

SHORT TAKES

HC ORDERS 4-WK HALT TO GROUP-1 INTERVIEWS

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 16

The AP High Court on Wednesday ordered that the Group-1 interview process be suspended for four weeks. Notices to the effect were sent to secretaries of Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) and General Administration Department (GAD). The APPSC was scheduled to start the Group-1 interview process from Thursday.

Counsel for petitioners, Yogesh Thandava said that judge D. V. S. S. Somayajulu issued the interim orders after hearing petitions challenging the digital evaluation of Group-1 Mains exam answer scripts.

Counsel for the petitioners argued that the examinations were not conducted as per the rules and the applicants were told about digital valuation at the last minute. They said that evaluation of English medium papers of Group-1 exams was held in other States and it had caused severe injustice to the aspirants.

Government's counsel told the court that the Group-1 tests were conducted as per rules and there was no need to inform in advance about the evaluation. After hearing both sides of the arguments, the court on Tuesday reserved its judgment. On Wednesday, judge D. V. S. S. Somayajulu issued the interim orders, thereby putting the whole process in limbo for another four weeks.

Around 326 candidates have been short-listed for the interview based on the marks obtained by them in the main written exam which was held from December 14 to December 20, last year. A total of 169 vacancies in various departments are to be filled through this exam.

TD QUESTIONS INDIA CEMENTS LEASE EXTENSION

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 16

The sitting MLA and state TD president K. Atchannaidu on Wednesday questioned the propriety and legality of extending the lease period for the mines of India Cements by 50 years by the state government in blatant misuse of power and authority.

Atchannaidu said that a similar arbitrary extension of lease was already given for Saraswati Cements immediately after Jagan Mohan Reddy came to power. Obviously, the AP Chief Minister was bent on giving permissions to the co-accused in his CBI and ED cases to loot the natural resources. The ongoing mining benefits were only aimed at influencing the witnesses in the illegal assets cases.

WEAPONS & KITS RECOVERED FROM ENCOUNTER SPOT

From page 1

Weapons including AK-47, carbine, 303, tapancha and country-made weapons, were recovered from the spot along with literature, kit bags belonging to the extremists.

According to sources, these extremists earlier escaped from the Greyhounds during the last combing operation at Pala Samudram in Koyyuru mandal on May 20.

The sources further said a group of 30 Maoists had been roaming in the area for the last few months due to health problems arising out of Covid-19 infections. They used to rely on locals for medicines and food. The police might have tracked them with the help of a few reds who surrendered before the East Godavari police recently.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Visakhapatnam district SP B. Krishna Rao said that Wednesday's encounter was a major one after the five deaths of Maoists in a gunfight with the AP in September 2019. Before that, a total of 24 Maoists including top leaders were killed in 2016, he added.

The SP called upon the Maoists to surrender and avail benefits as per the existing policy. Referring to a case, he said one female Maoist named Sake Kalavathi alias Bhavani was severely injured in an exchange of fire at Nallajarla a few years ago. She surrendered before the government. She was admitted in a hospital for better treatment and she recovered soon.

Staff crunch ails food safety department

Under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, AP registers 402 cases

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, JUNE 16

Staff crunch in the food safety department, coupled with lack of necessary infrastructure, seems to be taking a big toll on the public health in the state as many unregulated erring food outlets are going undetected.

The recent raids in Chittoor and Prakasam districts by the food safety officials exposed the menace of adulterated food items like milk and ghee. Though the department is supposed to conduct regular raids to control such malpractices, manpower shortage is coming in the way.

There are only four food

1.72 LAKH NEW BENEFICIARIES IDENTIFIED

From page 1

The Chief Minister was interacting with Collectors and SPs on a wide range of issues including e-cropping, housing, Spandana grievances, and other welfare schemes. He noted that water and electricity facilities were provided in 4,120 housing colonies and directed the officials to provide them in the rest of colonies by the end of June.

The officials informed that 1.72 lakh new beneficiaries were identified, of whom 38,000 were receiving house sites in the current layouts, 9,794 would be accommodated in new layouts. Around 11,740 applications are yet to be processed. The Chief Minister instructed the officials to complete the construction of 15.6 lakh houses in the first phase.

The Chief Minister also emphasised on e-cropping and said that Collectors, Joint Collectors should monitor at least 10 per cent of the e-cropping and fix responsibility on officials for any failures.

Farmers must be given receipts along with digital acknowledgment, listing out all e-crop details such as input subsidy and crop insurance.

He stated that the farmers should not be facing any hassles because of the officials' mistakes. In case of any doubts, farmers should have the right to question the authorities, thus providing a physical receipt along with digital acknowledgment.

The Chief Minister said that quality seeds should be provided to the farmers through RBKs and directed the authorities to keep a check on black marketing and spurious seeds by conducting regular inspections.

He said that even during the curfew, agricultural and allied activities must be taken up. Custom hiring centers and hubs must be set up as they could transform the agriculture sector in coming days, by providing machinery services at affordable prices to local farmers. Committees at the district level should be set up by the farmers themselves, where they can decide on the machinery they could rent including the price fixation.

The Chief Minister said that in the first phase, 3,000 custom hiring centres would be launched in the RBKs on July 8, followed by the second phase in October and the third phase in January. He also directed the authorities to make available banking services at RBKs and told the Collectors to take it up to the banks.

● **CM emphasised on e-cropping and said that Collectors, Joint Collectors should monitor at least 10 per cent of the e-cropping and fix responsibility on officials for any failures.**

● **THERE IS** a need for at least 24 FSOs for urban areas and over 30 FSOs in rural areas in the district, besides infrastructure and laboratories.

safety inspectors (FSO) in Chittoor district, which has a population of around 41.74 lakh – 12.31 lakh in urban and 29.42 lakh in rural areas (2011 census). As per the guidelines of WHO (World Health Organisation), there should be one FSO for every 50,000 urban population or one lakh rural population. As such, there is a need for at least 24 FSOs for urban areas and over 30 FSOs in rural areas in the district, besides infrastructure and laboratories.

The department is woefully inadequate in respect

of staff and infrastructure, with the result that there are no tabs on thousands of licensed and unlicensed businesses across the district. It also suffers from acute shortage of vehicles, and depends on public transportation or own vehicles. There are more than 25,000-30,000 small and big hotels, shops, restaurants and stalls in the district, of which over 1000-1500 are in Tirupati city alone.

Faced with such hurdles, issuing licence, checking safety norms etc has become a tedious job for the FSOs. "We are taking

steps to recruit at least 30 FSOs and also steps are being taken to have full-time designated officers.

A proposal has already been sent to the government in this regard," a senior food safety inspector said on condition of anonymity.

However, despite skeletal staff and inadequate infrastructure, as the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for 2019 shows, AP registered 402 cases under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. It comes third after UP and Maharashtra with 1027 and 497 cases respectively. Telangana managed to register only 222 cases in 2019.



CPI leaders and activists stage a novel protest against the property tax notification based on the value of the property, at Besant Road in Vijayawada on Wednesday. — DC

New tax hike limited to 15% of existing rate, says Botsa

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 16

Condemning the "false propaganda" of a section of media and Opposition parties on the new taxation system, Municipal Administration Minister Botsa Satyanarayana asserted on Wednesday that the hike would be limited to 15 per cent of the existing rate. This will be implemented in the most transparent manner, he said.

Speaking to the media, the minister warned against "attempts" to create panic among the people with false propaganda and said the revised taxation system is proposed on the basis of central government recommendations, and after studying the taxation system in other states and also reviewing the feedback from taxpayers.

The state would earn an additional revenue of only ₹186 crore by way of the new taxation. But the Opposition is portraying a scenario of the state extracting as high as ₹10,000 crore from the people, the minister said.

"Out of the 33 lakh tax assessments in the state, 4 lakh houses were of less than 375sqft area and the tax for each such house was just ₹50. Though the government will be getting less tax, the decision was taken for the good of the ordinary people, he claimed.

The minister flayed BJP leader G. V. L. Narasimha Rao for making "baseless" allegations against the government on tax hike and said everyone has seen how the central government was increasing the price of petrol despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

The state government would organise debates in cities like Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Tirupati on the new taxation system.

three months, said superintendent engineer Sreerama Chandra Murthy.

Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal (KWDT) has allocated 4 tmc for AP to be drawn from RDS and the works are going on, he said.

However, the Telangana government argues that AP was trying to draw more water to irrigate five

APCUF STAGES STIR, SEEKS ROLLBACK OF INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAX

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 16

The Andhra Pradesh Urban Citizens' Forum (APUCF) staged protests in front of ward secretariats and municipal offices in 13 districts of the state demanding rollback of increased property tax and cancellation of proposed garbage collection tax. The APCUF alleged that the BJP government elected by people was turning all citizen services into commercial services.

APUCF convener Ch. Babu Rao said people in large numbers following Corona protocol joined the protests opposing property tax hike and submitted

memorandums to the officials in secretariats and municipal offices.

He said the protests would continue on Thursday also and APCUF was planning to further intensify the agitations by conducting a state-level meeting with all stakeholders.

Babu Rao said minister for municipal administration Botsa Satyanarayana was claiming that the government was imposing only ₹186 crore through property tax hike, but ₹186 crore was not a meagre amount. It would put extra financial burden on the public who were already facing severe problems due to the Corona crisis, he said.

WITHDRAW MOVE ON PROPERTY TAX HIKE, DEMAND BJP AND RPS

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, JUNE 16

BJP functionaries demanded the state government to withdraw the proposal to hike property and water taxes in municipalities and corporations besides introducing the garbage tax.

Strongly opposing the government's move, they held a demonstration at the premises of Municipal Corporation office here on Tuesday.

Addressing the protesters, BJP State Spokespersons G. Bhanuprakash Reddy and Samanchi Srinivas said that the taxes will be an additional burden on public, who are already suffering financially due to the Covid-19 pandemic. They said the state government,

which actually should extend a helping hand to the people who are in distress due to the pandemic, is putting a burden on people by increasing the taxes.

They alleged that the YSRC government is doing this to fund the freebies.

Meanwhile, Rayalaseema Porata Samithi Convener P. Naveen Kumar Reddy, speaking to media here on Wednesday, said it was deplorable that the government, which is supposed to support the people of the state by giving tax exemption for one year during the Covid-19 crisis, is giving a return gift to them by increasing the taxes after winning the local body elections.

lakh acres by constructing four lifts at the RDS. TS engineers claim that AP was going ahead without the concurrence and permission of Central Water Commission (CWC), Apex committee Karnataka, Telangana, and AP, and the Centre. With this illegal construction, TS is likely to lose irrigation facilities to 87000 acres of land.



Lella Appireddy (centre) thanked Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for nominating him as MLC, at the CM's Camp Office in Tadepalli on Wednesday. CM programme co-ordinator Talasila Raghuram is also seen.

Speed up constructions of BMCUs, AMCUs, says CM

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 16

Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said on Wednesday that 9,899 buildings will be constructed for Bulk Milk Chilling Units (BMCU), for which administrative clearance is pending for only 352 units.

Nearly 38 per cent of the building construction has not yet begun, he noted, and asked officials to release the pending permissions and start the construction of those buildings immediately.

"We have also set a target of constructing 2,633 buildings in the first phase for Auto Milk Collection Units (AMCU), but only 1,946 are under construction while approval has already been

given for 2,583 building permits."

The CM said the 9,899 buildings for BMCUs would provide reassurance to every dairy farmer on the quality of the milk they are supplying. Also, matters like how many litres of milk and how much money they get can be found on the spot by the issue of slip. This will prevent any fraud."

The CM told officials to focus on NREGS works as they are very important especially in the pandemic situation.

Jagan asked officials to constitute teams to monitor and review the construction process of various buildings and hold fortnight-long celebrations from June 17 - July 2.

As for the secondary food processing units, the CM directed the authorities to complete the land identification process in each constituency by the month-end. The government is bringing digital libraries in every village panchayat. By December, the fiber grid services will be taken to 2824 villages.

He said there is a need to identify lands and focus on building libraries, where NREGS tasks should be outsourced to JC Development.

