escorted Ritul Saikia and handed him over to Assam Police. He will be reaching his family at his home (Borhola in Sivasagar district) by this evening."

In a brief interview to the media waiting at the Assam-Nagaland border, Mr Saikia said, "I am fit and healthy but a little tired...after walking for three days."

Mr Saikia and two other ONGC employees were abducted by Ulfa-I rebels on April 21 from a rig site at Lakwa in Charaideo district.

Baghpat (UP), May 22: The last rites of IAF fighter pilot Abhinav Choudhary, killed in a MiG-21 crash in Moga district of Punjab, were performed with full military honours at his ancestral village Pusar with people bidding a final farewell to the braveheart with moist eyes.

The funeral pyre of 28-year-old Squadron Leader Choudhary was lit by his uncle Sube Singh who cried inconsolably along with the pilot's father and other family members amidst the raising of slogans like 'Bharat Mata ki Jai'.

SHORT TAKES**OZ ACADEMIC TO FACE SPYING TRIAL IN CHINA**

Sydney, May 22: Chinese-born Australian academic and author Yang Jun will go on trial in China on espionage charges next week, after spending more than two years in detention, Canberra's foreign minister has confirmed. Yang is one of two high-profile Australians detained in China on spying allegations amid escalating tensions between Canberra and Beijing. The trial for Yang, who also goes by his pen name Yang Hengjun, will begin on Thursday, Australia's Foreign Minister Marise Payne said.

"Despite repeated requests by Australian officials, Chinese authorities have not provided any explanation or evidence for the charges facing Dr Yang," Payne said.

THREE KILLED, 27 HURT IN SERIES OF CHINA QUAKE

Beijing, May 22: At least 3 people were killed and 27 others injured after a series of earthquakes that jolted Yangbi Yi Autonomous County in China's Yunnan Province on Friday, local authorities said. The quake was felt in all 12 counties and cities of the Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, with Yangbi being the worst hit, Yang Guozong, the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) chief of the prefecture, said.

Two deaths were reported in Yangbi county and one in Yongping County. Three people were severely injured and 24 others had minor injuries, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. About 72,317 residents in 20,192 households were affected by the quakes.

CHINA'S 'FATHER OF HYBRID RICE' DIES

Shanghai, May 22: An agronomist hailed as a Chinese national hero for helping develop hybrid rice and easing hunger for millions worldwide died on Saturday at the age of 90, state-run Xinhua news agency said.

Yuan Longping, known in China as the "father of hybrid rice", is credited with cultivating the world's first high-yield hybrid rice strain in 1973.

Yuan died in a hospital in Changsha, capital of Hunan province, Xinhua said. It said he had suffered from an unspecified illness.

Hybrid rice, which can yield 20 percent above conventional varieties according to experts, was subsequently widely planted in China.

FIVE STABBED IN AMSTERDAM, SUSPECT NABBED

Amsterdam, May 22: One person was killed and four injured in a stabbing late Friday night in Amsterdam and police said they arrested a suspect nearby. Four victims were taken to a hospital for treatment, police said. Their condition was not immediately known. There was no immediate word on the possible motive.

We have arrested a suspect. We are investigating what exactly happened and why, Amsterdam Police spokeswoman Marjorie Stor said.

The stabbings happened in a neighborhood with many bars and restaurants, but they were closed at the time of the incident because of Coronavirus lockdown restrictions.

Further details were not immediately available.

'THAT '70s SHOW' ACTOR MASTERTON FACES RAPE TRIAL

Los Angeles, May 22: US actor and Scientologist Danny Masterson must stand trial for the alleged rape of three women at his home in the Hollywood Hills, a Los Angeles judge ruled Friday.

"That '70s Show" star Masterson denies the accusations made by the women, who were previously also members of the secretive California-based group and said they did not come forward earlier for fear of reprisals from its hierarchy. "I found all three witnesses to be credible and the evidence sufficient to support the charges," said Judge Charlene Olmedo, ordering Masterson to be formally arraigned on June 7 and to hand over his passport by that time.

Masterson, 45, allegedly raped the women, all in their twenties at the time, "by force or fear" in separate incidents between 2001 and 2003.

He faces a maximum sentence of 45 years to life in prison if convicted on all charges. He is currently free on \$3.3 million bail.

