

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 8 MAY 2021

WEATHER

Max: 37.1°C
Min: 25.1°C
RH: 35%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Rain likely in evening. Max/Min temp. 38/25°C



WORLD | 9

US jets to guard Afghan pullout



SPORTS | 12

Hardik left out of Test squad

TABLOID

John outraged at cruelty to dog



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Ramzan prayers



Muslims offer Jumat ul Vida prayers on the last Friday of Ramzan, at the Macca masjid in Hyderabad on Friday. Id-ul-Fitr is likely to be celebrated on May 14. ■ Report on Page 5

3rd wave can be stopped: Centre

Top adviser says proper precautions can prevent new surge in Covid infections

New Delhi, May 7: There may not be a third wave of Coronavirus in the country if strong measures are taken and effectively implemented at the state, district and city-level, the country's top scientific officer said on Friday, two days after he warned that this wave was inevitable.

K. Vijay Raghavan, principal scientific adviser, said the "insidious asymptomatic transmission" can be stopped if the guidance about precautions, surveillance, containment, treatment and testing is followed.

"If we take strong measures, the third wave may not happen in all places or indeed anywhere at all. It depends on much how effectively guidance is implemented at the local level in the states, districts and cities everywhere."

"The guidance about precautions, about surveillance, about containment, about treatment and about tests. This insidious asymptomatic transmission can be stopped if we follow the guidelines. This sounds difficult; it is difficult and we can and must do it," he said in a press briefing.

On May 5, Vijay Raghavan said as the virus mutates further, a third wave of Covid infection is inevitable and it is necessary to be prepared for new waves.

He said it was not expected that the second wave would hit the country with

such ferocity. "Phase-3 is inevitable given the higher levels of circulating virus, but it is not clear on what time-scale this phase three will occur," he had said.

Responding to a question on when the second wave which has already infected lakhs and killed thousands, will ebb, Vijay Raghavan said it has already started declining in some places.

"The number of cases and the positivity will decline and there will be a lag in hospitalisation and mortality," he added.

"There are other places of great concern all over the country. We must watch out and make sure that we take all steps to reduce and go up to the levels which are difficult to manage," he cautioned.

Infections rise when the virus has the opportunity to infect humans. When the virus runs out of opportunities, the infection falls, he said. — PTI

Sonia asks PM to call all-party meet on Covid

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MAY 7

The Modi government has abdicated its fundamental responsibilities and duties towards the people, the Centre has ignored warnings and alerts from the EGOM, National Task Force and the parliamentary panel.

— Sonia Gandhi,
Congress president

Congress president Sonia Gandhi, lashing out at the Narendra Modi government while addressing a Congress Parliamentary Party meeting on Friday, said: "I say this categorically — India is crippled by a political leadership today that has no empathy for people. The Modi government has failed the people of our country."

Mrs Gandhi said the government must urgently call an all-party meeting on the Covid-19 situation in India and added: "The Modi government has abdicated its fundamental responsibilities and duties towards the people, the Centre has ignored warnings and alerts from the EGOM, National Task Force and the parliamentary panel."

The court was hearing the appeal against the May 4 order of the high court which had listed the PIL for hearing on May 17 saying it wants to first go through what the Supreme Court has deliberated in its judgement of January 5, giving a go ahead to the ambitious project.

The Congress has been repeatedly attacking the government for the last couple of weeks over its "mismanagement" of the Covid-19 crisis, which has been spiralling in the country, with a serious lack of medicines, oxygen, cylinders, hospital beds, ventilators and vaccines.

Accordingly family card holders will be paid ₹2,000 now as part of the ₹4,000 payment to ameliorate their livelihood problems wrought by the continuing Coronavirus crisis.

All women, those working and studying included, would be able to travel free of cost in ordinary fare city buses all over the State from Saturday.

For the newly launched department, 'CM in your constituency,' which will address the grievances of the people, received through complaints dropped in the boxes kept at various places across the State during the 'Stalin in your constituency' election campaign.

Most unfortunately, our own performance in all the states was very disappointing and if I may say, unexpectedly so," she said while concluding her speech.

The CWC is meeting shortly to review the results but it goes without

SC REJECTS PLEA AGAINST DELAY IN HEARING ON CENTRAL VISTA

New Delhi, May 7: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea against deferment of hearing on a PIL seeking direction to halt construction activity at the Central Vista Avenue Redevelopment Project during the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic but gave liberty to petitioners to approach the Delhi High Court for urgent listing of the matter.

The court was hearing the appeal against the May 4 order of the high court which had listed the PIL for hearing on May 17 saying it wants to first go through what the Supreme Court has deliberated in its judgement of January 5, giving a go ahead to the ambitious project.

The apex court asked senior advocate Siddharth Luthra to mention the matter before the High Court for urgent listing on May 10. — PTI

NO DEADLINE FOR WHATSAPP PRIVACY POLICY

New Delhi, May 7: WhatsApp has scrapped its May 15 deadline for users to accept its controversial privacy policy update and said not accepting the terms will not lead to deletion of accounts. WhatsApp had faced severe backlash over user concerns that data was being shared with parent company Facebook.

A WhatsApp spokesperson said that no accounts will be deleted on May 15 for not accepting the policy update. "No accounts will be deleted on May 15 because of this update and no one in India will lose functionality of WhatsApp either. We will follow up with reminders to people over the next several weeks," the spokesperson said in an emailed response.

The spokesperson said while a "majority of users who have received the new terms of service have accepted them", some haven't had the chance to do so. — PTI

■ Full report on Page 11

TS to focus on 2nd Covid dose

No first dose of vaccine will be given till May 12, says state

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

Gatherings curbed, curfew extended

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

The Telangana health department has announced that beginning on Saturday, only those eligible to receive their second dose of Covid-19 vaccination will be given shots. There will be no vaccination for those seeking their first dose, Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao announced on Friday evening.

Only those who got their first shot of Covishield or Covaxin will be eligible to get their second doses, provided they have completed six weeks, and four weeks, respectively, as on Saturday, from the date of the first shot. Both vaccines will be available at government vaccination centres

gatherings related to politics, sports, entertainment, as also academic, religious and cultural events as part of the pandemic-control measures.

Weddings can have a maximum of 100 people. Such events must follow physical distance protocols and wearing of masks.

Only 20 persons will be allowed at funerals, where too Covid-19 safety protocols must be followed.

and the eligible ones can opt for spot registration

during the special drive, he said.

The special drive will end on May 12. There will be no vaccinations on May 9. The need for spot registrations arose because the Cowin portal where people can register slots does not have a provision for those seeking a second dose, he said.

The decision to restrict vaccination only for second dose was taken in view of the low allocation of vaccine till May 15, at 4.69 lakh of Covishield and 2.16 lakh of Covaxin doses.

He said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had spoken to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and requested that Telangana be provided a minimum of two lakh doses a day.

■ Page 4: Have patience for 1st dose, people told

Stalin takes oath as Tamil Nadu CM

Announces Covid relief to poor; insurance cover for treatment

G BABU JAYAKUMAR &
D. SEKAR | DC
CHENNAI, MAY 7



All the measures were promised to the electorate as part of the DMK's manifesto unveiled during the hustings.

Accordingly family card holders will be paid ₹2,000 now as part of the ₹4,000 payment to ameliorate their livelihood problems wrought by the continuing Coronavirus crisis.

All women, those working and studying included, would be able to travel free of cost in ordinary fare city buses all over the State from Saturday.

For the newly launched department, 'CM in your constituency,' which will address the grievances of the people, received through complaints dropped in the boxes kept at various places across the State during the 'Stalin in your constituency' election campaign.

Most unfortunately, our own performance in all the states was very disappointing and if I may say, unexpectedly so," she said while concluding her speech.

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Minister defies HC order to encroach public park

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 7



misdemeanour are inmates of a school run for orphans and underprivileged children besides the residents of the area who are deprived of a lung space. Needless to say, the local municipal, revenue and police officials maintain stoic silence over the gross violation of court directives by the minister and his followers.

Inquiries by this newspaper revealed that when efforts were made to build a temple in the public park in Anojiguda, Ghatkesar, on the city outskirts.

Victims of the minister's

Joint Christian Action Committee (JCAC), obtained a stay order against the construction from the High Court in 2013. "We are not against any religion. There are already several temples in the vicinity, and we have only been requesting the minister's followers to spare the lung space, which is increasingly becoming scarce in this concrete jungle," said Anita Sen of JCAC.

■ Page 4: Temple is now being built in 1,000 sq yds



The site where minister Ch. Malla Reddy and his aides are planning to build a temple at a public park, with government permission. — DC

Two elected UP village heads die

Sambhal (UP): Two recently elected village heads in Uttar Pradesh panchayat polls have died, officials said on Friday. Ambish Kumar (45) and Dushyant Kumar (52), who were elected as village heads from Madhna and Raja villages respectively, died due to breathing problems.

The two had not tested positive for Covid-19, the officials said.

Covid impact to be muted: FinMin

New Delhi: The impact of the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic on the economy is likely to remain muted as compared to the first wave, the finance ministry said in its report. "Learning to 'operate with Covid-19', as borne by international experience, provides a silver lining of economic resilience amidst the second wave," the report said.

It seems nothing can stop Telangana labour minister Ch. Malla Reddy from encroaching public properties. Neither the Supreme Court directives, High Court's stay orders nor his own government's rules come in the way of his misdeeds, if recent developments are any indication.

If some of his moves are allegedly aimed at making monetary benefits, some others are said to be to retain power by impress-

ing electorate including forcible construction of a place of religious worship in a public park in Anojiguda, Ghatkesar, on the city outskirts.

Victims of the minister's

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CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE PROPERTY

COMMERCIAL

COMMERCIAL COMPLEX for sale, on main Road, PVNR express Highway way Shivarampura Aramangal, 65000 Square feet, Each floor 11000 Square feet, 6 floors, 2 cellar parking. Under construction. Contact: 9000087652. (HYMM/2122/C00300)

GOWLIGUDA 160 YARDS Residential cum commercial RCC 3 storied building 5566 built up borewell & Municipal planter. Ph: 9848016600. (HYMM/2122/C01040)

COMMERCIAL FLAT for sale 3BHK Habsiguda main road next to Bajaj Electronics. Ph: 9848956756. (HYMM/2122/C00964)

✓ JUBILEEHILLS COMMERCIAL Plots. Road Number.45, 1450 Sq.yards North Facing. Road Number.10, 1500 Sq.yards South facing. Komppaly main Road 3000 Sq.yards, East Facing. Contact: 9704222345/ 8522015555. (HYCL/2122/C00339)

LEASE/ SALE (Rental guarantee also given) commercial office and shops in kopalpet, komppaly & other places on main road. Venga Realtors Ph: 8889130130/ 8090909530 (HYMM/2122/C01082)

FLATS

DOUBLE BEDROOM

NEAR APPA Junction: Bundlaguda Jagir 28 & 3BHK DLX Flats For Sale E/N/W Face position in 12months @Gated Community. Ph: 9666998119/ 8121844748. (HYCL/2122/C00309)

2BR RESIDENTIAL Flat For Sale @ New friends Colony Attapur Park View Villa, 2nd floor 202,+91 8790182027 WhatsApp +91 556734795. (HYMM/2122/C01077)

2 & 3 BHK Ready To Move In Flats Available In Accurate Wind Chimes At Narsingi. Near Financial Dist. Cont: 7569037771 (HYMM/2122/C00984)

FLAT FOR Sale 2BHK E/F, 1215sqft, Green Park Colony, Road No-3, with carparking, Karmanghat - 49L. Ph: 9886074509, 9886074505. (HYCL/2122/C00337)

2 BHK 1000 sqft, Second Floor, East facing, Double car parking, at Ghori Nagar, Old Bowenpally, Secunderabad. Contact: 8121082328. (A/2122/C00933)

SINGARACOLONY 1907 sft 3bhk fullyfurnished flat Residential and commer cial undividedhouse 85 sq.yards. Ph: 9182384503 (HYMM/2122/C01104)

KONDAPUR 2 BHK Ready to move in Flats for Sale, Jagruthi Colony, West facing 1000 Sft, West Facing 1100 Sft, East facing 1300 Sft in 2nd Floor. For more details Contact: 9849660095. (S/2122/C00104)

THREE & MORE

ANAND NAGAR New malakpati Luxurious 2bhk pent house flat for sale 5000sft, fully furnished with electronics Ac and 2 covered car parks , 100% vaastu East facing property contact: 9348744445. (HYMM/2122/C01063)

BAGH AMBERPET- New Nallakatta, opp to Papaji Da Dhbara, Sivam Road, Sai Tulips Apt, 4 BHK 2860 sq ft Deluxe flat- Possession in 6 months. Contact: 900204280. (A/2122/C00099)

3 BEDROOM flat for sale, 1330 sft, at Banjara hills on Rd.12, 3 bathrooms, newly renovated, nice view. Please call: 994926509. (A/2122/C0002)

5 BHK, 2 Halls, 6 Bathrooms, 4th floor, 3435 sq ft Luxury furnished flat for sale with 2 car parking at Ishaan Surabhi, Basheerbagh. Contact: 9848321212, 8712321212. (B/2122/C00119)

DELUXE FLATS Available 2BHK, 1107sft and 3BHK 1368sft @ Vaishnavi Enclave Near D-Mart, ECIL work in advanced stage. call: 9865600277/ 9800859467. (HYMM/2122/C00999)

GOPANPALLY - SAI Kiran Apt, Diamond Heights, Flat No.44, 3 BHK 1595 sft with car parking, 8 years old in excellent condition for sale. Ph: 9000204280. (A/2122/C00098)

2/3 BHK Luxury flats @ 3700/- sft in gated community with Club house & amenities at Mallampet, near Bachupally 3 BHK starts from 53.8 Lacs onwards. Modi Builders- 7677120120. (B/2122/C00120)

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LUXURY VILLAS In Gated community @ 4450/- sft with Club house & Other Amenities, starting from Rs.1.06 Crore onwards @ Rampally near New Infosys Campus on Warangal Highway. Modi Builders- 7677120120. (B/2122/C00101)

SHRINAGAR COLONY- Doyer Habitat 3 BHK flat with servant room of 2567 sf- 18 years old and in excellent condition. Contact: 900204280. (A/2122/C00100)

SHRINAGAR 1530 sft E/F Car Parking Generator Backup 2 Geysers & AC Chimney pure it for sale @ Suchitra. Contact: 9640781247 (HYMM/2122/C00961)

SUNCITY- SERENE Adavita Apts, Bandlaguda Jagir, opp road to Sri Vidya Ramana International School, 3 BHK 1664 sf and 2 BHK 1136 sf flats- Possession in 15 months. Contact: 9000204280. (A/2122/C00969)