Jagan announced the implementation of welfare schemes for June and July. The Cheyutha scheme will be launched on June 22, the YSR Bima on July 1, and the Vidya Deevana and Kapu Nestam in July.

Long way to go in Covid fight: CM

From page 1

Although 3.5 crore people have to be vaccinated, so far only 26,33,351 received two doses of vaccine, and 6,90,710 received a single dose of vaccine. There was a long way to go, he said. Masks, sanitisers, and social distance should continue to be a part of our lives, he said. In regard to testing, he instructed the authorities to conduct only RT-PCR tests to those having Covid symptoms and get them treated immediately. He also stressed on conducting fever surveys every week in all villages for quick tracing and treating.

Jagan Mohan Reddy congratulated the Collectors for successful implementation of YSR Aarogyasri as 89 per cent of the patients took treat-

ment under the scheme. As on date, over 16,000 people were undergoing Covid treatment in the state and of them more than 14,000 were being treated under Aarogyasri. Officials were asked to keep tabs on Aarogyasri implementation at private hospitals. They should not brook any violations.

The Chief Minister informed that it was decided to give lands as an incentive to set up 16 private multi and super specialty hospitals in each district center and each corporation, if anyone is ready to invest ₹100 crore or more in the next three years.

Speaking of the '104' call center, the CM reiterated the need to ensure it serves as Covid one-stop centers.

SRIKAKULAM & EAST GODAVARI SAND FOR HOUSING, SAYS SRIRANGANADHARAJU

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 16

Housing minister Ch. Sriranganadharaju said they would take the help of Srikakulam and East Godavari district administrations for supply of sand for the Jagananna Colonies in Visakhapatnam, which do not have any proper sources for the sand required for construction of houses.

All infrastructure facilities like roads, drinking water, electricity, drainage apart from internet would be provided in the YSR Jagananna Colonies, the minister said, while reviewing the project's progress with district officials here on Wednesday.

In the first phase, nearly

● **DIRECT AND** indirect employment would be provided on a large-scale during the implementation of the mega housing project, said the minister.

5,019 houses would be built by September as against the target of 5,000 houses set by the government. Officials and staff should be available to the beneficiaries and provide them full assistance in the construction of houses, he insisted.

The government would spend around ₹30,000 crore for all the houses in the state, he said. Direct and indirect employment would be provided on a large-scale during the implementation of the mega housing project, the minister added.

the anicut is in the limits of Kandukur village in Adoni taluk.

This scheme was conceived for diverting 17.1 TMC of water into 143 km., long left flank canal for the benefit of fifteen villages of Manvi taluka of Raichur district; eight villages of Gadwal taluka; 67 villages of Alampur taluka and four villages from Kurnool.

AP HELP SOUGHT FOR PROJECT FUNDING

From page 1

It sought the support of the Government of Andhra Pradesh in terms of viability gap funding for the project.

The minister said that on June 10, CM Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy met Dharmendra Pradhan and requested for the support of Gol in taking forward the strategic project. He said that the project will place the state in a strong position to contribute to Prime Minister's vision of \$5 trillion economy by 2024, as being an anchor unit to the Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) proposed by the Centre to promote investments and industries in these sectors. He said that the Union minister responded positively and promised to extend all support in taking forward the project.

Gowtham Reddy said that their team also had a detailed discussion with the Union minister on the establishment of a petrochemical cracker complex in Andhra Pradesh by HPLC-GAIL consortium, given the recent regulatory changes. He said that as a result of the discussions, a working group has been constituted under the chairmanship of joint secretary (refineries), ministry of petroleum and natural gas, with the state government officials. Engineers India Limited and SBI Caps are advised to re-work the financials in view of the recent regulatory changes in corporate tax and interest rates to take forward the strategic project in Andhra Pradesh without any viability gap funding.

Gowtham Reddy said this project would provide employment to 50 lakh persons and investments to the tune of ₹25,000-30,000 crore would flow into the petrochemical sector in the coming two or three years. He said that recently the Union government increased use of ethanol to 20 per cent in petrol which would attract more investments in the coming days. He informed that AP provided 45,000 employment opportunities amidst the pandemic Corona crisis.

SHORT TAKES

WOMAN SET ON FIRE BY PARENTS OVER LOVE AFFAIR

DC CORRESPONDENT
KADAPA, JUNE 16

The family members attempted to murder a young woman in Rayachoti. Police arrested three accused involved in the case.

The family members were looking for marriage proposals to the girl, but she was refusing all the alliances which were fixed by them. They came to know that she fell in love with someone and asked her to stop the relationship. As she did not relent, father, mother and brother decided to kill her and set her on fire. She was rescued by her elder sister and shifted to Kadapa RIMS for treatment.

According to Sub Divisional officer, Rayachoti, Reddyvari Vasudevan, Patan Tahseen (20), a resident of Rahiman Masjid Street at Kothapalli in Rayachoty fell in love with a close relative Imanar. But the parents of Tahseen opposed it and started looking for alliances. As she kept refusing the proposals, Munvar Jahan (mother), Mahammad Shareef (father) and her younger brother Tajuddin poured petrol on and set fire to her on Tuesday evening. But she was rescued and shifted to hospital by her elder sister.

Based on the statement of the victim, a case was registered at Rayachoty urban PS. On Wednesday morning, a team led by Raju, Inspector, arrested the accused and produced them before court. They were sent in judicial remand.

SHARP SPIKE IN CORONAVIRUS CASES IN AP

DC CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 16

The daily number of Covid-19 infections slightly increased in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday with the registration of 6,617 new cases, compared to 5,741 cases the previous day.

As many as 1,01,544 samples were tested in the past 24 hours in which 6,617 were found C-positive. A total 2,07,36,435 Coronavirus tests were done in the 13 districts so far. The total Covid-19 infections in the 13 districts was 1,82,6751, of which the total recoveries were of 17,43,176. Some 57 new deaths were registered on the daily chart on Wednesday, increasing the state's Covid death toll so far to 12,109.

The East Godavari district was on top in the daily chart, with 1,397 new infections.

CHANGE OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH

I, Ex. No. 15322676N, NAIK SURESH BENDI father of MANIKANTHAI residing at Bharanigam Village Venugopalapuram post, Nandigam Mandal, Srikakulam District (A.P.), Pin - 532201, have change my son's name from MANIKANTHAI to BENDI MANIKANTHAI and date of birth from 25-10-2007 to 19-10-2007 vide affidavit dated 20-04-2021 before notary, Sirkakulam - 532001.

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Protesting govt apathy



Contract nursing staff donning PPE kits hold aloft placards during a protest against the government apathy in regularising their services, at CSR ward at King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. —DC

Only certified gold sales in 19 districts in AP & TS

Jewellers can buy old jewellery without hallmarking

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 16

The mandatory hall-marking of gold came into force in seven districts in Telangana and 12 districts in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. The Centre earlier announced that the mandatory hall-marking of gold jewellery and artefacts would be implemented in phases from June 16. Initially, it is being implemented in 256 districts across the country, which have assaying marking centres.

The seven districts in Telangana include Mancherial, Peddapalli, Warangal (Rural), Warangal (Urban), Rangareddy, Hyderabad and Khammam. The 12 districts in AP are S r i k a k u l a m , V i z i a n a g a r a m , Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasham, Nellore, Kadapa, Kurnool and Anantapur. In November 2019, the Central government had announced that the hall-marking of gold jewellery and artefacts would be made mandatory across the country from January 15, 2021. But the deadline was extended for four months till June 1 and later till

● In November 2019, the Central government had announced that the hall-marking of gold jewellery and artefacts would be made mandatory across the country from January 15, 2021. But the deadline was extended for four months till June 1 and later till June 15 after the jewellers sought more time in view of the pandemic.

June 15 after the jewellers sought more time in view of the pandemic.

Gold hall-marking is a purity certification of the precious metal and has been voluntary in nature so far. “Continuing our government's endeavour for better protection & satisfaction of customers, mandatory hall-marking in 256 districts will be implemented from June 16, 2021. No penalty will be imposed till August 2021,” Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted after the meeting.

After extensive consultation with stakeholders, the government relaxed mandatory hall-marking of gold for certain players in the jewellery sector. For instance, the government exempted jew-

ellers with annual turnover of up to ₹40 lakh from mandatory hall-marking, said an official statement issued after the meeting.

It has also been exempted on those who export and re-import jewellery as per the government's trade policy, jewellery meant for international exhibitions as well as for government-approved B2B domestic exhibitions.

From June 16, jewellers in 256 districts will be allowed to sell only 14, 18 and 22 carats of gold jewellery. Gold of additional 20, 23 and 24 carats will also be allowed for hall-marking, it added.

That apart, the government said it has exempted mandatory hall-marking gold on watches, fountain pens and special types of jewellery like Kundan, Polki and Jadau. “Jewellers can continue to buy back old gold jewellery without a hall-mark from consumers,” it said, adding that old jewellery can be hallmarked, if feasible by the jeweller after melting and making new jewellery.

India has around 4 lakh jewellers, of whom only 35,879 are BIS certified. According to the World Gold Council, India imports 700-800 tonnes of gold annually.

ENT specialists volunteer to treat Mucor

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 16

The services of three city-based ENT specialists were utilised by the East Godavari medical and health department to treat black fungus cases at the government general hospital at Kakinada.

One of the doctors, Dr S.K.E Apparao who was also former president of Indian Society of Otolaryngology, said that the services of ENT surgeons were urgently

required at Kakinada government hospital, which received nearly 150 black fungus cases. They are also mobilising other ENT surgeons who are keen to voluntarily extend their service for early treatment of black fungus cases, which require surgery within 24 hours. Dr Apparao said the black fungus is not a new disease. They have been treating it in diabetes and HIV patients. Now, due to sudden collapse of the immunity in the Covid19 patients, the

fungus cases are mushrooming, he added.

Vizag-based Andhra Medical College principal Dr P.V. Sudhakar said that they received a total of 203 black fungus cases in the city hospitals, both private and government, as on June 16. Of them, 17 succumbed and 19 were successfully discharged.

“The patients must take proper medication after surgery. The patient's self-control and care are very much needed for a speedy recovery,” he said.

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

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CORRIGENDUM

Modification in Eligibility Criteria & Re-opening of Online Application

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Date of submission of Online Application & payment of Fee 15.06.2021 to 28.06.2021

Mumbai
Date: 15.06.2021
General Manager

Covid continues to hit towns, villages in AP

DC CORRESPONDENT
TIRUPATI, JUNE 16

The second wave of Covid-19 is receding. It is showing a declining trend in urban areas over the past few weeks, but a worrisome shift is evident — the virus spreading to semi-urban and rural areas.

District-level data shows that the pandemic continues to spread at a faster pace in small villages and small towns than in big cities of Andhra Pradesh.

This is particularly so in the Chittoor district. The urban areas have borne the brunt of the first wave last year, but they now account for only a quarter of the new cases.

The surge in the number of positive cases in rural areas is reflected in the pandemic statistics from the district administration. The urban areas in Chittoor district have contributed a little over 26.5 per cent of new infections from June 10-16, as against

73.5 per cent by the rural and semi-urban areas.

In total, the district has reported nearly 7,075 new cases during the past seven days, of which 5,198 cases were recorded in rural and semi-urban areas and 1,877 in urban areas.

Epidemiologists and health experts are concerned over the fact that around 73.5 per cent of the Covid cases was registered between June 10 and 16 were from rural areas.

The data shows that the

rural areas in the district contributed 804 cases out of the total 1,042 cases on June 10, followed by 988 of the 1,396 cases on June 11; 840 of the 1,199 cases on June 12; some 713 of the 968 cases on June 13; 684 of the 860 cases on the 14th, 606 of the 830 cases on the 15th and 563 of the 780 cases on the 16th.

The urban areas recorded 238, 408, 359, 255, 176, 224 and 217 cases between June 10 and 16.