Nepal President dissolves Parl

Bhandari announces mid-term polls in Nov.

Oppn for legal, political steps

Kathmandu, May 22: Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari has dissolved the House of Representatives and announced mid-term polls on November 12 and 19 after she determined that both embattled Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli and the Opposition alliance were not in a position to form a government. Bhandari's announcement came after Prime Minister Oli recommended dissolution of the 275-member House following an emergency midnight Cabinet meeting.

A press statement issued by the Office of President said the Parliament was dissolved and dates of mid-term polls were announced in line with Article 76(7) of the Constitution of Nepal.

The council of ministers has recommended conducting the first phase of the poll on November 12 and the second phase on November 19.

The move followed a notice from the Office of the President which said that it could appoint neither K.P. Sharma Oli, the incumbent prime minister, nor Sher Bahadur Deuba, Nepali Congress president, as claims made by both to form a new government were insufficient.

With four lawmakers in the 275-member House of Representatives dismissed by their party after they chose to be part of another party, a prime ministerial candidate requires support of at least 136 lawmakers in Parliament to form a new government. Interestingly, both Oli and Deuba had claimed the support of some lawmakers, whose names were included in the list of both of them, according to Nepalese media reports. This is the second time President Bhandari has dissolved Parliament on the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli following a political crisis.

Last year on December 20, President Bhandari had dissolved Parliament but later it was reinstated by the Supreme Court in February. Nepal's political crisis had taken a dramatic turn on Friday as Prime Minister Oli and

ent came after PM Oli recommended the dissolution of the 275-member House following an emergency midnight Cabinet meeting. In a joint statement issued at the end of a meeting called to discuss the matter, the Opposition leaders expressed their commitment to unitedly defend the constitutional rights of Nepali citizens achieved at the end of years of political struggle.

They appealed to all political and civil forces to condemn and stand against the Oli-Bhandari duo's regressive, autocratic intentions.

They condemned their move as "unconstitutional, undemocratic and arbitrary."

—PTI

ENSURE FAIR, FRAUD-FREE POLLS: OLI

Kathmandu, May 22: Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli on Saturday asked the Election Commission to initiate necessary preparations for the upcoming elections for the dissolved House of Representatives and ensure fair and fraud-free polls in November.

In a meeting with the commissioners of the poll body, Oli said that the parliamentary elections were inevitable.

The prime minister directed the election commission to expedite its preparations to hold the election on the stipulated dates, according to Surya Thapa, a press aide to Oli.

CPN-UML Chief Whip Vishal Bhattarai said Oli stressed for holding a fair and fraud-free election, according to *The Rising Nepal*. —PTI

BIDEN, MOON CONCERNED ABOUT N. KOREA

Washington, May 22: President Joe Biden on Friday said he and South Korean President Moon Jae-in remain "deeply concerned" about the situation with North Korea, and announced he will deploy a new special envoy to the region to help refocus efforts on pressing Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear weapons programme.

Moon welcomed "America's return" to the world stage and said both leaders pledged to work closely toward denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. Biden said he was dispatching career diplomat Sung Kim, who previously served as ambassador to South Korea, to serve as the special envoy to the region.

Moon said the move by Biden "reflects the firm commitment of the US for exploring diplomacy and its readiness for dialogue with North Korea."

—AP

Biden: Two-state solution to conflict

I did even before I was able to negotiate — well, I shouldn't — before the ceasefire was negotiated," he said. Biden said his administration is going to make sure that the US is going to provide for security in the West Bank.

"We renewed the security commitment, as well as economic commitment to the people on the West Bank," he said. In his call with the Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, he said he indicated to the Israeli

it was very important that they stop in Jerusalem this inter communal fighting. "It has to end. I'm prepared to put together a major package with other nations who share our view to rebuild the homes and without providing Hamas the opportunity to rebuild their weapons systems, rebuild the Gaza. They need to help, and I'm committed to get that done," he said.

—PTI

Kent, Auschwitz survivor, dies

Berlin, May 22: International Auschwitz Committee President Roman Kent, who survived the horrors of the Nazi death camp as a teenager, has died in New York after a short illness, his organisation announced Friday.

In late 1939, after Nazi Germany invaded Poland, members of his Knier family were sent to a ghetto, where Roman's father died of malnutrition in 1943.

