

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 23 JUNE 2021

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle, google.com/+deccanchronicle

Vol. 84 No. 173 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

**ESSENTIALS**  
*for the family*

Supermarket,  
clinic, pharmacy,  
bank & ATM

79977 88383 / 70953 33335 aparnaconstructions.com

The  
**Fami-Perfect**  
Gated Community @ Kompally  
**APARNA**  
**SERENITY**

1335 - 2730 Sft. | 2, 2.5, 3 &amp; 4 BHK Apts.



**A**  
**APARNA**  
Lead the future

**WEATHER**

Max: 34.1°C  
Min: 25.3°C  
RH: 48%  
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.  
Moderate rain likely.  
Max/Min temp. 34/25°C

**ASTROGUIDE**

Plava: Uttarakaya  
Tithi: Jyeshta Shuddha Trayodasi till 6.59 am, later Chaturdasi till 3.32 am (Thursday)

Star: Anuradha till 11.47 am

Varjyam: 4.46 pm to 6.12 pm

Durmuhurtam: 11.52 am to 12.44 pm

Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Zeeqad 11,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.33 am

Zohar: 12.28 pm

Asar: 4.55 pm

Maghrib: 6.59 pm

Isha: 8.16 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.53 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.43 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 5.31 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 3.59 AM

COUNTER POINT



Leaders who didn't get the invitation for this meet are going to form the Fourth Front!

**SHORT TAKES**

**SENSEX HITS NEW RECORD, CROSSES 53K**

**Mumbai:** The Sensex made a new high of 53,057 and crossed 53,000 mark for the first time on Tuesday but profit taking erased the day's gains as the index closed almost flat at 52,588.71 up 14.25 points or 0.03 per cent. Nifty-50 closed at 15,772.75 up 0.17 per cent or 26.25 points after touching 15,895 intraday. Strong global markets, record number of Covid vaccinations in a day, new daily Covid cases dropping below 50,000 and good rains cheered the market as it opened. Nifty-50 closed at 15,772.75 up 26.25 points.

■ Full report on Page 10

## Gupkar parties want special tag

Kashmiri leaders ready to talk on all issues with the Centre

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 22



PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti (left) and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah after a meeting in Srinagar on Tuesday. — PTI

As reported by this newspaper last week, the PAGD is more than ready

to bury the hatchet. However, its leadership

divorced or even veered off from its basic plank — to seek restoration of the erstwhile state's special constitutional status which was revoked by the Centre on August 5, 2019.

Former J&K chief minister and PAGD president Farooq Abdullah, while announcing the alliance's decision to attend the all-party meeting on June 24, said: "Our stand is clear and all of you know what our stand is." He added there was no fixed agenda for the meeting and, therefore, "we can talk on any and every issue".

## CONG. OKAYS AMARINDER'S EXPLANATIONS

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh on Tuesday met the high powered committee constituted by the Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

The committee, which consist of Mallikarjun Kharge, Harish Rawat and J.P. Agarwal, was briefed by the Punjab Chief Minister about the turmoil prevailing in the Punjab unit of the Congress. This was his second meeting with the committee in the last couple of days.

According to insiders, Capt. Singh explained all issues which were raised against him.

After the meeting, the committee member, Harish Rawat, said, "the party is satisfied with whatever was told to us by the Punjab Chief Minister and action taken in the sacrifice case and drug case."

The problem arose in Punjab when former state minister and Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu opened a front against Captain Singh charging him with not keeping the promises that he made to the people of the state.

Speaking to reporters, NCP leader Majeed Memon, who was among those present the meeting, said: "The meeting was called by Yashwant Sinha, not

## Modi defends Centre's Covid economic relief

**BJP CALLS RAHUL 'CIRCUS'S CLOWN' AS CONGRESS PUTS OUT COVID PLAN**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

Comparing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with a "circus's clown", the BJP on Tuesday claimed that whenever the country was at a crossroads in its battle against Covid-19, Mr. Gandhi and the Opposition party try to create hurdles and obstacles" to the Covid-19 management efforts and once again questioned whether or not the "Congress' first family" has been vaccinated.

A day after over 86 lakh people got vaccinated in the country on the first day of the revised guidelines, Mr. Gandhi attacked the Narendra Modi government for its

mishmanagement of the Covid-19 crisis and also released a "white paper" on "what went wrong and how the nation can prepare for the imminent third wave".

Hitting back, the BJP said ever since the global pandemic hit India, the Congress was "really worked tirelessly to create hurdles and obstacles" to the Covid-19 management efforts and once again questioned whether or not the "Congress' first family" has been vaccinated.

A day after over 86 lakh people got vaccinated in the country on the first day of the revised guidelines, Mr. Gandhi attacked the Narendra Modi government for its

said India was no exception and asserted that raising enough resources for public welfare is proving to be one of the biggest challenges.

Asserting that this nudge for reform is rare in Indian public finance, Modi said it was a nudge,

incentivising the states to adopt progressive policies to avail additional funds. "The results of this exercise are not only encouraging but also run contrary to the notion that there are limited takers for sound economic policies," he said. — PTI

■ Full report on Page 7

incentivising the states to adopt progressive policies to avail additional funds. "The results of this exercise are not only encouraging but also run contrary to the notion that there are limited takers for sound economic policies," he said. — PTI

■ Page 2: HC had given interim direction to AP

## 2 AP officers get jail for contempt

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA JUNE 22

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Tuesday sentenced two IAS officials to one month's imprisonment and a fine of ₹1,000 each for not implementing court orders on the filling of certain vacancies in the horticulture department.

Dealing with a contempt petition, Justice B. Devanand observed that the two officials — panchayat raj commissioner Girija Shankar and horticulture commissioner Chiranjeevi Chowdary — willfully disobeyed the court directions and deserved punishment.

On Tuesday, the judge called the officials for their personal appearance on Tuesday. However, he withdrew his order after state counsel Suman gave a commitment to the court that its orders would be implemented in two weeks.

■ Page 2: HC had given interim direction to AP

The judge called the officials for their personal appearance on Tuesday. However, he withdrew his order after state counsel Suman gave a commitment to the court that its orders would be implemented in two weeks.

On Tuesday, the judge called the officials for their personal appearance on Tuesday. However, he withdrew his order after state counsel Suman gave a commitment to the court that its orders would be implemented in two weeks.

■ Page 2: HC had given interim direction to AP

## Village feasts as KCR plays butler

L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22

Residents of Vasalamarri village had an unusually delightful day as they shared lunch with none other than Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and interacted session with him for over an hour where they aired their grievances on Tuesday.

And a few of them were luckier as the Chief Minister himself and served the dishes comprising 15 varieties of vegetarian and non-vegetarian items including biryani, chicken, mutton, fish, prawns, shrimp, etc in addition to sweets.

He went near each table and enquired with the villagers about the dishes and served food to a few of them. He also had lunch along with them.



restrictions. On Tuesday, the Chief Minister, along with a few ministers and top officials, arrived at his adopted village by bus at noon. He hosted lunch for the entire village of about 2,500 people.

Later, he held a *grama sabha* with villagers to discuss and devise plans to transform the village as "Bangaru Vasalamarri" in a year by ensuring all-round development. He inspired villagers by sharing his thoughts and ideas on how great results could be achieved through collective hard work in a time bound manner.

He called upon the villagers to work towards self-governance and self-sustainability by developing the village into a model village.

■ Page 2: KCR promises ₹100 crore for adopted village

The tiny village in Minister in November last but he could not visit all these days due to Covid-19

## TS to banks: Keep off Rythu Bandhu

Finance team meets bankers after DC exposé

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22

Finance minister T. Harish



Rao and Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar during a meeting with bankers in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

— DC

banks against adjusting Rythu Bandhu amount for any other purpose.

Bankers were directed to credit back the amount to farmers' accounts that were already deducted or adjusted towards crop loan arrears or interest payment.

"Instances have come to the notice of the government that some banks are not allowing the farmers to

withdraw their Rythu Bandhu amount given by the government of Telangana and also adjusting the same against old dues. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao issued directions to hold an emergency meeting with the bankers in this regard," said Somesh Kumar.

■ Page 2: Toll-free number for farmers launched

## Pawar attempt to unite Oppn fails

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

Sharad Pawar, this was not a political meeting.

There are talks that the meeting was for a Third Front without the Congr-ess, which is not the truth. There is no discrimination. We called all like-minded people. We also invited Congress leaders. They couldn't come. It's not true that we didn't invite the Congress."

"Yashwant Sinha heads the Rashtra Manch. He asked to meet with Mr. Pawar. So, the meeting is an initiative of the Rashtra Manch," said NCP leader Praful Patel. Insiders claimed that neither Mr. Pawar nor his party had sent out any invitations. Along with this, there are blessings of the party chief."

MODI'S NAME ENOUGH TO WIN, SAYS U.P. BJP VP

Lucknow, June 21: Newly-appointed Uttar Pradesh BJP vice-president and former IAS officer A.K. Sharma on Monday said people of the state love Prime Minister Narendra Modi the same way as they did in 2013-14.

In a letter dated June 20 and addressed to state BJP chief Swatiatra Dev Singh, Sharma said, "In my humble opinion, even today, the people of Uttar Pradesh love Modiji the same they had done in 2013-14. To win the upcoming (UP Assembly) elections, the name and patronage of the mass leader is enough. Along with this, there are blessings of the party chief."

— PTI

**Safe Driving, Comfortable Journey.**  
Travel safely in your own Hyundai today.

Buy your favourite Hyundai online.  
Hyundai Click to Buy



\*Terms & Conditions apply. Benefits include cash discount, exchange bonus and benefits for government or corporate employees, wherever applicable. —Applicable on select models and variants. Hyundai is also available in CNG and Diesel variants at a total weight limit of 1000 kg or 5 years/40,000 km for SANTRO, i10 NIOS, i20 and AURA. Wonder warranty with option to choose from 3 years/100,000 km or 4 years/60,000 km for VERNA, CRETA, ELANTRA and TUCSON. #Lowest average yearly periodic maintenance service cost starts at ₹ 2,454 (SANTRO Petrol in Delhi for 5 years). Source: Cardekho.com. Hyundai reserves the right to withdraw or modify the scheme without prior notice. Visit your nearest Hyundai dealership for more details. Hyundai urges you to follow traffic rules — these are meant to keep you safe on roads.

For Information Contact: Toll free: 180014645. Lakshmi Hyundai: Himayatnagar: 809 6666 104, Malakpet: 809 6666 065, LB Nagar: 809 6666 428, Madinaguda: 809 6666 325, KPHB Manjeera Mall: 888 6999 167, Sangareddy: 7979 66757, Bharat Hyundai: Financial District, Gachibowli: 77338 88999, Kun United Hyundai: Lakdi-ka-pul: 98850 66355, ECIL X' Roads: 98857 53111, Hi-tech City: 98857 10028, Shaikpet: 98859 06987, Gachibowli: 98850 76777, Medak: 91007 49729, Neon Hyundai: SP Road: 93905 02295, Dwaraka Hyundai: Boduppal: 73373 31720, Fusion Hyundai: Bowenpally: 80870 04488, Tirumalgery: 91009 00683, Medchal: 91009 03327, Siddipet: 703611120, JSP Hyundai: Jubilee Hills: 88821 01010.

**HYUNDAI**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## FOR SALE PROPERTY

### COMMERCIAL

A NEWLY constructed Building for Sale at Kotur on 811 Sq.yds G+4 each floor 4 Flats of 1300 Sq. ft total 16 flats 21000 Sq ft construction. Suitable for School, College, Hospital & Hostel. Genuine Buyer may contact 9666173447. (B/2122/C00203)

**SIKH VILLAGE**, 693 Sq.yds Land with 4404 Sq ft builtup area with 5 minutes drive from Secunderabad Club for Sale. Brokers Excuse. Contact 984984028 (B/2122/C00182)

### INDEPENDENT HOUSE

### THREE & MORE

PRIME LOCATION in Secunderabad Duplex House G/F 2 BHK 1st floor 3 Bed rooms for sale 250 Sq.yds West facing in Balmoral Society Mahendrashah. Price 1.8cr. Genuine Buyers only. Agents not entertained Contact: 9949013353. (S/2122/C00435)

**INDEPENDENT HOUSE** for Sale. 1624sf. GF 812, FF 812.111 Sqyd, GHMC Limit, Sri Ram Nagar, TRR extnsn. LB Nagar Circle. Borewell Sump+ Manjira Water. Parking. Clear title. Ready to move. 80Lacs Negotiable. Ph: 9247248693. (HYMM/2122/C01796)

**VANASTHALIPURAM 267** Sq.yards. 2612 Stt) G+1 Independent House, 3-Bedrooms, 3-Bathrooms, N/East Corner, E/Facing for sale. Sy No:233/P, Plot No:15, D.No: 5-173/1, Goutam Colony, Hayathnagar, Opp: Shivalayam Temple. Call/ WhatsApp: 62099-20999. (HYCL/2122/C00514)

### LAND

**4 ACRES** Thota (34km from Shamshabad Airport), with White Sandal, Seethalai, Redsand, Malabar well developed Farm 1 acre+3 Rooms, very near to RRR. Per acre 1 crore @Keshamani. Rangareddy (Dist), Ph: 9949427459, 9989749355. (HYCL/2122/C00517)

### PLOTS

**PATANCHERUVU- SULTANPUR** HMDA Approved Layout. Layout - LP No.000145/Lo/Plg/HMDA/2021. Near to Miyapur, Chunduram, BHEL, Bank Layout. Available - Ph: 86880234/02/ 8688021014. (HYCL/2122/C00492)

**OPEN PLOTS** Meenakshi County @Shankarpally 101 Acres- Approved Layout, 300 Feet Mainroad Facing, 100% Layout Development Work Completed, Premium Landscaping, Drive to Financial District in Just 25Mins, Bank Loan Facility Available. Contact: 8143225357, (HYMM/2122/C01880)

**OPEN PILOTS** Near: Yacharam Main Read Samooha Golden Gate Phase-2, DTCP Venture Near, Physically, Low Price. Ph: 9059577211. (HYMM/2122/C01685)

### FURNITURE

**WE PURCHASE** Old Furniture like AC, UPS, Batteries, Aluminum partitions, all scrap ceiling, wiring, glasses, House, Office, Hotel furniture, Plywood, Doors & Windows etc., any time purchase. Call 9849235224, 8008971737. (B/2122/C00202)

### REAL ESTATE

### REQUIRED

**WANTED RENTAL** income properties in Hyderabad 10Cr to 100Cr minimum ROI expected is 6% PA Standalone/ individual properties only. Contact: 9177156669. (S/2122/C00442)

### RENTALS

### COMMERCIAL

**HIGH-TECH CITY-** Plug & Play near Tech Mahindra suitable for IT & Pharma Companies. 5200 Sqft, 72 Trendy Work stations, Conference room, 4 Cabins, Pantry, Server Room, Reception, Fully Air Conditioned, Ready to Occupy. Contact: 9847030457. (A/2122/C00148)

**NEWLY CONSTRUCTED** commercial building G+3 floors, 1000 Sq ft, each, east facing. Lift for Lease. Bank street, Koti, adjacent SBI LHO. For Banks, Offices, Electronics, Pharmacy shops. Ph: 9347031188. (A/2122/C00137)

### FLATS

### DOUBLE BEDROOM

**KHARKHANA 2BHK** 1400sq ft E/F 3RD Floor for rent now Vasavi Ngr Colony opp Park resi.com Ph: 9866325276 (W/2122/A00228)

### REQUIRED

**LOOKING FOR** a commercial space minimum 10,000sqft for School/ College purpose at ESI Nagar. Parking, Fire NOCs are must. Call between 10:00Am- 6:00Pm. Ph: 8096678723. (HYMM/2122/C01754)

**RENT/LEASE REQUIRED** Space for Office cum Godam approximately 10,000 Sq Ft Location near Paradise Circle S.D.Road. Please contact: 9559632000 (S/2122/C00504)

### LEASE

### COMMERCIAL

**WAREHOUSE SPACE** Available at Medchal And Kalakal Main Road 25,000 to 2,00,000 sq ft Contact Ph: 9393834321 (HYMM/2122/C01893)