FORM NO-VI (A)

[under Section 11 (1) of the Act, 30 of 2013

Read with Sub Rule (1) of Rule 19]"

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Rc.No.1430/2021/SA(LA) Dated.08.06.2021

Collectors office, Vizianagaram

Whereas it appears to the District Collector, Vizianagaram that the lands specified in the schedule below are needed for a public purpose, to wit for excavation of 27 L Minor of Gajapathinagaram Branch Canal under Thotapalli Barrage Project, notice to that effect is hereby given to all to whom it may concern in accordance with the provisions of Section -11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No.30 of 2013).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was taken up by the I&CAD Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh in the year 2005 and Environment clearance granted by MOEF vide letter No.J-12011/10/2002 A dt.29.8.2005. There are no displaced families due to this Land Acquisition.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section-12 of the Act, the District Collector, Vizianagaram hereby, designates the Special Deputy Collector, T.B.P. Unit-III, Parvatipuram, his staff and workmen to exercise the powers conferred under the above said section.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e., sale / purchase etc. or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of this notification without the prior approval of the Collector/Land Acquisition Officer.

Objections to the acquisitions, if any, may be filed by the person(s) interested within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this Notification as provided under Section -15 of the Act before the Collector/Land Acquisition Officer.

SCHEDULE

Mandal : Gajapathinagaram					Village : Logisa					Details of Trees, Structures etc., if any.	
Sl. No.	Survey No.	Total Extent Ac.Cts	Extent under Acquisition Ac.Cts	Classification	Name & address of the person interested	Boundaries					
						North	South	East	West		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				8	
1	2-1B	3.20	0.22	R.Dry	Dhannana Kistamma s/o Appala Naidu Maddineni Sai Anudeep	Pattadar Enjoyer	Zinnam	2-6B	2-1C	2-1A	Mango-29
2	2-5A	0.13	0.01	R.Dry	Maddineni Sridevi w/o Venkata Ramana Adhapaka Achhiyya s/o Chittayya	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-1C	2-7B	2-5B	2-6B	Mango-1
3	2-6B	0.36	0.06	R.Dry	Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Sivarama Krishna Vara Prasad Rao	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-1B	2-7B	2-5A	2-6A	Mango-7
4	2-7B	0.51	0.08	R.Dry	Adhapaka Appayya s/o Ramayya Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Sivarama	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-6B,5A	2-13B	2-7C	2-7A	Mango-10
5	2-13B	0.56	0.14	R.Dry	Bochha Appala Swamy s/o Appadu Maddineni Sai Abhishek s/o Venkata Ramana	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-7B	2-15B	2-13C	2-13A	Mango-18
6	2-15B	0.42	0.03	R.Dry	Logisa Ram Murthy Naidu s/o Seethayya Maddineni Sai Abhishek s/o Venkata Ramana	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-13B	2-18B	2-15C	2-15A	Mango-3
7	2-18B	0.60	0.04	R.Dry	Adhapaka Appayya s/o Ramayya Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Sivarama	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-15B	2-19B	2-18C	2-18A	Mango-5
8	2-19B	0.35	0.05	R.Dry	Krishna Vara Prasad Rao Samanthula Ramulu s/o Gangaraju	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-18B	2-21B	2-19C	2-19A	Mango-6
9	2-21B	0.60	0.06	R.Dry	Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Sivarama Krishna Vara Prasad Rao	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-19B	5-5A,4B	2-21C	2-21A	Mango-7
10	5-4B	0.09	0.01	R.Dry	Yagati Sanyasi s/o Papayya Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Sivarama	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-21B	5-9A	5-5A	5-4A	Mango-1
11	5-5A	0.09	0.04	R.Dry	Krishna Vara Prasad Rao Polipalli Sanyasi s/o Appanna	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-21B	5-9B	5-5B	5-4B	Mango-5
12	5-9B	0.32	0.08	R.Dry	Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Sivarama Krishna Vara Prasad Rao	Pattadar Enjoyer	5-5A	5-13B	5-9C	5-9A	Mango-10
13	5-13B	0.18	0.09	R.Dry	Polipalli Sanyasi s/o Appanna Polipalli Sanyasappadu s/o Sanyasi	Pattadar Enjoyer	5-9B	5-18B	5-13C	5-13A	Mango-11 Teak-12
14	5-18B	0.06	0.03	R.Dry	Polipalli Appala Paidi s/o China Sanyasi Logisa Dibbayya s/o Pedappadu	Pattadar Enjoyer	5-13B	5-23B	5-18C	5-18A	Guva-5,Neem-6
15	5-23B	0.26	0.06	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Logisa Alchodu s/o Asiralu	Pattadar Enjoyer	5-18B	6-4B	5-23C	5-23A	Guva-7
16	5-24A	0.19	0.02	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Logisa Ramana s/o Seethanna	Pattadar Enjoyer	5-23B	6-4B,7-1A	5-24B,6-4B	5-23B,6-4B	Guva-2
17	6-4B	0.10	0.03	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Logisa Ramana s/o Seethanna	Pattadar Enjoyer	5-23B	6-5B,7-1A	5-24A,7-1A	6-5A	Guva-8
18	6-5B	0.12	0.01	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Sunkara Ramaswami s/o Gurayya	Pattadar Enjoyer	6-4B	6-8B	7-1A,15B	6-5A	Guva-1
19	6-8B	0.17	0.01	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Tarapu Appala Naidu s/o Paidithalli	Pattadar Enjoyer	6-5B	7-15A	7-1A,15B	6-8A	Guva-1
20	7-1A	0.18	0.05	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Logisa Appanna s/o Buddadu	Pattadar Enjoyer	5-24A, 7-1A	7-15B	7-1B	6-5B,8B	Guva-14 Guva-25, Bamboo Bushes-2
21	7-15B	0.40	0.09	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Reddy Papayya s/o Kurmayya	Pattadar Enjoyer	6-8B,5A 7-1A	7-16B	7-15C	7-15A	Guva-28, Bamboo Bushes-2
22	7-16B	0.34	0.10	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Tholapu Appala Naidu s/o Pydithalli	Pattadar Enjoyer	7-15B	8-1B	7-16C	7-16A	Guva-25, Bamboo Bushes-4
23	8-1B	0.46	0.09	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Tholapu Appala Naidu s/o Pydithalli	Pattadar Enjoyer	7-16B	8-5B	8-1C	8-1A	Guva-14, Bamboo Bushes-2
24	8-5B	0.71	0.05	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Thamarana Krishnamma	Pattadar Enjoyer	8-1B	8-6B	8-5C	8-5A	Guva-13, Bamboo Bushes-2
25	8-6B	0.10	0.05	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Relli Appala Naidu s/o Guru Naidu	Pattadar Enjoyer	8-5B	8-13B	8-6C	8-6A	Guva-27, Bamboo Bushes-6
26	8-13B	1.13	0.10	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Relli Sangu Naidu s/o Gaddivadu	Pattadar Enjoyer	8-6B	9-2B	8-13C	8-13A	Guva-27, Bamboo Bushes-8
27	9-2B	1.04	0.10	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Logisa Rammurthy Naidu s/o Seethayya	Pattadar Enjoyer	8-13B	9-4B	9-2C	9-2A	Guva-21
28	9-4B	0.41	0.09	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Gavara Venkanna s/o Kamu Naidu	Pattadar Enjoyer	9-2B	9-5B	9-4C	9-4A	Guva-20
29	9-5B	1.60	0.09	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Gavara Sri Ramulu Naidu s/o Papi Naidu	Pattadar Enjoyer	9-4B	9-8B	9-5C	9-5A	Guva-18
30	9-8B	0.32	0.07	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Aadurthi Parayya s/o Thippadu	Pattadar Enjoyer	9-5B	9-14B	9-8C	9-8A	Guva-19
31	9-14B	0.48	0.08	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Gavara Ramulu s/o Bodyya	Pattadar Enjoyer	9-8B	9-17B	9-14C	9-14A	Guva-16
32	9-17B	1.34	0.06	R.Dry	Gavara Surappadu s/o Ramu Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Pattadar Enjoyer	9-14B	9-20B	9-17C	9-17B	Guva-4
33	9-19B	0.24	0.01	R.Dry	Gavara Pentayya s/o Chandrappa Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Pattadar Enjoyer	9-17B	9-20A	9-20B	9-19A	Guva-13
34	9-20B	0.32	0.05	R.Dry	Budi Chinappadu s/o Appadu Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Pattadar Enjoyer	9-17B	9-22B	9-20C	9-20A	Guva-7
35	9-22B	0.76	0.03	R.Dry	Budi Pedhappadu s/o Appadu Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Pattadar Enjoyer	9-17B	9-22B	9-20C	9-20A	Guva-8
36	10-21B	0.29	0.06	R.Dry	Gavara Jogi Naidu s/o Papi Naidu Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Pattadar Enjoyer	9-20B	10-21B	9-22C	9-22A	Guva-1
37	10-21B	0.29	0.06	R.Dry	Nadupuri Appayya s/o Sanyasi Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Pattadar Enjoyer	9-22B	10-22B	10-21C	10-21A	Guva-8
38	10-22B	0.24	0.06	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Gavara Erramma w/o Atchamma Naidu	Pattadar Enjoyer	10-21B	10-24B,23B	10-22C	10-22A	Guva-8
39	10-23B	0.42	0.01	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Aadurthi Parayya s/o Appadu	Pattadar Enjoyer	10-22B	10-24A	10-24B	10-23A	Guva-1
40	10-24B	0.51	0.19	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Aadurthi Sanyasi s/o Appadu	Pattadar Enjoyer	10-22B	13-10B,11B	10-24C	10-23B,24A	Guva-27
41	13-10B	0.25	0.01	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Gavara Sri Ramulu Naidu s/o Papi Naidu	Pattadar Enjoyer	10-24B	13-11A	13-11B	13-10A	Guva-1
42	13-11B	0.15	0.13	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Gavara Venkanna s/o Kami Naidu	Pattadar Enjoyer	10-24B	13-12A	13-11C,12A	13-11A	Guva-9
43	13-12A	0.16	0.01	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Gavara Jogi Naidu s/o Papi Naidu	Pattadar Enjoyer	13-11C	13-13B	13-12B	13-11B	Guva-1
44	13-13B	1.40	0.18	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Sanapathi Rammurthy s/o Soora Naidu	Pattadar Enjoyer	13-11B,12A	13-14B	13-13C	13-13A	Guva-12
45	13-14B	0.73	0.10	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Sanapathi Suramma w/o Somi Naidu	Pattadar Enjoyer	13-13B	13-21B	13-14C	13-14A	Guva-7
46	13-21B	0.84	0.09	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Boodi Appanna s/o Sanyasi	Pattadar Enjoyer	13-14B	13-22B	13-21C	13-21A	Guva-6
47	13-22B	0.54	0.05	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Bora Sanganna s/o Sanyasi	Pattadar Enjoyer	13-21B	13-24	13-22C	13-22A	Tatched Shed-1
48	14-1B	1.58	0.09	R.Dry	Boodi Ramu Naidu s/o Suri Naidu Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Pattadar Enjoyer	13-24	14-12A	14-1C	14-1A	Casuarina Garden
49	14-12A	0.49	0.03	R.Dry	Gavara Jogi Naidu s/o Papi Naidu Pappu Rajeswari w/o Upadhyula Nagesh	Pattadar Enjoyer	14-1B	14-12B	14-12B	14-12B	Casuarina Garden
50	14-12A	0.49	0.03	R.Dry	Reddy Papayya s/o Kuramayya Pappu Rajeswari w/o Upadhyula Nagesh	Pattadar Enjoyer	14-1B	14-12B	14-12B	14-12B	Casuarina Garden
	Total:		3.19								

SHORT TAKES

PM LAUDS MOTHER FOR ISOLATING FROM CHILD

New Delhi, June 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed a mother of a six-year-old boy for her courage and positive thinking as she isolated herself from her son after contracting Covid-19.

Pooja Verma, who lives in Sector-6 of Ghaziabad, tested positive for the Coronavirus along with her husband, Gagan Kaushik. Verma, her husband and their six-year-old son live in a three-bedroom apartment and after contracting Covid-19 in April, the couple made a tough decision and decided that all three would be isolated in separate rooms.

This was not easy for the six-year-old who longed for his parent's love while unable to understand what the Coronavirus was or what Covid-related norms meant and what was the need for this isolation, Verma said.

He kept on wondering what wrong had he done that he had to stay in a room separate from his parents, she said. In a letter to the Prime Minister, she narrated her ordeal as a mother who had to stay away from her child, through a poem she had penned.