The rest of the family were sent to the

Auschwitz-Birkenau camp in 1944 where Roman was separated from his mother and sisters. With his brother Leon, he was sent to other concentration camps before being liberated by US troops while on his way to Dachau at the age of 16.

The brothers emigrated to the United States after the war.

In 2011 Kent became the head of the International Auschwitz Committee.

—PTI

Ready to sail



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II meets military personnel during her visit to the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth, England on Saturday, ahead of its maiden operational deployment to the Philippine Sea. The aircraft carrier will embark on her first operational deployment on Sunday, leading the UK Carrier Strike Group in engagements with 40 nations, including India, Japan, Republic of Korea and Singapore. —AFP

Covid crisis in India a sign that worst may be yet to come: IMF

IMF proposes \$50 bn vax plan

LABRADOR RETRIEVERS JOIN THAI VIRUS FIGHT

Bangkok, May 22: Thailand has started deploying a canine virus-detecting squad in hopes of quickly identifying people with Covid-19.

Angel, Bobby and Bravo are among six Labrador retrievers that have been trained by researchers at the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University to sniff out a unique odour that people with Covid produce in their sweat. —AP

CANADA EXTENDS FLIGHT BAN FROM INDIA, PAKISTAN

Ottawa, May 22: Canada has extended the ban on direct flights from India and Pakistan by one more month until June 21 in a bid to arrest the spread of new variants of the Covid-19, according to an official announcement.

The ban on flights from India and Pakistan was extended as the previous 30-day ban, first imposed on April 22, was set to expire on Saturday. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) News reported.

Cargo flights, however, will be permitted to maintain shipments of essential supplies, such as vaccines and personal protective equipment. —PTI

Berlin: Quarantine for all from the UK

Berlin, May 22: Germany will require people arriving from the UK from Sunday onward to go into quarantine for 14 days.

The decision is a response to the spread of a Coronavirus variant first detected in India. Friday's announcement by the Robert Koch Institute, Germany's national disease control centre, that Britain is being classified as a "virus variant area" comes a week after it went back on a list of "risk areas," which has few conse-

quences under current rules. From Sunday, airlines and others will only be able to transport German citizens and residents from Britain.

Under rules, all people arriving from "virus variant areas" which also include India itself and Brazil —must spend 14 days in quarantine at home after their arrival. They cannot cut that period short by testing negative. People arriving from "risk areas" can avoid a 10-day quarantine. —AP

Diana interview: Ex-BBC head quits

London, May 22: Tony Hall, who was director of BBC news and current affairs at the time of the public broadcaster's explosive 1995 interview with Princess Diana, resigned Saturday as board chairman of Britain's National Gallery.

Hall, who subsequently rose to the top job at the BBC, was heavily criticised in a report this week by a panel of inquiry into how journalist Martin Bashir obtained the blockbuster interview.

In a statement, the 70-

year-old said his continued presence at the gallery would be a "distraction" to an institution I care deeply about". As I said two days ago, I am very sorry for the events of 25 years ago and I believe leaders must take responsibility," said Hall, who served as the BBC's director-general from 2013 until 2020. John Kingman, the deputy chair of the National Gallery's board of trustees, will assume Hall's role for the time being.

He said the gallery is

"extremely sorry" to lose Hall but that "we entirely understand and respect his decision".

The 126-page report by retired Judge John Dyson, published Thursday, found the internal BBC investigation had covered up "deceitful behaviour" by Bashir, who was little-known as a journalist when he interviewed Diana. The BBC also has faced questions about why Bashir was rehired in 2016 as the broadcaster's religious affairs correspondent.

Diana's sons, Princes William and Harry, have excoriated the BBC since the report's publication, saying there was a direct link between the 1995 interview and their mother's death in a traffic accident two years later. In the interview, Diana said her marriage to Prince Charles had failed because he was still in love with former lover Camilla Parker Bowles, whom Charles would go on to marry a decade later.

—AP

First-ever powered flight by Nasa's Perseverance on Mars

China's rover roaming the Red Planet



Shanghai, May 22: China's Mars rover drove from its landing platform and began exploring the surface on Saturday, state-run Xinhua news agency said, making the country only the second nation to land and operate a rover on the Red Planet. The launch last July of the Tianwen-1 Mars probe, which carried the Zhurong rover, marked a major milestone in China's space programme.