SUNCITY- SAI Nilayam Apts, Bandlaguda Jagir, near K.K. Convention, Padmasi Hills Colony, 3 BHK 1430 sf flats- Possession in 1 month. Contact: 9000204280. (A/2122/C0096)

MULTIPLE FLATS

RESIDENTIAL LUXURY 3BHK Flats in Rasun Ace Elysian A Gated Community at Hitech Kondapur For Immediate Sale, Ready For Occupation, Price Less than Landowner. # 9100010101, 9100030303. (HYMM/2122/C01065)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

DOUBLE BEDROOM

PRIME RESIDENTIAL property at Abid's area 130sq yards ground plus 3 floors very near metro station contact: 9849930360/ 9908221344 (HYMM/2122/C01100)

NEAR ECL, Dammaguda &Nagaram GHMC Limits and Keesara Gated Community Independent Houses Starts from 30Lacs to 45Lacs Ph: 9100995559, 9100996662, 9100885551 (HYMM/2122/C00986)

THREE & MORE

INDEPENDENT HOUSE: 280 Sq.yds, South Face (Veedhipotu), Old House, 3 Rooms Slab+ 3 Rooms Penku, 35,000/- per Sq.yard, Beside Hayagrevaachary Compound, Srinivasa Colony, Balasamudram, Hanmakonda, Warangal. Ph: 9949424759, 99866949355. (HYCL/2122/C00328)

✓ INDEPENDENT HOUSE For Sale 325Sqyds. Prime Location @Sikh Village, Bowenpally Price Rs 3.24Cr/- Contact: 9701789-567, 9885124-359. (HYMM/2122/C00799)

✓ CHERALAPALLI GATE Community, Total 10.Duplex Villase For Sale E/W Facing 4BHK, 180sq, 2400ft, Price 1 Cr 20. Each Villa Available 40Lahks Houses and Nagaram 175Sq.yrd G+1 House G/E-Facing 70Lacs, Land For Sale Price Per Acre 15Lahks to 10.Cr Up-to Required Development Site. Ph: 9709309936. (HYCL/2122/C00339)

400 SQ.YDS S/E Facing, ICIRISAT Colony, Centerpoint, 4 BHK with Lift, Servant Quarters, 4 Car Parking. Contact: 9505700000, 9949986655. (S/2122/C00264)

469 SQ.YDS East Facing, A.S.Rao Nagar, near Sharadha Theater, each floor 1 Flat, total 4 Flats, each 3 BHK with Lift, Car Parking, Generator backup. Contact: 9505700000, 9949986655. (S/2122/C00265)

✓ FILMINAGAR, JUBILEEHILLS, Three Bedrooms, Living, Dining, Kitchen, Portico and Servant Quarter on 380yards. permission for two more floors. contact: 8247409929. (HYMM/2122/C00177)

250SQ.YDS G+2 Penthouse for sale at Nagarjuna nagar, kushaguda, 2Bores, 3car parking, Rental income 75k. Buyers can Contact Karunakar 9866461389. (HYMM/2122/C00191)

PREMIUM VILLAS in Gated community for Sale at Mekila @ 1.80 crs (Special Offer available). For further details Contact: 7333985358 (HYMM/2122/C01099)

INDEPENDENT BUILDING 505sqyds East facing 16,000 square feet, Lift, 50 HP power, Drinking Water, 24hrs Bore Water, Generator, High End Water Purifier, Ample Parking Zamindari, Musheerabad Contact: 9849930360/ 9908221344 (HYMM/2122/C01099)

NALLAGANDLA 2 Villas sale, each villa 220 sqyds, including all facilities, East Facing 3.8cr., 1.villa 3cr. Ph: 8074200349/ 9515246375. (HYCL/2122/C00329)

RAMPALLY, NEAR, Pocharam, Gated community with clubhouse, swimming pool and modern amenities. Brand new 2/3 BHK villas for Re-sale. Hurry! Few villas available. Must see! Call: 9502277098. (S/2122/C00258)

INDUSTRIAL UNIT

WPVC INDUSTRY For Sale. Good Running Factory @Hyderabad. PVC/WPC Form Boards, PVC/WPC Doors, PVC/WPC Door Frames. Ph: 9346191919. (HYCL/2122/C00310)

LAND

NORTH EAST Extension 2Agricultural Lands at Very Reasonable Rate and Chance Lands For Sale (A) Srisailam High Way 3Kilometres, 9Acres Mango Garden Square Bit, (B) Nagarnagar Highway, Bit, Main Road, 14Acres. Ph: 9374399578/ 6303107421. (HYMM/2122/C01022)

✓ KOKAPET 3 Acres land for sale, Suitable hiring Apartments & Commercial buildings good location. Contact: 852201555/ 9704222345. (HYCL/2122/C00340)

FULLY DEVELOPED Land For Sale 5Acres Fully Developed Land For Sale Near Moinabab, with Compound Wall, Power, Bore, Plantation, Roof Bit, Per Acre 2CR. Ph: 9963038315, 7997583777. (HYCL/2122/C00332)

PLOTS IN gated community with excellent amenities & club house by Modi Builders @ Aushapur near Ghateswar RRs.11,500/- Sq.yds. HMDA approved. Call: 7677120120. (B/2122/C00121)

FOR SALE 500 sq.yds East facing elevated plot with beautiful view in Balmarali Housing Society at Mahendra Hills. Contact: 8712319458. (HYMM/2122/C00194)

✓ K20KFT 3 Acres land for sale, Suitable hiring Apartments & Commercial buildings good location. Contact: 852201555/ 9704222345. (HYCL/2122/C00340)

PLUG AND play independent building 11,000 sqft Banjara hills 140-160 seating good interiors long lease. contact: 9900092222. (HYMM/2122/C01073)

750 SFT Commercial Space for rent, road no.7, Banjara hills, 3rd floor, opp GKV One Mall. Ph: 9000008040. (S/2122/C00111)

COMMERCIAL OFFICE Space At Hamakonda Chowrasta Tirumala Complex First Floor 300 Sq.ft. (30 X 10ft) Contact Ph: 9502265088. (HYMM/2122/C01103)

TOLET 500 sft shop for RENT, main road facing, prime location Hinayatnagar opp Dadus, Skill Spectrum commercial complex, Suitable for Pharmacy, Bakery, Cosmetic etc previous Tenant Fedex 15m, Chera room. Contact: 9989657569, 9701529506. (B/2122/00135)

✓ 1235SFt FULLY furnished commercial space for Rent with central AC staff 20 seaters MD room immediate occupancy contact: 9849165045. (HYMM/2122/C01046)

PRIME OFFICE space 1068.62 sf, West End Mall, 4th floor, Rd. No.36, Jubilee hills, close to Metro, covered parking. Contact: 9900788477, 9956347470. (S/2122/C00087)

SPACE AVAILABLE for Office/Shop Plot No. 64/A & B, Phase-II, IDA Gandhi Nagar, 75X80, 100 Hq Power. Plot Cont: 9300065998, 9652565836. (HYMM/2122/C00109)

GHATKESAR, HMDA Approved LP No:03/L0/plg/HMDA/2019. RERA PO200001851. Gated Community New Venture, Direct Land Owner plots. No mediators, Prime Location, Prime Plots, Excellent Lake, View, Villa Plots, Sq.yard, Rs.15,999/- Available Plots Sizes 266, 350 & 500 Sq.yds, Spot Registration, Bank Loan Available. Site Visit, Buyers Only. Call: 9054249789. (HYCL/2122/C00323)

FLATS

DOUBLE BEDROOM

TOLET TWO bedroom flat to occupy at Gowdipet village Gachibowli Contact: 9701648279/ 9010166617 (HYMM/2122/C01067)

BANJARA HILLS Road No.12, near Sitara Hotel, 2000 sf, 3 BHK fully furnished N/E, 100% vastu, 2 car parking. Contact: 9849156668. (S/2122/C00101)

WEST MARREDPALLY, Lepakshi Colony, Rukmini Building 3 Bedroom Semi Furnished Flat, with attached Bathrooms, Drawing Room and Balcony's for rent with all amenities including water 24hours, 1 Car Parking. Contact: 9849066212 from 10.00am to 2pm. (HYMM/2122/C00335)

OPEN PLOTS @Shadnagar, HMDA Villa Plots, 60% Bank Loan Available. Ph:9393659659 (HYMM/2122/C01089)

FOR SALE road facing 303 Sqyds plot at Safiquiguda lower tankbund. Good commercial value, close to amenities. Contact: 993221133. (HYMM/2122/C01093)

OPEN PLOTS @Shadnagar, HMDA Villa Plots, 60% Bank Loan Available. Ph:9393659659 (HYMM/2122/C01089)

PRIME RESIDENTIAL property at Abid's area 130sq yards ground plus 3 floors very near metro station contact: 9849930360/ 9908221344 (HYMM/2122/C01100)

SHANKARPALLY HMDA Approved Open Plots For Sale in Premium Community, 25Minutes From Wipro Circle& 30minutes from Gachibowli. Ph: 9849300919. (HYMM/2122/C00101)

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SHORT TAKES**FLIGHTS TO SIX CITIES FROM HYD CANCELLED**DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

In view of the rising Covid-19 cases, at least 30 domestic flights from Hyderabad to Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Bengaluru and Goa were cancelled from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) on Friday.

The airport authorities said that keeping in view the case-load of these cities, the decision had been taken. However, whether the orders will continue further will be decided later. The airport official said that they were monitoring the situation on a regular basis.

It is not clear yet as to how many passengers were affected due to the cancellation of flights.

NEW TRIAGE UNIT AT TIMS; MORE 02 BEDS SOONDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

Emergency construction of a triage unit at Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (Tims) is almost complete and a similar temporary unit will also be built in the next few days at the Gandhi Hospital.

These units will attend to Covid-19 patients instead of making them wait in ambulances, till the time a bed becomes available for admission into these hospitals.

"We have added 200 more oxygen beds at Tims and also will add more such beds at Gandhi. As soon as a Covid patient arrives in an ambulance, he or she will be taken into the triage and put on oxygen and provided appropriate treatment. Depending on their conditions, once beds are available, they will be admitted to the hospital," Director of Medical Education Dr. K. Ramesh Reddy told reporters on Friday evening.

These triage units will be located close to the entry of the hospitals, he said. He also said Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, who visited Gandhi Hospital and spent a few hours there on Friday reviewing the hospital's needs and discussing setting up the triage units in big government hospitals in the state, directed officials to set up temporary sheds to create additional space on the hospitals' premises where more beds can be placed for treating Covid-19 patients.

Dr. Ramesh Reddy said similar facilities would also be set up urgently at all district and area hospitals across the state as an additional 3,000 beds are being readied for Covid-19 patients needing hospital care. Government hospitals in the state would soon have a total of about 15,000 ICU oxygen beds, he added.

JAMAAT-E-ISLAMI SETS UP OXYGEN THERAPY CENTREDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

Jamaat-e-Islami has set up an 'oxygen therapy centre' for Covid-19 patients on Pahadi Shareef road. Inaugurating the facility, education minister Sabitha Indra Reddy said that the state government is delivering quality medical services and improving infrastructure wherever required while doctors and para-medical staff are rendering great services. There is a need for everyone to come forward with support in the fight against Covid-19.

She said that during the pandemic, the patient needs treatment as well as moral support. NGOs should come forward to end the stigma associated with the Coronavirus and spread awareness about the precautions. The minister appreciated the organisation for providing such a facility in her constituency.

Moulana Hamid Mohammed Khan, amir Jamaat-e-Islami, Telangana, said the facility has been provided by Jamaat's Islamic Social Service Society. He said Jamaat rises to the occasion whenever a calamity strikes. Society secretary Hafiz Mohammed Rasheeduddin said that with the help of Doctors Association for Relief & Education, they were able to set up the facility with 50 beds and 40 medical staff. They treat patients suffering from oxygen shortage. MIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi also inspected the centre.

TS goes with cure first approach against virus

Health dept to consider people with early signs as +ve

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

Telangana on Friday announced that it is going full steam with a 'Treatment First' plan to ensure people, who may have contracted Covid-19, do not develop moderate or serious symptoms, or complications that might require hospitalisation. With people lining up in front of hospitals and needing critical care which many hospitals are not able to provide because they are full, the health department said it had decided to consider individuals with early symptoms as Covid-19 positive cases.

The 'treatment is more important than testing' approach has resulted in identification of 19,099 people with Covid-like symptoms over the past three days, during the house-to-house fever sur-

vey and tens of thousands of people who were checked for their health at Covid-19 outpatient clinics at primary, urban primary, and community health centres across the state as well as at various other government run small and large hospitals.

All these people have been given medicine kits to start their immediate treatment, Director of Health Services Dr G. Srinivasa Rao said at a press conference. He said Dr Rao also appealed to

as many as 20,955 teams had been out in the field going house to house and that they had visited 11,22,369 houses so far as part of the survey to find people with Covid symptoms. "Those who have been identified as having symptoms were checked at the outpatient clinics and given medications. Our staff will continue to monitor their health. They will keep track of these people and if required, will make arrangements to shift any individual needing more attention to a hospital in an ambulance," Dr Rao said.

The state government is the first in the country to adopt such an approach to prevent worsening of health of those who caught Covid and to reduce burden on hospitals, he said.

Dr Rao also appealed to

people not to pressurise healthcare staff taking part in these surveys across the state for Covid medicine kits, as a matter of precaution in case they catch the disease. "Only those who have symptoms must use the medi kits. Do not insist on getting the kits. We have lakhs of them for distribution and anyone needing one, will be provided with it," he said.

Urging people not to create an 'artificial shortage' of the kits, he said every person who received the medicine kit must stay isolated for two weeks. "Do not go out because you are taking medicines. Once medicines are taken, the body needs rest, good nutrition, and fluid intake. Take care of yourselves at home and the government is there to provide any additional help as needed," he said.

Life in pandemic



1. People stand in queue to take vaccination at DME centre in Koti on Friday
2. Oxygen cylinders from Chennai being unloaded at the DME centre in Koti
3. A GHMC worker without a mask cleans the drainage at Nallakunta.
4. Patients wait in ambulance at King Koti hospital due to delay in admission.

— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

COVID | CONTACT

Families of Covid patients left in the lurch

Attenders ousted at Gandhi

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

Covid patients undergoing treatment in the understaffed Gandhi Hospital are in deeper trouble. They have lost the support of attendants and relatives as the hospital imposed strict rules prohibiting their entry to the hospital premises.

Many family members whose relatives are taking treatment at the hospital have been asked to leave and vacate the place by the on-duty cops late on Thursday night. Officials say that the new rule is to stop the spread of the virus as the attendants are test-

ing positive after coming in close proximity with the patients.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle on Friday, some duty doctors at the hospital say they are understaffed with ward boys and nurses, making the work even more hectic for them with an increasing number of cases.

"We are doing our best with what we have. We are engaged round-the-clock doing paperwork to logistics apart from extending medical assistance. We work with what we have," said a doctor filling in patient details and helping them get oxygen support.