The Prime Minister wrote back to her and while asking about the wellbeing of her family, said, "I am happy that even in difficult circumstances, you and your family have fought this disease by adopting Covid-compliant behaviour with courage." Lauding the woman's poem, the PM said it expressed the worry and anxiety of a mother when she is away from her child.

ODISHA GOES FOR 'PARTIAL UNLOCK' FROM TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 16

With the state reporting a steady dip in Covid-19 cases, the Odisha government on Wednesday announced partial unlock plans to relax the restrictions imposed on May 1 this year. The partial lockdown will come into effect from June 17 morning and will continue till July 1 morning.

Addressing a press conference, chief secretary Suresh Mohapatra said the Covid-19 infection rate has drastically declined and the test positivity rate (TPR) dropped to six per cent this week. He attributed the drop in the infection rate to people's adherence to lockdown restrictions.

"The peak period in the state is already over and I hope if people continue to coordinate with the state government, the situation can be completely brought under control in a few days," Mohapatra added.

Under the new unlocking measures, the lockdown restrictions will be eased in 17 districts (Category A) out of the 30 in the state from tomorrow. Shops will remain open between 6 am and 5 pm in these 17 districts. The Category-A districts are in the southern and western parts of the state where test positivity rate is five per cent or less. However, in the remaining 13 districts (Category B), shops will remain open between 6 am and 1 pm.

MAOISTS INJURED IN ODISHA ENCOUNTER

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 16

A fierce gunbattle took place between a group of Maoists rebels and security forces in a forest near Kulabedha in Odisha's Malkangiri district on Wednesday morning. Some of the rebels reportedly sustained injuries in the encounter.

According to Malkangiri superintendent of police Hrushikesh Khilari, the exchange of fire occurred during a search operation carried out by the joint team of Special Operation Group and District Voluntary Force in the forest.

"The SOG and DVF of Odisha police had launched a search operation during which the Maoists cadres opened fire indiscriminately at the security forces. The jawan also retaliated in which some rebels sustained injuries," the SP said.

However, the injured ultras managed to flee into the dense forest, he added.

During subsequent search, the security forces recovered an INSAS rifle along with 34 rounds of bullets and magazines. A kit bag, digital camera, live magazines and other Maoist articles were also found during the search, the SP added.

FURTHER PROGRESS OF MONSOON STOPS

New Delhi, June 16: Atmospheric conditions are still not favourable for further advance of monsoon into Rajasthan, remaining parts of Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

It said a cyclonic circulation lies over east Uttar Pradesh and neighbourhood and there is also a western disturbance.

These conditions are not favourable for the advance of monsoon, IMD director general M. Mohapatra said.

"Large-scale atmospheric conditions are not favourable for further advance of monsoon into Rajasthan, remaining parts of Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi," the IMD said.

However, there could be a slow progress of monsoon into some more parts of UP during the next five days in association with the existing cyclonic circulation over east Uttar Pradesh, the IMD added.

— PTI



A man takes a selfie with his family at Taj Mahal that reopened after authorities eased some restrictions in the ongoing Covid-19 lockdown, in Agra on Wednesday.

— PTI

Gap between jabs stirs row again

Centre says decision to increase gap was 'transparent and backed by scientific data'

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

India on Wednesday reported 62,224 new cases of Covid-19 and 2,542 deaths. Country's active caseload for the first time in 70 days came down below 9 lakh. The Recovery Rate has increased to 95.80 per cent while daily positivity rate stands at 3.22%. The positivity rate has been less than 5% for nine consecutive days. With the pace of vaccination picking up, the Centre hopes to check the daily cases and blunt the possible third wave.

However, a controversy has re-erupted over the gap between two doses of Covishield vaccine. The Centre had increased the gap between the two doses for Covishield from 8-12 weeks to 12-14 weeks in

May raising questions if that was done based on scientific evidence or due to shortage of the vaccines. The doses of the vaccines remain unchanged now even after the United Kingdom, which was quoted by Central government officials as an example, has decided to reduce the gap.

Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Wednesday clarified that the decision to increase the gap between the two doses was 'transparent and backed by scientific data'. The clarification came after some members of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) said they had recommended only 8-12 weeks but the government on its own came out with a 12 to 16 weeks gap. It was initially

● **THE CLARIFICATION** came after some members of the NTAGI said they had recommended only 8-12 weeks but the government on its own came out with 12 to 16 weeks gap.

● **ON ANY** fresh proposal to reduce Covishield dosage gap, Dr Arora said decision will be taken scientifically, giving paramount importance to the health.

4-6 weeks. Chairman of NTAGI Dr N.K. Arora explained that the decision to increase the gap between two Covishield doses from 4-6 weeks to 12-16 weeks lay in the fundamental scientific reason regarding behaviour of adenovector vaccines.

"In the last week of April 2021 the data released by Public Health England, United Kingdom's executive agency of the Department of Health, showed that vaccine efficacy varied between 65%

and 88% when interval is 12 weeks. This was the basis on which they overcame their epidemic outbreak due to the Alpha variant. The UK was able to come out of it because the interval they kept was 12 weeks. We also thought that this is a good idea, since there are fundamental scientific reasons to show that when interval is increased, adenovector vaccines give better response. Hence, the decision was taken on May 13, to increase the interval to 12-16 weeks. This also

gives flexibility to the community, since everyone cannot come at precisely 12 weeks or so," said Dr Arora.

Dr Arora said that the earlier decision of four weeks was based upon the bridging trial data available then. He referred to studies by PGI Chandigarh and CMC Vellore which compared effectiveness of partial versus full immunisation. "A PGI Chandigarh study very clearly shows that vaccine effectiveness was 75% for both partially immunised and fully immunised. So at least in the short run, effectiveness was similar whether you are partially or fully vaccinated. This was in relation to the Alpha variant which had swept Punjab, Northern India

and came to Delhi. This also meant that even if you received only one dose, still you are protected." Results from the CMC Vellore study were similar. On any fresh proposal to reduce Covishield dosage gap, Dr Arora said the decision will be taken scientifically, giving paramount importance to the health and protection of the community. "Covid-19 and the vaccination are very dynamic. Tomorrow, if the vaccine platform tells us that a narrower interval is better for our people, even if the benefit is 5% - 10%, the Committee will take the decision on the basis of merit and its wisdom. On the other hand, if it turns out that the current decision is fine, we will continue with it," he added.

MP IAS officer gets show cause notice

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, JUNE 16

A young IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh has been served show cause notice by the state government following his posts in a private social media group of bureaucrats leveling corruption charges against some babus.

The posts later got leaked. In the leaked posts, the 2014 batch IAS officer of MP cadre, Lokesh Jangid, said he was frequently transferred because of his "intolerance to corruption in the administration".

The babu said he was transferred seven times in his four and half years of service.

In one of his posts, the IAS officer said, "In Bihar they do not make any one DM who mints money. In MP, the less said the

better". "Stability of tenure in Madhya Pradesh and the joke of an institution called Civil Service Board", said another post by him.

"Interestingly, while those who mint money from all kinds of mafia get transferred from field to field and those with impeccable integrity get thrown to the Secretariat on transfer", read another post in the group by him.

He also indicated to write a memoir after his retirement to bring the facts before everyone since he was bound by service rules currently.

The IAS officer, in one of his posts, alleged corruption by Barwani district collector Shivraj Singh Verma and accused the latter of influencing the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to get him transferred.

2 die after consuming spirit stolen from Covid Care Centre in Kerala

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
JUNE 16

Two persons died in Kerala's Kollam district after consuming surgical spirit kept at a Covid First Line Treatment Centre (CFLT/C). The deceased were identified as Prasad of Pattazhy and his friend Muruganandan. Two others — Rajeev and Gopi — who had also consumed the spirit are in a critical condition.

The surgical spirit was stolen from a private hospital in Pathanapuram which was functioning as a CFLT/C.

In the statement recorded by police, Gopi said that Muruganandan who worked as a security guard at the private hospital had brought the spirit. The police said that Muruganandan is



A bartender arranges liquor bottles on the shelves at a bar ahead of its reopening after authorities eased restrictions of lockdown in Kolkata on Wednesday.

— PTI

believed to have taken the spirit from hospital and diluted it before consuming it along with others.

According to hospital authorities some quantity of surgical spirit which

was used for sanitising hospital equipment, was found missing.

The four consumed the spirit as liquor was not available in the state due to lockdown.

It may be noted that the

government had decided to reopen bars and liquor outlets in the state from Thursday.

Meanwhile, the police and excise officials conducted a search at the hospital.

Kerala reports 13,270 new cases of Covid 19 on Wednesday.

The active cases have come down to 1,09,794. During the last 24 hours, 1,21,521 samples were tested and the Test Positivity Rate was 11.79 per cent.

The state reported 147 deaths taking the death toll to 11,655.

At present 4.92 lakh people are under observation including 4.63 lakh under home or institutional quarantine.

The state government had announced lifting of lockdown restrictions in a graded manner from Thursday.

NEW LAWS

New IT rules are aimed at regulating content on social media, making it more accountable

Prasad slams Twitter for not complying with new IT rules

New Delhi, June 16: IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Wednesday slammed Twitter for deliberate defiance and failure to comply with the country's new IT rules, which has led to the US giant losing its intermediary status in India and becoming liable for users posting any unlawful content.

Twitter has allegedly not fully complied with the new rules, called Intermediary Guidelines that call for setting up grievance redressal mechanism and appointing officers to coordinate with law enforcement.

The rules became effective from May 26 and Twitter even after the expiry of the additional

time has not appointed the requisite officers, leading to it losing the 'safe harbour' immunity, sources in the government said.

Prasad said Twitter has "deliberately chosen the path of non-compliance." The minister also mentioned that if any foreign entity believes that it can portray itself as flag bearer of free speech in India to excuse itself from complying with the law of the land, "such attempts are misplaced".

"There are numerous queries arising as to whether Twitter is entitled to safe harbour provision. However, the simple fact of the matter is that Twitter has failed to comply with the Intermediary

Guidelines that came into effect from the 26th of May," he said in social media posts.

He posted a series of messages on Koo — Twitter's homegrown replica — and then on Twitter itself, saying the US social media giant "was given multiple opportunities to comply with the same, however, it has deliberately chosen the path of non-compliance."

Loss of intermediary status in India implies that in the event of any charge against the microblogging site for alleged unlawful content, it would be treated as a publisher and would be liable for punishment under penal laws.

The new IT rules, originally announced in February, are aimed at regulating content on social media firms and making likes of Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter more accountable to legal requests for swift removal of posts and sharing details on the originators of messages.

Prasad's ministry on June 5 had written to Twitter warning it of "unintended consequences" if it did not comply with the rules. Twitter did not immediately comment on Prasad's tweets but it on Tuesday said that it was keeping IT ministry apprised of progress of every step of the process.

"An interim Chief Compliance Officer has been retained and details will be shared with the Ministry directly soon," it had said.

"Twitter continues to make every effort to comply with the new guidelines."

The government's relationship with social media platforms has been tense for the past few months and with Twitter, it got enunciated when posts by BJP leaders on an alleged strategy document of the opposition Congress party to target the Modi government's handling of the second wave of Covid infections, was tagged as 'manipulated media'.

— PTI

UP POLICE BOOK TWITTER, 6 OTHERS FOR 'CREATING COMMUNAL UNREST'

Ghaziabad, June 16: The Uttar Pradesh Police have booked microblogging platform Twitter, a news portal and six persons in connection with the circulation of a video in which an elderly Muslim man narrates his ordeal after he was allegedly attacked by some people in Ghaziabad.

The FIR was lodged on Tuesday on the basis of a complaint by a policeman alleging that the video was shared with an intention to provoke communal unrest. In the video clip, which surfaced on social media on June 14, the elderly Muslim man, Abdul Shamad Saifi, alleges he was thrashed by some young men and asked to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'.

However, the Ghaziabad police, who have arrested three people for assaulting Saifi, have ruled out a communal angle. They said the accused were unhappy about a 'tabeez' (amulet) he sold to them.