Tianwen-1 touched down on a vast northern lava plain known as the Utopia Planitia a week ago and

beamed back its first photos of the surface a few days later. The Mars probe and rover are expected to spend around three months taking photos, harvesting geographical data, and collecting and analysing rock samples. The six-wheeled, solar-powered, 240-kilogramme Zhurong is named after a Chinese mythical fire god.

China has sent astronauts into space, powered probes to the Moon and landed a rover on Mars which was the first-ever powered flight on another planet. —AFP

In this image released by the China National Space Administration on Saturday, a landing platform and the surface of Mars are seen from a camera on the Chinese Mars rover Zhurong.

—AP/PTI

SHORT TAKES

Cricketer Sravanti loses mom to Covid

Hyderabad: Former Indian cricketer S. K. Sravanti Naidu lost her mother Suman to Covid-19 on Saturday. She was treated at a private hospital in Secunderabad. Sravanti's father too has been infected with Covid and is under treatment. The hospitalisation had drained the 34-year-old cricketer financially, forcing her to request cricket authorities for funds, which eventually came in from the BCCI as well as HCA. Indian captain Virat Kohli too had donated ₹6.77 lakh after an appeal by N. Vidya Yadav, former BCCI women's cricket convenor (South Zone).

Sravanti made her debut in 2004 and played 11 international matches — one Test, four ODIs and six T20 internationals. She holds the record for producing the best bowling figures (4/9) on WT20I debut, against Bangladesh in 2014 — she bagged the Player of the Match award for her effort.

Batra elected FIH chief for 2nd term

New Delhi: Incumbent Narinder Batra of India was on Saturday re-elected as the International Hockey Federation (FIH) president for a second term after beating Marc Coudron of Belgium by a slender margin of just two votes during the world body's virtual 47th Congress. Considered the favourite from the beginning, Batra, who is also the President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and an International Olympic Committee (IOC) member, barely managed to pip Coudron, who is the chief of Belgian Hockey Federation and sits on the country's Olympic panel. Batra secured 63 votes as against his rival's 61 to emerge winner during the online voting process, in which 124 member associations participated. — PTI

Tanwar tests +ve, dropped from side

New Delhi: South Asian Games gold-medallist Vinod Tanwar (49kg) has been withdrawn from the Indian men's boxing team for the Asian Championships in Dubai after he tested positive for Covid-19. Tanwar, who had travelled for a tournament in Russia's St. Petersburg last month, had gone home for a break after he came back to the country. The 23-year-old returned positive for the virus when he was tested in isolation on his return to Patiala earlier this week, ruling him out from what would have been his maiden appearance at the continental showpiece. "Vinod Tanwar's name was withdrawn from the squad as he was tested positive for Covid-19," the Boxing Federation of India said. — PTI

148 athletes get first dose of vax

New Delhi: As many as 148 athletes across all sports, including those who have qualified for the upcoming Tokyo Games, have already received their first dose of Covid-19 vaccination, according to the Indian Olympic Association. Out of these 148 athletes, 17 have got both the doses and 131 have received their first shot, IOA president Narinder Batra said. These 148 include potential athletes who can make it to the Tokyo Olympics which is opening on July 23. Besides this, 13 Tokyo Paralympic-bound athletes have got their first vaccine shot while two have received both doses. The Tokyo Paralympics opens on August 24. The total number of athletes (including para-athletes), who have got at least their first dose till May 20, is 163. — PTI

India football team cleared to train

New Delhi: All the players and support staff of the Indian football team have tested negative for Covid-19 after arrival in Qatar and have also started training ahead of the joint Qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup next month. The team, which arrived in Doha on Wednesday evening, was under compulsory quarantine and waiting for the results of their RT-PCR tests before starting their preparatory camp. "Yes, all the 28 players and support staff tested positive in the tests done after their arrival," All India Football Federation General Secretary Kushal Das said. The team, bolstered by the return of Sunil Chhetri, will have a preparatory camp inside a bio-bubble here before its first match on June 3 against hosts Qatar. — PTI

Never-ending Saha

Wriddhiman's journey comes full circle to be understudy again

Kolkata, May 22: It's a circle of life that has put Wriddhiman Saha in the same position that he was a decade back when he came to England in 2011 as skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni's understudy.