### SITUATION VACANT

**ACCOUNTS & FINANCE** ACCOUNTANTS(3) REQUIRED for a reputed educational group based in secunderabad. Min 5 years experience required with Tally/Erp knowledge. Salary 15-20K.CV Whatsapp only.No Calls. T: 6304853558 (HYMM/2122/C01891)

**HIRING FOR** Full time Position at Accounting & Consulting firm- Naveen Associates. Qualification- B.Com with relevant experience. Required Skills- GST knowledge, I.T Filing. Location:-5-3-878, Prem Towers, Lane beside Karachi Bakery, M.J. Market, Hyderabad- 500095. Contact: 6304813348/ 6304210570 (S/2122/C00484)

**WALK-IN TODAY** for: CA/ CA Inter/ CS/ CS Inter/ Audit assistant/ Articles/ Paid assistant with experience in accounts, audit, taxation, Law Sunil & Sanjay, Chartered Accountants 2017, 2nd Floor, Emerald House, S.D.Road, Secunderabad. Tele: 27741010. (S/2122/C00502)

### ADVT. SALES & MKTG.

**REQUIRED EXPERIENCED** Salesman & Helpers for our Mangatrai Showroom located at Plot No: 100, Pimpadur Hm Gachibowli, walk-in Interview on 26th Jun'21 from 1:00PM To 3:00PM (Call: 7780117794 -10 AM To 7PM). (HYCL/2122/C00516)

### ARCH & INTERIOR DSNSR

**WANTED ARCHITECTURAL** Draftsman & Interior Designer's with Experience. D.S & Associates, L.B.Nagar. Ph: 7207040780. Email: interiordsr@gmail.com (W/2122/C00511)

**WANTED JR. & Sr. Interior Designers** (2D & 3D) of 3 yrs exp. Skills required: Auto cad-2d, 3Ds Max. Sketch up. Location: Manikonda. Email: hr@pvdevelopers.com (W/2122/AT00253)

### ENGINEERS

**SIRIA INFOTECH** having clients like IOCL, HPCL, ECL, Siemens in Engineering services for SCADA/ PLC systems made. B.Tech (IEE), E.I.E.C, CSE, Diploma in Electronics, (12th+exp) willing to work anywhere in India. Adj. Post Office, Sanathnagar E.I. Hyderabad -18. Ph: 040-23802121/ 2039, careers@sitratech.com, www.sitratech.com (S/2122/C00481)

### LECTURERS

**WANTED TEACHING** faculty to teach intermediate English, Commerce, Economics, Civics, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Arabic, Hindi subjects till 10th standard. Good presentation skills. Minimum 50% in concern Subjects. Good Salary package for Deserving Candidates. Contact St.Joseph's Jr Colleges, Hayathnagar: 7981018714, Tolichowki: 9959312302, Attapur: 8125301485, Walk-in Today or Tomorrow between 2PM-4PM. (HYCL/2122/C00515)

**REPUTED DEGREE** College requires Principals, Admin officers, BBA/B.Com subject lecturers for its multiple branches in secunderabad. Candidates with Degree college experience apply. T: 78934 63754 (HYMM/2122/C01890)

### MEDICAL

**URGENT REQUIREMENT** in GNR Multiplicity Hospital Senior Accountant exp.3 to 5y, Lady (pre) exp. 3y to 5y, Lady Front Office Executive exp. 2y to 4y, Nursing Superintendent exp. 6y to 8y, Nursing Staff, ICU & AMP, Wards exp. 2y to 4y. Contact: 8555093529, 9391608335. (S/2122/C00490)

**RECRUITING NURSES, Optometrists** ODPO Assistant Receptions for upcoming Super Speciality Eye Hospital near KPHB, Hitech City. Contact: 9490161667. (HYCL/2122/C01851)

### MULTIPLE VACANCIES

**A LEADING** Real Estate Developer requires Site Admin Managers, Chartered Accountants with 8 years experience, Customer Care Managers, Engineers, Stores, Inventory Manager, Welders, Plumbers, Electricians, Contract Mod Builders, 4th floor, Ashoka Hitech Chambers, Banjara Hills, Road No.2, Hyderabad. Ph: 040-66336633, 7093265353. Email: careers@m.dubuilders.com (B/2122/C00204)

### OTHER VACANCIES

**REQUIRED FOR** Collection Executives, Telecallers (F) & Backend Team (M) for Non-Banking Financial Services & 2 Wheeler company. Office at Balkampet. Ph: 040-23712892, 7036610259 (HYMM/2122/C01871)

**SREE AADYA** Projects at Habsiguda in movers (drs group) requires following candidates 1) 3rd year GATE 2) 3rd year M.Tech 3) Data entry operator with exp in good communication skills: As per your experience and company norms Location: 306 kabra complex 61 MG road ranigunj sec/bd Contact: 9618901425, recruiter@drsindia.in (HYMM/2122/C01788)

**AGARWAL PACKERS** in movers (drs group) requires following candidates 1) 3rd year GATE 2) 3rd year M.Tech 3) Data entry operator with exp in good communication skills salary: As per your experience and company norms Location: 306 kabra complex 61 MG road ranigunj sec/bd Contact: 9618901425, recruiter@drsindia.in (HYMM/2122/C01788)

### TEACHERS

**WANTED TEACHERS** for Higher Classes to teach English, Telugu, Maths, Physics, Biology. Salaries 15k to 18k. Contact: Jyothi Vidya Niketan School, Uppal, Ph: 6301184068. (HYCL/2122/C00507)

### NOTICE

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. shall not be held responsible / liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.

**WANTED EXPERIENCED** Lady Teachers fluent in English to teach Biological Science for higher classes and to teach English for upper primary classes. Contact immediately Principal St.Little Theresa's High School, Sharadhanagar, Satlujguda, Malkajgiri, Secunderabad. Ph: 9866114716. (S/2122/C00427)

### FINANCE

#### REQUIRED

**WANTED LOAN** of 100 Cr against 600 Cr property. Property under bank custody, opportunity to buy/sell/ good interest! ROI and buy back option is available. Contact: 9177156669. (S/2122/C00443)

### DISTRIBUTORS

**SBI BUSINESS** Opportunity Work from Home. Earn Regular Income Govt, Private, Banker, Teachers, Any Private Employees, Housewives, Businessman, Real estate, Manager. Ph: 9347519452. (HYCL/2122/C01681)

### EDUCATIONAL

### CAREER/ENTRANCE COURSES

**ONE-SITTING / Fasttrack-Graduations (All), PG Diplomas, Polytechnic, Diploma, (10th+ Senior Secondary, (12th+ Provided Online results & Online verifications, Eligible for Private & Abroad, Ph: 9912540011, 7337291133, www.hydrc.com (A/2122/C0001)**

### DISTANCE EDUCATION

**ONLY FOR** Educational Consultants/ Academicians. No Advance Fee. Students please no call. Contact for Verifiable +Fast Track Graduation (15th/16th/17th Ed.). NOTE:- Recognised (30000/BB) MBA-BCA- MCA (20-25,000) from University, ECA from WES/IQAS/CAS Documentation & Attestation Support Available. 48-Educational Experience. Shiksha Bharti, Varanasi, Mobile: 9519759663, 9915103781. Email: shikshabharti88@yahoo.com (HYMM/2122/C01878)

### PHILIP/H.D.

**STRICTLY** according to UGC Regulations. Thesis Support Available. No Advance Fee. Only for Institutes. Consultants. Authentic guidance for ECA from WES/IQAS. Shiksha Bharti, Varanasi, Mob: 9519759663, 9915103781. Email: shikshabharti88@yahoo.com (HYMM/2122/C01892)

### HOME FOR OLD AGE

**SAFE HOME** Care Service's Oldage Home We Will Provide to Oldage Childrens, Bed Reddan Patients' For 24/7, 12hours, Caretaker's. Ph: 7032264215 (HYMM/2122/C01895)

### LOST

**I. DILIP** Rajendra Hiremath S/o, Late Col.Rajendra Rudrayya Hiremath, R/o. Plot no.188, Vayupuri 1st main Road, Sanikpuri, Seebad-94, lost My Sale Document documents No's. 2821 of 1976 at 3R0 Hyd East, 3324 of 1968 at R.O. Hyd. If found please call: 905055632 (HYMM/2122/C01894)

### POULTRY

**VENCOPP CHICKEN** rich in protein, great in taste eat & enjoy. Vencopp's Broiler Hyderabad Zone price per kg. Farm Gate Rs.101, Retail Live Bird Rs.123, Dressed with Skin Rs.178, Skinless Rs.203. Ph: 27992239. (HOPE) (S/2122/C00369)

### BUSINESS FOR SALE

**KUKATPALLY BUS-STOP** Mainroad, Good Running 1,Tiffin Centre+Meals G. Floor (50-No's Capacity), 2)PG Boys Hostel (130-beds) @ 1st & 3rd Floor For Sale. Owner Going Abroad. Ph: 9676450009. (HYCL/2122/C00503)

### TAX CONSULTANTS

**PAN, TAN, Income Tax, GST, Labour Laws, ESI, EPF, Company Profits, Tax, Legal & Taxation works, Commercial Business Management Services.** Call: 9291207618, & WhatsApp: akula.narsingrao@gmail.com (S/2122/C00501)

### NOTICE

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. shall not be held responsible / liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.

# Parents ready if kids miss a year

96% of parents to not send kids to school

## School managements to meet edu. minister

## SHORT TAKES

**HC FINDS FAULT WITH TS IN HMDA LAND ALLOTTMENT**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday directed the government to submit the proceedings and allotment letter regarding the land allotment to HMDA in Survey No. 452/1 of Puppalguda village of Rajendranagar mandal in Ranga Reddy district.

A division bench was dealing with the appeal filed by private parties Kakatiya Enclave and others, who submitted that they had purchased 11.37 acres of land in Survey No. 452 in 2005. Their names were enrolled in the revenue records but the government declined their rights on the land, they said.

As per the government contention, this land was allotted to the then HUDA (presently HMDA) and by the time of giving possession to the HUDA, the panchanama was conducted. It submitted that there was a total 174 acres of land in the said survey number. But, the court found fault with the authorities in handing over the land without following the proforma and asked the government to place the proceedings and how the land was allotted to the HUDA.

**SMS ALERTS ON PLANNED POWER OUTAGES**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22

Electricity consumers can expect to receive SMS alerts on their registered mobile phone numbers of scheduled power outages as the TS Power Distribution Company Limited (TSSPDCL) gears up for monsoon maintenance of the power supply network.

All power connections have been mapped with mobile numbers registered for the connection, a TSSPDCL official said.

Asked how tenants living in rented houses or apartments can receive the alerts, the official said a tenant can update the mobile number on the TSSPDCL website or the TSSPDCL app linking it to the service number that is found on the monthly bill.

Meanwhile, D. Prabhakar Rao, chairman and managing director of TS Transco and TS Genco, told TSSPDCL officials that any scheduled monsoon maintenance should be done area wise and the residents in those areas notified in advance to ensure people are aware of possible disruptions in power supply.

Chairing a review meeting on monsoon preparedness that was attended among others by TSSPDCL chairman and managing director G. Raghuma Reddy, and senior officials from the power utility, Prabhakar Rao said every effort should be made to ensure uninterrupted power supply for all consumers.

Officials were instructed to improve services provided by the 1912 helpline that connects to the Electricity Control Room.

**Resting patio**

A man rests at the new shelter put up on Tank Bund for tourists as part of the beautification drive in Hyderabad on Tuesday. The shelters have also become a sleeping place for the homeless at night. — P. SURENDRA

**Delta plus on prowl, neglect will cost dear****Experts predict worse situation due to unlocking**KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22**INFORMATION ON DELTA VARIANT OF VIRUS**

- The delta variant also known as 21 A/S. There are three sub-lineages of delta variant: B.1.617.1, B.1.617.2 and B.1.617.3.
- It is identified in India as a double mutant with key mutations in spike proteins E484Q, L452R.
- AY1, or delta-plus is spreading at 67 per cent in the world. There are 20 cases identified in India of which one was in Tirupati and eight in Maharashtra.
- AY2, another variant of delta plus, has two cases in India in airport samples and 80 plus cases in California, US.
- The delta variant in its spread in India has combined with other variants of concern:
- The delta variant is moving with 16 spike protein mutations of other variants of concern in India

**Source:** GISAID and Ahmedabad serosurvey Round 5. Compiled by Dr Kiran Madhala, head of the department of anaesthesia, in Government Medical College Nizamabad.

AY2, are showing different combinations and stability has not been reached. There are additions and deletions in the virus as it is continuously replicating.

Researchers state that there are thousands of variants and all of them are not dangerous. Variants weaken or strengthen in the virus. It is when it becomes stable in a mutation and strikes that is when the transmission, infection and fatality rate is calculated to understand the impact on host human cells.

The AY 2 is found in two airport samples in India while 80 plus cases have been noted in California, USA.

Studying the changing pattern of the virus whi-

le composition is of 30,000 letters with most important being S (spike), E (envelope), M (membrane) and N (nucleocapsid which has the RNA) attached to the human cells with spike protein must be constant. Acquiring genome samples from different regions of the country apart from airports gives an indication of the changes that occur locally.

A senior scientist on condition of anonymity said, "In India, the situation is very difficult as some states are aggressive in collecting samples from patients, sewage sites and opting for genome sequencing. Some states are not sending samples and only so when there is a spike in cases. There has to be a uniform policy where all states contribute an X number of samples every week."

With most states unlocking and movement of people within the states and also internationally, experts are predicting

the worst case scenario and want people to exercise maximum care.

Dr Suneetha Narreddy, senior consultant, infectious diseases, at Apollo Hospitals, said, "The virus is still in the community as the number of Covid cases are not zero yet. With the virus around and people moving, there will be transmission of disease with further mutations and evolution of new strains. How a new strain reacts will be decided on the extent of the outbreak. Evidence in other countries is an indication that there will be a third wave and we have to be extra careful."

Which mutation will cause the third wave in India will depend on the opportunity provided by humans to them and their ability to transform despite the presence of vaccines, she said.

**UNUSED SEASON TICKETS VALID FOR MMTS TRIPS**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22

Multi-Modal Transport System (MMTS) season ticket-holders in the twin cities, who could not make full use of their passes for nearly 15 months after train services were suspended in March last year, can use the existing passes for the duration for which they could not use them, the South Central Railway (SCR) said on Tuesday.

With the MMTS trains set to operate from Wednesday, the SCR said season tickets issued before the suspension of services in March 2020, were valid for the tenure with effect from June 23.

The SCR also said that in a bid to encourage cashless transactions, anyone purchasing tickets using automatic ticket vending machines could get a 3 per cent discount on the price of the tickets. Those availing tickets through mobile apps, Unreserved Ticketing System, can get an additional 5 per cent bonus in case they opt to pay via the R-Wallet available in the app.

Gajanan Mallya, general manager, SCR, urged MMTS rail users to utilise digital mode for purchasing tickets in order to avoid overcrowding at general booking counters and also to reduce physical contact while purchasing tickets.

● THE SCR said that anyone purchasing tickets using automatic ticket vending machines could get a 3 per cent discount on the price of the tickets.

**Cyber fraudster arrested for false promises of vax**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22

A cyber fraudster who cheated Tollywood actor Ali and a television channel under the guise of providing vaccination against Covid-19 has been arrested by the Cyberabad cybercrime police. The accused identified as Tikkisetty Nagendra Babu (27) is a chef working in a five-star hotel in Chennai.

According to the police, Babu cheated several high-profile persons promising to provide Covid-19 vaccines.

Assistant commissioner of police K. Balakrishna, Cyberabad Cybercrime Cell, said, "He used to collect mobile numbers of the persons he would target. Later, he used to contact them over phone and assure them to provide vaccination. He used to make them believe that he was from the health department."

Falling prey to his fraud, many victims transferred lakhs of rupees as advance amount for the vaccine. As per the police records, he started committing crimes in 2016. The first case was booked in Vijayawada, reportedly his hometown. Nagendra Babu used to trick victims under the guise of providing them with fancy phone numbers and faces three cases on this count.

Taking advantage of the Covid-19 pandemic, he hatched a plan to cheat the public by promising Covid-19 vaccination. Likewise, he reportedly took ₹1 lakh from comedian Ali and another ₹1 lakh from film producer Suresh Babu.