On Thursday night, se-

veral relatives and attendees who gathered near the hospital gate were asked by cops to vacate the place. "We came here to be close to the patient. This place has very few nurses and staff, so they need assistance from relatives," said Mohan, a resident of Bachupally whose wife is undergoing treatment.

"We understand the rules, but who is responsible if a patient loses her life due to lack of support," asked another man waiting near the parking lot.

Meanwhile, the on-duty police said they are following orders from

the management to help curb the infection rate. "Many of the attendees are testing positive as they are staying near the beds and are being careless. We have received orders from top to keep them away," said a cop from Tukaramgate police station.

A doctor said they have received several such cases wherein the attendants contracted the virus from the patient undergoing treatment. "Stricter rules are now enforced. Police department has set up flex boards across the place stating that attenders are strictly not allowed in the hospital," said the medico.



Cops to escort oxygen tankers

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

Police will with immediate effect escort cryogenic oxygen tanker trucks bringing liquid oxygen into Telangana by road, so that they move smoothly and swiftly towards their destinations for delivering the life-saving gas to hospitals in the state.

This decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar here on Friday and attended by senior officials including those from police and transport departments. The meeting was held on instructions of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, a government news release stated.

The CS explained in the statement that Telangana is currently getting oxygen supplies from Angul in Odisha and Bellary in Karnataka. Owing to the emergency, it is imperative that any delay in trans-

portation is cut down. Police escorts are hence being given to the oxygen tankers to ensure trouble-free and faster travel of oxygen tankers towards their destinations.

Somesh Kumar instructed transport department and TSRTC to form teams of mechanics, whose services might be needed for attending to any breakdowns en route. He asked RTC to ensure availability of experienced drivers, who will work in shifts to make sure that the tanker trucks travel continuously.

At the same time, the Chief Secretary asked officials to continue coordinating with Indian Railways and Indian Air Force for transporting empty oxygen tankers to Angul and Bellary.

NATIONAL WATER DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
(M/o Jal Shakti, D/o WR, RD & GR Govt. of India)**ADVERTISEMENT NO. 07 /2021**

Applications are invited for the post of Junior Engineer (Civil), Hindi Translator, Junior Accounts Officer, UDC, Stenographer Grade-II and LDC on direct recruitment basis in National Water Development Agency from Indian Citizens.

Date of commencement of online application : 10.05.2021
Last date of submission of online application: 25.06.2021

For more details please see Employment News and visit NWDA website at www.nwda.gov.in

Davp 45111/11/0001/2122
Dv. Director (Admn.)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS
(DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & TRAINING)

Applications are invited for the post of Central Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission.

The details of eligibility, etc. and the proforma for sending particulars for consideration for the post may be downloaded from the Department of Personnel and Training website: www.persmin.nic.in. The last date of receipt of applications in the Department is **07th June, 2021**.

Davp 32201/11/0001/2122

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IN BRIEF
Have patience for
1st dose, people told

From Page 1
He appealed to people seeking to get their first dose shots to have some patience and wait as the government was making every effort to ensure everyone in Telangana gets vaccinated. The Chief Minister has allocated ₹2,500 crore for the vaccination programme and the government is exploring every avenue to get as many doses as are needed.

**CBI adjourned
plea of YSRC MP**

Hyderabad: A CBI special court at Hyderabad adjourned a petition of YSRC rebel MP Raghurama Krishnam Raju seeking cancellation of bail given to AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in his quid pro quo cases. The CM and the CBI sought time to file their contentions.

**Nizamabad med
shops do brisk biz**

Nizamabad: Shortage of medicines and devices is worrying people in Nizamabad district during the second wave of Covid-19.

Particular brands of medicines are unavailable in the retail market. Devices like pulse oximeters and thermometers are in short supply. Yet, wholesale and retail medical agencies and shops are doing brisk business.

**CONGRESS TAKES
ON TRS OVER
LAND-GRAB**

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

Congress leaders from the state on Friday came down heavily against ministers and ruling party leaders, alleging that they were involved in land-grabbing. AICC secretary S.A. Sampath Kumar alleged that even Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had occupied assigned lands for his farmhouse and should be duly punished.

The former MLA gave a presentation about ministers who were facing land-grab allegations. He alleged that 13 Cabinet ministers were land-grabbers, including K.T. Rama Rao.

He challenged the Chief Minister to order a probe by a sitting judge over the encroachment allegations against ministers.

Sampath Kumar charged minister Malla Reddy with occupying buffer zone lands on which he built a hospital. He said the minister is accused of threatening realtors and builders for money.

The Congress said that another minister, Gangula Kamalakar, had occupied Wakf Board lands in Karimnagar and had approached courts for relief in the matter. He asked the government to take action against Gangula, who was caught red-handed in a sex scandal.

He alleged Puvvada Ajay Kumar had grabbed lands in Khammam and Jagadish Reddy at the new collectorate in Suryapet while Singireddy Niranjani Reddy had occupied hundreds of acres of land belonging to Ranganayakula temple and had built a farmhouse by occupying assigned lands.

Srinivas Goud had grabbed land in Mahabubnagar while T Srinivas Yadav had occupied lands belonging to government hospitals. Minister Yerrabelli Dayakar Rao had grabbed assigned lands in Palakurthi, Raiparthi and Warangal Urban while his cabinet colleague Indra Karan Reddy had occupied lands of Ayyappa temple, the Congress leader alleged.

He wanted to know why Chandrashekhar Rao was not responding to court cases over allegations against key ministers.

Temple is now being built on 1,000 sq yards of land

From Page 1

After some lull, the construction resumed after Malla Reddy became MLA in 2018. Despite obtaining the stay order from the High Court and even initiating contempt proceedings, the construction went unobstructed and the area of encroachment spread to 1,000 sq yds, she said.

It must be recalled that in December 2012, the then state government had put curbs on building places of worship without the permission of district collectors, especially in rural areas. In a 2009 order, the Supreme Court had also asked the Centre to ensure that no temple, church, mosque or gurdwara was built on government land.

The school management accused the minister of visiting the school with scores of his followers, intimidating the staff and pressurising them not to object to the construction of the temple. "When we refused to give a 'no objection' statement, Malla Reddy was



Top left: Large stones seen at the compound wall. Above: A vehicle appears to unload construction material at the work site. Left: Malla Reddy at a meeting



furious and threatened us with grave consequences. His aides even criminally trespassed

our school premises to threaten us," said Bishop Mathew, who runs the school along with the

Tehsildar P. Padma Priya also refused to respond to the

queries.

When this correspondent sought clarification from Rachakonda Police Commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat and local Inspector N. Chandrababu, both of whom received several complaints in the past, the former refused to speak about the case while the latter said it was sub-judice. Tehsildar P. Padma Priya also refused to respond to the

queries.

When contacted, the minister said a compromise had been worked out between the school management and Kondal Reddy, the Pocharam Municipality chairman, and his aides building the temple. "I have told both the parties not to interfere with each other," he said and dismissed allegations of intimidating the school authorities.

WAKF BOARD WARN AGAINST KURMALGUDA LAND

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7



Fifty NSUI leaders, led by state president Venkat Balmoor, wears PPE kits and stage protest in front of Malla Reddy hospital demanding that minister Ch. Malla Reddy be sacked from the Cabinet, on Friday.

Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar had stated that the Covid-19 situation was under control.

Dundigal inspector A. Venkatesham said 50 NSUI members, headed by Venkat, barged into the hospital premises

kits and raised 'Malla

Reddy down down'. The police arrested 13 activists including Venkat.

"They barged into the place and held a protest without permission and also damaged property at the hospital while threatening the doctors working there. After

getting the situation under control, we received a complaint from the management and accordingly cases were booked for trespassing, property damage and threatening doctors," the Dundigal police said.

Officials said all the lands covered under the Muntakhab are Wakf lands and there was a gazette notification. They cautioned the general public to refrain from buying or dealing with any person pertaining to the lands covered under the said Muntakhab.

2 major cities get women mayors

Sudharani is Warangal's first citizen, Neeraja sets a record in Khammam

DC CORRESPONDENTS
KHAMMAM, WARANGAL,
MAHBUBNAGAR, MAY 7



(GWMC) and Rizwana Shameem as Deputy Mayor on Friday.

The election for the two posts were held after the oath-taking ceremony of the 66 newly elected corporators.

Eight corporator-elects under home isolation took oath via video calls.

Prior to the oath-taking ceremony, ministers Errabelli Dayakar Rao and Indrakaran Reddy convened a meeting with all the elected TRS corporators at Hanamkonda and declared the names of the chosen candidates.

Gundu Sudharani is state president of the TRS women's wing. She had also served as women's cooperative finance corporation chairman. The 57-year-old completed her MA in Public Administration and belongs to the Padmashali community.

She had been chosen for the upper house by TD chief Chandrababu

Naidu in 2010 when she was a corporator. While holding the position, she joined the TRS in November 2015.

Her daughter-in-law Gundu Ashritha Reddy served as a corporator in the previous GWMC governing body from the 24th division.

Sudharani's spouse Prabhakar owns a hotel in Hanamkonda.

Edla Narasimha Goud

was unanimously elected municipal chairman of Achampet municipality. Presiding officer Pandu Naik gave the oath of office to the newly elected ward members on Friday.

Pareddy Sailaja was elected as vice-chairman unanimously.

In Jachherla, Dorepalli

Lakshmi and Paladi Sarika elected as chairperson and vice-chairperson of the civic body.

Presiding officer and additional collector Tejas Nandal read out the oath of office to the 27 members.

Mayor Neeraja said she has a desire to shape Khammam on par with Hyderabad with the help of all corporators. "I will try to make all the roads clean, in the minimum," she promised.

In Warangal, Gundu Sudharani was elected unanimously as mayor of the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation

She had been chosen for the upper house by TD chief Chandrababu

Naidu in 2010 when she was a corporator. While holding the position, she joined the TRS in November 2015.

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Presiding officer and additional collector Tejas Nandal read out the oath of office to the 27 members.

Owaisi scoffs at PM's 'self-reliant' claims

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

Asaduddin Owaisi, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president, said India had started accepting foreign aid after 17 years. A total of 17 foreign countries were providing aid to India, he said adding that it proved that the claims of 'self-reliant Bharat' by Prime Minister Narendra Modi were false.

Owaisi, in his online address on Youm-ul-Quran, said although the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSA-COG) had already warned the government in March about the possible surge of the second wave of Covid-19, the government failed to chalk out a plan to tackle the situation, resulting in large number of people succumbing to the virus. In India, daily 3,500 people

were dying due to Covid-19 as per official records, while real figures were seven times more, the Hyderabad MP added.

He said the country had only 1,224 oxygen tankers with a cumulative capacity of 16,372 tonnes. If all of these tankers run and turnaround time was six days, then the daily supply would be 2,788 tonnes, which would not be sufficient for Delhi and Karna-

taka, he said. "Five 'Oxygen Express' trains are being plied which transport 230 tonnes a day and this quantity is sufficient for Gujarat for only four hours," he said and asked the supporters of Modi why the government did not enhance the oxygen generating capacity, while it got sufficient downtime.

Owaisi claimed that only two per cent of citizens have been vaccinated so far. Scientists had advised that at least 20 crore people should be given vaccine per month, but the government allotted 50 per cent production of vaccine to the private sector, he said.

He appealed to the Muslims to follow Covid protocols while celebrating the festival and avoid crowds. He also appealed to devotees to perform Id prayers in local masjids instead of idgahs.

2nd ANNIVERSARY

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



V. JOHN MANI KUMAR
Entered into Glory: 08.05.2019
WE MISS YOUR PRESENCE
EVERY SINGLE DAY
Inserted by: SRILATHA BUNGA &
FAMILY MEMBERS
Ph: 9849421674

GO TO HOSP IF FEELING FEVERISH: MAYOR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

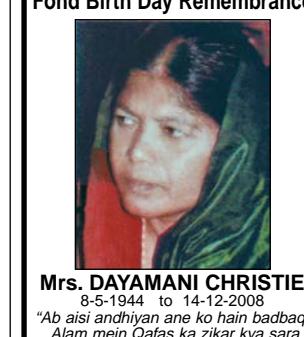
City mayor Gadwal R. Vijayalakshmi on Friday appealed to the people to go to the nearest government hospital or Basti Dawakhana and get tested even if they had the slightest cold, fever or cough.

12th DAY CEREMONY



RUDRANGI SRIKANTH
DOB: 20.11.1974 DOD: 27.04.2021
May his soul rest in peace.
Deeply Mourned by:
Kylasa Laxmi Narasamma
Kylasa Sreenivasa
Kylasa Sangeetha
Kylasa Sharan
Kylasa Aishwarya
Kylasa Veer

Fond Birth Day Remembrance



Mrs. DAYAMANI CHRISTIE
8-5-1944 to 14-12-2008
"Ab aisi andhyan aane ko hain badbaq
Alam mein Qafas ka zikar kya sara
chaman ujdiane wala ha"
Inserted by: Loving Husband
Dhanpal Christie & Members
Ph: 984183964, 9818101726

21st DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Late T. ANAND RAO
DOB: 08.05.2000
Wife M. Grace Anand Rao
Grand Daughters:
T. Hilda Margarette
T. Prashansa Vijay, T. Sahasthra Vijay
9704235945, 9573654694

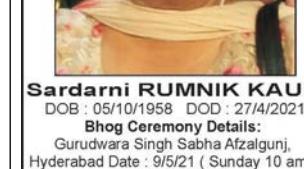
BHOG CEREMONY



P. VINODH KUMAR
SENIOR ADVOCATE
EX ADDITIONAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR
EX GOV PLEADER
(HIGH COURT OF TELANGANA)
&
(HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH)
ON SUNDAY THE 09-05-2021
LUNCH FOLLOWS
INSERTED BY: FAMILY MEMBERS
CONTACT NO'S: 984868822, 9849071513

OBITUARY

I have fought the good fight I have finished the race.
I have kept the faith. 2 Tim. 4:7



Mrs. DHARA BHANUMATHI WILSON
DOB: 02/08/1942 DOD: 07/05/2021
Carmel Prayer House, A.C. Colony Assembly, Hyd.
FUNERAL SERVICE ON 08-05-2021
at 3pm at NARAYANAGUDA CEMETERY.

Inserted By: Family Members
9666263902, 900019995

BHOG CEREMONY



M.RATNA KUMARI (RATNA MALA)
W/o Late Mudhagowri Yesudas Goud
DOB: 24. 05. 1952 DOD: 04.05.2021
We grieve of the

SHORT TAKES

VITEEE 2021 TO BE ONLINE FROM MAY 28-31

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

Vellore Institute of Technology has on Friday announced that VIT Engineering Entrance Examination (VITEEE) 2021 will be conducted as "online remote proctored examination" from May 28-31 in view of surge in Coronavirus pandemic. The last date for submitting applications is May 20. Further details are available on Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) website www.vit.ac.in.