FIR lodged against Twitter India, news website The Wire, journalists Mohamud Zubair and Rana Ayub, Congress leaders Salman Nizami, Masqoor Usmani and others.

ASSAM EDU. DEPT TO TAKE CALL ON HOLDING EXAMS

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, JUNE 16

The Assam cabinet on Wednesday observed that the Covid situation in the state has not improved to conduct class 10 and 12 board examinations but the final decision will be taken by the education department in consultation with the stakeholders.

Informing that in zero-18 years group about 25,000 children were infected by Covid in the state, Assam health minister Keshab Mahanta told reporters that state health department gave a detailed presentation before the state cabinet about the prevailing rate of positivity besides the possible congregation of people in case of holding the board examinations.

After seeing the presentation, the cabinet concluded that it would not be wise to hold the board examinations, he said adding that the decision on whether the exam will be conducted or not will be taken on June 18 by the education department.

Pointing out that Covid situation has not yet improved in districts like Golaghat, Morigaon, Kamrup (M) etc, the minister said that the cabinet was of the view that all necessary steps should be taken to ensure that the spread of pandemic is brought under control. "We have decided not to allow home isolation to persons who don't have separate isolation facilities at home," he said adding that home isolation was responsible for the spread of the virus in many cases.

MAHA TOLD TO PROBE CONG. MLA, SONU SOOD

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC
MUMBAI, JUNE 16

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday asked the Maharashtra government to "seriously examine" the role of MLA Zeeshan Siddiqui and actor Sonu Sood regarding the alleged illegal distribution of crucial anti-viral drug Remdesivir, through social media, noting that it seemed like a case of a parallel unauthorised agency.

The bench comprising Justices S.P. Deshmukh and G.S. Kulkarni issued this direction while hearing a public interest litigation filed by Nilesh Navalakha through advocate Rajesh Inamdar on management of distribution of Remdesivir to all states by Centre.

On the last date of hearing, advocate Inamdar had pointed out to the court how Remdesivir was supplied to people following requests made on social media to Siddique and Sood within hours, while the state complained of a shortage and several people were dying.

On Wednesday, the court observed that the two seemed to have played a crucial role in facilitating the distribution of Remdesivir.

DECCAN Chronicle

17 JUNE 2021

HC upholds right to protest, dissent; offers a ray of hope

The order of the Delhi high court granting bail to three research students incarcerated for their alleged role in the Delhi riots of 2020 comes as a ray of hope for those who have been anguished by the government's propensity to use legal means against political opponents and the judiciary's proclivity to shut its eyes to executive excesses. The students, two from Jawaharlal Nehru University and one from Jamia Milia Islamia University, were charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, (UAPA), 1967.

The court has made significant observations on two important points that needed judicial clarification. One, the line that demarcates legitimate protests and terrorist activities and two, the police's unmindful application of laws such as UAPA on people and the lower judiciary's failure to apply their judicial mind to it. On the first, the court was categorical in assailing the state for blurring the line between the constitutionally guaranteed right to protest and terrorist activity in an attempt to suppress dissent. Such a mindset gaining traction would harm democracy, the court has observed. On the second, the court reminds the police that it was not the legislative intent of the UAPA that offences of the usual and ordinary kind, however grave, egregious or heinous in their nature and extent, to be covered by that law.

It defies the basic principles of the rule of law if the executive thinks that the process of law can be the punishment a citizen would face for defiance. There are far too many such people, including the 84-year-old priest Fr Stan Swamy, now languishing in jail under the very same law.

Referring to the constitutional scheme of things and the separation of powers under the Union, State and Concurrent Lists, the court pointed out that such laws are enacted for the defence of India, trashing the police act of booking students for shouting slogans. It has also found that the chargesheet reveals nothing to prove that the students were engaged in "terrorist activities" the definition of which was, according to the court, "vague". The court enjoined upon the courts to apply its mind when such laws are invoked on unsuspecting people instead of giving its assent to what the executive prescribes.

Governments may be uncomfortable with citizens asking questions, but that's the way democracy functions. It defies the basic principles of the rule of law if the executive thinks that the process of law can be the punishment a citizen would face for defiance. There are far too many such people, including the 84-year-old priest Fr Stan Swamy, now languishing in jail under the very same law.

Entries in the statute book cannot be allowed to be tools in the hands of a repressive government that has no compunction towards invoking the most stringent of laws against political opponents at the drop of a hat and muzzle dissent. The executive should be stopped from going beyond the legislative intent of the laws, and any transgression must be viewed from the point of view of the victim. It's the job of the judiciary to raise the protective covering of the Constitution when a vindictive government takes aims at a peacefully rebellious citizen. The Delhi high court has just done that. Every court must do it, should democracy survive and succeed; it should not be left to the individual judges to show the gumption.

BJP behind drama in LJP?

When the late Ram Vilas Paswan, once among the leading young Lohia socialist leaders of Bihar and the country along with Lalu Yadav and Nitish Kumar, figured that his best bet lay in emerging as a dalit leader, he created the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP). But he had a handicap. His base lay exclusively among the Dusadh community of dalits of Bihar. On that basis alone, it was not easy to be a long-distance runner.

But Mr Paswan survived with clever footwork, joining alliances which he changed with frequency to retain a position in the Union cabinet in a range of governments. He had a personal standing and was a well-liked politician. After the demise of the nine-term parliamentarian last October, the LJP has clearly lost its way.

The party had mostly become a family affair, with his son Chirag named its president, a brother and a nephew being bought to Parliament, and another nephew heading the party's Bihar unit. This lot is now busy fighting. The Lok Sabha Speaker promptly gave recognition to the breakaway group, which has five of the six party MPs, while only Chirag is out. So, the BJP's blessing to the move is a likely assumption.

Such parties usually do not last long. The split may have been brought about in the hope that one among the group may be made a Union minister in a Cabinet expansion. In the last Bihar Assembly election, Chirag had earned the enmity of chief minister Nitish Kumar by setting up candidates against his Janata Dal (United) nominees while remaining in the NDA at the Centre. It was the strangest of situations. Now, many think JD(U) may have exacted revenge by engineering the process of LJP's split or eventual vapourising. In any case, it is the BJP in Bihar to which the Dusadh community may gravitate. For socioeconomic reasons, this direction was manifesting itself in the late Ram Vilas Pawan's lifetime.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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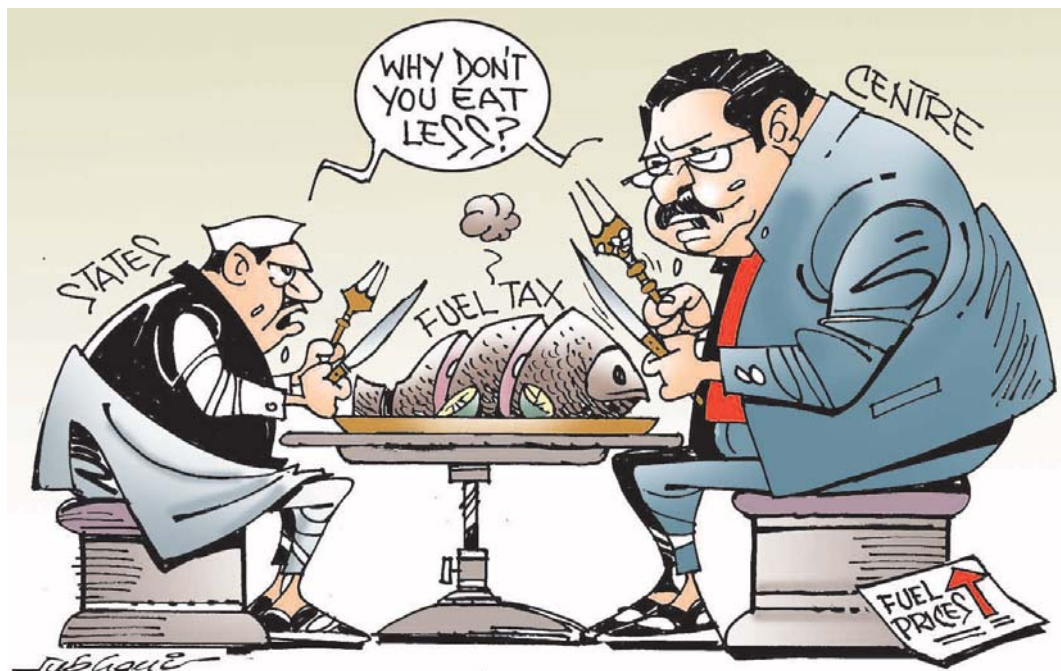
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Subhani



Covid-19 accountability: Making the dead count



Patralekha Chatterjee

Dev 360

In hyper-polarised India, it needs dollops of bravery for governments to admit that they got their Covid-19 death data wrong, that the magnitude of the problem they face in the time of the pandemic is more serious than they previously stated. Because political rivals are likely to pounce on such bursts of honesty as evidence of rank incompetence.

Nevertheless, some states are taking baby steps towards greater transparency of Covid-19 data. That is good news.

Bihar is in the spotlight. Covid-19 death figures in the state shot up from 5,478 on June 8 to 9,429 on June 9 in the wake of data revision. The dramatic jump in the number of coronavirus casualties did not happen because the Bihar government suddenly woke up to the need for good data. It was because the judiciary stepped in. The Patna high court demanded an audit of the figures after widespread allegations that the state government was underplaying the scale of infections and deaths.

Arguably, Bihar is not the only state which has faced such accusations. Ground reports by the media from crematoriums in many places, along with images of dozens of bodies dumped in rivers or buried in shallow graves have only bolstered the widespread belief that the official Covid-19 death count in the country doesn't tell the real story. Many states like Maharashtra and Telangana are revising their official death toll in the Covid-19 pandemic.

Interestingly, Jharkhand, one of India's poorest states, is setting an inspiring example by initiating an Intensive Public Health Survey. This is the first such door-to-door counting of deaths by any state during the second wave of the pandemic. It has revealed that

25,490 people died in the state in April-May 2021 — that is 43 per cent higher than the 17,819 total deaths officially registered across all 24 districts in the state in April-May 2019.

What should one make of this sudden rush for data integrity in many states even as the pandemic rages on? Will other states follow suit? Will the Narendra Modi government stop denying that India's official Covid-19 death toll is a massive undercount?

It is too early to tell. The pandemic is indeed making many countries finally acknowledge that they have been undercounting Covid-19 deaths. Peru did it. Mexico did it. But truth-telling may not be as contagious as the mutating coronavirus. Here in India, even as state governments start to revise their Covid-19 data, the Centre insists all is well. It recently lashed out at an international news-magazine for pegging the country's excess deaths due to the pandemic at 5.7 times the official figure.

But better late than ever. Whatever be their motives, the states which are embracing greater data transparency deserve to be cheered even if by doing so, they push up India's official Covid-19 death count.

As health economist Rijo M. John puts it: "Those brave states that are indeed doing this must be appreciated and I hope it motivates the rest to do so too."

Dr John cites the example of Maharashtra, which he says "has been relatively honest with the data right from the beginning, compared to many others".

Now, more states are joining in.

In India, even in normal times, many deaths are not officially recorded. Globally two-thirds (38 million) of 56 million annual deaths are still not registered, according to the World Health

Organisation.

But the coronavirus pandemic may have set in motion a laudable trend; many governments are beginning to acknowledge that there has been a massive undercount of deaths. The science of death-counting is making headlines and the critical need for strong and developed death registries is a talking point.

Dr Hemant Shewade, a medical doctor specialising in community medicine and operational research, points to the uneven quality of even routine surveillance of deaths in the country. "The coverage of routine death surveillance (proportion of deaths registered along with medical certification of cause of death) is as high as 100 per cent in Goa and as low as 2.5 per cent in Jharkhand. One did not really expect 100 per cent accuracy in Covid-19 death reporting. We cannot improve routine death surveillance overnight. But in the time of the pandemic, the problem rose because the undercounting of deaths was way too high," he told me.

What is really unacceptable, says Dr Shewade, "is singling out certain states for contributing higher proportion of reported Covid-19 deaths. This creates an environment that encourages poor Covid-19 death reporting."

Why is accurate Covid 19 data so important?