The police arrested the accused and further investigation is underway. Meanwhile, the police urged the public not to believe in these types of fake assurances and become a victim of cyber fraud. They appealed to confirm whether it was legitimate or fake before transferring any amount for any reason.



Tikkisetty Nagendra Babu

● **TAKING ADVANTAGE** of the Covid-19 pandemic, he hatched a plan to cheat the public by promising Covid-19 vaccination. Likewise, he reportedly took ₹1 lakh from comedian Ali and another ₹1 lakh from film producer Suresh Babu.

approached Cyberabad Cyber Crime police and lodged a complaint.

In the list of his victims, there is also a young producer. The accused allegedly cheated the producer of ₹3.5 lakh by promising him a media award. The victim lodged a complaint with Raidurgam police of Cyberabad commissionerate.

The police arrested the accused and further investigation is underway. Meanwhile, the police urged the public not to believe in these types of fake assurances and become a victim of cyber fraud. They appealed to confirm whether it was legitimate or fake before transferring any amount for any reason.

**Districts continue to report cases**DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22

The new Covid-19 cases have been generally declining but there are ups and downs in the past week that indicates that the virus is still there in the community. While the number of daily new cases may look small despite more than one lakh tests being carried out every day, all the districts are still reporting cases. Even districts with few cases have not been able to reach zero cases for a week.

This means transmis-

sion of the virus is a constant and on-going process and the decline will be slower than expected. With the unlocking of the state, the behaviour of the virus in the next two weeks as the behaviour of the people in following Covid-19 protocols.

Experts have asked

people to maintain extra caution when moving out, strictly maintain Covid safety guidelines like wearing masks properly, maintaining social distancing and hand washing, and to ensure that they take both doses of the vaccine on schedule.

This means transmis-

**DAILY COVID BULLETIN DATA**

Update: Cases   Deaths	
Fresh Cases	1,175
Deaths	10
Tests Done	1,24,907
Active Cases	16,640
Total Cases	6,15,574
Total Deaths	3,586

**Highest New Cases**

GHMC (Hyderabad)	133
Khammam	76
Karimnagar, Ranga Reddy and Suryapet	4
Adilabad and Jogulambha	74
Gadwal	5
Narayanpet, Nizamabad	7
Medak	167

**Lowest New Cases**

Komaram Bheem-Asifabad	3
Nirmal and Kamareddy	
Adilabad and Jogulambha	4
Gadwal	5
Narayanpet, Nizamabad	7
Medak	9

**MARUTI SUZUKI SUBSCRIBE**

# GET A NEW CAR, WITHOUT BUYING ONE.

Presenting Maruti Suzuki Subscribe.  
Available for a monthly fee starting at just ₹13,276\*.

Nominal Monthly Fees
No Down Payment
No Resale Hassles
Flexible Tenure Options

#SurprisinglyEasy

\*Above fixed price is for WagonR LXI 1.0L MT for 48 months tenure and 10,000 kms annual usage in Hyderabad as on 1st June 2021. Terms & Conditions Apply. Car images shown are of top variant and for illustration purposes only. Accessories and features may not be part of standard equipment. Maruti Suzuki Subscribe is available in select cities only. Subscription scheme at the sole discretion of the Subscription Partner(s) and terms and conditions as specified by the Subscription Partner(s) shall apply.

SCAN TO KNOW MORE.

**AUTHORISED DEALERS:** HYDERABAD: ADARSHA: (ATTAPUR) CALL: 6300901715, (CHANDRAYANGUTTA) CALL: 9652886453. KALYANI MOTORS: (NACHARAM) CALL: 9100067776, (LB NAGAR) CALL: 9100114809. GEM MOTORS: (KONDAUPUR) CALL: 9912341526. AUTOFIN: (BOWENPALLY) CALL: 8885040004. JAYABHERI: (GACHIBOWLI) CALL: 910909255. PAVAN: (SECUNDERABAD) CALL: 7331116688. VARUN: (BEGUMPET) CALL: 8886817766. (BANJARA HILLS) CALL: 9966502929, (KUKATPALLY) CALL: 9703970707, (VANASTHALIPURAM) CALL: 9052343438, (GACHIBOWLI) CALL: 9885994888. RKS: (SOMAJIGUDA) CALL: 9848845138, (MALAKPET) CALL: 9848866170, (SECUNDERABAD) CALL: 9133391029, (KUSHAIGUDA) CALL: 8121497101. MITHRA: (HIMAYATHNAGAR) CALL: 7799884945, (MEHDIPATNAM) CALL: 7799884993. SAI SERVICE: (SANGAREDDY) CALL: 9703500020. ADARSHA: (SIDDIPET) CALL: 9652886453. VARUN: (MEDAK) CALL: 9703656111. AUTOFIN: (MEDCHAL) CALL: 8885040004. PAVAN: (IBRAHIMPATNAM) CALL: 7331116688.

\*Above fixed price is for WagonR LXI 1.0L MT for 48 months tenure and 10,000 kms annual usage in Hyderabad as on 1st June 2021. Terms & Conditions Apply. Car images shown are of top variant and for illustration purposes only. Accessories and features may not be part of standard equipment. Maruti Suzuki Subscribe is available in select cities only. Subscription scheme at the sole discretion of the Subscription Partner(s) and terms and conditions as specified by the Subscription Partner(s) shall apply.

## IN BRIEF

Water shutdown  
in some areas

**Hyderabad:** To take up some pipeline work, the HMWS&SB has proposed a 24-hour shutdown of supply from 10 pm on Friday to 10 pm on Saturday. The affected areas are will be Shaikpet, Jubilee Hills, Filmnagar, Prashassanagar, Thattikhana, Gachibowli, Madhapur, Ayyappa Society and Kavuri Hills. Water supply has been stopped to facilitate junction work on the 1,4000mm diameter MS pumping main of Krishna Drinking Water Supply Project (KDWSP) Phase-III which is on the route of the under-construction flyover from SBI Bank to Archean Stone at Tolichowki.

## SHORT TAKES

DOC MIXES UP OP.  
STOPS IN THE  
NICK OF TIME

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, JUNE 22

A doctor started performing an operation on a woman after reading the case sheet of another woman. The woman, despite being sedated, started screaming when she realised that a wrong operation was being performed on her. The doctor realised the mistake and stopped the operation.

Malathi and Narotham Reddy of Narsingapur in Veenavanka mandal of Karimnagar district, visited the Mother and Child Healthcare Centre in Karimnagar. Malathi was seven months pregnant and was complaining of complications. She was admitted to the centre on June 18.

After conducting tests, doctors informed family members that Malathi is carrying twins but one was dead. They said they would perform a surgery and remove the dead foetus to save the one alive. On Monday night, they took Malathi into the operation theatre and gave her anaesthesia. But the doctor, instead of Malathi's report, studied the case sheet of another patient and started performing surgery. Malathi, who had not yet become fully unconscious, realised something was wrong and started screaming at doctors to stop the operation. Doctors had started the surgery immediately realised their mistake and stitched the incision.

Narotham Reddy complained to the hospital superintendent, seeking severe action against doctors responsible for the medical negligence. News spread and BJP leaders under the leadership of district unit president Gangadi Krishna Reddy staged a dharna in front of the hospital.

GUDUR HELD FOR  
STAGING PROTEST  
DURING CM TOUR

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22

BJP senior leader Gudur Narayan Reddy was arrested and shifted to the Turkapalli police station on Tuesday.

Reddy sought permission to meet Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, who visited Bhongir district on Tuesday, to submit a representation seeking compensation for farmers who lost their land to the Basavpur reservoir construction works and also to bring various issues being faced by people in the district.

However, police denied him permission to meet the Chief Minister. With this, Reddy staged a peaceful protest at Turkapalli holding placards. The police prevented him from staging protest and took him into custody.

## Give us pay hike



Sanitation, patient care and security personnel of government hospitals under the aegis of the Telangana Medical Contract Employees and Contract Workers' Union working get on their knees as part of the one-hour demonstration statewide seeking pay hike, at King Koti Hospital on Tuesday. Their protest entered eighth day. Union state president M. Narasimha said finally, they have received a call from the government for talks. "We got a telephone call from Syed Ali Murtaza Rizvi, secretary, health, on Tuesday evening. I see this as a

positive signal. We are hoping all our demands will be accepted by the government." Krishnavani, a patient care worker at Modern Government Maternity Hospital, Petlabur, said, "Sanitation is a crucial work at any hospital. But in government hospitals, our work is not recognised. Sanitation workers working with GHMC are paid ₹17,500 per month. Those with ESIC hospital are paid ₹16,770 per month. Neighbouring Andhra Pradesh pays them ₹16,000. However, we are being paid only ₹9,400," she pointed out. — P. SURENDRA

## Chiru's tweet praises Jagan jab drive, raises speculation

DC CORRESPONDENT  
VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 22

Megastar K. Chiranjeevi has showered praises on Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his government for vaccinating 13.72 lakh people in a single day during the mega vaccination drive in Andhra Pradesh.

The praise appearing on Chiranjeevi's Twitter handle on Tuesday has fuelled speculation that the megastar's chances of being nominated to Rajya Sabha by YSRC are bright.

Chiranjeevi in his Tweet, said, "So happy at the fabulous feat of vaccinating over 13.72 lakh people in a single day by Health teams in #AndhraPradesh. Your

- FOUR RAJYA SABHA seats from Andhra Pradesh will be falling vacant towards June end. It is said the Chief Minister has already decided to resend Vijayasai Reddy to the upper house. Keeping various equations in mind, Jagan Mohan Reddy is contemplating to accommodate Chiranjeevi in the Rajya Sabha to attract Kapu community towards YSRC.

efforts fill confidence in everyone about defeating the Covid monster! More Power to You! Congrats to YS Jagan for inspiring leadership."

According to political circles, Chiranjeevi is planning to get back into active politics

after completing his existing film commitments. His relations with the CM have been cordial and whenever Jagan Mohan Reddy does something good, the megastar makes it a point to openly publicise his appreciation.

Four Rajya Sabha seats from Andhra Pradesh will be falling vacant towards June end. It is said the Chief Minister has already decided to resend Vijayasai Reddy to the upper house. Keeping various equations in mind, Jagan Mohan Reddy is contemplating to accommodate Chiranjeevi in the Rajya Sabha to attract Kapu community towards YSRC. This will help the CM further decrease the impact of Jana Sena in the 2024 elections.

DOC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22

A doctor started performing an operation on a woman after reading the case sheet of another woman. The woman, despite being sedated, started screaming when she realised that a wrong operation was being performed on her. The doctor realised the mistake and stopped the operation.

Malathi and Narotham Reddy of Narsingapur in Veenavanka mandal of Karimnagar district, visited the Mother and Child Healthcare Centre in Karimnagar. Malathi was seven months pregnant and was complaining of complications. She was admitted to the centre on June 18.

After conducting tests, doctors informed family members that Malathi is carrying twins but one was dead. They said they would perform a surgery and remove the dead foetus to save the one alive. On Monday night, they took Malathi into the operation theatre and gave her anaesthesia. But the doctor, instead of Malathi's report, studied the case sheet of another patient and started performing surgery. Malathi, who had not yet become fully unconscious, realised something was wrong and started screaming at doctors to stop the operation. Doctors had started the surgery immediately realised their mistake and stitched the incision.

Narotham Reddy complained to the hospital superintendent, seeking severe action against doctors responsible for the medical negligence. News spread and BJP leaders under the leadership of district unit president Gangadi Krishna Reddy staged a dharna in front of the hospital.

## Kharif to see record sowing this season

## 13 lakh quintals of various seed varieties kept ready

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22

Kharif agricultural activities have picked up across Telangana due to timely rains and lifting of lockdown restrictions totally from June 20. It is expected that the total crop area sown in this season will reach record 1.40 crore acres.

As per the IMD report, the state normally receives a normal rainfall of 95.4 mm as on

date. But it has already witnessed 137.66 mm of rain, which is 40 per cent in excess.

Total sown area so far is 18.88 lakh acres, of which cotton accounts for 14.82 lakh acres and red gram 1.58 lakh acres. State government has credited total Rythu Bandhu amount of ₹6,664 crore into the bank accounts of 59.71 lakh farmers till date since June 15. Balance four lakh farmers will be covered by June 25.

Agriculture minister Singireddy Niraj Reddy on Tuesday told media personnel that the department has kept ready 13 lakh quintals of various seed varieties to meet the increased demand. To encourage organic farming, the government is supply organic manures at 65 per cent subsidy. About 8.64 lakh metric tonnes of fertilisers, including 4.41 lakh metric tonnes of urea have been kept ready to meet the necessary requirements in the state. At present, agriculture crops are being sown over 2.31 crore acres and horticulture crops over 11.57 lakh acres in Kharif and Rabi put together in Telangana. This is significantly higher when compared to crops sown when Telangana had been formed in 2014. At that time, agriculture crops had been sown only on 1.31 crore acres and horticulture crops on 9.62 lakh acres.

## UTTAM KUMAR DEMANDS NEW OGH BUILDING

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22

Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka

alleged that atrocities against Dalits had increased for the last seven years during the TRS rule in the state.

Speaking to the media here on Tuesday, the CLP leader said a Dalit woman, Mariamma, was brutally killed by police accusing her of theft. Without the presence of women police constables, Addagudur police picked up Mariamma from Komatagudem village and indiscriminately beat her at Chintakani police station on June 17, he said. Later, the victim was shifted to Addagudur police station, where she died unable to bear the police torture, he said.

He said he had visited the OGH in July last year along with former MP V. Hanumantha Rao and Feroze Khan, party Nampally Assembly constituency party in-charge, and examined the issues being faced by patients and facilities available in the hospital.

He said the OGH was not mentioned in the three new multi super specialty hospitals being proposed in the city by the government.

He said he had visited the OGH in July last year along with former MP V. Hanumantha Rao and Feroze Khan, party Nampally Assembly constituency party in-charge, and examined the issues being faced by patients and facilities available in the hospital.

He said daughter and son of Mariamma pleaded with the police not to beat their mother, but the police did not pay heed to it. The CLP leader said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao made tall claims about Dalit empowerment in Warangal meeting, but he failed to react on Mariamma incident.

Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh M. Bhagwat on Tuesday suspended Addagudur sub-inspector Mahesh Rashid and Jannaiah who were reportedly involved in the death of a 45-year-old Dalit woman, Ambadipudi Mariamma. He also appointed N. Shyam Prasad Rai, Malkajgiri assistant commissioner of police, as investigation officer in the case.

According to the police, Mariamma, a cook, and her son Uday Kiran were taken into custody from their home in Komatagudem in Madhira on June 16 in a case of alleged theft.

Mariamma was reportedly beaten by the police which led to her death. Police claimed that she had died of a cardiac arrest. Prior to that, police claimed that Mariamma had fallen unconscious. She had been taken to a local RMP doctor and then shifted to better treatment to the Bhongir Government Hospital, then the duty doctor declared her dead about 11.30 am.

People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), Telangana state, constituted a fact finding team to Mariamma's death which came to light on June 18. It has also demanded a judicial probe. The Congress has also demanded action against the guilty cops.

Jaya Vindhya, a PUCL fact-finding team member, said the Mariamma had been in illegal detention since June 15. He said a panchnama was not done.

Police said that two days ago the police personnel on whom the allegations were made were attached to the office of the Bhongir deputy commissioner of police. On Tuesday, the Rachakonda police commissioner suspended them.

According to the police, Mariamma, a cook, and her son Uday Kiran were taken into custody from their home in Komatagudem in Madhira on June 16 in a case of alleged theft.

Mariamma was reportedly beaten by the police which led to her death. Police claimed that she had died of a cardiac arrest. Prior to that, police claimed that Mariamma had fallen unconscious. She had been taken to a local RMP doctor and then shifted to better treatment to the Bhongir Government Hospital, then the duty doctor declared her dead about 11.30 am.

People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), Telangana state, constituted a fact finding team to Mariamma's death which came to light on June 18. It has also demanded action against the guilty cops.

Jaya Vindhya, a PUCL fact-finding team member, said the Mariamma had been in illegal detention since June 15. He said a panchnama was not done.

Police said that two days ago the police personnel on whom the allegations were made were attached to the office of the Bhongir deputy commissioner of police. On Tuesday, the Rachakonda police commissioner suspended them.