The script was repeated in 2014 with Saha seen dutifully carrying the bats, towels and drinks for his teammates and in 2021, he is again expected to watch Rishabh Pant's pyrotechnics from the dressing room, something that has solely missed from his style of batsmanship despite being decent at his craft.

"Obviously, there would be criticism when you don't do well. I always try to deliver the way I've learnt over the years," Saha said ahead of joining the team's bio-bubble in Mumbai on Monday.

Despite being steady with the bat, somehow Saha's willow wielding hasn't exactly inspired the highest confidence.

"If people are saying my batting is not up there, maybe that's the case... But, I don't think I need to change anything — mental approach or technique. I just try to keep my focus and work hard," he said.

IPL BUBBLE NOT FOOLPROOF: SAHA

Saha has indicated that the bio-bubble for IPL-14 was not as foolproof as the one in UAE last year, becoming the first India player to publicly question the tightness of the controlled environment.

"It's the job of the stakeholders to assess it, but the only thing I would say is that there was not a single individual during our training in UAE, not even a ground staff. Here there would be people, kids peeping from nearby walls. I don't want to comment much but we saw how the IPL went off smoothly in UAE," Saha said. — PTI



A file photo of India's wicket-keeper batsman Wriddhiman Saha.

Varun still feels weak & dizzy

Chennai, May 22: Kolkata Knight Riders spinner Varun Chakravarthy is still not fit for intense training after his recovery from Covid-19 as he is still feeling "weakness and dizziness".

— VARUN CHAKRAVARTHY
Kolkata Knight Riders spinner

I'm now doing well and recovering at home. I still haven't been able to resume training full tilt because of post-Covid-19 symptoms. Although I don't have cough or fever, there is weakness and dizziness.

any training.

"The thing I've learnt and would like to tell other athletes and individuals recovering from Covid-19 is to give your body at least two weeks to fully recover after you test negative."

"Also, even after people test negative, my advice is for them to continue to mask up so that you keep others around you safe."

With India facing an health crisis after the second wave of the pandemic hit the country, it's a mental battle for anybody who tested positive for Covid-19. — PTI



Atletico Madrid players celebrate winning the Spanish league title after beating Real Valladolid at Jose Zorilla Stadium in Valladolid on Saturday. Atletico won 2-1 to aggregate 86 points, two more than Real Madrid. — AFP

Atletico are Spanish champions

Madrid, May 22: Atletico Madrid edged city rivals Real Madrid to the La Liga title in dramatic fashion after coming from behind to beat Real Valladolid 2-1 in the final game.

Diego Simeone's side trailed to Oscar Plano's strike but turned the match around in the second half through goals from Angel Correa and Luis Suarez.

Real scored twice late on to beat Villarreal 2-1 but

came up short as they finished just two points ahead of defending champions Real, who end the season without silverware.

Simeone has now won two La Liga titles, a Copa del Rey and a Supercopa Espana in a decade in charge, as well as two Europa League successes and two UEFA Super Cups. Atletico have been title favourites for much of the season, leading the league table since

December 5 when they went top with a 2-0 win, also over Valladolid.

Barcelona — playing without skipper Lionel Messi, who was resting before the summer's Copas America — won 1-0 at Eibar through Antoine Griezmann's acrobatic strike and clinched third place ahead of Sevilla.

Julen Lopetegui's side play their final game on Sunday against Alaves but will finish fourth with a win. — Agencies

Games on track, insists IOC chief

New Delhi, May 22: International Olympic Committee chief Thomas Bach on Saturday asserted that the Tokyo Olympics will go on as scheduled despite opposition from the majority of Japanese population amid the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

The IOC president said hosting the Olympics, already postponed by a year in 2020 due to the unprecedented health crisis, will send a strong message that there is still "light at the end of the tunnel."

Bach made the statement during his address at the 47th International Hockey Federation (FIH) Congress held virtually.

"With Tokyo (Olympics) finally on the horizon, the final countdown has begun. During this difficult



Thomas Bach

times, we need to send a strong message of resilience, unity and our diversity. Tokyo will show light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

Bach's remarks came close on the IOC vice president John Coates' views that the Tokyo Games will go ahead even if the city is under a state of emergency

due to the pandemic. The IOC's stance underscores the challenges to host the Games in a Covid-hit world. While most Japanese are not in favour of hosting the Games due to the strain it is expected to put on the country's medical infrastructure in the wake of the pandemic, the IOC remained adamant.