Because poor data makes for poor planning. "The administration, as well as the public, become lax as the true picture is not presented. Then it takes a wave as large as the second wave to wake us up. By then any action is too little too late," says Dr Shewade.

What should be done? Public health experts

In India, even in normal times, many deaths are not officially recorded. Globally two-thirds (38 million) of 56 million annual deaths are still not registered, according to the World Health Organisation.

who have been tracking the Covid 19 numbers stress the importance of making an honest attempt to not "show less numbers" by reporting all Covid-19 deaths, captured by routine death surveillance. "Accepting that under-reporting is an inescapable reality in India, we need regular local estimates of under-reporting to guide us regarding the true estimate of mortality," says Dr Shewade. "This can be done through post-mortem surveillance of all Covid-19 deaths in sentinel sites. Every district should have one sentinel site (local data for local action). This should be explored. This is important because in a country like India it takes time for data on excess deaths to come out."

Alongside inaccurate data, there is the problem of inadequate data. Together, they create a fertile ground for the spread of misinformation which severely hampers the battle against Covid-19. Many public health experts say the Centre must proactively and regularly publish reliable all-cause mortality data in regular intervals at the national level so that studies using incomplete and unreliable data to measure the true extent of deaths become redundant.

Telling the truth may seem politically risky, but it's the only way out. Bad data causes reputational damage. India has already suffered heavily with its official Covid-19 data being widely questioned and public trust being dented. It's true that the Indian Council of Medical Research has issued a "Guidance for appropriate recording of Covid-19 related deaths in India", as the Centre likes to stress.

However, there are gaps. As Dr Rijo John tweeted last week: "Do you have data to show which states adhere to these guidelines & which do not? What actions have you taken against those who didn't?"

The writer focuses on development issues in India and emerging economies. She can be reached at patralekha.chatterjee@gmail.com

LETTERS

EXODUS FROM BJP

It's surprising to note that the West Bengal Governor rushed to New Delhi to implement anti-defection law in view of mass desertion from the BJP to TMC (WB Gov. in Delhi after 24 BJP MLAs skip meet, DC, June 17). Prior to the election when a large number of TMC leaders migrated to the BJP the pet governor did not utter a single word about anti-defection law.

Someswar Sharma
Visakhapatnam

USE OF UAPA

The Delhi High Court has rightly expressed concern over casual application of stringent UAPA law (Delhi HC says state blurred line between protest, terror, DC, June 16). The UAPA should be used sparingly and judiciously as it is very stringent and takes away personal liberty of accused immediately and for a long time. The sedition law and the UAPA should be with clear definitions and apt applications for being effective.

Dr D.V.G. Sankararao
Vizianagaram

UG ENGLISH MEDIUM

The AP government's decision to make English medium compulsory for all degree colleges from this academic year will lead to a comprehension problem (English medium must at UG level, DC, June 16). Those who studied in Telugu medium from the beginning and are now pursuing degree in Telugu medium will not understand anything. The government must first implement English medium till Class X, and then Intermediate before UG and PG.

D. Ravikumar
Visakhapatnam

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

World must pressurise Pak

BRISBANE, June 16.

The expulsion of Bengalis from East Bengal was a "calculated move to throw India into chaos" the Indian High Commissioner to Australia, Mr. A. M. Thomas, said here today.

Mr. Thomas, who arrived in Queensland on a farewell visit after four years in Australia, said Pakistan was "driving out the Bengalis at the point of the bayonet".

He said the world was still not taking the requisite action over Bengal and described the situation there was chaotic and desperate.— Reuter

Mahir Ali



Bye bye Bibi: Netanyahu's exit may not spell change

Among the various heads of state and government who have seemed like permanent fixtures on the international political landscape in the past decade or so, no one's perch has looked as precarious as that of Benjamin Netanyahu. There's a degree of irony in the fact that Israel's longest-serving prime minister apparently ran out of steam midway through the presidential term of the most fervent White House admirer he could conceivably have attracted.

It's all relative, of course. Ever since its inception, Israel has never not had an ally in the White House, and occasional tensions have scarcely dampened US enthusiasm for — let alone hindered its munificence towards — what was identified early on as an invaluable satellite in a region once deemed broadly hostile to US interests.

The Obama administration, for instance, set a record in generosity, notwithstanding the toxic personal chemistry between Bibi and Barack. By then, it hardly looked like a case of

the tail wagging the dog. The transformation may not have been sudden, but Netanyahu had few qualms about treating America as the tail.

He was happy to do most of the barking until another top dog chimed in, determined, as the leader of the pack, to be louder than anyone else. And loyally tagging along behind Donald was Jared Kushner. Even Trump and Kushner apparently balked, however, when Netanyahu talked about fulfilling his dream of annexing much of the occupied West Bank. Had the US flashed the green light, enabling him to pursue this project, Netanyahu would probably still be Prime Minister, and Israel would almost certainly be embroiled in a military campaign far more vicious than its most recent assault on the Gaza Strip.

The latter did not suffice to keep him in power — not least because a substantial proportion of Israelis are under the impression that he chickened out. Unable to pull together a coalition after Israel's fourth election in two years, Netanyahu predictably

granted against the alternative regime that was taking shape.

In the past couple of weeks he has ludicrously labelled his opponents as dangerous and far left. The new Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, is an extremist all right, but on the other end of the ideological spectrum. He has served Netanyahu as chief of staff and in various ministerial capacities, and throughout his political career has been described as even more right wing than his former master.

In the past he has not only enthusiastically hailed the idea of West Bank annexation but also proudly boasted about seeing "no problem" having "killed lots of Arabs in my life". Now, as a Prime Minister at the head of a disparate — and desperate — eight-party coalition, whose Yamina party boasts only six seats in the 120-member Knesset, he has indicated that there will be no movement on the Palestinian front. The idea that the status quo can indefinitely be maintained while the state-sponsored settlers (whom Bennett has been proud to represent)

keep gnawing away at what's left of the diminishing Palestinian territories is one of Netanyahu's proudest achievements. There's no need to bother with a deal, not even with an eagerly compliant Palestinian "authority" in place under Mahmoud Abbas, who put off his elections to ward off the likelihood of another triumph for Hamas.

That likelihood has only increased in recent months, but yet another Israeli election before the end of the year cannot be written off. After all, the Bennett-led coalition has the bare minimum parliamentary support necessary, and Netanyahu as Opposition leader will no doubt continue trying to topple his rivals. The 'Bye bye Bibi' placards displayed by jubilant demonstrators after his comeuppance may prove to have been premature. Does any of this matter very much? Not for the Palestinianians. Sure, there is an Arab Islamist party on the fringes of the Bennett coalition, playing pretty much the sort of collaborationist role that the odd relatively unrepresentative black organisation did under South African

apartheid. It also includes the Meretz and Labour parties, which remain wedded, at least formally, to the fantasy of a two-state solution.

What's far more important is that the political centre has shifted sharply to the right — Netanyahu deserves some of the credit for that, but the narrowing of the political spectrum from the centre right to the far right is by no means an exclusively Israeli phenomenon. Hardly anywhere, though, is the political system more fractured: what once were factions have evolved into a plethora of parties, and one-party majorities are now a thing of the past.

Netanyahu has hitherto thrived on this dysfunction, but whether he can exploit it much longer remains to be seen. The criminal justice system may catch up with him. One thing that won't change, however, is what Joe Biden reiterated last week: "Israel has no better friend than the United States." Which in effect means nothing will really change.

By arrangement with Dawn

quick BITES

INDICATORS

		%
Sensex	52,501.98	-0.51
Nifty 50	15,767.50	-0.64
S&P 500*	4,234.42	-0.29
Dollar (₹)	73.30	0.02
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.48	-0.28
Euro (₹)	88.90	0.02
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	47,814.48	0.10
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	74.32	0.45
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.045	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.485	-0.014

* As of 8:30 PM IST

MF SIP asset base touches ₹4.67L cr in May

Assets under the systematic investment plan (SIP) touched an all-time high of Rs 4.67 lakh crore in May. Over the past five years, assets under management (AUM) of SIPs have grown 30 per cent annually, twice as fast as the growth in the overall mutual fund industry's AUM. According to Amfi data, SIP AUMs have seen a close to four-fold jump to Rs 4,67,366 crore as of May this year from Rs 1,25,394 crore as of August 2016.

Subsidies hiked for DAP, other fertilisers



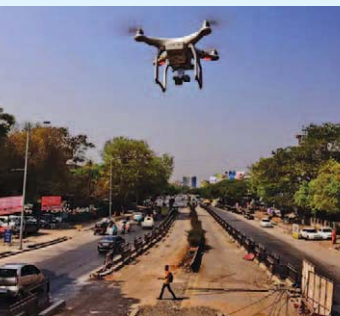
The Union Cabinet raised the subsidies for DAP and some other non-urea fertilisers by Rs 14,775 crore to keep the prices low for farmers. After urea, di-ammonium phosphate is the most widely used fertiliser. Minister of state for chemicals and fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya "Farmers will continue to get DAP at the old rate of Rs 1,200 per bag." He said the subsidy for DAP has been raised to Rs 1,200 per bag from Rs 500.

Cost Inflation Index for LTCG notified

The income tax department has notified the Cost Inflation Index (CII) for the current fiscal beginning April 2021 for calculating long-term capital gains arising from sale of immovable property, securities and jewellery. The CII is used by taxpayer to compute gains arising out of sale of capital assets after adjusting for inflation. "The Cost Inflation Index for FY 2021-22 relevant to AY 2022-23 & subsequent years is 317," the CBDT said.

Video recordings must for stages of NH projects

The NHAI said it has made mandatory the use of drones for monthly video recording of national highway projects during all stages of development, construction, operation and maintenance. It said contractors and concessionaires shall carry out the drone video recording in the presence of team leader of the supervision consultant and upload comparative project videos on NHAI's portal 'Data Lake.'



Three firms hit daily limit for the third day

Adani stocks tumble more

NUPUR ACHARYA
JUNE 16

The slump in shares of companies controlled by Indian billionaire Gautam Adani deepened on Wednesday with three of them tumbling by the daily limit for a third straight day.

Adani Total Gas Ltd, Adani Power Ltd and Adani Transmission Ltd hit the lower circuit after dropping 5 per cent each even as the group denied a local report on Monday that said accounts of three Mauritius-based funds that own the group's stocks were frozen.

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone tumbled 7.17 per cent and flagship Adani Enterprises tanked 5.77 per cent on the BSE. Adani Green Energy declined 3.10 per cent.

The dramatic rout marks a halt to the dizzying rally in shares of some of the Adani Group of Companies that had added almost \$40 billion to the billionaire's wealth this year through Friday that made him the second-richest person in Asia. His net worth, based on Tuesday's closing share prices, is \$71.5 billion.

The conglomerate refuted the reports that said National Securities Depository Ltd froze the accounts of Albula Investment Fund, Cresta Fund and APMS Investment Fund. It called the report "blatantly erroneous" and followed up with another statement on

INVESTORS FRET OVER LITTLE-KNOWN FUNDS

NUPUR ACHARYA & P. R. SANJAI
JUNE 16

Confusion over three Mauritius-based funds that whipsawed shares of Adani Group companies this week has underscored a deeper risk for investors in such stocks owned by opaque entities.

"It is important for investors and the regulator to be aware of the ownership in listed companies, especially when they originate from tax havens like Mauritius," said Hemindra Hazari, an independent research analyst in Mumbai. "The names of the funds are not very well known in the capital market and they have high concentration into a select number of stocks, which in itself is unusual."

Even as a massive share rally in the companies of the conglomerate has this year more than doubled the net worth of Adani to

Tuesday citing communication from the national depository that the three funds' demat accounts are "suspended for debit."

The funds, registered at the same address in Port Louis, own more than Rs 43,500 crore (\$6 billion) in four Adani group firms, the report had said.

\$73 billion, this week's events have pointed to a deeper pain point: opacity around the group and its key non-founder shareholders. There's also scant analyst coverage for Adani companies, highlighting the information lacunae could be a chronic issue.

"It is extremely crucial for the Adani Group to disclose relevant details regarding ultimate beneficial ownership of foreign portfolio investors," said Zulfikar Memon, managing partner of Mumbai-based law firm MZM Legal LLP.