"We also should take into consideration if other players are interested in entering APSEZ with an insignificant percentage of the stake that doesn't even confer the investor a place in the board of directors. World's leading PE investor, WarburgPincus, got its valuation done and SBICAPS also did its own valuation," a member of the group of secretaries said.

The other requests made

by the APSEZ were already agreed upon by the government. These included permission to buy the stake of Private Equity Fund WarburgPincus and allowing merger of GPL into APSEZ with a rider to set up a special purpose company which will enter into a fresh concession agreement with the same terms and conditions.

Though the central guidelines suggest a bidding process for a better price discovery, the concession as well as shareholders' agreements of GPL only talked of a will-

ingness of both parties to transact and get a proper valuation done by the both parties as the prerequisites for share purchase or sale.

"We also should take into consideration if other players are interested in entering APSEZ with an insignificant percentage of the stake that doesn't even confer the investor a place in the board of directors. World's leading PE investor, WarburgPincus, got its valuation done and SBICAPS also did its own valuation," a member of the group of secretaries said.

The other requests made

by the APSEZ were already agreed upon by the government. These included permission to buy the stake of Private Equity Fund WarburgPincus and allowing merger of GPL into APSEZ with a rider to set up a special purpose company which will enter into a fresh concession agreement with the same terms and conditions.

Though the central guidelines suggest a bidding process for a better price discovery, the concession as well as shareholders' agreements of GPL only talked of a will-

## GANGAVARAM | PORT

## Officials favour selling state's stake to raise funds

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22

The empowered group of secretaries dealing with the divesting of 10 per cent equity in the Gangavaram Port, which held its first meeting on Tuesday, decided to ascertain the real valuation of its stake from more than one agency.

The committee had been constituted by the Andhra Pradesh government to oversee the divestment in the port and the merger of Gangavaram Port Ltd into Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone by

"following the available guidelines and recommendations of the SBICAP on disinvestment."

The SBICAP had recommended that the state government should go in for disinvestment as per the guidelines of disinvestment policy of GoI for a better price discovery and negotiations."

The APSEZ offered about ₹645 crore at ₹120 per share to the government on par with the price at which it bought 90 per cent stake, including 58.1 per cent from the original concessionaire D.V.S. Raju and family. The APSEZ, which enjoys the "first right of refusal" in the event of the state government selling its shares, made a suo moto offer to buy the same.

Chief Minister Y.S.

Jagan Mohan Reddy reportedly decided, in principle, to sell the stake and make use of the proceeds to build the proposed ports and fishing harbours. "Per se, disinvestment is not wrong and it will be very useful for the state to fulfil its equity obligation while going for project financing," a senior official said.

The other requests made

by the APSEZ were already agreed upon by the government. These included permission to buy the stake of Private Equity Fund WarburgPincus and allowing merger of GPL into APSEZ with a rider to set up a special purpose company which will enter into a fresh concession agreement with the same terms and conditions.

Though the central guidelines suggest a bidding process for a better price discovery, the concession as well as shareholders' agreements of GPL only talked of a will-

ingness of both parties to transact and get a proper valuation done by the both parties as the prerequisites for share purchase or sale.

"We also should take into consideration if other players are interested in entering APSEZ with an insignificant percentage of the stake that doesn't even confer the investor a place in the board of directors. World's leading PE investor, WarburgPincus, got its valuation done and SBICAPS also did its own valuation," a member of the group of secretaries said.

The other requests made

by the APSEZ were already agreed upon by the government. These included permission to buy the stake of Private Equity Fund WarburgPincus and allowing merger of GPL into APSEZ with a rider to set up a special purpose company which will enter into a fresh concession agreement with the same terms and conditions.

Though the central guidelines suggest a bidding process for a better price discovery, the concession as well as shareholders' agreements of GPL only talked of a will-

ingness of both parties to transact and get a proper valuation done by the both parties as the prerequisites for share purchase or sale.

"We also should take into consideration if other players are interested in entering APSEZ with an insignificant percentage of the stake that doesn't even confer the investor a place in the board of directors. World's leading PE investor, WarburgPincus, got its valuation done and SBICAPS also did its own valuation," a member of the group of secretaries said.

The other requests made

by the APSEZ were already agreed upon by the government. These included permission to buy the stake of Private Equity Fund WarburgPincus and allowing merger of GPL into APSEZ with a rider to set up a special purpose company which will enter into a fresh concession agreement with the same terms and conditions.

Though the central guidelines suggest a bidding process for a better price discovery, the concession as well as shareholders' agreements of GPL only talked of a will-

ingness of both parties to transact and get a proper valuation done by the both parties as the prerequisites for share purchase or sale.

"We also should take into consideration if other players are interested in entering APSEZ with an insignificant percentage of the stake that doesn't even confer the investor a place in the board of directors. World's leading PE investor, WarburgPincus, got its valuation done and SBICAPS also did its own valuation," a member of the group of secretaries said.

The other requests made

by the APSEZ were already agreed upon by the government. These included permission to buy the stake of Private Equity Fund WarburgPincus and allowing merger of GPL into APSEZ with a rider to set up a special purpose company which will enter into a fresh concession agreement with the same terms and conditions.

## IN BRIEF

## GHMC gears up for Haritha Haram

**Hyderabad:** The GHMC said it was raising 25 lakh saplings at each of its zones, and had set a target to plant one crore saplings during the sixth phase of the Haritha Haram state greenery programme. At 45 locations, dense plantations on the lines of Yadadri natural forest model (Miyawaki) would be taken up. The plantations are done with 9,54,687 plants. Officials said that until 2020, 219.91 lakh saplings, 87.96 per cent of the target, had been planted by GHMC by way of plantations. About 600 nurseries in six zones were preparing saplings for Haritha Haram, the GHMC said. The nurseries are geo tagged and uploaded on the Telangana Forest Management Information System (TGFMS) website. The plantations would be taken up in 406 layout open spaces.

## 3 arrested for smuggling rice

**Hyderabad:** The North Zone Task Force police arrested three persons who were smuggling 165 quintals of rice meant for the public distribution system (PDS) from the city to Karnataka. The police seized the rice and three goods carrier autorickshaws in which they carried the rice. Three others are reportedly absconding. The arrested accused were identified as Mohd Qadir, 33, Mohd Sami, 27, and Mohd Qadir, 27, of Musheerabad. Task Force police said prime suspect Mohammed Dawood, 25, a rowdy sheeter from Musheerabad, Mohd Akbar of Bowenpally and Karim of Rasoulpura were at large. "Dawood, who is involved in a murder case and some property offences, along with others was illegally procuring rice meant for distribution under the PDS," said P. Radha Kishan Rao, DCP, Commissioner's Task Force.

## 4 held for attack on marriage party

**Hyderabad:** Four men, including the owner of a local community hall, were booked by the Nampally police for allegedly creating a ruckus and assaulting people at a wedding and the music band players on Monday night. According to the Nampally inspector Khaleel Pasha, the 'valima' of one Khalid was being held at the Laxminagar community hall in Nampally. The place holds about 50 people and the event, which started around 1.30 pm went on till about 9.30 pm on Monday. Upon noticing that the family had called a marfa band, Ahmed Shareef, who rented the place to Khalid for ₹10,000, reached the place and asked them to leave. "Shareef said they were disturbing the locals with the prolonged celebrations and with the band. He picked up an argument with the groom's family. Naseer Quadri, a local, tried to intervene, but the police said.

# Sops cost Water Board ₹19.2 crore

## Govt has enforced 20 KL free water scheme

**MADDY DEEKSHITI | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 22**

● **A SENIOR** Water Board official, requesting anonymity, said it has been knocking on doors of every financial institution to fund its projects.

● **HE SAID** the board has also written to the government that it be compensated for amounts pertaining to free drinking water scheme.

also extend sewer networks covering all urban local bodies (ULBs) and gram panchayat within the Outer Ring Road (ORR).

According to highly placed sources, HMWS&SB is cash-starved as a result. It is unable to implement its capital works of water supply and sewerage handling worth around ₹20,000 crore placed before the government in 2017-18.

Adding to woes is the latest demand of ₹3,800 crore for modernising sewerage networks in erstwhile municipal areas surrounding the state capital, which have now been merged with the GHMC. The Water Board has to

Amid all these expenditures, the government decision to dole out ₹400 crore to consumers for free drinking water has already pushed the board deeply into the red. The board is also facing a deficit of ₹120 crore due to non-payment of water bills.

Due to shortage of funds, several projects of HMWS&SB have been running at snail's pace, while a few of them have come to a grinding halt. A senior Water Board official, requesting anonymity, said it has been knocking on doors of every financial institution to fund its projects.

He said that the board has also written to the government that it be compensated for amounts pertaining to free drinking water scheme, apart from electricity bills and payments.

"We have requested the government and are awaiting its reply. If the government does not come to board's rescue, several projects would be at stake. There could even be possible interruptions in drinking water supply," he said.

## Plea to restore UG courses in Urdu

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 22**

Intermediate education, higher education and school education.

President, Anjuman-e-Taraqi-o-Baqai Urdu, Ajiaz Ali Qureshi, said the collegiate commissioner had changed the cadre strength of the lecturers of degree colleges. As a result, Urdu medium section has been closed in several degree colleges in the state. Now the education department was considering abolishing Arts and Science streams in all government degree colleges, he said.

In a memo, he stated that the secretary, Urdu Academy, had submitted a proposal to the government with a request to restore the Urdu medium degree colleges which were abolished by the commissioner of collegiate education.

He further said that 100 posts of lecturers in degree colleges would also be affected.

In Telangana, Urdu is the second official language.

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001  
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SC033813  
Contact No. 96461-18773 Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
TENDER ENQUIRY NO.: QQ- 2318/PO-P  
Chief Purchase Officer/ MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistoried Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of 1,60,000 Nos. HT Guy Strain Insulators Brown glazed, 9000 Kg. strength as per Fig-3 and Designation-C of IS-5300 (with latest amendments, if any) and as per PSPCL specification QQ-2318/PSPCL/PO-P. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 22.06.2021 onwards.  
NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
C-237/21 RO No PR-Adv. No :- 76155/12/321/2021/5480

## MINISTRY OF CULTURE Government of India SCHEME FOR TAGORE NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR CULTURAL RESEARCH FOR THE YEAR 2019-20

The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, invites nominations/applications for the award of Fellowships and Scholarships in the Scheme component of Tagore National Fellowship for Cultural Research (TNFCR) under the Scheme of Scholarship and Fellowship for Promotion of Art and Culture. The Scheme is open to both Indian and foreign nationals.

The scheme has two categories of Awards— 'Tagore National Fellows' and 'Tagore Research Scholars'. Under the first category selected candidates will be paid an honorarium of Rs. 80,000/- per month and allowances. Up to 15 awards are given in a year in this category. The selected candidates of the second category will be paid an honorarium of Rs. 50,000/- per month and allowances. Under this category, up to 25 awards are given in a year.

Candidates may submit their application, prepared according to the prescribed guidelines of the Scheme, to any one of the Nodal Institutions of his/her choice depending upon the area of research proposed to be undertaken. The list of nodal institutions along with the other relevant details of the Scheme and application form are available on the website of the Ministry - [www.indiaculture.nic.in](http://www.indiaculture.nic.in) and Nehru Memorial Museum and Library - [www.nehrumemorial.nic.in](http://www.nehrumemorial.nic.in) under the Scheme Head of the website.

The application should be sent directly to the respective Nodal Institutions on or before 30 July, 2021 (up to 5.30 p.m.). The applicants are not required to send copy of their application to Ministry of Culture or Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML). Applications received after the prescribed date and time will be summarily rejected.

Davp 09101/11/0010/2122

## BETTING ON PAK CRICKET MATCHES BUSTED, 5 HELD

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 22**

The Madhapur Special Operations Team police busted a racket that was betting on the Pakistan Super League (PSL) cricket matches on Tuesday and arrested five persons.

The arrested accused were identified as Gunturi Satya Pavan Kumar, 32, Uddara Raju Satheesh Raju, 41, Ch. Trinath, 29, Nandipamu Bhaskar, 31, and Jakkappudi Prasad, 25.

The prime accused Somanna is still absconding. All the accused are from Andhra Pradesh. Cyberabad police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said prime accused Somanna was organising the betting.

Pavan Kumar and Satheesh Raju took mainline access.

Trinath, Bhaskar and Prasad operated the communicator board and other gadgets.

Further investigation revealed the cash transaction between Somanna and Pavan Kumar took place through the hawala route.

The gang was arrested from Pavani Residency, Bhandari Layout, Nizampet, in a joint operation.

## Leisure time



People spend time at the P.V. Narasimha Rao Marg, formerly Necklace Road, on Tuesday after over six weeks of lockdown restrictions were lifted last week.

— R. PAVAN

## Demand for 30% fitment in salaries to all doctors

**DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 22**

The Telangana Public Health Doctors Association has demanded that the state government extend the 30 per cent fitment for all regular and contract doctors in their salaries, as was done for employees of government departments under the Pay Revision Commission.

Members of the TPHDA, along with those from Telangana Contract Doctors

their colleagues who were on the frontlines in the battle against Covid-19 and had lost their lives, and their family members had also died of the disease carried home from the hospital. TPHDA president Dr Kathi Janardhan

said doctors have been working hard for the past 16 months and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao should recognise their services and ensure that every contract doctor receives 30 per cent fitment.

The doctors said many of

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE DEPARTMENT COLLECTOR/JUNIOR COLLECTOR/SPECIAL COLLECTOR (LA)/SENIOR DISTRICT COLLECTOR (LA) FORM XVII**  
(See Section 19(1) of the Act-30/2013 and Act 30/2013) (Land Acquisition Rehabilitation, in creation of Rehabilitation and Resettlement with Transparency and to get fair Compensation Right Act - 2013)  
**DECLARATION**  
Collector's office file No. G1/29/2021 Dated: 15.06.2021  
As per the order of the Government of Telangana/District Collector, Nalgonda that the extent of Ac. 10.27 gts of land located in Veerlapalem Village, Dameracherla Mandal, Nalgonda District is needed for the public purpose i.e. Rehabilitation of the land for the Project of Pump House and Pumping station from River Krishna N.S.T.P.D to Reservoir at Yadidi Thermal Power Station (5x600 MW) for such this notification is issued to acquire of the land.  
How much area is required? Land required for the project and the boundaries of the land which is situated at Veerlapalem Village, Dameracherla Mandal, Nalgonda District for such land declaration is made as described below.