Bach exuded confidence that together with the local organisers, the IOC would be able to deliver a safe Games, which was postponed last year because of the pandemic. "The safety and security of everyone is utmost priority. But together with our Japanese colleagues we will have to ensure that our athletes come together and compete in a safe environment," he said. — AFP

Azhar waves rule book on nominee

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, MAY 22

Now, it's tennis at the Hyderabad Cricket Association. A day after secretary R. Vijayanand's statement appointing N. Shivlal Yadav as HCA's representative at the BCCI's Special General Meeting scheduled to be held online on May 29, president Mohammed Azharuddin questioned the nomination waving the rule book. The gentlemen have kicked up a racket.

In a statement, Azhar termed the secretary's statement 'another comedy show' even as the cricket body has become laughing stock. The joke is certainly on the HCA.

"With all due respect to my senior colleague in the cricketting arena Sri Shivlal Yadav, I would like to affirmatively state that Mr Shivlal Yadav has completed 17 years of cumulative tenure as an office bearer in the HCA — as joint secretary from 1992-2000 and secretary from 2000-2008," Azhar said.

He then pointed to the Constitution. "Rule 6(5)(f) of the constitution states 'A person shall be disqualified from being a representative to the BCCI if he/she has been an office bearer of a State Association or the BCCI for a cumulative period of 9 years.'

Azhar attempted to rub it in by saying "the rule is self-explanatory for anyone who can read English reasonably well."

● Having completed more than 9 years of cumulative tenure as an office bearer in the HCA, Shivlal Yadav is not eligible to represent it at the BCCI meeting.

Terming the Apex Council members bulldozing brigade, he accused them of "firing from the shoulders of a senior cricketer & administrator" and exhorted the members to step up and make their voice heard.

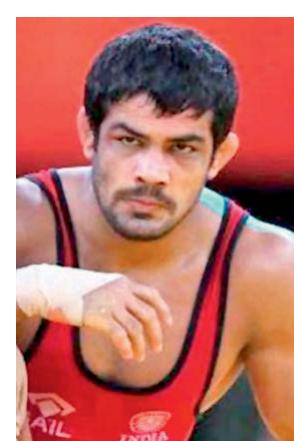
With regard to the disputed process of hiring the CEO, Azhar went ballistic against the secretary and alleged a part of "the Apex Council only meets to save their clubs in the guise of governance."

"They want to use their bulldozer majority to demean and discredit institutions by their actions and ensure that their proxy control is continued by installing a puppet CEO through a sham process. Now that he has gone on record to admit that all processes under 23(1)(3)(4) have been complied with, I will write to the BCCI to audit the process of hiring of the CEO to make sure that it was in compliance with the constitutional provisions," Azhar concluded.

Should the volleys continue to fly back-and-forth, the gutsy men might shift their game to court of a different kind to settle scores.

WRESTLER | MURDER CASE

Sushil held in Punjab: Report



New Delhi, May 22: India's two-time Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar, who was on the run for over a fortnight for alleged links with the murder of former international wrestler Sagar Dhankar, was arrested by Delhi Police in Punjab on Saturday, according to a source.

"Kumar has been arrested near Jalandhar. His associate Ajay Kumar, accused in the case, has also been arrested," a source told a news agency.

On May 18, Kumar had moved an anticipatory bail in New Delhi's Rohini court, but the court rejected his bail plea.

Last week, Delhi Police had announced a cash award of ₹1 lakh for feedback on the celebrated wrestler who was absconding since May 4.

On May 4, two groups of wrestlers clashed with each other at Chhatrasal Stadium leading to the death of 23-year-old Dhankar due to injuries he sustained during the brawl.

The Delhi court had also issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against Kumar.

Delhi Police issued a lookout notice for Kumar.

"A lookout notice has been issued for Kumar," Dr Guribhai Singh Sidhu, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (North West Delhi) had said.

Kumar, employed with the Indian Railways, is posted as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) at Chhatrasal Stadium, where the brawl allegedly took place.

Kumar won bronze in 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and silver in 2012 London Olympic Games in 66 kg category.

— Agencies

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