Some of the group's listed stocks have soared more than six-fold in value since the start of 2020 on bets Adani's push into infrastructure will pay off as the economy revives. Adding to the tailwind was MSCI Inc including three more Adani stocks to its India benchmark index, taking the total to five.— Bloomberg

Dollar bonds issued by Adani group firms have pared some of the losses from earlier this week. Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone's dollar bond due 2031 fell by a record 3.3 cents on the dollar on Monday to 94.1 cents and is now trading at 95.4 cents. — Bloomberg

SHYAM METALICS IPO SUBSCRIBED 121 TIMES, SONA 2.33 TIMES

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, JUNE 16

Integrated metals manufacturer Shyam Metalics and Energy's Rs 909 crore initial public offering received huge subscription demand as it got subscribed 121.40 times shares offered in the public issue. But another issue that closed on Wednesday, that of Sona Comstar, got subscribed by a modest 2.33 times.

In the Shyam Metalics public offer, priced in the band of Rs 303 to Rs 306 per share, the portion reserved for retail investors was subscribed 11.64 times. The qualified institutional buyer category was subscribed 155.71 times, the non-institutional investor category was subscribed 339.98 times.

Shyam Metalics received over 21.13 lakh applications across investor categories as per last update made available by sources close to the merchant bankers.

Automotive technology company Sona BLW Precision Forgings (Sona Comstar) Rs 5,250 crore IPO was subscribed 2.33 as per last update from the stock exchanges.

The portion reserved for retail investors was subscribed 1.61 times.

The qualified institutional buyer category was subscribed 3.54 times, the non-institutional investor category was subscribed 0.40 times as per the last update made available by sources close to the merchant bankers.

Sona Comstar received over 4.46 lakh applications as per the last update.

Cooking oil prices start softening

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JUNE 16

After more than doubling in the past one year, edible oil prices have started softening in the last one month. "Edible oil prices in India are showing a declining trend across a wide array of oils. As per data from the Department of Consumer Affairs, over the past month, the prices of edible oils are now coming down," an official statement said on Wednesday.

Palm oil prices have dropped 19 per cent from Rs 142 per kg on May 7 to Rs 115 per kg, sunflower oil prices dropped 16 per cent to 157 per kg, price of soya oil has come down from Rs 162 per kg to Rs 138 per kg in the past few weeks. Mustard oil was down 10 per cent, groundnut oil 8 per cent and vanaspati 8 per cent at Rs



157, Rs 174 and Rs 141 per kg, respectively.

"Expectations of a production recovery in Malaysia and Indonesia amid slowing demand have pulled down the prices. Due to the second wave, exports of edible oils were affected in these countries. In the case of soya oil, the surge in the interest for renewable energy too had supported prices. However, the market now finds that the

blending requirements in the US would be reduced due to the intervention of the environmental protection agency. This has cooled down prices," said Ajay Kedia, MD, Kedia Commodities.

The international price trends are directly affecting the domestic edible oil market as India imports a significant quantity of the commodity to meet its demand. As per reports, India meets 56 per cent of its domestic demand through imports. The effective rate of import duties, including agriculture infrastructure and development cess and social welfare cess, ranges from 35 per cent to 59 per cent for edible oils. This too has led to higher edible oil prices in India.

Despite the rising prices, the industry has been asking the government not to cut the import duties.

Govt plans ₹50,000-cr loan guarantee for health infra

SIDDHARTHA SINGH
JUNE 16

The government is considering offering as much as Rs 50,000 crore (\$6.8 billion) of credit incentives to boost health care infrastructure in the nation hit by the coronavirus pandemic, according to people familiar with the matter.

The programme will allow companies to access funds for ramping up hospital capacity or medical

supplies with the government acting as a guarantor, said the people, who asked not to be identified citing rules.

A finance ministry spokesperson could not be immediately reached for comment.

The government's loan guarantees will complement the central bank's efforts last month to boost credit for health care services and provide fresh lending to vaccine-makers.

The Reserve Bank of India had then announced an on-tap liquidity window for banks worth Rs 50,000 crore to extend credit to health services and vaccine manufacturers until March 2022.

The government also last month separately included airlines and hospitals in a \$41-billion emergency credit programme to cushion them from the impact of the pandemic.

— Bloomberg

RBI: 2nd wave hits domestic demand

FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, JUNE 16

The second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic has hit domestic demand. Going forward, the speed and scale of vaccination will shape the path of recovery, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its monthly bulletin for June 2021 released on Friday. It observed that while vaccines will not end the pandemic by themselves, "the country will have to learn to live with the virus, complementing vaccines with ramping up investment in healthcare, logistics and research".

"The pandemic is a real shock with real consequences. Hence, there is a need to ensure that the recovery is built on a solid foundation of business investment and productivity growth. Life- and work-style transformation such as increased remote work and online shopping may likely endure. When patterns of demand shift, some firms may face closure. Some industries may become permanently smaller. At the same time, existing



firms in industries experiencing increased demand may expand and new ones will emerge. What matters is that resources are put to their best use and that reallocation occurs smoothly and with as few costs as possible," said the central bank.

An influential view identifies three sectors with the greatest growth potential in the post-recovery decade—digital technologies; biomedical science (along with its applications in health care); and technologies that address the various challenges to sustainability, especially those pertaining to climate change, said the RBI.

Commenting on the

state of the economy, the central bank has said that while the second wave has hit domestic demand, on the brighter side, several aspects of aggregate supply conditions—agriculture and contactless services—are holding up, while industrial production and exports have surged compared to last year amidst pandemic protocols.

"Going forward, the speed and scale of vaccination will shape the path of recovery. The economy has the resilience and the fundamentals to bounce back from the pandemic and unshackle itself from pre-existing cyclical and structural hindrances. Signs of the ebbing of the second wave of the pan-

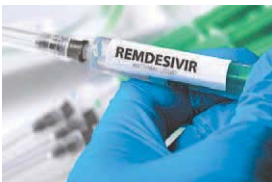
demic are cautiously becoming evident. In fact, the data suggest that the second wave is rolling back almost as fast as it rolled in."

On June 14, 2021 India's daily cases fell to a seventh of their peak of 4,14,188 a month ago (May 6). The seven-day average, which smooths out daily fluctuations, also declined by a fifth from its peak of close to 4 lakh. This is also reflected in the doubling rate, which increased to 247 days from its trough of 34 days at the end of April.

The daily positivity rate, which had peaked at 22.7 per cent in early May, plummeted to 3.8 per cent, remaining below 10 per cent for the 14th consecutive day, and dipping even lower than the first wave's peak of 11.7 per cent at end-August 2020. Recoveries outnumbered fresh cases for the 36th day, taking the total number of recoveries in India past 2.8 crore.

On the fiscal framework and quality of expenditure in India, the RBI noted that the pandemic necessitated an overwhelming fiscal response.

NPPA ASKS DRUG FIRMS TO REDUCE PRICES IN WAKE OF GST RATE CUT



New Delhi, June 16: Drug pricing regulator NPPA has asked pharmaceutical companies and medical device makers to reduce prices on products on which the GST has been lowered in order to pass on the benefit to the consumers.

In a notification, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) noted that a change in tax rates has an impact on the fixation of maximum retail prices (MRP) of various drugs and formulations.

As per DPCO 2013, MRP of drugs and formulations are inclusive of taxes. Therefore, any downward change in tax or GST rates should be reflected in the MRP and benefit of the reduction should be passed on to the consumers, it noted. — PTI

NEW RANGE ROVER VELAR SUV COMES AT ₹79.87L

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, JUNE 16

Tata Motors-owned British luxury car maker Jaguar Land Rover on Wednesday drove in the new Range Rover Velar SUV in the country with prices starting at Rs 79.87 lakh. The Range Rover Velar comes in the R-Dynamic S trim on the Ingenium 2.0 l petrol and diesel powertrains. The new SUV will rival luxury SUVs like the Jaguar F-Pace, Mercedes GLE Coupe and the BMW X6.



Entire board can now meet via video, audio

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JUNE 16

Providing relief to companies, the government has omitted the rule pertaining to the conduct of meetings with physical presence of the board of directors for approval of several important matters.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has omitted Rule 4 of the Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014. Rule 4 pertained to matters which should not be dealt with in a meeting through video conferencing or other audiovisual means. As per this rule, directors can attend the board meeting through video conferencing if a quorum or a minimum number of members

are physically present for the meeting. Usually, this number of minimum members should be one-third of the number of directors of the company.

The meetings which hitherto needed physical presence of minimum number of board directors, included those held for approval of annual accounts and financial statements, board reports, prospectus, audit committee meeting for consideration of accounts and approval of amalgamation, mergers, acquisitions and takeovers, said Jidesh Kumar, managing partner, King Stubb & Kasiva, Advocates and Attorneys.

The notification will come into force after its publication in the official gazette, the ministry said.

ON THE BACK BURNER

SSRC receives lukewarm staff response

RBI quietly buries specialised cadre plan

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is learnt to have quietly shelved the plan for raising a specialised supervisory and regulatory cadre (SSRC) to strengthen its supervisory wing to check bank frauds and other regulatory violations in the system.

About a year ago, the apex bank had assured the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance about the cadre, but the plan hasn't made any headway since.

After Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam, questions were raised over the RBI's supervision of scheduled commercial

banks. In response, RBI had come up with a grandiose plan of creating an SSRC. Its Central Board had, in May 2019, approved the creation of such a cadre and the RBI had announced the creation of SSRC on November 1, 2019.

The RBI has silently buried the plan and even its latest annual report has no mention of the SSRC.

The RBI spokesperson is yet to respond to a mail sent in this regard.

Explaining the reasons for shelving the SSRC, the source, however, said the scheme drew a lukewarm response for several reasons. "Merely 5 per cent of its staff opted for the SSRC. The poor response

was mainly due to apprehension among the staff regarding the HR issues like lack of mobility, promotional avenues, etc. Besides, there was no proper communication or stakeholder consultation by top management. The unions also opposed the move," the source said.

Another reason is that "traditionally, the supervisory vertical is headed by a deputy governor, who comes from a commercial bank. This leads to obvious conflict of interest. He heads the department, which is supposed to examine his own performance as managing director of the commercial bank."

"There have been several instances in the past

where serious concerns, regulatory violation and even vigilance cases had to be dropped from the (assessment) report. Further, in many cases it has led to vindictive action even to the extent of blocking the promotion of the entire supervisory team examining the particular bank," the source said.

"Incidentally, RBI is one of the very few public institutions in India, which does not have a whistleblower policy or effective grievance redressal system. Also, the RBI as a regulator, must display highest standards of corporate governance for financial institutions to emulate," the source said.