### SCHEDULE

Village: Veerlapalem Mandal: Dameracherla Dist: Nalgonda

Sl. No.	Surv. No.	Type of Land	Land gts	Interested person name and address	Particulars	Enquiry No.	Date
1	134	Patta	5	Ramavati Ramu S/o Hanuma	Ramavati Matriya S/o Neema		15.06.2021
1	135	Patta	4	Alam Lashmi S/o Hanum	Alam Meheri		
1	136	Patta	2	Ramavati Hanuma S/o Haariya	Ramavati Hanuma S/o Hariya		
1	137	Patta	1	Ramavati Hanuma S/o Hanuma	Ramavati Hanuma S/o Hanuma		
1	138	Patta	1	Gade Hanimreddy S/o Mallappa	Gade Hanimreddy S/o Mallappa		
1	139	Patta	0.31				
1	140	Patta	0.10				
5	189	Patta	0.05	Palvai Banuprasad S/o Hanumtarao	Palvai Banuprasad S/o Hanumtarao		
5	190	Patta	0.08	Palvai Krishnamurthy S/o Guruvantha	Palvai Krishnamurthy S/o Guruvantha		
5	191	Patta	0.23				
6	190	Patta	0.04	Citlala Kondu Reddy S/o Padma	Raddam Kondu Reddy S/o Venka Komma W/o Putuni Bai S/o Pandya		
6	191	Patta	0.06				
6	192	Patta	0.06				
7	238	Patta	0.34	Gade Ramakotireddy S/o Jogireddy	Gade Ramakotireddy S/o Jogireddy		
7	239	Patta	0.34	Gade Ramakotireddy S/o Jogireddy	Gade Ramakotireddy S/o Jogireddy		
7	240	Patta	0.09	Gade Radhamma W/o Jogireddy	Gade Radhamma W/o Jogireddy		
7	241	Patta	0.09				
8	239	Patta	0.02	Dhurampudi Govindamma W/o M. N. Raji Reddi	Dhurampudi Ramreddy S/o Kolte Reddy		
9	243	Patta	0.02	Lingireddy Hemireddy S/o Venkataredy	Lingireddy Hemireddy S/o Venkataredy		
9	244	Patta	0.02				
10	246	Patta	0.04	Allam Padma W/o Papaah Allam Malliah S/o Venkata Allam Bhuciai S/o Chenna Sudulu Allam Bhuciai S/o Chenna Sudulu Allam Nalliah S/o Chenna Sudulu Allam Gangamma W/o Lingaa	Allam Padma W/o Papaah Allam Malliah S/o Venkata Allam Bhuciai S/o Chenna Sudulu Allam Bhuciai S/o Chenna Sudulu Allam Nalliah S/o Chenna Sudulu Allam Gangamma W/o Lingaa		
11	285	Patta	0.04	Bhuri Seethu S/o Krishniah	Bhuri Seethu S/o Krishniah		
11	286	Patta	0.23				
12	286	Patta	0.15	Yalam Veeraiah S/o Saidulu	Yalam Veeraiah S/o Saidulu		
12	287	Patta	0.24	Gottam Kolireddy S/o Rammeddy	Gottam Kolireddy S/o Kotireddy		
13	287	Patta	0.06	Mamidi Venkatachala S/o Malaihulu	Mamidi Venkatachala S/o Malaihulu		
13	294	Patta	0.21	Gudipati Venkattamma W/o Venkateswarlu	Gudipati Venkattamra S/o Venkateswarlu		
13	295	Patta	0.15				
14	295	Patta	0.08	Pakala Sadulu S/o Edudu	Pakala Sadulu S/o Edudu		
14	296	Patta	0.23	Gade Narayannama W/o Tirupati Reddy	Durgampudi Tirupati Reddy S/o Chinnareddy		
14	297	Patta	0.02				
15	298	Patta	0.12	Vanteru Venkata S/o Shesareddy Vanteru Ramudu S/o Shesareddy Vanteru Gopala Krishnareddy S/o Shesareddy	Kristna Reddy S/o Shesareddy		
15	299	Patta	0.12				
16	299	Patta	0.14				
17	298	Patta	0.12				
17	300	Patta	0.12				
18	302	Patta	0.11	Nenavath Sada S/o Pulya	Nenavath Sada S/o Pulya		

# DECCAN Chronicle

23 JUNE 2021

## Yes we can: Jab milestone proves poor policy villain

India crossed a new milestone in its vaccination programme against Covid-19 pandemic on Monday when it administered 88.09 lakh doses, a record till now. The day also marks the launch of the revised vaccination policy that provides for the procurement of 75 per cent of the total vaccine available by the Union government for distribution to the states, scrapping the "Liberalised Vaccination Policy" which handed over the responsibility of inoculating people aged between 18 and 44 to the state governments. The government also had dropped its insistence on the people registering themselves on the CoWin app for being eligible for vaccination and instead made walk-ins possible where the health workers would register them. The twin measures would have immensely contributed to the surge in the vaccination numbers. Allegations of some of the BJP-ruled governments having planned the sudden spike notwithstanding, the success of the campaign, in fact, proves the point that India has the logistical wherewithal to set higher vaccination targets and meet them and that the government's tardy planning was the real villain.

As it stands today, India has vaccinated about 25 per cent of all its adults with at least one dose of the vaccine; every one in two persons above 45 have also been given at least one dose. Given that India will have to administer 82.1 lakh doses a day if we were to vaccinate all its adults by December 31, 2021, this momentum must be sustained. It is important that the Union government supported the states to maintain the tempo. It may be remembered that several states had to close down the vaccination camps they had opened. It must be ensured that all the camps are reopened now and that the vaccine supply chain does not suffer for lack of doses.

There are no definite reports about a third wave and who it will impact the most despite experts cautioning of its arrival in 8-12 weeks from now and the need to inoculate children, too. The World Health Organisation has advised all the south Asian countries to rev up the healthcare infrastructure in anticipation of a fresh wave. The WHO advisory should be seen as an endorsement of the demand which experts have been making for some time now about the need to upgrade our systems, especially in the rural areas. The second wave shook the nation by exposing the deep fissures in our healthcare delivery mechanism and their shortcomings, accentuated by an all-pervading ill-preparedness. Far too many precious lives have been lost, that too in tragic situations such as shortage of oxygen and essential drugs. It was not that there were no early warnings but the decision-makers sat on them.

The Union budget for 2021-22 had seen a substantial hike in financial allocation for the health and family welfare ministry — from ₹94,000 crore to ₹2.23 lakh crore. A part of the money is aimed at spending on projects with a span of several years, but the government should consider front-loading it and ensure that we are well-prepared for a third wave.

## 'Dream team' to advise TN govt

The state of Tamil Nadu, piloted by chief minister M.K. Stalin, has drafted a bevy of big name economists in its five-member Economic Advisory Council. Two macroeconomists, two development economists and a former Union finance ministry secretary are in a council that includes the Nobel laureate Ms Esther Duflo, feted for her work in poverty alleviation. The out-of-the-box thinking in putting together such a distinguished panel of honorary advisers upholds the primacy of the power of seasoned professionals to guide the state's overall development.

It is said in jest that an economist is an expert who will know tomorrow why the things he predicted yesterday didn't happen today. And at least two economists were not fully at ease with the larger scheme of things in India where they had major roles as RBI governor and chief economic adviser. The difference could lie in how accepting Tamil Nadu will be in putting into practice the advice on re-floating an economy hit by the pandemic.

Raghuram Rajan had an exceptional record in going against the tide and warning the US of the 2008 subprime crisis while others were busy fuelling what became globally the biggest economic meltdown until the pandemic of 2020. An optimistic surmise is that the highly industrialised state, the second wealthiest in the country in terms of GDP (estimated at \$290 billion in 2020-21), could get very sound advice. The state has also done well in the competitive environment of finding domestic and foreign investment for industry and services.

A reflection of the depth of thinking behind getting the new regime up and running is seen in proposals for an annual budget exclusively for agriculture, a separate ministry for management of water resources and a promise to use data to support decision making, especially in allocating scarce resources among competing claims. How much of financial resources will there be for public spending as the economy reopens may determine outcomes. No one can make water flow uphill but they have shown they are capable of putting thought into action.

### DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER  
Editor

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

**Hyderabad:** 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256  
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234  
**Vishakhapatnam:** Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Vishakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/255234; Fax: 0891-2755285  
**Rajahmundry:** Venagiri, Dhawaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208  
**Anantapur:** Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904  
**Karimnagar:** Survey No.1341, Vavilalapally Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433  
**Nellore:** Survey No.52/2, Burrampet Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chennudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580  
**Chennai:** SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-2254747/48/50/51; Adv/Fax: 2254765/2254766/42305325  
**Coimbatore:** 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255  
Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

K. SUDHAKAR  
Printer & Publisher

Dilip Cherian  
Dilli Ka Babu

## I-T filing mess: Why try to 'fix' a system that wasn't broken?

**A**t a time when eking out new tax revenues in a shrinking economy is the only goal, an unwarranted twist in North Block. The question that's hovering over Raisina Hill is, why fix something that isn't broken? That's a question everyone seems to be now asking when the new e-filing website of the income tax department, lauded and much touted about, turned out to be a non-starter. I-T officials had announced that the new portal was even designed to be "taxpayer-friendly" and would help ease the filing process and reduce dependence on tax advisors.

Numerous glitches in the software have now left irate taxpayers stranded — they have reported even basic issues such as login problems and complain that old tax filings critical to users are not visi-

ble on the new portal. Meantime, the old reliable website has been unfortunately shut down and the new one doesn't work. A ripe old mess that comes at a really inconvenient moment.

And since even finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has tweeted about it, I-T officials are in a frenzy trying to salvage the situation with Infosys, the corporate supplier outsourced with this task. A testing time for the newly-appointed acting chairperson of CBDT Jagannath Mohapatra to show his leadership skills. He took over his new assignment after his predecessor P.C. Mody hung up his bat after a prolonged and much extended innings that ended almost apocryphally on the very day the old website was shut down!

Hectic efforts are being made to fix the snafu — the vendor management tax babus are in talks with

Infosys and we are told that furious efforts are expected to ensure that the glitches will be removed very shortly. The taxpayers certainly hope so. Meanwhile, revenues are awaited.

### GOVT TACKLES BABU CRITICS WITH FOOTBALL TACTIC

Football teams often employ a technique known as one-to-one marking during a game, in which a player is deputed to stop a rival player from taking possession of the ball for too long. Something along these lines is now in the works as the Centre's sets about tackling the rising tide of insiders turned dissenters, especially if they happen to be retired babus who were once part of the "System" but are now freely speaking their mind on issues that they feel strongly about.

What may perhaps be more

galling to the Centre is that the authors of these contrarian views are venerable ex-bureaucrats who were well-known for their administrative skills and subject expertise during their civil service career — former adviser to governor of Punjab and former ambassador to Romania Julio Ribeiro, former Cabinet secretary K.M. Chandrasekhar, former culture secretary Jawahar Sircar, former foreign secretary Shyam Saran and other similarly notable and "non-partisan" former civil servants. Their words carry weight. Collectively and individually they have written on wide-ranging subjects, including the PM Cares Fund, the farmers' agitation, Article 370, the handling of the Covid pandemic, human rights abuses, the controversial Central Vista etc. They write edit page articles but also dash off open letters to

the Centre that are released to the media.

The government is clearly feeling affronted by this unsolicited advice, but since these are not ordinary voices that cannot be clamped by usual ploys, it has decided to retaliate by getting other "neutral" babus to respond to their colleagues. So, these days a critical piece on a delicate subject by a former babu is immediately responded to by another babu defending the government's policies. If nothing else, it doesn't hurt to muddy the waters without getting dirty hands. And while the babus take on each other in the media, the government carries on with its usual business.

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

Subhani



## China is many things, but it's definitely not 'lovable'

Abhijit Bhattacharyya

**T**he apparent recent volte face by Beijing's imperial overlord Xi Jinping, who called for the creation of a fresh, "favourable" image of a "lovable" and "humble" Middle Kingdom reminds one of a popular Bengali saying: "*Bhooter mukhe Ram naam*". (It is not a translation, but it has some of the same meaning as "the devil quoting scripture".) The Hindu belief of the absurdity and impossibility of an evil and foul spirit of a dead man remembering Lord Ram, the ultimate in purity and pristine divinity — seen in the context of the People's Republic in relation to the rest of the world — takes the whole scenario into the realm of farce. It can never be!

As long as Beijing and its 1.4 billion-plus population remains under the yoke of Emperor Xi and the ruthless and heartless Communist Party of China, which marks its centenary on July 1, the image of "love and humbleness" will prove elusive. Xi, who has been his nation's paramount leader since 2012 (first as CPC general secretary, then as President), has followed a policy of avoidable aggression against the whole world, including all of China's neighbours such as India, but with little to show for it. This so-called "change of heart" is just a tactical shift, in line with traditional Chinese deception as advocated in Sun Tzu's *Art of War* and Chairman Mao Zedong's *Military Writings*. Xi, like his mentors, tried to deploy the traditional tricks of the Dragon's offensive-defence deceit: "Two steps forward, one step back".

To this writer, China's motives and machinations stand brutally exposed due to the Wuhan-origin virus, which has devastated the demography of the entire planet.

In all this, it is important to understand the way that some Chinese (Han) people — especially all who belong to the imperial durbar in

Beijing and those who take their cues from them — look at the rest of the world. To them, China is the "sole civilisation" and the rest of the world are "barbarians" who are inferior — and thus need to be subjugated. The "barbarians" deserve contempt and should be made to kowtow before the Beijing durbar! Those who can't be bullied should be conquered with cash, backed up by the PLA's ever-expanding forces on land, sea and cyberspace — with its troll army spreading

soldiers truly shed their much-practised "wolf warrior" tactics and turn a new leaf? Unlikely. Playing to the gallery and muttering a few catch words like "lovable" and "humble" can't convert the Han warriors into apostles of love, virtue, piety and mercy as advocated by Lord Buddha or philosopher-king Ashoka's initiative to spread peace, harmony and universal brotherhood after the devastation of Kalinga. Can Xi really spread Buddhism, the religion of peace, with his diplomatic "wolves" across the world? As they say, "charity begins at home", and so can Beijing's overlord make a start in Xinjiang and Tibet, in Taiwan and Hong Kong, with his new mantra of love and togetherness? Can we see the effects first in the Ladakh Himalayas and as non-Chinese vessels exercise their right of passage through the South China Sea to know that "lovable" China is for real?

Little wonder then that a top UK daily flagged in May 2021: "How China is buying Britain". It showed how Chinese investors amassed a portfolio of UK businesses, infrastructure, property, and other assets worth nearly 135 billion pounds, almost twice as previously suspected. What shook the British establishment was the "swift and largely unnoticed buying spree" which included purchases worth at least 44 billion pounds by Chinese state-owned-enterprises, linked to the PLA or CPC, or both. Alarmingly, over 80 of the 200 Chinese investments uncovered were since

the CPC's economic/commercial invasion of London is a clear warning. The Chinese are coming is no longer a slogan, what is real is that the Chinese have come to corner all". All nations in the world should heed the danger signs — because the threat is real. And many have begun to wake up and started taking steps to protect themselves from the "China virus" in virtually every sector — from health to hydrology, commerce, industry, technology, and much more. The "total war" has begun, and it's not the way the CPC had envisaged. The Belt and Road Initiative is no longer looking so attractive to foreigners, and many are challenging the Chinese, posing a serious threat to the CPC overlord's grand plans. Hence his call to his minions to make China a "lovable" nation!

**Post-script:** As Xi's New Delhi ambassador Su Weidong urged India

— "Let's cooperate, not confront each other" — came some other news:

In one, "Chinese scam cheats 5 lakh Indians of crores"; and in another,

"Dangerous Chinese spy cum criminal caught on India-Bangla border". Are these the actions of a "lovable" country?

**The writer is a Supreme Court advocate. The views expressed here are personal.**

### LETTERS COVID PROTOCOL

The caption of the photograph on page 2 (DC, June 22) blames people for not maintaining social distance, but what about the photo on page 1 wherein Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao's retinue violates the same at the foundation-stone laying ceremony of a multi-super speciality hospital in Warangal? Some don't have masks either. Actually, those in the former seem to be better spaced. Are not the politicians supposed to set an example in following the Covid protocols?

S. Nageswara Rao  
Hyderabad

### SPITTING

The current topic is third wave. The mask, hand wash and distancing is fine. In our country a fourth factor must be made mandatory. No spitting in public places. These spitters are the real superspreaders infecting others with viral and bacterial diseases. For no mask the fine is ₹1,000, for spitting it should be ten times more.

Zarin Shafat Khan  
Hyderabad

### SCHOOLS

The TS govt had announced physically reopening of schools from July 1, but parents are in no mood to send their wards so soon. As per reports the third wave of Covid-19 is in the offing and children particularly are said to be vulnerable. So in spite of physical classes, online classes should be conducted for a month more. Meanwhile, how the maintenance of Covid-19 protocol is exercised in the schools may be observed by the govt. Parents are deeply worried about fees too.

S.M. Arif Hussain  
Secunderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

#### 2 plants grown on Salyut

MOSCOW, June 22. Viewers of Moscow television today saw two plants which have sprouted and put on leaves in weightlessness in the Soviet orbiting space laboratory Salyut, Tass reported.

Test Engineer Viktor Patsayev, pointing to the plants, said: "It is a great pleasure for us to watch these plants grow."

The greenhouse takes up one of the compartments of Salyut. Seeds of different plants were brought into the space station in vegetation sacs placed in a container.

## SHORT TAKES

**MAN DRILLS HOLES IN WALL OF BANK, ROBS OVER ₹55L**

New Delhi, June 22: A 34-year-old man was arrested for allegedly burgling over ₹55 lakh after breaking into a bank from an adjoining under-construction building in east Delhi's Farsh Bazar area, police said on Tuesday.

Without knowing about the accused, the bank officials had earlier entrusted him the task of fixing a hole in the wall inside their premises that he had himself drilled for committing the crime, police said.