NEGATIVE RT-PCR FOR ENTRY TO WB, DELHI: RAILWAYS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

The Railways on Friday issued an advisory to passengers travelling to West Bengal and Delhi to carry RT-PCR negative certificate, obtained within 72 hours of their journey. Those travelling to the national capital from Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh by train shall have to undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days. Railways advised its passengers to visit Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website before commencing their journey about the protocol to be followed at any of their destinations.

73-YEAR-OLD KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

A 73-year-old man got killed after the SUV he was travelling in turned turtle when it crashed into a road divider at PVNR Expressway in Rajendranagar on Friday afternoon. According to police, the deceased, Mohd Khaleel, was travelling in the car with four other family members. Driver of the car, who is yet to be identified as he is undergoing treatment for his injuries, was over-speeding, lost control and rammed into a road divider near pillar number 292. Rajendranagar police reached the spot, pulled out the passengers.

TECHIE HELD FOR BLACKMARKETING REMDESIVIR

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

Hyderabad North Zone Task Force on Friday nabbed a software employee for black-marketing remdesivir injections.

Police said, "Akula Mehl Kumar, 26, an employee of HSBC Bank in HiTec City and resident of Pan Bazaar in Secunderabad, realised the high demand for remdesivir while sitting in the medical shop run by his father. He then decided to illegally procure these vials at low rates from dealers and sell them at higher prices. Accordingly, he was buying each vial for about ₹4,000 and selling them for nearly ₹35,000."



Shoppers do not follow social distancing rules as they go shopping in full swing on the last Friday before Id at Tolichowki in Hyderabad on Friday. — R. PAVAN

Piety, compassion mark Jumat-ul-Vida

Devotees offer prayers in preparation for Id-ul-Fitr

ATHER MOIN I DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

Jumat-ul-Vida, the last Friday of Ramzan, was observed with religious reverence and zeal under anti-Coronavirus standard operating procedures on Friday in several masjids.

Thousands of devotees offered Friday prayers at masjids as they are

Ramzan is likely to end on May 13 and Id-ul-Fitr would be observed on May 14, depending on the sighting of the moon. Imams and khateebas in their sermons stressed upon Muslims to purify their souls through a greater dedication and prayer and being kind to fellow beings and help others in these days of troubles. The biggest congregation is witnessed at

historic Macca Masjid, while large gatherings were witnessed at Shahi Masjid, Public Gardens, Jamia Masjid, Musheerabad, Azizia Masjid, Humayunagar, Jamia Masjid Chowk and Qutub Shahi Masjid Paltan, Malakpet. This time the faithful were not allowed to perform prayers outside the Macca Masjid.

preparing to celebrate Id-ul-Fitr next week. Ramzan is likely to end

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Top officials inspect facilities at Gandhi, inaugurate o2 plant

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

Top state government officials visited Gandhi Hospital on Friday to inspect the new Covid-19 ward in the library building, which can accommodate 160 Coronavirus patients. They also checked the newly installed oxygen generation plant within the hospital premises. The Covid ward will start functioning soon.

The high-profile team comprised Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar, health secretary Rizvi and GHMC commissioner Lokesh Kumar.

The oxygen plant, which was inaugurated on Friday, can generate four metric tonnes per day and cater to around 400 patients. The delegation visited the triage facility. Later, they interacted with the hospital's medical staff. The Chief Secretary applauded the



Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, police commissioner Anjani Kumar, GHMC commissioner Lokesh Kumar at the new Covid-19 ward in Gandhi Hospital on Friday.

staff for their services related to cleaning, sanitisation, street-lighting and oxygen laying.

They also saw works

related to cleaning, sanitisation, street-lighting and oxygen laying.

Elkaturthy decided to allow businesses to run only between 5 am and 12 noon. The residents were asked not to step outside during the rest of the time until May 22.

The sarpanch of Kondaparthy Katkuri Rajamani declared that they would implement partial lockdown in the village according to which shops would be open between 6 am and 10 am and 5 pm and 7 pm. "There are about 50 people who are suffering from Covid-19 symptoms in the village. That is why we have taken this decision," she said.

In Mangapet village of Mulugu district, voluntary lockdown will remain in effect till May 20. Village special officer Srikanth and the village panchayat governing council decided to allow business establishments to run between 6 am and 1 pm only.

specific timings and the entry of outsiders into the villages is barred. A fine of ₹ 1,000 will be imposed on violators of these norms.

Asha workers and ANMs are providing isolation kits

to those with symptoms. They are also conducting door to door surveys by checking residents' temperatures. If they have symptoms, they are being given medicine. If the symptoms

are severe, they are referred to hospitals. Those who test positive are either home isolated or admitted to hospitals.

In Warangal Urban district, the village panchayat

UOH DECLARES VACATIONS FROM MAY 10

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

University of Hyderabad (UoH) has on Friday announced early summer vacations in view of Covid-19 surge across the country as well as in campus premises. The vacations will begin from May 10 and continue till June 8.

The university has requested that all students, including research scholars, to vacate their hostels and return to safety of their homes in the next couple of days.

"We are concerned about the increasing number of cases both among staff and their family members," said vice chancellor Prof. Appa Rao Podile.

Classes will resume on June 9 and continue up to July 20. Examinations will be from July 21. Classes for the next semester will commence from August 2, university authorities said.

The tenders will be available on e-procurement portal <https://tenders.telangana.gov.in> from 06.05.2021 to 17.05.2021. Further details can be had from the office.

R.O.No.:119-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22

Covid cases 'fall' for 12th straight day

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

The daily fresh Covid-19 cases in Telangana fell for the 12th straight day on Friday, with the health department reporting 5,559 fresh Covid-19 cases and 41 more deaths.

The new cases took the total infections so far to 4,87,199 and C-fatalities to 2,666 in the state. A day ago, the state reported a total of 5,892 cases, and 46-deaths.

Director of health services Dr G. Srinivas Rao told the media that the state now reported the day's infection data the same day. It had done so early last year but later started releasing the data of each day the next day morning.

Dr Rao said the state, as of now, was having 71,308 active cases - cases under treatment. As many as

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA			
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL OFFICER, PANCHAYAT RAJ MAHABUBNAGAR			
Tender Notice			
NIT No.TO/87 to 89/2021-22, dt.03.05.2021			
No. of Packages (03) R & R Colony Works in Wanaparthy District.			
Estimate Cost-₹16,00,00 Lakh.			
The Tenders will be available on eprocurement https://tenders.telangana.gov.in			
from 06.05.2021 to 17.05.2021. Further details can be had from the office.			
R.O.No.:119-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22			

SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT BOARD

SP Road, Court House Compound, SECUNDERABAD-500003.

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Secunderabad Cantonment Board establishes a dedicated Covid Hospital and requires the following medical and para medical staff as per details mentioned against each. The engagement is purely on temporary basis for a period of 6 months that can be further extended as per the requirement.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No.of Posts	Honorarium per month	Qualification
1	General Physician	1	1,50,000.00	MBBS, MD (General Medicine) with 5 years exp.
2	Duty Medical Officer	5	60,000.00	MBBS with 2 years exp.
3	Supervisor	2	35,000.00	BSC Nursing with Hospital Management with 2 years exp.
4	Nursing Incharge	1	40,000.00	B.Sc. Nursing/CNM with 5 year exp.
5	Nursing Staff	20	30,000.00	B.Sc. Nursing/GNM
6	Pharmacist	3	20,000.00	D.Pharm/B. Pharm with atleast 1 year exp.
7	Phlebotomist	3	20,000.00	Passed Medical Lab Technician Course with 1 year exp. in working lab.

Interested candidates are required to apply in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, Secunderabad Cantonment Board, Sardar Patel Road, Court compound, Secunderabad-500003, along with attested copies of documents in support of their educational qualification and send the same via email @ ceo.scb2009@gmail.com. The applications along with documents should reach this office by 17-05-2021.

No. 1185, Date: 07-05-2021.

Office of the Cantonment Board, Secunderabad.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer,
Secunderabad Cantonment Board.

भारत सरकार Government of India
परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग Department of Atomic Energy
द्रव्य एवं धन निदेशालय Directorate of Purchase & Stores
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DECCAN Chronicle

8 MAY 2021

Vaccines: IP waiver fine, but tech transfer crucial

The warning by the principal scientific advisor to the Union government that a third wave of the pandemic Covid-19 is in the offing and the Supreme Court's assessment that the government needed to finalise a formula for the allocation, supply and distribution of oxygen in a scientific manner before the wave hits the nation bind the government into pulling up its socks to fight the pandemic. The decision of the United States administration to support a joint move by India and South Africa to waive patent for vaccines for the pandemic could add to its preparedness.

Most experts were of the view that the pandemic would stage a second coming after it started waning in the fourth quarter of last year but the government planned little or nothing for it. The Niti Aayog and the parliamentary committee for health and family welfare had flagged the increased use of medical oxygen during the first wave and wanted the government to streamline its supply and distribution mechanism. But the government had chosen to ignore most of them with the cumulative result that patients in their thousands choke and some die across India.

The fresh thinking on the patent regime on Covid vaccines does not offer immediate relief but the government must do everything possible to get the technology transferred here and production increased in the shortest possible time

The government that had cleared two vaccines, one developed indigenously, and then launched the "world's largest vaccination drive" in the beginning of the year did little to augment their production with the result that other nations now scour their vaults to export the jabs to the "world's vaccine factory". This is almost the same in the case of life-saving anti-viral drugs, too. The government did nothing to improve the healthcare infrastructure in the interregnum, which only a percentage of the patients get decent medical attention with proper care.

A repeat of the heart-wrenching scenes that several parts of the country now witness is totally unacceptable and the Union government must lead from the front the defensive actions against the third wave. It has presented and got passed a budget earmarking ₹2.23 lakh crores for the health ministry, which marked a 137 per cent hike compared with the previous year, in the light of the pandemic. This should be reflected in the preparatory work, which should also see an improvement in the infrastructure. The government must, as the court wanted, make a realistic assessment of the projected requirements of the medicines and auxiliary materials and start sourcing them from within the country or abroad.

The fresh thinking on the patent regime on Covid vaccines does not offer immediate relief but the government must do everything possible to get the technology transferred here and the production increased multi-fold in the shortest possible time. Three vaccine manufacturing units in the public sector — those in Kasauli, Coonoor and Guindy — have stopped working for want of regulatory compliance for more than a decade and the government must ensure that they are back in action at the earliest; the fourth one in Chengalpet requires only a minor effort to start production. The time for the Narendra Modi government to pluck the lowest hanging fruits is long over; it must now face tougher challenges.

Stalin era begins

Among Tamil Nadu's 10 chief ministers from Rajaji to Edappadi K. Palaniswami there were giants like Kamaraj, Karunanidhi, MGR and Jayalalithaa who brought in welfare schemes to benefit a cross-section of people from students to the poor and disadvantaged. The burden of expectation on Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin is, perhaps, at an apogee, especially considering the circumstances rendered dire by a sweeping pandemic. The expectations may have been lower when Edappadi took over in 2017 but in terms of tackling the coronavirus health crisis he also set an example of a leader backing a proficient set of administrators.

To Stalin's credit he has started off on a good note, first acknowledging political elders before putting together his Cabinet thoughtfully. Having waited patiently for his turn when he also revealed a statesmanlike side to his personality in not trying to take advantage of the situation during Edappadi government's existential crisis, Stalin has swung into action, signing Covid-19 relief measures and women's welfare. In taking on the job with executive decisiveness straightforward, Stalin has shown himself to be a seasoned politician who also eschewed glitz shows in triumphalism. He has also kept off introducing into his Cabinet his kin, including his son who was so prominent at the hustings.

Having worked for his party DMK for decades, Stalin must be well aware of collective responsibility and that is reflected in the quality of ministers he has chosen for key tasks. While keeping faith with elders who were among his father's loyalists, his choice is apt of former Mayor Ma Subramaniam as health minister at a time when the virus is throwing up record numbers and the state has to look into oxygen availability among preparatory measures. Tending to finance will be Palani Venkateswaran, with his rich experience as a former investment banker and there are other key ministers to look after education, etc. The mixture of the old and the new Cabinet is a promising enough sign as the Stalin era begins.

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Farrukh Dhondy



Cabbages & Kings

"I lived in glass houses,
— but confess I had no stones
I stepped out of those kitchens
— and rattled those marrow bones
I stood in the ruins of the church
— the one with the broken spire
O Sage, O Saint, O soothsayer
— O blessed prophetic liar!"

— From The Love Song of Wroth K. Gumby-Hara By Bachchoo

We live in enlightened times, my friend... witness the fact that Boris Johnson has moved his girlfriend into 10 Downing Street, the official residence of Britain's Prime Ministers.

This is perhaps an honest if unconventional move. Boris announced his engagement to 32-year-old Carrie Symonds before their baby boy was born. So, Ms Symonds went from being a former adviser on his staff and lover to "First Girlfriend". I call it a relatively honest, if not permanent, setup as former Prime Ministers have had unacknowledged mistresses while living in Downing Street with their wives. There was the confessed dalliance of John Major

with one of his ministers and then the alleged one-night stand of Tony Blair with Rupert Murdoch's wife Wendy Deng — and others going back further into history.

Ms Symonds, having moved into Downing Street, has proved to be a different kettle of kitsch. Recent Prime Ministers with kids have found the flat above the official rooms of 10 Downing Street constraining and have spread themselves to a connected upstairs flat of the adjoining 11 Downing Street. What the Chancellors of the Exchequer, whose right it is to live in Number 11, have thought of this I don't know, but that's now a matter for Rishi and Mrs Sunak. Perhaps gratitude for being appointed supplants territorial discomforts.

Carrie was very rude about the décor of the flat she inherited from previous PM Theresa May, saying she was appalled by its furniture and wallpaper, calling it a "John Lewis nightmare". She commissioned a designer named Lulu Lytle to refurbish and refurbish the place. I am no expert on interior décor, but pictures of the redecorated flat and Ms Lulu's handiwork are, for me, the best definition of

that elusive word "kitsch" that I have ever seen.

The redecoration cost £200,000. So why, when the world is in the throes of a deadly plague, am I devoting space to this idiocy? Because it is now alleged that some Tory donors had paid for this extravagance, and that makes BoJo beholden to these benefactors on the principle that there is no such thing as a free lunch. This scandal, the significance of which is yet to be established, may cause BoJo to be found guilty of lying to Parliament about the settlement of the redecoration bill, thus breaching the ministerial code — a matter for resignation.

Now the commentariat, even in right-wing BoJo-supporting publications such as *The Spectator*, are getting worried about the influence of the "First-Girlfriend" in the affairs of the country. Her bad taste in décor and the consequent threat to BoJo aside, it is a fact that she has packed the staff and advisory phalanx of the PM's office with her friends and people she agrees with politically.