SHORT TAKES

Milkha is stable & out of Covid ICU

Chandigarh: Legendary Indian sprinter Milkha Singh is “stable” and he has been shifted out of Covid ICU to another section of the PGIMER hospital, a statement from his family said on Wednesday. The 91-year-old had contracted the dreaded virus last month. “Milkha is stable and is out of the Covid ICU, but is in the Medical ICU,” a spokesperson of the Milkha family said. “Thank you for your continued prayers and good wishes,” it added. PGIMER sources said that Milkha was “fine, stable and recovering”. “He has tested Covid negative after which he was shifted out of the Covid ICU,” the sources said. The sources further said that a medical team comprising senior doctors of the institute were closely monitoring his daily health progress. — PTI

Japan to set 10k spectator-cap

Tokyo: Japan is planning to set a cap of 10,000 fans at sports events ahead of the Olympics, a cabinet minister said on Wednesday, as organisers weigh how many domestic spectators can attend the Games. The proposed measure would come into force after a Covid-19 state of emergency in Tokyo and other parts of the country ends on June 20, and would last until the end of August, said Yasutoshi Nishimura, the minister in charge of virus measures. It would limit spectators to 50 percent of a venue's capacity or 10,000 people, whichever is smaller, he said. The plan is expected to become official later this week. — AFP

Federer suffers defeat in Halle

Berlin: Roger Federer suffered a setback in his preparations for Wimbledon after crashing out of the second round of the ATP grass court tournament in Halle on Wednesday. Federer, who will bid to win a ninth title at Wimbledon which starts June 28, suffered a shock 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 defeat to 20-year-old Canadian Felix Auger Aliassime, who is almost half Federer's age. “It's amazing, for sure I didn't expect this,” Auger Aliassime said after beating one of his heroes at the first attempt on the ATP tour. “I wanted to win, but Roger Federer is my idol and it was a huge honour to play him.” Federer is exactly 19 years older than Auger Aliassime as the pair share the birthday on August 8. — AFP

IPL Aussie stars pull out of tours

Melbourne: Seven top Australian cricketers who recently played in the IPL have pulled out of the country's white-ball tour of West Indies and Bangladesh. The two tours are part of team's preparations for the T20 World Cup later this year. David Warner, Pat Cummins, Glenn Maxwell, Jhye Richardson, Kane Richardson, Marcus Stoinis and Daniel Sams have requested not to be considered for the tours for various reasons while Steve Smith has been rested to fully recover from an elbow complaint which flared during the IPL. Cricket Australia said in a statement. — AFP

Virat climbs to 4th spot in rankings

Dubai: India skipper Virat Kohli climbed to the fourth spot while Australia batsman Steve Smith reclaimed the top position in the ICC Test rankings released on Wednesday. Kohli has 814 points. Keeping Kohli company in the top 10 is wicket-keeper batsman Rishabh Pant (747 points) and star opener Rohit Sharma (747 points), who have retained their joint sixth position. — PTI

Live on TV

EURO

Group Stage: Ukraine vs North Macedonia from 6.30 pm; Denmark vs Belgium from 9.30 pm; Netherlands vs Austria from 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

COPA AMERICA

Group Stage: Colombia vs Venezuela from 2.30 am (Friday); Brazil vs Peru from 5.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 1

Shot in the foot

Germany go down as Hummels kicks into own net

Munich, June 16: World champions France beat Germany in a blockbuster Euro 2020 clash on Tuesday.

In Munich, a 20th-minute Mats Hummels own goal proved enough for 2018 World Cup winners France to beat 2014 World Cup winners Germany in Group F. France deserved the win, with both Kylian Mbappe and Karim Benzema having second-half goals disallowed for tight offside calls while Adrien Rabiot also hit the post for Les Bleus.

“I knew my players would be ready and they were up for the fight,” France coach Didier Deschamps said.

“It's our first match, but this is a game that could have been a semi-final or a final and to take these three points in a group like this was important.”

The win was savoured by a small band of French fans among the crowd in the Allianz Arena, which was limited to just 20 percent of capacity because of Covid-19 restrictions.

It was also enjoyed by fans back home in France who packed into bars to see their team kick off their bid to add the European crown

POGBA PLAYS DOWN RUEDIGER 'BITE'

France midfielder Paul Pogba has played down Antonio Ruediger's apparent attempted bite on his back during their win over Germany.

Immediately after the incident, Pogba cried out and complained to Spanish referee Carlos del Cerro Grande, who did not punish the German, and the Manchester United star played it down after the game.

“I think he nibbled at me a little bit, but we've known each other for a long time. It was nothing big. We hugged after the game,” Pogba said.

— AFP

I'VE REACHED HERE BECAUSE OF CRITICISM, SAYS RAHANE

Southampton, June 16: Ajinkya Rahane doesn't mind a bit of “criticism” but has never been too overtly bothered by what people think about his game as he goes on with his job of winning Test matches for India.

Despite his blow-hot-blow-cold form over the last few years, India's Test vice-captain with 1095 runs in 17 games is team's top scorer in the two-year World Test Championship cycle leading to the final against New Zealand.

“It feels special,” Rahane said about emerging as the top scorer. But what about

the flak that he has faced because of poor run of scores? “I'm happy to take criticism. I feel it's because of the criticism I'm here. I always want to give my best whether people criticise me or not.

“For me, it's important to give my best for my country and contribute each and every time be it as a batsman or a fielder,” Rahane said.

Having played Test cricket for more than eight years, Rahane knows that public opinion is fickle and at best left alone with focus on controllables. — PTI

ENVY OF WORLD

Gavaskar says India's batting depth is highly admirable

New Delhi, June 16: Former captain Sunil Gavaskar says India's batting depth helps them bounce back from tough situations, as they face an upbeat New Zealand in the World Test Championship final this week.

India have a host of batting stars in their line-up including skipper Virat Kohli, his deputy Ajinkya Rahane and dashing opener Rohit Sharma.

R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, both spinners who have six Test centuries between them while batting in the middle and lower-middle order, are also expected to take to the field in the title clash in Southampton starting Friday.

“With Ashwin and Jadeja playing so well, India's batting depth is the envy of the cricketing world,” Gavaskar, who is

TAYLOR SAYS KOHLI & CO. HAVE SET BAR REALLY HIGH

Southampton, June 16: Senior New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor has said India have set the bar really high and considering their bench strength, it will be an extremely tough battle for his team during the World Test Championship final beginning June 18. “You go through the Indian line-up, all world-class players all through and whatever side they do decide to go with, they will leave out some world-class players as well. We know whatever XI we face will be very tough,” Taylor said.

“India have been a world no.1 side and they have kept the bar really high for a long period of time, everyone in the world had to catch up to and I don't see any difference, yes we had a couple of Tests here but playing India in home, away or neutral venue will be a tough opposition,” he said. — PTI

in England as a television pundit for the final said.

“Yes, there could be the odd bad-innings like Adelaide, Australia, but this team is like a wonderful rubber ball, always bouncing back and keep

on bouncing.”

New Zealand, led by the world's top Test batsman Kane Williamson, head into the final with a recent 1-0 win over hosts England in a two-match series.

St. Petersburg, June 16: A special goal by Aleksei Miranchuk allowed Russia to kickstart their Euro 2020 campaign with a 1-0 win over Finland in Saint Petersburg on Wednesday, but the game was marred by an injury to Mario Fernandes.

Miranchuk, of Serie A side Atalanta, produced a glorious finish in first-half stoppage time for the only goal of the game between the neighbours in Group B. It blows open the section after Russia,

Russia 1

(Aleksei Miranchuk 45+2)

Finland 0

Here it was Russia's Fernandes, the Brazilian-born CSKA Moscow right-back, who provided an injury scare.

The 30-year-old went up for a high ball in the Finland box in the first half and came down awkwardly, the back of his neck taking the full force of the landing. He needed to be stabilised and was stretched off before being taken to hospital.

The Russian team's Twitter feed said he was undergoing tests. — AFP



Germany's Matthias Ginter (left) vies for the ball with France's forward Kylian Mbappe (centre) during their Euro group match at the Allianz Arena in Munich. — AFP

Injury mars Russia win

EMOTIONAL DENMARK TO FACE BELGIUM

Copenhagen, June 16: Denmark can take heart that Christian Eriksen is recovering and will be cheering them on along with the rest of the country as they try to salvage their Euro 2020 campaign against fancied Belgium in Copenhagen on Thursday.

Kasper Hjulmand's talented side know that their qualification from Group B will be in jeopardy if they get the same treatment that leaders Belgium dished out to Russia on Saturday, and they need to bounce back from their traumatic 1-0 defeat by Finland.

UKRAINE, MACEDONIA DESPERATE FOR WIN

Both Ukraine and North Macedonia conceded late goals in their opening matches at the Euro, and both lost because of them.

The teams will next play each other at Euro on Thursday, knowing another loss just might end their chances of advancement. “We have two more games to go and we will still play with the same energy,” said Ukraine captain Andriy Yarmolenko.

DUTCH & AUSTRIA EYE MOMENTUM

Netherlands will meet Austria in the team's second Group C match at the Johan Cruyff Arena.

Both the Dutch and the Austrians won their opening matches at Euro 2020, so both can advance with another victory.

The top two teams in each of the six groups advance to the knockout stage, along with the four best third-place teams. — Agencies

Ronaldo breaks scoring record

Budapest, June 16: Cristiano Ronaldo netted a double to become the European Championship's all-time leading scorer as Portugal struck three times late on to beat a stubborn Hungary 3-0 in their Euro 2020 opener at a packed Puskas Arena on Tuesday.

The holders, who appear to have a much stronger squad than when they won their first major title five years ago, laboured for long periods in Budapest.

But Raphael Guerreiro made the vital breakthrough in the 84th minute and Ronaldo slammed in a penalty shortly afterwards before tapping home in injury time.

“We didn't deserve a 3-0 defeat, with a bit of luck it could have been a point each, but it was an experience of a lifetime,” said Hungary goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi.

SURPASSES LEGEND PLATINI

Ronaldo netted his 10th and 11th goals at Euro, surpassing the previous record of nine held by France legend Michel Platini. The 36-year-old has

Portugal 3

(Raphael Guerreiro 84, Cristiano Ronaldo 87, 92)

Hungary 0

Milestone man

■ All-time Euro top scorer with 11 goals and counting.

■ All-time top scorer for Portugal with 106 goals.

■ First player to appear in 5 Euro final tournaments.

■ First player to score at 5 consecutive Euro final tournaments.

now scored at five different European Championship finals tournaments and has 106 goals for his country in total, leaving him just three away from matching Iranian Ali Daei's all-time international scoring record of 109.

“I am really grateful to the team for helping me to score twice and be named man of the match,” Ronaldo said.

— AFP



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring a goal against Hungary in Euro 2020 on Wednesday. — AFP

CR7 snub takes fizz out of Cola

Budapest, June 16: Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo removed Coca-Cola bottles placed in front of him at a European Championships press conference here, which reportedly cost the global beverage giant a staggering \$4 billion.

A well-known fitness enthusiast, Ronaldo set aside two Coca-Cola glass bottles which lay in front of him during a press conference ahead of Portugal's opening Euro match against Hungary here on Monday.

In a video that has since gone viral, the 36-year-old Juventus striker picked up a bottle of water instead saying “Agua!” in Portuguese, seemingly urging people to choose water over aerated drinks.

According to media reports, the share price of Coca-Cola, one of the official sponsors of Euro 2020, slipped from \$56.10 to \$55.22 almost immediately after Ronaldo's gesture.

The market valuation of

Coca-Cola went from USD 242 billion to USD 238 billion, a fall of USD 4 billion.

Reacting to the incident, Coca-Cola in a statement said “everyone is entitled to their drink preferences” with different “tastes and needs”.

Ronaldo has spoken about his uneasiness with carbonated drinks earlier as well. In December last year, he had tweeted, “My son has potential, We'll see if he will become a great footballer.”

“Sometimes he drinks Coke and eats crisps and it irritates me.”

POGBA REMOVES BEER BOTTLE

On Tuesday, France midfielder Paul Pogba removed a bottle of Heineken beer that had been placed in front of him at a press conference.

Pogba, a practising Muslim, removed the bottle when he sat down to speak to the media after his side's 1-0 win over Germany. — PTI

INDIA DISMISS BEAUMONT BUT ENGLAND CONSOLIDATE

Bristol, June 16: India women picked up the crucial wicket of Tammy Beaumont (66) in the second session but England women consolidated their position by reaching 162 for two at tea on the opening day of the one-off Test here on Wednesday.

After getting rid of Lauren Winfield-Hill (35) in the first session of the day, India toiled hard for most part of the post-lunch period before debutant off-spinner Sneha Rana picked up her maiden Test wicket.

She got rid of in-form of Beaumont, who was brilliantly caught by Shafali Verma at short leg. Beaumont faced 166 balls and decorated her innings with six fours en route to her second Test fifty.

Skipper Heather Knight (47 not out) batted cautiously and remained unbeaten in the company of Natalie Sciver (11 not out) as England made 76 runs off 28 overs in the second session.

Earlier, the hosts made a solid 86 for one in the opening session. The Indian pace duo of veteran Jhulan Goswami and Shikha Pandey made a promising start, doing just enough to trouble the English batswoman on more than one occasion. — PTI

Brief scores: England 162/2 in 55 overs (Lauren Winfield-Hill 35, Tammy Beaumont 66, Heather Knight 47 (batting); Pooja Vastrakar 1/37, Sneha Rana 1/33) vs India.

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