The accused was wearing a helmet at the time of the burglary to hide his identity, they said. Police also said another person was arrested who received some amount of the stolen money. The two accused men have been identified as Hariram and Kalicharan (39), both residents of Vishwas Nagar, they said.

On Monday around 10.15 am, police received information regarding a burglary in a bank in Vishwas Nagar area.

Police inspected the spot and found that a hole was made in a wall of the server room of the bank from the adjacent under-construction building. Another hole in the wall of a strong room in the basement was made and cash worth ₹55,03,330 was stolen from the vault, a senior police officer said.

**SCINDIA DUCKS QUESTIONS ON CABINET INDUCTION**

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC  
Bhopal, June 22

Amid growing buzz about the possible expansion of Union cabinet ahead of monsoon session of Parliament, BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday ducked the question whether he would be inducted in the Narendra Modi ministry, saying, "I am a sevak (servant) of people".

Talking to reporters at Shivpuri, nearly 300 km from here, on the sidelines of his visit to the district hospital, Scindia indicated that he was keen to take up issues of people than hold any position.

"I have been serving the people for the last 17 years and I will continue to do so", Scindia said.

Replying to a question if he has changed his style of politics by trying to take his 'rivals' along with him, Scindia who joined BJP after snapping his nearly two decades long ties with Congress in March 2020, said, "I always carry everyone in the party with me".

Scindia was seen visiting local BJP leaders, not known to belong to his camp, in their houses in Gwalior-Chambal region in Madhya Pradesh during his recent visits to the state, generating curiosity among the party workers.

Earlier during his visit to Gwalior, Scindia slammed Congress for demanding to rechristen the formerly princely estate as "Virangana Laxmibai", describing it 'politically motivated'.

**ARNAB NAMED IN TRP SCAM CHARGESHEET**

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC  
Mumbai, June 22

The Mumbai police has named Arnab Goswami, Editor-in-chief of *Republic TV* as an accused in the Television Rating Points (TRP) scam in its supplementary chargesheet.

The chargesheet was submitted before the Esplanade Metropolitan Magistrate's court by the police's Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU), which is conducting investigation into the case.

The police named Goswami and four others from ARG Outlier Media (that owns *Republic TV*) in their 1800 page supplementary charge sheet submitted before the court.

So far the police had chargesheeted 15 people in the case, including former CEO of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) Partho Dasgupta and *Republic TV*'s CEO Vikash Khanchandani.

The alleged fake TRP scam came to light in October last year when the rating agency Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) filed a complaint through Hansa Research Group (HRG), alleging that certain television channels were rigging TRP numbers.

Hence the charges invoked on the case relate to cheating, forgery, criminal conspiracy etc.



Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam in central business district after certain restrictions of lockdown were eased in Bengaluru on Tuesday. — PTI

**90% of deaths in 2nd wave were needless, says Rahul**

Rahul releases white paper, says Modi's tears can not wipe families' tears

DC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22



A health worker escorts an elderly woman to receive a dose of Covid-19 vaccine at a vaccination centre in Tiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. — PTI

commission to look into "what went wrong" in the government's strategy and emphasised that a Covid-19 compensation fund must be created to help families who lost their bread-earners.

Gandhi said consultations with experts had yielded a four-pronged approach or four pillars. "Central pillar is vaccination. It is very important we have aggressive, 100 per cent vaccination," he

said. The second pillar, he said, is to ensure adequate numbers of hospital beds and medical resources, including oxygen (and oxygen plants), medicines and equipment like ventilators.

On the question of pace of vaccination Gandhi did have praise for the government, after a record 86.16 lakh vaccine doses were administered on Monday he appreciated the work and said, "Yes... good work happened yesterday, but the government has to make this process work not just for one day but every day... until we've vaccinated our whole population," he stressed, adding, "The government must not view states as BJP-ruled or opposition states. There must be no bias."

After releasing the white paper Rahul Gandhi maintained that the intention

was not to point fingers but help India tackle the third wave.

He added, "The government should not repeat the mistakes it did in the first and second waves. It should be ready with infrastructure to tackle the third wave." Reacting to the Centre's plea in the Supreme Court that it doesn't have money to compensate for Covid-19 deaths, Gandhi said the government must announce a compensation package for the poor. An economic assistance process is also a significant part of the white paper published on Tuesday by the Congress.

He said, "Covid is an economic and social disease too. We have given NYAY concept...if PM doesn't like the name he can change it but the aim is to have money reach the poor people."

**CLASS XII EXAM STAY CANCELLED, REITERATES SC**

PARMOD KUMAR | DC  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

**Former CM Badal questioned by SIT**

Chandigarh, June 22: Former Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal was on Tuesday questioned at his official residence here by the SIT probing the 2015 Kotkapura police firing incident in Faridkot.

The Punjab Police Special Investigation Team (SIT) reached Badal's Sector 4 MLA flat and questioned him for nearly two-and-a-half hours.

The Punjab government had formed the new SIT led by additional director general of police L.K. Yadav to probe the Kotkapura police firing incident following the directions of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Senior SAD leaders including Maheshinder Singh Grewal, Prem Singh Chundamraja, Daljit Singh Cheema, besides SGPC chief Jagir Kaur were present at Badal's residence.

Addressing the media,

the SAD leaders said Badal cooperated with the SIT, like he had done when a previous investigation team had questioned him two years ago.

They said that at the time of the previous SIT, whose report was quashed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court, the investigations were conducted in a politically motivated manner and even now the agenda was allegedly politically driven.

The SIT had rescheduled the questioning after the 93-year-old Badal had expressed his inability to appear before it at a rest house in Mohali on June 16, saying he is not keeping good health. Still not in good health, Badal, however, is keen to fulfil his legal and constitutional duties as a law abiding citizen of the country. Harcharan Bains, principal adviser to SAD president Sukhbir Badal, said. — PTI

**● NO DISCUSSION** has been taken with regard to opening schools as those below 18-years are not yet vaccinated.

regard to opening schools and colleges, the committee has suggested giving priority to students and teachers in vaccination, to start classes in a phased manner by reopening colleges for students above 18 years to begin with, after vaccinating them.

"The government is considering opening higher educational institutions in a phased manner after vaccinating students and teachers," the Chief Minister said in response to a question.

No discussion has been taken with regard to opening schools as those below 18-years are not yet vaccinated, and clinical trials are on to vaccinate them.

**'Delta Plus' found making inroads**

VINEETA PANDEY | DC  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

characteristics like increased transmissibility, stronger binding to receptors of lung cells and potential reduction in monoclonal antibody response.

The 'Delta Plus' mutant has been found in nine countries — India, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Switzerland, Japan, Poland, China and Russia. The 'Delta' variant is now in 80 countries.

"Based on the recent findings of INSACOG, the Union health ministry has alerted and advised Maharashtra, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh regarding the Delta Plus variant of Covid-19 being found in some districts in these States. The Centre has sent an advisory to these states today explaining what kind of public health response should initiate to address this issue which presently looks fairly small in terms of numbers. But we would not like these to assume significant proportions and take a bigger form," said Bhushan.

He added genome sequencing of 45,000 samples has been done so far and the scientists are constantly monitoring the virus and its mutations.

**Odisha: Vaccine certificate must**

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 22

certificates (single/final dose) in front of their shops. It will create confidence among customers and help stop infections. It will be checked by the enforcement team," the Collector said.

Meanwhile, Lord Jagannath's Snana Yatra or bathing ceremony, an important ritual that precedes the annual Car Festival of the deity at Odisha's Puri, will this year be performed without congregation of devotees to avoid the possibility of Coronavirus infection.

On Tuesday, Puri district administration imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in the city, asking the devotees not to visit the place on the Snana Yatra day.

**K'taka to consider opening higher edu. institutions on experts advice**

Bengaluru, June 22: Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Tuesday said the government will consider opening higher educational institutions in a phased manner after vaccinating students and teachers, following recommendations from the Dr Devi Shetty-led expert committee on possible Covid-19 third wave.

He said the committee has advised accelerating vaccinations as vaccines are the solution for Covid control.

"The committee has supported the relaxations in Covid curbs announced by the government, and have suggested opening up educational institutions in the days to come, starting with higher education colleges, after vaccinating," Yediyurappa said.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with the committee, he said with

district hospitals and also at medical college hospitals, and to set up children hospitals.

The committee has given some suggestions aimed at securing human and financial resources and to get help from experts to control the third wave, he said. They include getting help from various medical organisations, resolving the shortage of doctors and nurses, getting support from voluntary organisations, resource mobilisation with the help of corporate bodies, and most importantly public participation.

Noting that the committee has suggested giving priority towards getting rid of malnutrition, the CM said it has suggested providing psychiatric service at every hospital aimed at increasing the morale of children infected by Covid. — PTI

**The decision sparks sharp reaction from IMA-U'khand unit, terms it 'illegal'****U'khand ayurvedic docs can prescribe Allopathy**

Dehradun, June 22: The ayurveda-versus-allopathy debate has taken a new turn with the Uttarakhand government deciding to allow ayurvedic doctors to prescribe select allopathic medicines to patients in emergencies.

Making the announcement on the sidelines of a programme to mark the International Day for Yoga at the Uttarakhand Ayurvedic University here on Monday, Ayush Minister Harak Singh Rawat said the decision

was taken for the benefit of the people living in the state's remote hill areas, where the primary health centres mostly have ayurvedic doctors.

There are around 800 ayurvedic doctors in Uttarakhand and as many ayurvedic dispensaries, of which 90 per cent are located in the remote hill areas, he said.

The decision, which requires changes in the Uttar Pradesh Bharatiya Chikitsa Adhiniyam, will help people living in the

category of mixopathy," IMA, Uttarakhand secretary Ajay Khanna said.

"Mixopathy will only harm patients in an emergency. The Supreme Court and the high courts are very clear on this. Ayurvedic doctors cannot practise allopathy as they are not qualified for it," he said.

"How can ayurvedic doctors prescribe allopathic medicines without knowing about allopathy?" Khanna asked.

However, Bharatiya Chikitsa Parishad, Uttarakhand vice president and senior physician J.N. Naithyal welcomed the decision, saying 80 per cent of the state's population, which is deprived of healthcare facilities, is going to benefit immensely from it.

On the IMA's reaction to the announcement, Naithyal said, "The IMA has double standards. Ayush doctors work in the ICUs and emergency wards of hospitals. The IMA has no

problem with that. But now, when something is going to benefit such a large number of people in the hills, they have a problem." The ayurveda-versus-allopathy debate began in the country last month when Ramdev questioned the efficacy of allopathic drugs in the treatment of Covid, prompting the IMA's Uttarakhand unit to serve a defamation notice to the yoga expo and demand a compensation of ₹1,000 crore from him. — PTI

## SHORT TAKES

## SENA SAYS LEADERS BEING HARASSED

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, JUNE 22

Shiv Sena on Tuesday tried to downplay the Pratap Sarnaik letter issue saying that the matter of 'unnecessary harassment' by the central investigative agencies can be raised with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the party MLA's letter will be sent to him for his information.

"The Shiv Sena leaders are facing unnecessary harassment from the central investigative agencies. Pratap Sarnaik has written a letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray urging him to 'team up with BJP' if the harassment is to be avoided. It can be his personal opinion.

However, those who feel that this is an indication of change of power in Maharashtra are 'kuchra limbis' (unripe lemons) in politics," said Sena in an editorial in party mouthpiece *Saamana* on Tuesday.

The essence of Mr Sarnaik's letter is that MLAs of MVA Government are being made to face unnecessary harassment due to BJP's wrath of losing the power in Maharashtra. The word 'unnecessary harassment' is important here. The central investigative agencies like CBI, ED, Excise, NIA are being used for political reasons, said the party.

## SC RELIEF FOR NAVNEET IN CERTIFICATE CASE

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the Bombay High Court's June 9 order cancelling the caste certificate of Navneet Kaur Rana – an independent member of Lok Sabha from Amravati reserved constituency in Maharashtra.

A vacation bench of Justice Vineet Saran and Justice Dinesh Maheshwari issued notice to the Maharashtra government and others, including the person who had complained against Navneet Kaur Rana's caste certificate.

The High Court had not only cancelled her caste certificate obtained allegedly using fabricated documents but also imposed a fine of ₹2 lakh on her.

Rana, backed by Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), had won from Amravati constituency reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) in the state in 2019 by claiming to be a member of Mochi's scheduled caste.

The high court verdict, if not stayed, would have made Rana's continuance as the Scheduled Castes lawmaker legally untenable.

## COMBAT EXERCISE BY IAF, US NAVY

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

The Indian Air Force and the Navy will participate in a major combat exercise with US Navy from Wednesday in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to further strengthen their military-to-military relations with an eye on China.

The two days exercise will be carried out with US carrier strike group (CSG) led by nuclear powered aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan along with Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer USS Halsey and Ticonderoga class guided missile cruiser USS Shiloh.

The CSG is currently deployed in the IOR.

The Indian Air Force maritime-strike Jaguars and Su-30 MKI fighters, along with AWACS, AEW&C and air to air refuelling aircraft will participate in the exercise. IAF forces will operate from bases under four operational commands. From Indian Navy Indian Naval Ships Kochi and Teg along with P8I and MiG 29K aircraft are participating.

The US CSG is expected to field F-18 fighters and E-2C Hawkeye AEW&C aircraft. The exercise will be carried out south of Thiruvananthapuram, on the western seaboard, over two days.

The naval operations during the exercise include advanced air defence exercises, cross deck helicopter operations and anti-submarine exercises. The participating forces will endeavour to hone their war-fighting skills and enhance their interoperability as an integrated force to promote peace, security and stability in the maritime domain.

## NARADA CASE: SC TO HEAR MAMATA PLEA ON JUNE 25

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

The Supreme Court on Tuesday set for June 25 a plea by West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee and state law minister Moloy Ghatak challenging the Calcutta high court's refusal to accept their affidavit contesting the CBI's plea that they obstructed the arrest and subsequent production of accused TMC leaders in the Narada scam case before the trial court.

Justice Aniruddha Bose earlier recused himself from hearing the matter and the petitions were listed before vacation bench of Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheshwari.

A five-judge bench of the Calcutta high court is hearing a plea by the CBI seeking transfer of the Narada case allegedly involving TMC leaders outside West Bengal.

While directing the listing of the three petitions by the CM, the state law minister and the State of West Bengal itself on June 25, the bench of Justices Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheshwari asked the Calcutta high court not to go ahead with its hearing on the matter listed before it on Wednesday or any date prior to June 25. "We hope the high court will not take up the hearing prior to June 25," the Supreme Court said.

Ordering the hearing on Friday, the bench said the judges have to go through the case file. The matter was listed before the bench of Justices Saran and Maheshwari after Justice Aniruddha Bose, who was part of the bench headed by Justice Hemant Gupta, had recused himself.

**Patna, June 22:** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday left for the national capital, purportedly for medical reasons, though speculations ran rife that bargaining a decent share in the Union cabinet was also on the agenda of the JD(U) de facto leader. The JD(U) has been a BJP ally for close to three decades, barring a hiatus in 2013-2017.

Kumar, who had himself served in the cabinet headed by late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, turned down the offer of the saffron party of a "token representation" to all alliance partners after the 2019 Lok

Sabha polls which saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi steering the BJP to a thumping majority.

"I do not know why his Delhi tour is being linked to the proposed cabinet reshuffle. To the best of my knowledge, he needs treatment for some eye problem and is visiting the national capital for the purpose," said Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan, one of the closest aides of Kumar.

The Union cabinet reshuffle is a prerogative of the prime minister and it is for him to decide whom to hold consultations with on the issue, Singh said. Singh, who has been with Kumar ever since the latter broke ranks with Lalu Prasad to chart his own political course, is seen as one of the candidates the JD(U) might strongly back, were it to join the Union council of ministers.

Another ministerial probable RCP Singh, who succeeded Kumar as the national president of the party a few months ago, laughed off at the suggestion but dropped ample hints that the JD(U) was now eyeing a spot in the Union government.

"My name has been doing the rounds since 2017. Any decision as to who will be in the Union cabinet from our party has to be taken by our leader. Of course, he does so after consulting all," said Singh, a former IAS officer whose rise in politics, after retirement from service about a decade ago, has been meteoric.

He said, "We agree, it does not look good that we are partners in power in the state but not at the Centre, though we are a part of the NDA there as well. Things will look up for both parties once we join the Union government."