Her overseeing several of these crony appointments had led to the resignation of the previous Svengali-like adviser, Dominic Cummings, who after his ejec-

tion from Downing Street is taking his revenge by leaking damaging information to the press on BoJo's dealings. For instance, there was the leak of a phone and text correspondence between tax-dodging Singapore Sir James Dyson and BoJo in which the PM asked for the manufacture and delivery of ventilators for the Covid crisis and agreed to Dyson's demand to waive the taxes his employees would have to pay. The meanness of billionaires, even when discussing the alleviation of a world health crisis, is unfathomable. Couldn't Dyson have paid the tax from his profits? Can the PM really step in and, with Chancellor Sunak, waive taxes on a select band of people?

Ms Symonds is accused, apart from crony appointments of interventions in policy areas that affect the country, decisions that very many Conservatives and people in government are convinced that BoJo would not have taken had it not been for her prevalent influence. The contention is that if Ms Symonds wants to influence or dictate policy, for instance on green issues to which she is commendably dedicated, she shouldn't do it through the conjugal bed, but through the ballot box.

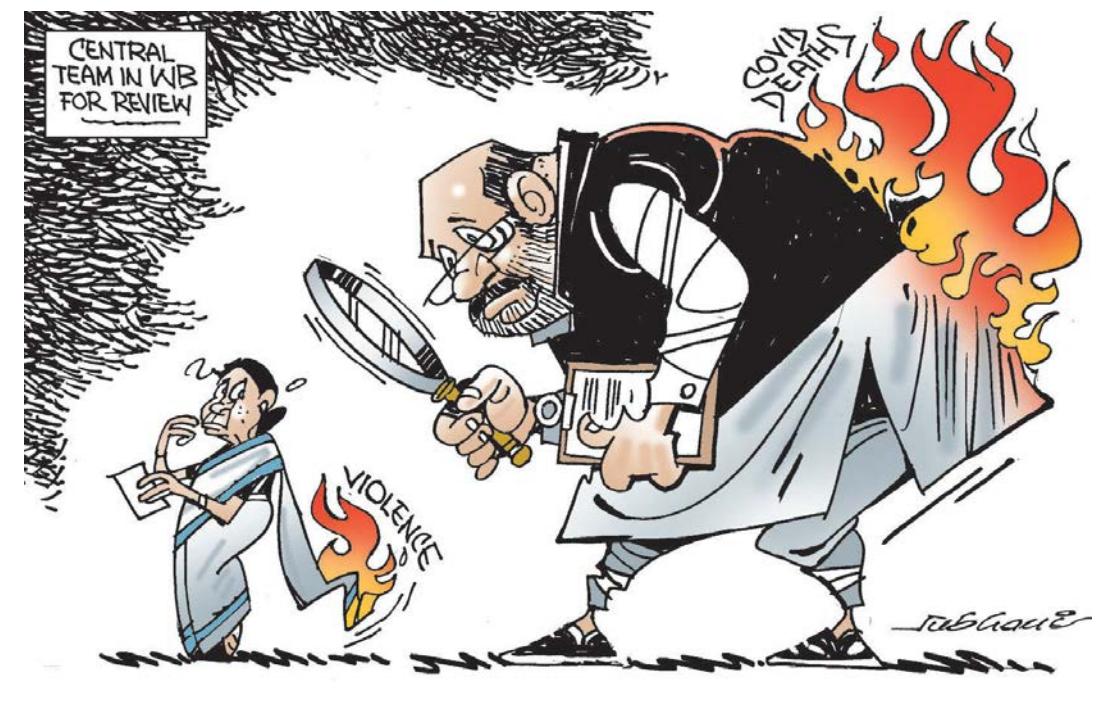
She allegedly caused BoJo to interfere in a parliamentary-sanctioned cull of badgers. He banned the cull which environmentalists now say has disastrously decimated the hedgehog population.

Her trivial influence was demonstrated when she insisted that BoJo interrupt and leave an important scientific meeting on Covid to demand that he immediately get in touch with *The Times* to refute a story in the newspaper that Carrie's affection for their dog Dilyn had cooled since she insisted on adopting him. Not a shaggy-dog story!

The criticisms of Ms Symonds' unconstitutional influence has been characterised by her supporters in the press as the grumblings of "old-school, sexist Tory dinosaurs who are afraid of intelligent women".

As an anti-Tory dinosaur and no supporter of Dominic Cummings or his hypocritical revenge and as someone who has never had — or has had through vast experience to overcome a fear of intelligent women, I beg to disagree. BoJo was elected on some particular policies and democracy demands that he concentrate on those and not on the concerns of an unelected paramour.

Subhani



Heal at home first, then try to be a global leader

K.C. Singh

While India was distracted by the macabre events in and outside hospitals in Delhi and other major cities as patients gasped for breath, and some even died as the oxygen ran out, minister for external affairs S. Jaishankar headed to London for a meeting of G-7 foreign and development ministers earlier this week. Also invited, besides G-7 members, were the ministers of South Korea, South Africa and the chair of Asean. Mr Jaishankar had just met US secretary of state Antony Blinken and his host, British foreign secretary Dominic Raab, when some members of his delegation tested positive for Covid-19. What could represent his government's mishandling of the coronavirus' second wave than this international embarrassment?

The G-7 meeting, preparatory to the summit later this year, issued a long joint statement. US trade representative Katherine Tai set the scene by announcing on its eve that the United States supported the Covid-19 Trips waiver at the World Trade Organisation. Its preamble begins by recognising the "critical juncture" at which stand "our people, our planet, our security and our future prosperity". This holistic approach is most welcome as it recognises the connection between pandemic elimination, future pandemic avoidance, climate change centrality and the world's prosperity depending on global interdependence.

Then it addresses the themes of continuing relevance, if the G-7 nations have to retain their moral advantage over the Chinese model of single party rule favouring economic over political and humanitarian rights. It asserts that democracy "is under pressure globally". Then they recommit more assistance to the global vac-

cine-sharing programme Covax.

Although since October 2, 2020, when India and South Africa introduced the Trips waiver at WTO, as India's former permanent representative to the UN in New York Syed Akbaruddin tweeted, 60-plus nations have co-sponsored and 100-plus nations extended support to it in the 164-member body. The G-7 statement shows residual resistance in Europe, which may slowly dissipate as the US draft gets circulated and perhaps amended to reflect corporate interests. In any case, it means two things — a waiver is not coming soon enough to help the developing world this year; and India has to take the lead in compelling indigenous manufacturers to voluntarily waive Trips cover and share their intellectual property to put moral pressure on the foot-draggers at WTO. However, so far, the Indian government is headed in the reverse direction by putting half the vaccine production in the market for states and the private sector to haggle over. The CEO of a major hospital chain in Gurgaon claimed on television that he was offered vaccines by intermediaries at higher prices. Will the Indian government now end up with a controversy of its own making?

However, past experience shows that the US throwing its weight behind a proposal generally gets European compliance. Germany and Switzerland may be the last holdouts. In the meanwhile, India requires to focus on two things — normalising access to hospitals by ramping up beds with oxygen, ICUs, etc. The supply of oxygen must take into account not only escalated hospital needs but also the moderately ill who are self-isolating at home. Also, to address vaccine supplies as the government has compounded the confusion by opening-up vaccinations for the 18-plus age group just as the supply has dried up. Serum Institute CEO Adar Poonawala abandoning his factory, alleging threats and making gratuitous statements from his lair in London needs deft handling. In any case, the US has now released raw material for 20 million vaccines, which he needs to put in vials promptly.

What may yet negate the pharmaceutical industry's greed is the desire of Russia and China to play the Good Samaritans, as part of their counter-West strategy.

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What may yet negate the pharmaceutical industry's greed is the desire of Russia and China to play the Good Samaritans, as part of their counter-West strategy. Not coincidentally, two-thirds of the G-7 statement has them in the cross-wire. One or the other figures are directly in the paroxysms relating to Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific, Myanmar or Taiwan, the entry of which to WHO has been endorsed. They also are the objects of themes like a rules-based order to human rights and freedom of religion, as indeed democracy. So, the news that Russia is starting mass production of a single-dose Sputnik vaccine comes as great relief. India also needs to be more proactive internationally in tying up contracts with emerging vaccines like a new RNA based product of Cure Vac, Germany, the final results of which are awaited in mid-May, which unlike Moderna and Pfizer can be stored in fridges. There is also the US-supported initiative between Baylor College of Medicine and the Hyderabad-based Biological E for a safe, effective and affordable vaccine. Its production does not start till later this year. This has the potential to inoculate the world.

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

LETTERS

POST-POLL STRATEGY

Prior to the elections, BJP leaders in West Bengal threatened TMC workers and the police. The post-poll violence is a reaction from TMC workers. The BJP is trying to gain mileage by accusing the Mamata government of driving away Hindus and even seeking President's rule. Let the BJP introspect on its failures. Gimmicks will not help.

P.R. Ravinder
Hyderabad

GAG ORDER

The apex court verdict on Election Commission's plea is laudable (*SC rules out gag order on Media, DC, May 7*). A majority of us feel the EC committed a blunder by announcing elections when Covid-19 was spreading. The heavens would not have fallen if the elections were postponed by a few months. It could have controlled the spread of the virus and saved thousands of lives. All government agencies should take note of this costly experience and take suitable decisions to protect people.

S.S. Rama Chandra Murty
Hyderabad

HALF-BAKED CURES

Many half-baked nature cure ideas for Covid-19 are being circulated on WhatsApp and other social media. Some naive people are following them and suffering irreparable losses. They are confused about what is correct. There is no control over this. There is need to control such news.

M. Mohan Rao
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Jewellery out of rare coins

HYDERABAD, MAY 7. Yelliah, the waddar (stone-cutter), who found 200 rare gold coins of the 14th century A.D. belonging to the Vijayanagar empire at Mubarakpur village, about 35 miles from here in Vikarabad taluk, after making ingots from 100 of them, also made some jewellery for his wife.

After burying the remaining 100 gold coins in his house, the waddar came to the city with gold ingots for selling. When the waddar gave two gold ingots to a jeweller, the latter got suspicious and formed the police.

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Is Carrie, UK's First Girlfriend, the real driver of BoJo's govt?



SHORT TAKES

TRIPURA: INPT TO MERGE WITH TIPRA

Agartala: A month after their alliance won the state tribal council polls, the Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura (INPT), the oldest tribal party in the state, has merged with the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA) to achieve their "common goal of Greater Tipraland".

The merger was announced by TIPRA chairman Pradyot Kishore Deb Barman here on Thursday.

The TIPRA and the INPT had contested the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAACD) polls as alliance partners on April 6 and won 18 out of the total 28 seats.

The BJP secured nine seats and the other seat was won by an independent candidate.

In the 30-member tribal council, elections are held for 28 seats, and representatives in the remaining two seats are nominated by the governor on the advice of the state government.

TIPRA chairman Pradyot Kishore Deb Barman told reporters, the merger was a "post-poll unification to achieve the common goal of forming Greater Tipraland".

This merger is for the unity of the entire tribal community of the state. We want other tribal parties also to unite to achieve their common goal."

U.P. POLL: WRONG CANDIDATES DECLARED WINNERS

Gorakhpur (UP): An FIR has been registered against a government official deputed as additional returning officer (ARO) in the Uttar Pradesh panchayat polls for allegedly giving winning certificates to candidates who lost, an official said on Friday. Additional returning officer (ARO) Virendra Kumar has been booked for cheating, forgery and fraud on a complaint from Returning Officer Sunil Kumar, a senior police official said.

On Wednesday night, there were incidents of arson in Nai Bazar police outpost by the supporters of the candidates who alleged that they were not declared winner due to fraud committed by the official. Police have arrested 18 people and lodged four separate FIRs in connection with vandalism and arson of the police outpost.

After the counting of votes on Tuesday, Ravi Nishad, a candidate of district Panchayat ward number 60, and Kodai Nishad, of ward number 61, claimed they have won the election with over 2,000 votes, but the administration didn't give them certificate. On Wednesday morning, certificates of victory were given to Gopal Yadav for ward number 60 and Ramesh for ward number 61.

The supporters of Ravi and Kodai held a demonstration at Nai Bazar crossing, pelted stones, and also set ablaze the police post there.

LION AT ETAWAH SAFARI PARK TESTS COVID-19 POSITIVE

Bareilly (UP): A lion at the Etawah Safari Park has tested positive for Covid-19 and another was suspected to have caught the infection, days after eight Asiatic lions in Hyderabad were found infected with the virus.

"Sixteen samples of 14 Asiatic lions at the Etawah Safari Park had been sent to the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) for RT-PCR tests for Covid-19. On Thursday, one lion tested positive for the virus, while another was considered as a suspect case. The remaining 12 lions have tested negative," IVRI Joint Director Dr KP Singh said.

He said the sample of a lion was also received from the Delhi zoo and its report came out negative on Friday.

He said the report of the samples of the lions is being sent to the government besides the safari park management.

The chain of transmission of the virus could have taken place through any asymptomatic human carrier; probably caretakers, working at the park, Dr Singh said. He said the safari park authorities have been advised to shift the infected animals in isolation.

The safari park has already been shut for public.

The CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology had on Tuesday said eight Asiatic lions in the Hyderabad zoo have tested positive for Covid-19.

Centre has to supply oxygen to Delhi: SC

SC refuses to interfere with Karnataka HC order directing Centre to supply more O2

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, MAY 7

In a stern message, the Supreme Court on Friday told the Centre to continue supplying 700 MT oxygen every day to the national capital as per its May 5 order, and to not push it to take coercive actions.

A top court bench headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justice M.R. Shah took umbrage over the Centre not supplying Delhi with 700 MT oxygen as ordered by it on May 5, 2021, after the Delhi government informed the court that it did not get 700 MT oxygen on Thursday as ordered by it.

Making it clear that they mean "business" and don't want to be "coercive", an apparently irked Justice Chandrachud said, "It has to be supplied and we don't want to be coercive. You proceed and arrange the oxygen."

Cautioning the Centre that its order to supply 700 MT oxygen has to be complied with, Justice Chandrachud further said, "Don't make us go firm."

Joining Justice Chandrachud, Justice Shah said, "You have to supply 700 MT oxygen every day till we further order."

In another jolt to the Centre, the court refused to interfere with the Karnataka high court order directing the Centre to supply 1,200 MT oxygen to the state.

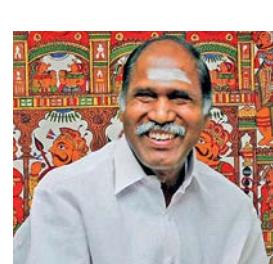
Describing the high court order as a "well-calibrated judicious exercise of power", the SC said that the high court cannot remain silent when people are dying in the state.

The Karnataka high court had ordered the Centre to increase the daily oxygen allocation to the state to 1,200 MT from 965 MT for treating Covid patients.

In a bid to present a larger picture which needs a pan India approach, solicitor general Tushar Mehta told the court that the entire system would collapse if all high courts start passing orders on oxygen supply in their states.

However, the Supreme Court said that it was not oblivious to the difficulties being faced by the Centre but they (court) also have to think what will happen if the requirement of oxygen in a state is not met.

"The order of the high court is based on the need to maintain at least a minimum requirement as projected by the state government until a decision on the representation is taken and the high court is apprised," the court added.



N. Rangasamy

N. RANGASAMY TAKES OATH AS PUDUCHERRY CM

Puducherry, May 7: AINRC leader N. Rangasamy was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Puducherry at a brief ceremony held at the Raj Niwas here on Friday and will lead a coalition government of BJP members in his cabinet.

While Karnataka is the lone southern state with the BJP in the ruling saddle, its induction in the UT cabinet allows the saffron party expand its footprint, vis-a-vis power in the region.

Incidentally, it fared well in neighbouring Tamil Nadu, where it won four assembly seats in the Dravidian heartland in the April 6 polls.

Union Minister of State for Home and BJP leader Kishan Reddy, who attended the swearing-in ceremony today, told reporters that BJP and AINRC would have three ministers each and they would be sworn in over the next few days.

— PTI



A family member mourns after the death of a relative due to Covid-19 at LLR Hospital, during the second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic, in Kanpur, on Friday. — PTI

India records 4 lakh+ cases; experts see peak in June

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, MAY 7

India on Friday scaled yet another height in terms of single-day Covid-19 cases with 4.01 lakh new detections and 4,191 fatalities in the last 24 hours. Rising number of infections continues to grip the population in fear which is still struggling hard to find hospital beds and oxygen to survive this second wave of pandemic. As per reports, the current wave is expected to peak by June end and thereafter there may be some respite.

Dr K. Vijay Raghavan, chief scientific advisor, said on Friday that the third wave of the pandemic can be handled if stringent, necessary steps are taken on time.

Two days ago Dr Raghavan had said the third wave was "inevitable given the high levels at which this virus is circulating". He, however, did not give timeline of the third wave. But on Friday he clarified that the third wave may not take place everywhere in the country if sufficient precautions are taken. "The pandemic has different peaks and falls across the country. The only condition for third wave waves is the presence of a susceptible population. If we take strong measures, the third wave of Covid-19 may not happen at all places or even

anywhere. It depends much on how effectively Covid guidelines are implemented at the local level, in the states, districts and in the cities everywhere," Dr Raghavan said.

Several states and UTs have imposed strict lockdowns to break the chain of transmission. Goa on Friday announced a 15-day curfew from Sunday during which only essential services, including medical supplies, will be allowed while grocery shops will be allowed to remain open only from 7am-1pm.

The Centre has said it has so far provided more than 17.35 crore vaccine doses to states/UTs and more than 90 lakh doses are still available with states/UTs to be administered.

It added over 10 lakh doses in addition will be received by the states/UTs in the next three days.

The Centre has decided to deploy AYUSH professionals to boost availability of medical personnel to fight Covid-19.

The Union health ministry said AYUSH doctors are institutionally qualified professionals, well-trained in various aspects of medical care and have proven their competence in various Covid-19 management roles in different institutions across the country. States/UTs have trained nearly 1.06 lakh AYUSH professionals in different aspects of Covid-19 management, and 28,473 professionals have been deployed for Covid-19 activities.

It is currently on the verge of overwhelming all of our systems. GOI's failures have made another devastating national lockdown almost inevitable," he told the prime minister. India has seen a record number of 4.14 lakh fresh Covid cases and around 4,000 deaths in the last 24 hours. Gandhi said it is critical that our people are prepared for such an eventual lockdown. He has been demanding that the government provides Rs 6000 in the accounts to each poor family to tide over the crisis. — PTI

RAHUL BLAMES CENTRE FOR 2ND LOCKDOWN

New Delhi, May 7: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the government's alleged failures have made another devastating national lockdown almost inevitable, and called for providing financial and food support to the most vulnerable.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he suggested that the government should not be concerned about the economic impact of the lockdown as the human cost of the spread of the virus would have tragic consequences for the people.

"Your government's lack of a clear and coherent Covid and vaccination strategy, as well as its hubris in declaring premature victory as the virus was exponentially spreading, has placed India in a highly dangerous position: today the disease is growing explosively.

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Karnataka, Goa under lockdown

Bengaluru, May 7: Karnataka Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa on Friday announced lockdown like restrictions with more stringent curbs from May 10 to May 24 in view of alarming rise in Covid cases.

There was already a curfew in place in the state from April 27, which was to end on May 12.

"The second wave of Covid-19 is creating havoc across the state as the Corona curfew imposed in the state has not yielded the expected result in reducing the infection and death rate," the chief minister said.

"Therefore, the government has decided to impose a stringent measure to check the spread of the disease and death. Restriction will be imposed in the entire state from 6 am of May 10 to 6 am of May 24," he said.

All shops and commercial establishments, hotels, pubs and bars will remain closed during this period, Yediyurappa said. Essential goods and services like food, medicine, — PTI

MP to provide free treatment for poor

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, MAY 7

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday launched 'Mukhyamantri Upachar Yojana' providing free treatment to Covid-19 patients belonging to the economically weaker section of society.

As per the scheme, the Ayushman Bharat card holders would be provided free corona treatment in both government and private hospitals.

The state government has appointed nodal officers for each private hospital in the state to facilitate admission of the Covid-19 patients belonging to poor families under the free treatment scheme.

As many as 395 ICU beds, 13,224 oxygen beds and 20,601 isolation beds are currently available in government hospitals in the state.

Similarly, total 3,760 beds have been reserved for Covid-19 patients in the private hospitals in the state.

Twenty percent of beds in government and private hospitals have been reserved for Ayushman Bharat Yojana.

Madhya Pradesh on Friday reported 11,708 fresh coronavirus positive cases taking the tally of cases to 6,49,114.

NIA seeks uranium details from ATS

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC
MUMBAI, MAY 7

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has sought detailed information from the Maharashtra ATS about the seizure of over seven kg of natural uranium worth about Rs 21.30 crore.

The ATS had arrested two persons on Wednesday night and seized 7.100 kg of uranium from them.

According to an NIA officer, the agency has not yet taken a decision on whether it will take over the investigation or not. However, since the matter is sensitive the central probe agency has sought

details of the case from the ATS.

Following this the ATS on Friday gave a copy of the FIR to the NIA and provided necessary information related to the case.

After the two arrests, the DIG ATS Shivdeep Lande had said that in order to ensure if the seized substance was uranium it was sent to Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC) at Trombay for analysis and after examination the officials there had confirmed that the seized material was natural uranium of more than 90 per cent purity and it was highly radioactive.

gen

generators and 1,000 ventilators as part of the UK's latest response to India's Covid-19 crisis.

Airport staff worked

through the night to load

the life-saving kit, funded

by the Foreign

Commonwealth & Development Office,

aboard the massive

Antonov 124 aircraft."

Giving details, the BHC said, "The world's largest cargo plane will leave Belfast this morning, carrying three 18-tonne oxy-

gen generators and 1,000 freight containers - produces 500 litres of oxygen per minute, enough for 50 people to use at a time. They are expected to reach India on Sunday morning, where the Indian Red Cross will help transfer them to hospitals. This support, previously announced, is in addition to 200 ventilators and 495 oxygen concentrators, which the UK sent to India in late April."

RSS slams Bengal violence

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MAY 7

Condemning the "gruesome post-poll violence" in West Bengal, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on Friday said it appears to be "well inspired" and is against the spirit of democracy. The RSS also asked the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamul Congress to "effectively establish rule of law", act against the culprits and instill feelings of safety and confidence among the affected people.

The RSS also reminded the ruling party of its duty in containing the post-poll violence unleashed against the Opposition party mem-

bers, in particular the BJP. It claimed that the state administrative machinery was "completely passive" and "remained mute spectators" during the violence and the rioters seemed not to be afraid of anything".

In Bengal, the anti-social elements active in this abhorring violence, "misbehaved with women folk in the most barbaric and despicable manner, brutally killed innocent people and torched houses", the Sangh's general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said in a statement.

He also claimed that as a result of unabated violence, thousands of people, including a large number from the scheduled

castes and tribes, were forced to go in search of refuge to save their lives and honour.

"It is our considered opinion that this post-poll violence is contrary to the Bharatiya tradition of co-existence and respect to the opinion of all, as also it is totally opposed to the very spirit of democracy and one people enshrined in our Constitution," he said.

The "electoral victory belongs to political parties but the elected govern-

ment is accountable to the entire society", he said.

The RSS general secretary said that there is widespread "fear psychosis" among the common people of West Bengal.

The RSS demanded legal action should be taken against those involved in violence and should also make effort to "instill a feeling of safety and confidence in the minds of affected people and to take necessary steps for their rehabilitation." The RSS also urged the Union government to

IN BRIEF
10 killed in an attack in Nigeria

Lagos: Ten people including two police officers have been killed and a number of students abducted in Nigeria's southeast, police said on Friday, in a region where separatist tensions are on the rise.

Dozens of security operatives have been killed during attacks by gunmen on checkpoints, police stations and prisons in the region in the past few months.

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(Action/Thriller) (English)
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EU drug regulator taps new Covid pill

Begins accelerated authorisation process for sotrovimab to prevent deaths, hospitalisation



French President Emmanuel Macron arrives for an EU summit at the Alfandega do Porto Congress Center in Porto, Portugal, Friday. European Union leaders meet for a summit in Portugal, sending a signal they see the threat from Covid-19 on their continent as waning amid a quickening vaccine rollout. Their talks hope to repair some of the damage the Covid has caused in the bloc, in such areas as welfare and employment.

— AP

UK HEALTH DEPARTMENT WORRIED ABOUT INDIAN VARIANT

London, May 7: Health authorities in England are believed to be especially concerned about one strain out of three Indian variants they have been tracking since last month.

According to a report based on leaked data by the BBC, Public Health England (PHE) is said to have recommended the B.1.617.2 version of the Indian variant to be classed as Variant of Concern (VOC) as it appears to spread more quickly than two other identified subtypes of the Indian variant. The version, along with B.1.617 and B.1.617.3, have so far been classed as Variant Under Investigation (VUI).

Latest surveillance data released by PHE indicates 61 more cases of the B.1.617 variant from India with the other two versions still under review, taking the total number of cases to around 500. Experts believe the variant B.1.617.2 is at least as transmissible as the so-called Kent variant, which had been detected in England at the end of last year and led to the UK's second wave surge in Coronavirus infections earlier this year.

— PTI

OZ MIGHT CLOSE BORDERS TILL 2022

Sydney, May 7: Australia is likely to remain shut to visitors until late 2022, the country's trade and tourism minister said on Friday, as another global Covid surge smashed hopes of a quick reopening.

Minister Dan Tehan said a wave of cases on the Indian sub-continent showed Australia's near blanket ban on arrivals was still essential to keep

the country Covid-free. Since March 20, 2020, Australians have been barred from travelling overseas and a hard-to-get individual exemption is needed for foreign visitors to enter the country. It is "very hard to determine" when borders could reopen, Tehan told *Sky News*.

"The best guess would be in the middle of the second half of next year". — AFP

VACCINE MUST FOR SAUDI WORKERS

Riyadh, May 7: Saudi Arabia said on Friday that employees will only be allowed to return to their workplace in person once vaccinated against Covid.

The government's order on the matter is set to expire on May 15. Following the National Security Committee on Friday, Morrison agreed it saw "no need to extend it beyond that date". — PTI

and social development said in a statement, urging workers to "begin the process" to get a jab.

The health ministry said it has administered more than 10 million Covid-19 vaccine doses, in a country with a population of over 34 million.

The kingdom has reported more than 423,000 Covid infections. — AFP

CHINA OPENS ITS SIDE OF EVEREST FOR -VE CLIMBERS

Beijing, May 7: China has opened Mount Everest's northern slope to a few dozen mountaineers who will be tested for the Coronavirus and must keep their distance while ascending the world's highest peak.

Both Nepal and China

closed the mountain to foreign climbers last year because of the pandemic.

Nepal has allowed in foreign climbers this season despite a surging Covid-19 outbreak, and at least one climber, a Norwegian, confirmed last month he had contracted the virus.

Nepal mountaineering officials have denied any outbreak on the mountain, citing only altitude sickness and other ailments common in the cold, harsh, low-oxygen environment where climbers stay in close quarters.

The health ministry said it has administered more than 10 million Covid-19 vaccine doses, in a country with a population of over 34 million.

The kingdom has reported more than 423,000 Covid infections. — AFP

— AP

US favours freer flow of vaccine components

Paris, May 7: The new US position in support of lifting patents on Covid-19 vaccines has taken attention away from an equally significant change by Washington, which plans to open up trade in the raw materials used to make them.

After having recently taken heat for blocking such exports, Commerce Secretary Katherine Tai said Wednesday that the US government would "work to increase the raw materials needed to produce those vaccines".

The assertion was hidden at the bottom of the statement unveiled Washington's remarkable reversal of its position on Covid-19 vaccine patents, which coincides with a shortage of doses in emerging and developing nations as cases surge in some countries.

president Adar Poonawalla wrote on Twitter.

There is no actual embargo on exporting vaccine components. Instead, Biden, like his predecessor Donald Trump, invoked the Defense Production Act — which normally concerns wartime — to confront the pandemic.

While it does not explicitly ban exports, it puts the US government first in line to buy certain products made in the country.

US officials have previously played down the possible effect of the law on global vaccine production.

"There's just more global manufacturing happening everywhere in the world than suppliers can currently support," a US official told a White House briefing late last month on condition of anonymity.

Over the past two months, a number of public and private actors have noted the shrinking supply of components needed to manufacture vaccines.

At least 50 components, perhaps as many as 100, go into the jabs.

They include items like the glass vials to ship them, as well as certain types of plastics needed for containers used in the manufacturing process.

— AFP

N-talks intensify in fourth round



Deputy Secretary General/Political Director of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Enrique Mora (left) leaves the Grand Hotel Wien after the closed-door nuclear talks with Iran in Vienna on Friday.

— AFP

US adds warplanes for Afghan pullout

Washington, May 7: The US has deployed a dozen additional warplanes to bolster protection of American and coalition troops making a final withdrawal from Afghanistan as Taliban insurgents step up pressure on Afghan government forces, top Pentagon officials said.

General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said F-18 attack planes have been added to a previously announced package of air and sea power, including the USS Dwight D Eisenhower aircraft carrier in the North Arabian Sea and six Air Force B-52 bombers based in Qatar, that can be called upon as protection for withdrawing troops. Also part of that previously announced package are several hundred Army Rangers.