He also took a swipe at LJP leader Chirag Paswan, who has been cornered within the party following a revolt by all his fellow MPs who have floated a separate faction. "I heard his two statements that he is the son of a tiger (late Ram Vilas Paswan) and that he is now an orphan. Has anybody ever heard of a tiger lamenting for being orphaned?" the JD(U) chief said.

A report from Doha had earlier quoted Mutlaq bin Majeed al-Qantani, a senior Qatari diplomat involved in the Afghan peace process, as saying that Indian officials have engaged in the talks with the Taliban at Doha.

Ms. Mufti while speaking to reporters after the leaders of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) met here said that in order to restore peace in the region it was equally imperative to undo the "illegal and unconstitutional" abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A which guaranteed a special status to J&K within the India union. "You must return what you have snatched from us," she reiterated.

## NIA OPPOSES BAIL PLEA OF KASHMIRI WOMAN

New Delhi, June 22: The NIA has opposed the bail application of a Kashmiri woman before a Delhi court in a case of alleged planning a terror attack in the country during the anti-CAA protests here.

The probe agency told the court that Hina Bashir Beg, arrested along with her husband Janhaza Sami and another accused Abdul Basith last year for their alleged link to the ISIS, incited Muslims against non-Muslims and "excite disaffection" against Indian State.

It claimed that the accused was promoting the Islamic State's ideology and instigating protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

The agency alleged that they were motivated by the ideology of proscribed terrorist organisation Islamic State of Iraq & Syria (ISIS) and were working for another banned terrorist organisation Islamic State of Iraq & Syria (ISIS) and were working for another banned terrorist organisation Islamic State of Iraq & Syria (ISIS).

— PTI

## Back to back dowry deaths leave Kerala in a shock

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUNE 22

Close on the heels of an Ayurveda undergraduate student in Kollam ending her life on Monday, another young woman went up in flames on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram.

In the third incident, a 19-year-old girl who got married just three months ago, was found hanging in Alappuzha district on Tuesday. However, the reason behind the death is not known yet.

Suchitra, a 19-year-old was found hanging at her husband's house in Alappuzha district. The police are probing the matter.

Earlier, people on Monday woke up to the shocking death of 24-year-old Vismaya who was a fourth year student of BAMS in Mananam. She was found hanging at her husband Kiran Kumar's house in Kollam district.

The world came to know that it was a dowry harassment death after Vismaya's relatives brought out WhatsApp messages in which she described about the brutality in the name of dowry. The police arrested Kiran Kumar, who is an assistant motor vehicles inspector, on Tuesday.

Vismaya's father Mr Thrivikraman Nair

said his government would explore the possibility of including lessons against such social evils (dowry) in the curricula.

alleged that his daughter was murdered. He said Kiran Kumar used to brutally assault her after consuming liquor.

The WhatsApp messages which also contained pictures of injuries sent over the last one year, clearly revealed the torture that the woman faced.

At the time of Vismaya's marriage in May 2020, her parents said they gave 100 sovereigns of gold, over one acre of land and a car worth ₹10 lakh. However, Kiran Kumar insisted they sell the car and give ₹10 lakh in cash. He used to torture Vismaya frequently demanding cash.

Once her family had even lodged a complaint with the police against Kiran Kumar. However they withdrew it after he gave in writing that he would not beat her again.

Kerala police chief Mr Loknath Behera on Tuesday directed IG Harshita Attaluri to conduct a detailed probe into the incident. "We will look into all cases of dowry deaths. The role of laws and relatives will also be brought under the scan-

ner," he said. Meanwhile, in another shocking incident a woman died after she sustained serious burns in Vizhinjam near Thiruvananthapuram. The victim was identified as Archana, 24. Her husband Suresh who tried to flee from the spot, was taken into custody. The couple got married last year. Archana's mother Molly alleged that Suresh's family was harassing and torturing her for dowry.

Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the incidents of dowry harassment deaths were against the social ethos of the state.

The chief minister assured that a comprehensive probe would be conducted into these incidents and the culprits would be brought to justice. Though six decades have passed since the nation passed a law against dowry, unfortunately such social evils are staging a come back in the society. Dowry is being demanded and given in various forms which needs to be curbed, he said at a press conference here on Tuesday.

Mr Vijayan said his government would explore the possibility of including lessons against such social evils in the curricula.

— NAME | BLUNDER

## BRO says it did so to evade Chinese objection over the project and Rajnath's visit to Arunachal

## BRO 'renames' Arunachal's Kimin as Billgarh

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, JUNE 22

In what has triggered a major controversy and anger in the frontier state of Arunachal Pradesh, the Border Road Organisation (BRO), in order to avoid any confrontation with China, not only renamed a town of the frontier state but also showed it as part of Assam during a programme attended by union defence minister Rajnath Singh on June 17.

Mr Singh had dedicated to the nation 12 BRO roads — all in Arunachal Pradesh except one each in the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir — from Kimin. But the BRO projected the place as Billgarh in Assam and had whitewashed all signs that had any reference to Kimin or Arunachal Pradesh.

The All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union and local organisations in Kimin, a town in

Arunachal Pradesh's Papum Pare district have demanded an apology from the BRO for the "blunder" that they said was done deliberately to let a "certain country" know that the Indian defence minister visited Assam and not Arunachal Pradesh, the state it claimed.

The clarification of the BRO that they renamed "Kimin" of Arunachal Pradesh as "Billgarh" of

● THE ALL ARUNACHAL Pradesh Students' Union and local organisations in Kimin, a town in Arunachal Pradesh's Papum Pare district, have demanded an apology from the BRO.

Assam to evade Chinese objection over the project and union minister's visit to Arunachal Pradesh has invited more angry reaction among the people of the frontier state.

"This has not gone down well among the people of Arunachal Pradesh. They are extremely patriotic. They are of the view that New Delhi shouldn't succumb to any Chinese objection," said Mr Jarjum Gamlin in his social media posts.

Union minister for sports and youth affairs Kiren Rijiju also jumped into the controversy. Taking to the social media on June 21, he said that BRO made a "gross mistake," he wrote.

Arunachal chief minister Pema Khandu said that the BRO's error was unfortunate. "The Arunachal government came to know about the inauguration programme quite late. The public leaders of Kimin later apprised the government that the sign boards displaying Arunachal's name and other mentions of the state were covered with white papers pasted by the BRO," he told reporters.

**SHORT TAKES****JUDGE DISMISSES BID TO LOCK UP FUJIMORI**

Lima, June 22: A Peruvian judge on Monday dismissed a prosecutor's request for the detention of corruption-accused presidential hopeful Keiko Fujimori while the country awaits the outcome of June 6 elections in which she vied for the top job.

Fujimori, who narrowly trails leftist rival Pedro Castillo according to the unconfirmed vote count, risks an imminent corruption trial if she loses the race. If she wins, it will be delayed until after her term.

Fujimori has already spent 16 months in pre-trial detention on charges of taking money from scandal-tainted Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht to fund failed presidential bids in 2011 and 2016.

**SARKOZY FACES JAIL TERM IN POLL FINANCING TRIAL**

Paris, June 22: The trial of former French President Nicolas Sarkozy concludes Tuesday in Paris, after a month during which the court sought to determine whether he broke laws on campaign financing in his unsuccessful 2012 re-election bid.

The verdict is expected to be rendered at a later date. Prosecutors have requested a six-month prison term, as well as a six-month suspended sentence and a fine of 3,750 euros (\$4,468). Sarkozy, France's president from 2007 to 2012, denies wrongdoing. He is accused of having spent almost twice the maximum legal amount of 22.5 million euros (\$27.5 million) on the re-election bid that he lost to Socialist Francois Hollande.

**THREE, INCLUDING OFFICER, SUSPECT KILLED IN DENVER**

Arvada (US), June 22: A gunman is believed to have shot and killed an officer and another person in a shopping district in a Denver suburb before being fatally shot by police, authorities said.

An officer responded to a call at 1:15 pm on Monday about a suspicious incident near the library in the city of Arvada, and about 15 minutes later, a 911 call came in about shots fired and the officer hit, Deputy Chief Ed Brady said at a news conference. Another person believed to have been shot by the gunman was taken to a hospital and died, police said. The attacker also was shot and killed. Authorities didn't immediately describe the circumstances of the shooting.

**CARCASSES OF TURTLES ON LANKA SHORE**

Colombo, June 22: Nearly a hundred carcasses of turtles with throat and shell damage, as well as dozens of dead dolphins and a blue whale, have washed ashore in Sri Lanka since a container ship burned and sank, raising fears of a severe marine disaster.

Ecologists believe the deaths were directly caused by the fire and release of hazardous chemicals while the Singapore-flagged X-Press Pearl burned for 12 days and sank last week off Sri Lanka's main port in the capital Colombo.

Government officials, however, said these causes were "provisionally" confirmed and the investigation was continuing. The fire started on the ship on May 20 and dead marine species started washing ashore days later. A ship manifest seen by *The Associated Press* said 81 of the ship's nearly 1,500 containers held "dangerous" goods.

The Sri Lankan navy believes the blaze was caused by its chemical cargo, most of which was destroyed in the fire. But debris, including burned fiberglass and tonnes of plastic pellets have severely polluted the surrounding waters and a long stretch of the island nation's famed beaches. Post-mortem analysis on the carcasses are being performed at five government-run laboratories and separately by the Government Analysts Department, said an official of the wildlife department who spoke on condition of anonymity as the official was not authorised to speak to the media.

**Protest rocks Paris**

Demonstrators stand on the top of a truck during a rally called by the National Federation of Mines and Energy — General Confederation of Labour (FNME-CGT trade union) — in Paris on Tuesday. The workers are protesting against the Hercule project which is aimed at restructuring the French energy Group Engie. — AFP

**Oli's appointment of 20 ministers quashed****Unconstitutional, rules SC as Nepal's political crisis worsens**

Kathmandu, June 22: (PTI) In a major blow to beleaguered Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, the Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that the appointment of 20 ministers by him was unconstitutional, invalidating his two recent Cabinet expansions after the dissolution of the House of Representatives.

A division bench of Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana and Justice Prakash Kumar Dhungana ruled that Cabinet expansions after the dissolution of the House were unconstitutional and hence, the ministers cannot discharge their duties.

lost the posts. Mahaseth was also the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

With the order, there are only five ministers left in Oli's Cabinet, including the Prime Minister.

The ministers include Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Bishnu Poudel, Education Minister Krishna Gopal Shrestha, Physical Infrastructure Minister Basant Nembang and Law Minister Lilanath Shrestha.

The court passed the judgement on petitions filed on June 7 by six individuals, including senior advocate Dinesh Tripathi, demanding that the Cabinet expansions by the caretaker government of Oli be quashed.

Oli, 69, who is heading a minority government after losing a trust vote in the House last month, expanded his Cabinet on June 10 and June 4, inducting 17 ministers, amid widespread criticism and the ongoing political crisis in the Himalayan nation. Three state ministers were also appointed.

"The Supreme Court has issued an interim order asking not to allow the ministers appointed after the House dissolution to function," said senior advocate Tripathi.

The Supreme Court has cited Article 77 (3) in its ruling to quash the appointments.

It states if the Office of the Prime Minister falls vacant after the prime minister fails to win a vote of confidence or resigns, the same Council of Ministers shall continue to act until another Council of Ministers is constituted, the report said.

The petitioners had argued that since the government has already turned into a caretaker status following the announcement of the elections, the Constitution does not allow such a prime minister to appoint new ministers. The development comes when the Supreme Court is hearing the case regarding the reinstatement of the 275-member House of Representatives, which was dissolved by President Bidya Devi Bhandari on May 22 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli.

In an opinion piece in *The Washington Post* ahead of US President Joe Biden's meeting with top Afghan leaders at the White House later this week, Khan also questioned the efficacy of such US bases in Pakistan. "We simply cannot afford this. We have already paid too heavy a price," Khan said, amid reports that the US continues to focus on Pakistan for a military base in the region.

Elaborating the reasons for not giving the nod to the US to have bases in Pakistan, which were earlier allowed after 9/11 to coordinate operations in Afghanistan, he said, If Pakistan were to agree to host US bases, from which to bomb Afghanistan, and an Afghan civil war ensued, Pakistan would be targeted for revenge by terrorists again."

According to media reports, the US used the Shamsi air base in Balochistan to carry out drone strikes since 2008 that focused on suspected Al Qaeda operatives in mountainous tribal areas, but also crossed the border into Afghanistan. "If the US, with the most powerful military machine in history, couldn't win the war from inside Afghanistan after 20 years, how would America do it from our bases?" Khan asked.

He, however, underlined that Pakistan and the US have the same interests in Afghanistan: a political settlement, stability, economic development and

**3** We must arm workers with the skills they need, we must remove barriers that are keeping too many Americans on the sidelines, and we must recruit the very best from around the world to help fill high-demand jobs

— SUZANNE CLARK  
President, US Chamber of Commerce

sectors.

It is also calling for growing federal investments in employer-led job education and training programmes and expanding access to childcare for working parents.

"We must arm workers with the skills they need, we must remove barriers that are keeping too many Americans on the sidelines, and we must recruit the very best from around the world to help fill high-demand jobs," Clark said.

The Chamber called for changes to be made on the issuance of employment-based immigrant visas including doubling the cap on employment-based immigrant visas from 140,000/year to 280,000/year. Eliminate the practice of counting spouses and minor children under the annual Green Card quota, which, if done alone, would practically double the amount of employment-based immigrant workers our nation admits every year, it said.

— PTI



Kim Yo Jong

**KIM'S SISTER: NO CHANCE OF TALKS WITH U.S.**

Islamabad, June 22: Prime Minister Imran Khan has ruled out hosting American bases in Pakistan for military action inside war-torn Afghanistan, fearing it might lead to his country being targeted for revenge by terrorists again."

In an opinion piece in *The Washington Post* ahead of US President Joe Biden's meeting with top Afghan leaders at the White House later this week, Khan also questioned the efficacy of such US bases in Pakistan. "We simply cannot afford this. We have already paid too heavy a price," Khan said, amid reports that the US continues to focus on Pakistan for a military base in the region.

He, however, underlined that Pakistan and the US have the same interests in Afghanistan: a political settlement, stability, economic development and

coordinate operations in Afghanistan, he said. If Pakistan were to agree to host US bases, from which to bomb Afghanistan, and an Afghan civil war ensued, Pakistan would be targeted for revenge by terrorists again."

According to media reports, the US used the Shamsi air base in Balochistan to carry out drone strikes since 2008 that focused on suspected Al Qaeda operatives in mountainous tribal areas, but also crossed the border into Afghanistan. "If the US, with the most powerful military machine in history, couldn't win the war from inside Afghanistan after 20 years, how would America do it from our bases?" Khan asked.

He, however, underlined that Pakistan and the US have the same interests in Afghanistan: a political settlement, stability, economic development and

hope for a restart of nuclear talks flared briefly after Kim Jong Un said last week that his country must be ready for both dialogue and confrontation, though more for confrontation. US National Security adviser Jake Sullivan called Kim's comments an "interesting signal".

On Tuesday, Kim Yo Jong derided Sullivan's response. "It seems that the US may interpret the situation in such a way as to seek a comfort for itself," the official Korean Central News Agency quoted her as saying.

**OZ FIGHTS U.N. DOWNGRADE OF BARRIER REEF**

Canberra, June 22: Australia said Tuesday it will fight against plans to downgrade the Great Barrier Reef's World Heritage status due to climate change, while environmentalists have applauded the UN World Heritage Committee's proposal.

The committee said in a draft report on Monday that "there is no possible doubt" that the network of colourful corals off Australia's northeast coast was "facing ascertained danger". The report recommends that the world's most extensive coral reef ecosystem be added to Unesco's List of World Heritage in Danger, which includes 53 sites, when the World Heritage Committee considers the question in July.

The listing could shake Australians' confidence in their government's ability to care for the natural wonder and create a role for Unesco headquarters in devising so-called "corrective measures", which would likely include tougher

**Those refusing vax go to India: Duterte  
Deaths in nursing homes up 32% in 2020 amid pandemic**

Washington, June 22: Deaths among Medicare patients in nursing homes soared by 32% last year, with two devastating spikes eight months apart, a government watchdog reported Tuesday in the most comprehensive look yet at the ravages of Covid-19 among its most vulnerable victims.