US officials said before the withdrawal began that they expected the Taliban to attempt to interfere, even as the insurgents continue pressuring government forces, especially in Helmand and Kandahar provinces in southern Afghanistan. "There continues to be sustained levels of violent attacks" by the Taliban against Afghan security forces, Milley said, speaking alongside Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin at a Pentagon news conference. He said there have been no attacks against US or coalition forces since they began pulling out of the country on about May 1, and he described the Afghan forces as "cohesive," even as speculation swirls around Kabul's ability to hold off the Taliban in the months ahead.

Both Milley and Austin, a retired Army general, are veterans of the war in Afghanistan. "They're fighting for their own country now, so it's not a foregone conclusion, in my professional military estimate, that the Taliban automatically win and Kabul falls, or any of those kinds of dire predictions," Milley said.

— AP

Insects have taken over social media, newspapers even before parks, gardens

US braces for cicada wave after 17 years

Washington, May 7: Some are waiting for their arrival with trepidation, others are curious what they might taste like: Americans are swapping tips on how best to weather the storm when billions of cicadas soon emerge after 17 years underground.

Before invading parks and people's gardens, the insects have already conquered the airwaves, social media and newspapers, especially in

parts of the eastern, central and southern United States where "Brood X" is due to emerge.

Billions of cicada nymphs that have been living underground since 2004 will burst out of the soil, shed their skin, mate, lay eggs and then die, all against the backdrop of the deafening noise that males make to attract females.

The last time they

emerged, George W. Bush was the US president, Facebook had just been created and Athens was getting ready to host the Summer Olympics.

So when will the swarm arrive?

Hard to say, as it depends to some extent on weather conditions, and in particular the temperature of the soil. Expected cooler temperatures could delay their emergence

until mid-May — or they could pop up any day now. Residents have been watching for signs of their arrival for weeks, sharing photos of the tunnels the cicadas have dug to make their way to the surface when ready to briefly face the world.

Tim Pfeiffer has taken to tweeting about the insects. The 28-year-old, who lives in the Washington suburb of Silver Spring, Maryland

posted videos of a few bugs that had appeared ahead of the swarm and were crawling on his porch.

He said that he was "more anxious than excited" and admitted that cicadas "are kind of gross as nymphs."

"But watching some of them morph into the adult form in under an hour is fascinating," he said.

On the neighborhood email network Nextdoor, there are

more and more comments about the looming bug invasion, including how best to deal with the flying critters.

"Get a face shield, wear a cap, carry a fly swatter, keep your windows up while driving," advised one person.

Another user had the following advice for cyclists: "Pedal slow and use wide tires, those squished cicadas on the bike trail are mighty slick."

— AFP

quick BITES

INDICATORS %

Sensex	49206.47	0.52
Nifty 50	14823.20	0.67
S&P 500*	4,234.60	0.78
Dollar (₹)	73.51	0.36
Pound Sterling (₹)	102.30	0.33
Euro (₹)	88.76	0.11
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	47,185▲474	1.00
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	68.29	0.29
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.015	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.545	-0.016

* As of 8:30 PM IST

Sovereign rating to stay for next two years: S&P

S&P Global Ratings said India's credit rating would be retained at the current level for the next two years, and the country will see a slightly faster pace of growth in the next couple of years that will support its sovereign rating. Speaking at a webinar, Andrew Wood, director-sovereign and public finance ratings, S&P Global Ratings, said, "India's rating remains stable on a 'BBB-' rating. We do not expect there to be a change."

Carlyle sells 4% stake in SBI Life for ₹3,900 crore



Private equity firm Carlyle Group divested 4 per cent stake in SBI Life Insurance for over Rs 3,900 crore through an open market transaction. According to bulk deal data available with the BSE, Carlyle Group, through its entity CA Emerald Investment, sold 4.1 crore shares, amounting to 4 per cent stake, of SBI Life for Rs 3,936 crore. The shares were offloaded at an average price of Rs 960.

HDFC net up 31% in Q4, interest income falls

Mortgage lender HDFC reported a 31 per cent jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 5,669 crore for the fourth quarter against Rs 4,342 crore a year ago. Total income on a consolidated basis more than doubled to Rs 35,754 crore from Rs 16,632 crore. Interest income fell to Rs 10,879 crore from Rs 11,391 crore. For the full year FY21, the net profit was down at Rs 20,488 crore against Rs 22,826 crore in FY20.

Cams lists on NSE to broaden investors base

Chennai-based Computer Age Management Services (Cams), India's largest registrar and transfer agent of mutual funds, got listed on the NSE. Cams shares were first listed on the BSE on Oct. 1, 2020 after the IPO. Since NSE Investments was a shareholder in Cams prior to the IPO, though they exited completely during the IPO, this prior shareholding precluded the listing of the company's shares on NSE then.

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■ Banks have to disburse loans in 30 days Quick on-lending of health fund ordered

FALAKNAAZ SYED

MUMBAI, MAY 7

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday said that banks seeking funding from its special Rs 50,000 crore 'on-tap' term liquidity facility to on-lend to Covid-related healthcare services, should do so within 30 days from the date of availing of the funds from it. The banks will have to ensure that the amount borrowed from it should at all times be backed by lending to the specified segments till the maturity of the scheme.

The RBI early this week announced a Rs 50,000 crore liquidity window to banks under priority-sector lending to augment Covid-19 healthcare infrastructure to help raise treatment capacity, and availability of medicines and medical equipment in India. Loans under the scheme, for tenures up to 3 years, are available to banks at the repo rate till March 31, 2022. Such loans would also be classified under priority sector.

Consequently, banks are expected to extend these loans below current interest rates for companies engaged in health care activities. These include makers and suppliers of vaccines and drugs; hospitals; pathology labs; suppliers of oxygen; makers of emergency medical equipment; logistics firms; and Covid-19 patients.

According to Crisil Ltd, hospitals could be among the biggest beneficiaries as

₹10K-CR WINDOW FOR SFBs OPENS ON 17TH

FALAKNAAZ SYED

MUMBAI, MAY 7

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday said that it will conduct the first auction for special three-year long-term repo operations of Rs 10,000 crore for small finance banks (SFBs) on May 17.

With an aim to soften the impact of the Covid second wave on small borrowers, the RBI this week announced a special long-term repo operation (SLTRO) window for small finance banks and allowed classifying on-lending by small finance

banks to microfinance as priority sector lending. The special liquidity window to the tune of Rs 10,000 crore to SFBs, through SLTRO will be available at the repo rate. This Rs 10,000 crore facility is to be deployed for fresh lending with a maximum ticket size of Rs 10 lakh per borrower and would be available till October 31, 2021.

The RBI said it will conduct one auction for SLTRO each month. The unutilised portion of notified Rs 10,000 crore will be carried forward in each subsequent auction until fully utilised.

The incremental funding can potentially increase bed capacity in the country by 15-20 per cent. "As many as 354 Crisil-rated companies with aggregate bank exposure of Rs 40,000 crore will be eligible for such loans. Though pharmaceutical firms account for 63 per cent of rated bank exposure, hospitals at around 24 per cent of rated exposure are likely to avail majority of the funding available," said the rating agency.

The borrowing cost of hospitals rated by Crisil are 10.5-11 per cent and the new loans taken for expansion under this RBI scheme could be 300-350 basis points cheaper, leading to substantial interest

savings.

Subodh Rai, chief ratings officer, Crisil Ratings said, "Increased availability of funds at low cost will incentivise hospitals to augment beds, oxygen storage, ICUs and critical medical equipment. Even if half of the funding available is used to add hospital beds through brownfield expansion, it will mean about 5 lakh incremental beds, or 15-20 per cent of India's current capacity."

In comparison, for entities in other health care related sectors such as pharmaceuticals, the capital requirements for enhancing production capacity of critical Covid-19 related drugs is not very high.

In January this year, WhatsApp had informed users about the changes in its terms of service and public policy through an in-app notification.

WHATSAPP SCRAPS MAY 15 DEADLINE FOR PRIVACY POLICY

STUTI ROY & MOUMITA BAKSHI CHATTERJEE
NEW DELHI, MAY 7

WhatsApp has scrapped its May 15 deadline for users to accept its controversial privacy policy update and said not accepting the terms will not lead to deletion of accounts.

WhatsApp had faced severe backlash over user concerns that data was being shared with parent Facebook.

A WhatsApp spokesperson said no accounts will be deleted on May 15 for not accepting the policy update.

"No accounts will be deleted on May 15 because of this update and no one in India will lose functionality of WhatsApp either. We will follow up with reminders to people over the next several weeks," the spokesperson said in an emailed response to a query on Friday.

The spokesperson added that while a "majority of users who have received the new terms of service have accepted them", some people have not had the chance to do so yet.

But the company neither clarified the reason behind the decision nor divulged the number of users who have accepted the terms so far.

In January this year, WhatsApp had informed users about the changes in its terms of service and public policy through an in-app notification.



India's Covid relief comes to \$302 per capita: ADB

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, MAY 7

India's over \$410 billion Covid-19 relief package ranks as the second biggest among Asia's developing countries, but this, when translated to per capita relief, slips many places down the ladder.

Among ADB's developing members, the top three packages are those of China at \$2.3 trillion, India at \$412 billion and the Republic of Korea at \$248 billion.

However, whether a package on a per capita basis is adequate to address the Covid-19 pandemic is a difficult question with no easy answer. It depends on the government's objectives, both with respect to the pandemic and other economic objectives like fear of running a fiscal deficit and how it perceives the situation, it added.

India allocated 38.6 per cent share of its total package for liquidity support, which includes short-term lending to the

private sector, regulatory adjustments to liquidity requirements and foreign exchange operations. India's actions included increased short-term repurchase agreements (0.1 per cent of GDP), variable-term repurchase agreements (0.5 per cent of GDP) and special refinance facilities for rural banks, housing finance companies and small enterprises (0.2 per cent of GDP).

Among ADB developing members, China and India allocated the largest amounts to direct income support to households and individuals at \$1.3 trillion and \$194.4 billion, respectively.

In India direct income support makes up 10.9 per cent of the total package. Other actions implemented by India include subsidies for businesses, investments in health institutions and programmes for the agriculture sector.

IMF to revisit India's growth forecast

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, MAY 7

Considering the recent surge in Covid cases, the IMF will be revisiting India's growth forecast in July. The fund finds that the downside risks predicted by it are now materialising.

The IMF, in its April World Economic Outlook, had envisaged an economic recovery in India, with growth projected at around

12.5 per cent in FY22. "The recent upsurge in Covid-19 cases implies that downside risks, which we had also spoken of at that time, are materialising. So, we are following these developments very closely, and we will be revisiting that growth forecast in our World Economic Outlook update, which will be forthcoming in July, so not too far off in the distance, but we will be looking at that again," IMF spokesman

Gerry Rice told reporters. While making the growth forecast in April, IMF's chief economist Gita Gopinath had said that Covid-19 still posed a downside risk.

"We're all watching what is happening in India with concern. And I think really what the economic impact will be will really of course depend on the path of the pandemic and how long this serious situation goes on for," said Rice.

LIC RELAXES CLAIM SETTLEMENT REQUIREMENTS

IAN LOPEZ & TINA DAVIS
MAY 7

Keeping in view the safety of its customers in the current pandemic situation, Life Insurance Corporation of India said it has relaxed claim settlement requirements to make the processes easier and hassle free.

To facilitate a speedy settlement of death claims in the prevailing situation where death has occurred in a hospital, in lieu of Municipal death certificates, LIC has allowed alternate proofs of death," the life insurance behemoth said in a statement. The alternate proof of death, which will be accepted by LIC include, discharge summary or death summary or death certificate issued by hospitals run by government or ESI or Armed Forces or any corporate.

The company, however, said such hospital issued the certificate should be counter-signed by a LIC Class I officer or a Development Officer with 10 years standing along with cremation or burial certificate or authentic identifying receipt issued by the relevant authority.

In other cases, the municipal death certificate will be required as earlier. For annuities with the return of capital options, the insurer said the production of life certificate is waived for annuities due up to October 31, 2021.

That's not always the case in other countries, particularly in less developed nations.

"Under the law they can get just and reasonable compensation for the use of their patented inventions" by another company in the US. However, when trying to make up for losses from an international manufacturer producing the vaccine overseas, the lawsuit avenue isn't available.

"A lot of conduct outside the country wouldn't be covered," Howell said.

Drugmakers such as AstraZeneca Plc have pledged not to profit from

EVEN WITH WAIVERS, EXTRA VACCINES MAY BE A YEAR AWAY

JAMES PATON & TIM LOH
MAY 7

The US-backed effort to waive patent protection for Covid-19 vaccines, even if successful, is unlikely to narrow a yawning gap in access to life-saving shots anytime soon.

The proposal faces weeks of difficult negotiations and intense pushback from the pharmaceutical industry. And if it were to be approved at the World Trade Organization, it could take a year or more to meaningfully increase supplies, vaccine specialists said.

"The short answer is no, it's not going to make any big difference," said Klaus Stohr, a former World Health Organization official who helped mobilise governments and drugmakers to prepare for pandemics. "Patents are not the real hurdle. It's the

industry's lack of manufacturing capacity and high quality standards, not the patents," a German government spokeswoman said in an email.

Even if companies diverted resources and know-how in a "full-blown technology transfer," it wouldn't make a difference before the middle of 2022, said Stohr, a former

industry has legitimate concerns about India's proposal, because the manufacturing and distribution innovations aren't just limited to producing the Covid vaccine," said Polk Wagner, a professor of intellectual property at the University of Pennsylvania.

"I don't know how they would legally stop this moving forward, because it just becomes a decision by the WTO," said Ellen 't Hoen, director of Medicines Law & Policy, a legal research group in the Netherlands. — Bloomberg

China's repair hub turns away ships from India

ELIZABETH LOW & ALFRED CANG
MAY 7

Shipyards in the Chinese coastal city of Zhoushan have banned vessels that called at or changed crews in India in the last three months, citing concerns over rising infections in the South Asian nation.

Restrictions on vessels from India as well as Bangladesh are now in place, prohibiting their arrival for maintenance and repair work, said a spokesperson from shipping and logistics firm Wilhelmsen Group.

The company was informed of the ban by a shipyard operating in the city, the spokesperson said. Details were confirmed by an official from Zhoushan Xinya Shipyard Co.

Several shipyards in Zhoushan ranked among the world's top 10 repairers in terms of 2019 business volume, according to

Bloomberg.

With the takeover of the Sennheiser consumer business, Sonova is adding headphones and soundbars to its hearing care portfolio, which includes hearing aids and cochlear implants, among other hearing solutions.

TATA MOTORS HIKES PRICES BY 1.8%

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, MAY 7

Tata Motors on Friday announced that it will be hiking prices of its range of cars and SUVs by up to 1.8 per cent, depending on the model and variant, with effect from May 8.

The price rise was in order to partially offset the rise in input costs.

"Increase in prices of

CYBER RISKS

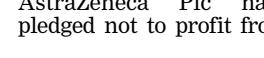
\$1.3 tn fund hires self-taught persons without a formal education

Norway fund in desperate search of cyber experts

LARS ERIK TARALDSEN
MAY 7

Norway's sovereign wealth fund is widening its recruitment net to include people without college degrees as it searches for the brightest minds to protect its \$1.3 trillion portfolio from growing armies of hackers.

Nicolai Tangen, the Oslo-based fund's CEO, says he



occasionally picks up the phone himself to "encourage good candidates to apply," as part of the recruitment process. The kinds of attacks the fund encounters are "more and more sophisticated. The powers we're up against are huge," he said. "There's a lot of money in this fund, so it's a precious target."

Hackers attempted to

breach the fund's systems

more than 1,000 times in 2020, representing a doubling from the previous year, Tangen said in an interview.

SHORT TAKES
Abid, Azhar put Pak in command

Harare: Centuries by Abid Ali and Azhar Ali put Pakistan in a strong position on the first day of the second Test against Zimbabwe on Friday.

Abid (118 not out) and Azhar (126) put on 236 for the second wicket before tall fast bowler Blessing Muzarabani brought Zimbabwe back into the match by taking three wickets with the second new ball. Pakistan had reached 268 for four at the close. Abid and Azhar came together with the total on 12 in the eighth over and ground down the Zimbabwe bowlers before Azhar edged Muzarabani to gully in the last half hour of the day. Azhar's dismissal was followed by a second failure in the series for Babar Azam, who drove Muzarabani to point after scoring two. — AFP

Brief scores: Pakistan 268/4 (Azhar 126, Abid 118 n.o., Muzarabani 3/41) vs Zimbabwe.

Nadal beaten in Madrid quarters

Madrid: Rafael Nadal lost 4-6, 4-6 to Germany's Alexander Zverev in the Madrid Open quarterfinals on Friday, casting doubts over the Spaniard's form ahead of this month's French Open.

Nadal has now fallen early in two clay-court Masters tournaments ahead of the Grand Slam in Paris, after going out in the Monte Carlo quarterfinals last month before winning in Barcelona. Even in Barcelona, however, Nadal needed to save a championship point to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final. World number two Nadal is hoping to clinch a 14th Roland Garros title and record-setting 21st major in the French capital. Zverev's impressive straight-set win at the Caja Magica earns him a meeting with Dominic Thiem in Madrid semis, in what will be a repeat of last year's US Open final, which was won by Thiem. — AFP

Laureus awards for Rafa, Osaka

Seville, Spain: Tennis players Rafael Nadal and Naomi Osaka picked up the Laureus Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year awards on Thursday with football star Mo Salah and Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton also recognised.

World number two Nadal claimed his fourth Laureus award as he was recognised for his 13th French Open and record-equalling 20th major. Osaka, who won the US Open for the second time and has four majors, is now a two-time Laureus winner.

"Winning the French Open and equalling the 20th Grand Slam of Roger Federer has been an unforgettable moment," said Nadal. "It means a lot to equal my great rival, but at the same time, my great friend," he added. — AFP

Hazard sorry for upsetting Real fans

Madrid: Eden Hazard apologized to Real Madrid fans after he was seen laughing and joking with Chelsea players following the team's elimination in the Champions League.

A video of the Madrid forward having fun with his former teammates after Madrid's loss on Wednesday attracted a lot of attention in Spain, upsetting fans who loudly complained against him on social media. Hazard was one of the Madrid players who performed poorly in the 2-0 defeat in London.

"I am sorry. I have read lots of opinions about me today and it was not my intention to offend the Real Madrid fans," Hazard said in a statement on Instagram.

"It has always been my dream to play for Real Madrid and I came here to win. The season is not over and together we must now battle or La Liga! Hala Madrid!" — AP

Live on TV
FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Leeds United vs Tottenham Hotspur from 5 pm; Sheffield United vs Crystal Palace from 7.30 pm; Manchester City vs Chelsea from 10.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1

Italian League: Inter vs Sampdoria from 9.30 pm on Sony Ten 2, HD; Fiorentina vs Lazio from 12.15 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

FORMULA ONE

Spanish GP: Qualifying session from 6.25 pm Star Sports Select 2

UFC FIGHT NIGHT

Sandagen vs Dillashaw from 5.30 am (Sunday) on Sony Ten 2, HD; Sony Ten 3, HD

Pat bats for safety

Says if India is unsafe for T20 World Cup, shift to UAE is ideal

Male (Maldives), May 7: Australian pace spearhead Pat Cummins believes if hosting the ICC T20 World Cup amidst raging Covid-19 pandemic is a "drain on Indian resources" or is "unsafe", it would be prudent to shift it to the United Arab Emirates.

The postponement of Indian Premier League after multiple cases of Covid-19 inside the bio-bubble has led to a big question-mark on whether the marquee ICC event should be held in India where a third wave is expected around that time.

"If it's going to be a drain on resources or it's not going to be safe, then I don't think it's right to play it over here. That's the first question which needs to be answered," Cummins was quoted as saying by *The Age* newspaper.

Cummins said cricket authorities should check with Indian government and do what's best.

"It probably too early to say. It's six months away. The priority should be for cricket authorities to work with the Indian government to see what's best for the Indian people," Cummins said.

Cummins feels hindsight always provides better perspective like many who feel that IPL could have been held in UAE this time also.

"The IPL in the UAE last year was brilliant, it was really well run, but millions of people were saying it should have been played in India, so what do you do? You can see both sides. They set up this tournament with all the best advice."

Cummins has a lot of empathy for what the country is currently facing. "Around the hotel there is less staff and when you hop in the bus to go to training there is normally a few hundred people waiting. There's no one out there now and no crowds at games." — PTI

HAMILTON TOPS SECOND PRACTICE FOR SPANISH GP

Montmel (Spain), May 7: Lewis Hamilton looked poised to continue his dominance of the Spanish Grand Prix after clocking the fastest time during the second practice session on Friday.

Formula One leader Hamilton had a flying lap of 1 minute, 18.170 seconds. Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas was .139 seconds behind Hamilton after the Finn set the fastest time in the first practice session.

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen, seen as the main challenger to Hamilton's reign as world champion, finished only 8.5 seconds behind.

Edinson Cavani scored twice for United, who progressed 8-5 on aggregate despite a 3-2 defeat away to Roma.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men will aim to end a four-year trophy drought when they take on Villarreal in Gdansk on May 26, three days before Manchester City face Chelsea in the Champions League final on May 29.

Sitting ninth in the Premier League, Arsenal's season was hinging on Europa League glory for Champions League qualification.

But former Gunners' boss Unai Emery got revenge for his sacking after just 18 months as Arsene Wenger's suc-



Pat Cummins

VIRAT-ANUSHKA DONATE ₹2 cr TO FIGHT COVID-19

New Delhi, May 7: India captain Virat Kohli and his actor wife Anushka Sharma have donated ₹2 crore to a fund-raising project which will raise a total of ₹7 crore to support the country's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. The two are raising money through crowdfunding platform Ketto.

"...Virat Kohli and Bollywood superstar Anushka Sharma are aiming to raise ₹7 crore for Covid relief in India," a press release from the celebrity couple stated.

"They are kickstarting a fundraising campaign #InThisTogether on the crowd-funding platform Ketto and are putting ₹2 crore for this initiative."

The campaign will run for seven days on Ketto and the proceeds will be directed to ACT Grants, the implementation partner which will work towards providing oxygen, medical manpower, vaccination awareness and tele-medicine facilities all through the pandemic and the amount.

— PTI

Morris "relieved" after leaving bubble

Johannesburg, May 7: South Africa and Rajasthan Royals all-rounder Chris Morris is "relieved" to be safely back home after witnessing "chaos" unfold once Covid-19 cases in the IPL bio-bubble came to light.

Morris, along with his 10 other South African players have reached home, after the IPL was suspended following six cases of Covid-19 — four players and two coaches from three different teams. "Look, obviously I'm

relieved," Morris, who is currently undergoing a 10-day mandatory quarantine at home, told *iol.co.za*.

Morris said they came to know about the Covid cases in Kolkata Knight Riders — Varun Chakravarthy and Sandeep Warrier — on Sunday night.

"The moment we heard that, when players are testing positive, inside the bubble, then everyone starts asking questions. The alarm bells definitely started going off for all of

us," he said.

"By Monday when they postponed that game (between Kolkata and Royal Challengers Bangalore), we knew the tournament was under pressure to continue."

The Twenty20 league was suspended after Sunrisers Hyderabad's wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha and Delhi Capitals' Amit Mishra tested positive on Tuesday.

"I was chatting to our team doctor, whose room

was across the hallway from my mine in the hotel, and Kumar (Sangakkara, the Royals' head coach) came around the corner and drew his finger across his throat, and then we knew it was over," said Morris.

"And then it was chaos! The England guys especially were panicking because they needed to isolate in hotels in England first, and apparently there weren't any rooms."

— PTI

Emery gets Arsenal revenge

London, May 7: Villarreal will face Manchester United in the Europa League final after the Spanish side held out for a 0-0 draw at Arsenal on Thursday to prevent a clean sweep of European finalists for Premier League sides.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang twice hit the post for Arsenal, but a 2-1 aggregate defeat means the Gunners will miss out on Champions League football for the fifth consecutive season.

Edinson Cavani scored twice for United, who progressed 8-5 on aggregate despite a 3-2 defeat away to Roma.

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But former Gunners' boss Unai Emery got revenge for his sacking after just 18 months as Arsene Wenger's suc-



Manchester United's Edinson Cavani (left) celebrates after scoring against Roma in their Europa League semifinal second leg in Italy on Thursday. — AP

SPANISH TITLE RACE ENTERS CRUCIAL PHASE

Madrid, May 7: Gerard Pique said in any normal season this weekend would decide La Liga's champions but even he admitted this time there are no guarantees.

On Saturday afternoon, Barcelona face Atletico Madrid at Camp Nou and on Sunday, Real Madrid play Sevilla at Valdebebas, Spain's frenzied title race coming to a head in a criss-cross of first against third and second versus fourth.

When it is all over, there will be three games left and Atletico could be five points clear or Real Madrid and Barca may be first and second, level on points, with Atletico just a single point behind.

In terms of the table, only an Atletico victory might feel definitive, and even then only if it is followed by Sevilla winning away at Real, the two most unlikely results combining to leave Atletico's chasers needing an incredible swing in the final three games. — AFP

Saina, Srikanth's Olympic hopes take hit

New Delhi, May 7: The Malaysia Open Super 750 tournament, one of badminton's last two Olympic qualifying events, was on Friday postponed due to a recent Covid-19 surge in the host country, dealing a severe blow to the qualification hopes of India's Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth.

The \$600,000 event was scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur from May 25 to 30. "All attempts were made by the organisers and BWF to provide a safe tournament environment

for all participants, but the recent surge in cases left no choice but to postpone the tournament," Badminton World Federation said in a statement.

"BWF can confirm the rescheduled tournament will no longer take place in the Olympic qualifying window. New tournament dates will be confirmed at a later date."

The decision came as a huge setback for London Olympics bronze-medalist Saina and men's star Srikanth in their bid for

Srikanth's qualification for the Tokyo Games hinged on the Kuala Lumpur event followed by the Singapore Open (June 1-6).

In light of the new development, Badminton Association of India on Friday reached out to the world body, seeking clarity on the qualification scenario for its shuttlers.

"It's really unfortunate that the crucial qualifier had to be postponed in this way but that is the time we live in now," BAI General Secretary Ajay

Singhania said.

"Though four of our players have already qualified and there are few more including Saina and Srikanth who can still make it, I have reached out to BWF Secretary Thomas Lund asking for clarity on the future course of action."

With Singapore suspending all flights from India, it will be a difficult task for the Indian players, including Saina and Srikanth, to travel to the country for the last qualifier. — PTI

ENGLAND TOUR

No Hardik, Jadeja makes comeback

New Delhi, May 7: Hardik Pandya was not considered for selection as "he is still not in a position to bowl".

while a fit-again Ravindra Jadeja made his way back to a 20-strong Indian squad announced on Friday for next month's World Test Championship final against New Zealand and a five-match series against England.

INDIA SQUAD

Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli (Captain), Ajinkya Rahane (Vice-captain), Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Umesh Yadav, KL Rahul (subject to fitness clearance), Wriddhiman Saha (wicket-keeper; subject to fitness clearance).

Opener Easwaran and pacer Avesh Khan were also with the team during the England series while the extra pace did it for IPL regular Prasidh Krishna and Gujarat left-arm fast bowler Arzan Nagwaswalla, who had a stellar 2019-20 season. He is the only Parsi cricketer currently playing at the first-class level in India.

The 23-year-old left-arm pacer has 62 first-class wickets to his credit in 16 matches that he has played since his debut in 2018.

K. L. Rahul, who underwent a surgery after being diagnosed with appendicitis, and Wriddhiman Saha, infected with Covid-19 during the recently-suspended IPL, have been included subject to fitness.

The selectors also picked four standby players — Abhimanyu Easwaran, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan, and Arzan Nagwaswalla, the BCCI stated in a press release.

INDIAN ROWING TEAM BOOK OLYMPIC BERTH

New Delhi, May 7: Indian rowers Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh qualified for the Olympics in men's lightweight double sculls event after finishing second in the final race of the Asia/Oceania Continental Qualifying Regatta in Tokyo on Friday.

Another Indian, Jakar Khan finished fourth in the men's singles sculls final which offers five Olympic quotas but he missed out as a country gets only one qualifying spot from this regatta.

The top three qualify for Olympics in men's lightweight double sculls event.

"A country can qualify in only one boat from this regatta and since Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh had finished second in men's lightweight double sculls, they will qualify," Rowing Federation of India president Rajlaxmi Singh Deo said.

'NO ATMOSPHERE OF OLYMPIC BUILD-UP'

The Olympics open in Tokyo on July 23 but Arjun said the Games will be unlike any previous edition if they happen.

"It is less than 80 days for the Olympics but it is weird, there is very little Olympic atmosphere building up. The streets are empty, no people, very few vehicles, though we are told there is lockdown going on," Arjun said from Tokyo.

Seema & Sumit seal Tokyo spots

Sofia (Bulgaria), May 7: Seema Bisla on Friday became the fourth Indian woman wrestler to qualify for the Tokyo Games by reaching the final of the 50kg competition even as Sumit Malik settled for a silver medal after conceding his final bout due to a knee injury at the World Olympic Qualifiers, here.

Seema booked an Olympic berth for herself after a close 2-1 win over European Championship bronze medallist Anna Lukasiak of Poland, showing tremendous