The report from the inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services found that about 4 in 10 Medicare recipients in nursing homes had or likely had Covid-19 in 2020, and that deaths overall jumped by

Nobody likes it. But if you won't get vaccinated, leave the Philippines. Go to India if you want or somewhere — to America. But as long as you are here and you are a human being that can carry the virus,

get yourself vaccinated," Duterte, known for his flamboyant and controversial remarks, said.

The Philippines is one of the worst-hit countries in Southeast Asia with more than one million cases and

169,291 from the previous year before the coronavirus appeared.

"We knew this was going to be bad, but I don't think even those of us who work in this area thought it was going to be this bad," said Harvard health policy professor David Grabowski, a nationally recognised expert on long-term care, who reviewed the report for *The Associated Press*.

"This was not individuals who were going to die anyway," Grabowski added. "We are talking about a really big number of excess deaths." Investigators used a generally accepted method of estimating "excess" deaths in a group of people after a calamitous event. It did not involve examining individual death certificates of Medicare patients but comparing overall deaths among those in nursing homes to levels recorded the previous year. The technique was used to estimate deaths in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria in 2017 and in New York City after the first coronavirus surge last spring. It does not attribute a cause of death but is seen as a barometer of impact.

— AP

over 20,000 deaths linked to Covid-19. According to studies cited in local media, more than half of Filipinos are unwilling to get vaccinated against Covid-19 over fears the shots are not safe.

— PTI

**PAKISTAN TO BUY 1.3 CRORE PFIZER VACCINES**

Islamabad, June 22: Pakistan has signed an agreement with Pfizer to procure 1.3 crore doses of the American Covid-19 vaccine, a media report said on Tuesday. An agreement was signed between Pfizer Pakistan and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Monday to supply 1.3 crore doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (BNT162b2), Dawn newspaper reported. The delivery of the 1.3 million doses (1.3 crores) is planned during 2021, it said.

"We are deeply honoured to work with the Pakistani government and to marshal our scientific and manufacturing resources toward our shared goal of bringing a vaccine to the people of Pakistan as quickly as possible," said Pfizer Pakistan Country Manager Syed Mohammad Waheed-uddin.

— PTI

**Carcasses, excrement are polluting farmers' water tanks****Oz to evacuate prison after mice attack**

Canberra, June 22: A plague of mice that has ravaged vast swathes of eastern Australia has forced the evacuation of a prison while authorities repair gnawed electrical wiring and clear dead and decaying mice from walls and ceilings.

Around 200 staff and 420 inmates will be transferred from the Wellington Correctional Center in rural New South Wales state to other prisons in the region during the next 10 days

while cleaning and repairs take place, Corrective Services Commissioner Peter Severin said on Tuesday.

"The health, safety and wellbeing of staff and inmates is our No. 1 priority so it's important for us to act now to carry out the vital remediation work," Severin said.

Millions of mice have caused havoc in the grain-growing region of Australia's most populous state for months, devouring crops and haystacks as well as invading homes, businesses, schools, hospitals and prisons.

The most common complaint about the plague is an ever-present stench of mice urine and decaying flesh. People report being bitten by mice in bed.

Mouse carcasses and excrement in roof gutters are polluting farmers' water tanks and causing sickness. The remediation work at the prison will include investigating ways to protect the facility from

future mice plagues, which are a phenomenon largely unique to Australia.

Plagues usually happen when rain follows several years of drought. The current plague is the worst that many can remember in some areas. Severin said the mice infestation was worst in prison buildings that weren't built from concrete.

"The mice have got into...wall cavities, into roof spaces. They're dead but then they start obviously decaying and then the next problem is mites," Severin told Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Government mouse researcher Steve Henry said mice numbers had begun to plateau as the species always stops breeding during the Southern Hemisphere winter. But numbers could explode again if conditions are right in the spring.

— AP

## quick BITES

### INDICATORS %

Sensex	52,588.71	0.03
Nifty 50	15,772.80	0.17
S&P 500*	4,238.88	0.33
Dollar (₹)	73.87	0.28
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.18	0.31
Euro (₹)	88.36	0.19
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,213.45	0.09
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	74.73	-0.23
IN 10-Year bond yield	6.025	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.478	-0.007

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

## Kesoram Inds. suspends work at rayon factory

BK Birla Group company Kesoram Industries Ltd suspended work at its rayon factory in West Bengal's Hooghly district due to fall in demand. The company management blamed the slump in demand due to Covid-led disruptions for the suspension of work till further notice. The company employs 2,500 people in the loss-making plant. Rayon division contribution is negligible for the company.

## Sun settles patent litigation with Celgene



Sun Pharma said it has reached an agreement with Celgene Corporation, a subsidiary of Bristol Myers Squibb, to resolve the patent litigation regarding generic version of cancer drug Revlimid (lenalidomide capsules) in the US. As per the terms of the settlement, Celgene will grant Sun Pharma a licence to Celgene's patents required to manufacture and sell certain limited quantity of generic lenalidomide capsules in the US in 2022.

## EV makers laud Gujarat policy with subsidy

Companies like Tata Motors, Mahindra and Hero Electric lauded the Gujarat government for bringing a new electric vehicle policy in the state. Chief minister Vijay Rupani unveiled the 'Gujarat Electric Vehicle Policy 2021', which has been designed to see at least 2 lakh electric vehicles on the state roads in the next four years. The state will provide subsidies ranging from Rs 20,000 to Rs 1,50,000 to buyers of vehicles.

## NMDC's Q4 profit after tax zooms to ₹2,838 crore

India's largest iron ore producer NMDC said its profit after tax for the March quarter was 708 per cent higher at Rs 2,838 crore compared to Rs 351 crore during the year-ago quarter. Turnover stood at Rs 6,848 crore compared with Rs 3,187 crore a year ago. Sumit Deb, CMD, NMDC, said, "This has been an excellent year for the iron and steel sector and it gives me great pride to share these impressive results."

Printed & Published by K Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press at Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. #563/9/D89/E, Behind Andhra Bank Pet Basheerbagh, Komappally, Ranga Reddy Dist. Editor: Kaushik Mitter, RNI Reg. No. APENG/2008/24282. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

## NCLT approves resolution plan Jet Air to get wings again

FC BUREAU  
with agency inputs  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has ruled that Jet Airways India Ltd can resume operations under a new owner more than two years after it collapsed under heavy debt burden, according to Ashish Chhawchharia, the tribunal-appointed resolution professional.

Jet Airways, once the country's biggest private carrier, needs to apply for slots within 90 days and the aviation regulator will make a final decision on allotting them, reports said.

Describing the NCLT nod for the resolution plan as one of the biggest turnaround events for the troubled aviation sector, Chhawchharia hoped that the carrier will be back in the skies by the end of this year provided everything goes well.

The NCLT Mumbai bench, chaired by Mohammad Ajmal and V. Nallasenapathy, has approved the resolution plan for Jet Airways that will have to be implemented in 90 days starting from June 22.

"We are delighted with the go-ahead to the plan. Certainly, we are quite hopeful of the airline's revival. And if all goes well, we hope that by the end of this year, we can see some Jet Airways flights in the skies again," Chhawchharia, a partner at Grant Thornton Bharat



LLP, said.

The airline fell into bankruptcy in 2019 after failing to repay debts. A rescue plan was laid out last year by Dubai-based businessman Murari Lal Jalani and Kalrock Capital Management Ltd, a London-based financial advisory and alternative asset manager.

They pledged in December that Jet Airways would fly again by this summer, operating its historic domestic slots as well as restarting international routes. The revival plan included a dedicated freighter service and hubs in smaller cities beyond Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru, according to a Bloomberg report.

Though it is difficult to say by when the issues of slots will be resolved, Chhawchharia said he was hopeful since the effective date of implementation of the plan is 90 days from the date of approval.

"Everyone will work towards that (resolution of the slot issue as well)," he noted. In a separate statement, Chhawchharia said the

NCLT approval will pave the way for the revival of Jet Airways 2.0 even as there are a few concerns related to the availability of routes/slots for the airlines to fly again.

Even before Covid-19 crushed demand for air travel, the country was a tough place to make money in aviation. Bruising fare wars and high costs made it difficult for many carriers to survive. Kingfisher Airlines Ltd, once the country's second-largest domestic carrier, collapsed in 2012, and flag carrier Air India Ltd is saddled with debt and has been searching for a buyer for years.

Jet Airways has almost 21,000 creditors seeking claims of around \$6 billion. It has lost most of its landing slots in the time it hasn't been flying.

Investors remained optimistic about the airline successfully emerging from a restructuring, sending its shares soaring 316 per cent in 2020 despite the industry being plunged into crisis. Jet Airways rose 5 per cent on Tuesday.

But analysts warned investors who entered the market during the pandemic period against the inherent risks. "Nearly every stock has a certain intrinsic value and with markets at all time highs, more and more stocks are trading close to or even higher than their carefully estimated intrinsic values," said Rahul Shah, co-head of research, Equitymaster.

The market is likely to see volatile trading till Thursday as equity derivative expiry and index heavy weight Reliance Industries annual general meeting are scheduled on June 24.

FPIs were net sellers of equities worth Rs 1,027.94 crore.

## Not against flash sales that benefit consumers: Govt

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, JUNE 22

The government on Tuesday clarified that discount sales will continue on e-commerce platforms, but not "fraudulent flash sales". The government stated that it will not seek disclosure of flash sales, but did not provide clarity as to how it will ascertain whether a flash sale is fraudulent.

Discount sales that benefit maximum to consumers will continue, but not fraudulent flash sales on the e-commerce platforms, Nidhi Khare, additional secretary in the consumer affairs ministry told the media.

"Such competition actually helps the business overall to bring goods at better prices to consumers. We are not against that," she said. However, in Monday's notification, the ministry had defined "flash sale" as "a sale at significantly reduced prices, high discounts or any other such promotions or attractive offers for a predetermined period of time on selective goods and services or otherwise with an intent to draw a large number of consumers".

This definition applies to all sales events organised by e-commerce players. Without elaborating on what is defined as "fraudu-

## ONLINE CHANNELS SELL 45% MOBILES

New Delhi, June 22: Online channel accounted for about 45 per cent of the mobile phone sales in the country in 2020, according to Counterpoint Research.

Online sales accounted for about 26 per cent share of the global mobile phone market last year.

"Covid-19 had a big role in this change in consumer behaviour. By major country, India showed the highest online share at 45 per cent, followed by the UK

and China at 40 per cent," the report said.

Online sales accounted for 31 per cent share in Brazil, 24 per cent in the US, 16 per cent in South Korea and 8 per cent in Nigeria, as per the report.

The share of online handset sales (global) in 2020 increased by nearly 6 per cent points compared to the previous year, while it increased by more than 10 per cent in terms of market size, it added. —PTI

Probably, the government wants to regulate them."

But the government has not provided clarity on how it will find if a flash sale is fraudulent without seeking disclosure.

"We are not going to seek disclosure of flash sales. We are with sales that benefit maximum consumers. If someone wants to complain, there should at least be a provision," she said.

The government will take action on fraudulent flash sales if it receives any complaint, Khare said.

She said the consumer affairs ministry's role is to safeguard the interest of consumers and hence the draft rules. Otherwise, the

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is the main regulator.

When asked why there is no regulation on cheap discount sales offered in offline markets, Khare said: "That is not true. Today, you have features of product liability for stores and anybody can sue them. Consumers can file suit if their rights are infringed."

Pahwa said, "Even now online companies are under the purview of consumer courts. Consumers can approach these courts for products bought both online and offline. I do not understand why Consumer Protection rules should try to regulate e-commerce companies."

The Consumer Protection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020 were first notified in July last year. Their violations attract penal action under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

"E-commerce is set to gain greater market share from an overall retail market perspective. And while regulations are certainly needed to govern this channel, they need to be devised comprehensively and holistically, be consistent in their application to various retail channels and finally be governed by a single law vs various regulations and notifications," said Pahwa.

This brought down the debt-equity ratio of listed

probably, the government wants to regulate them."

But the government has not provided clarity on how it will find if a flash sale is fraudulent without seeking disclosure.

"We are not going to seek disclosure of flash sales. We are with sales that benefit maximum consumers. If someone wants to complain, there should at least be a provision," she said.

The government will take action on fraudulent flash sales if it receives any complaint, Khare said.

She said the consumer affairs ministry's role is to safeguard the interest of consumers and hence the draft rules. Otherwise, the

retailers and airlines.

TCS declared early on it expects only a fourth of its workforce to be in the office on any given day by 2025.

Yet many of its employees asked for a return to the office.

Companies will have to adopt a model somewhere in-between.

Chandrasekaran said during a session about the future of work.

"If the hybrid model has to work, let's not think of it as only office and home," he said. "There's going to be a concept of a third place. I call it a 'third place,' you may

want to call it a satellite office."

In India's case, it could also see improved workplace diversity, another positive outcome of a hybrid model,

Chandrasekaran said.

"Only 23 per cent of women who could be potentially working are in the workforce because issues like commuting, the lack of social infrastructure like child care," he said. "We should not miss this opportunity. It is not just good for GDP and growth, but also it is the right thing to do."

— Bloomberg

## SENSEX CROSSES 53K-MARK BEFORE RETREATING

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD  
MUMBAI, JUNE 22

The Sensex crossed the 53,000-mark for the first time and made a new high of 53,057 on Tuesday in intraday trade, but profit-taking erased the day's gains as the index closed almost flat at 52,588.71, up 14.25 points. The Nifty-50 closed at 15,772.75, up 26.25 points.

Market volatility remained high ahead of the monthly derivative contracts expiry on Thursday.

Strong overnight global markets, record number of Covid vaccinations in a day, daily Covid cases dropping below 50,000 and good monsoon rains coverage cheered the market as it opened. But there was profit-taking as valuations are looking stretched.

The market reaching all-time high is great news for hundreds of thousands of small investors who entered the stock market over the last 12-15 months, as they are sitting on pretty strong gains right now.

But analysts warned investors who entered the market during the pandemic period against the inherent risks. "Nearly every stock has a certain intrinsic value and with markets at all time highs, more and more stocks are trading close to or even higher than their carefully estimated intrinsic values," said Rahul Shah, co-head of research, Equitymaster.

The market is likely to see volatile trading till Thursday as equity derivative expiry and index heavy weight Reliance Industries annual general meeting are scheduled on June 24.

FPIs were net sellers of equities worth Rs 1,027.94 crore.

## Confidence levels drop for working women, young pros



New Delhi, June 22: The second wave of the pandemic has left young Indian professionals and working women increasingly vulnerable to the economic uncertainty, says a survey.

According to LinkedIn's latest Workforce Confidence Index, the plight of India's working women has worsened after the second Covid-19 wave, as the Individual Confidence Index scores of female professionals fell from 57 in March to 49 in early June — a 4x decline compared to working men (58 in March to 56 in June).

Further, the pandemic's recent peak in India has amplified the importance of work experience and professional connections, as young Indians were found twice as worried as their older cohorts about the impact of Covid-19 on their careers.

Nearly 30 per cent of Gen Z professionals and

to 35 per cent at the end of May. Despite this modest revival, confidence levels of working women and young professionals are amongst the lowest in the workforce today," said Ashutosh Gupta, country manager, LinkedIn.

Gupta said "twice as many working women are concerned with job availability compared to working men, and 30 per cent of Gen Z professionals worry due to lack of jobs.

The survey said, India's overall workforce confidence has declined after peaking in early March, with a composite score of 54 (down 4 points from 58 in March).

This decline in confidence is reflected strongly across professionals from creative industries such as entertainment, design, and media and communications, who expressed being uncertain about the future of their employers.

— PTI

## YouTube wins user copyright fight in EU

FOO YUN CHEE  
LUXEMBOURG, JUNE 22

Google's YouTube won its latest copyright-infringement challenge after Europe's top court said online platforms are not liable for users uploading unauthorised works unless the platforms failed to take quick action to remove or block access to the content.

The case marks the latest development in a long-running battle between YouTube, Europe's \$1 trillion crea-

tive industry and online platforms, with the former seeking redress for unauthorised works that are uploaded.

It is also part of the wider debate on how much online platforms and social media should do to police the posting of unauthorised, illegal or hateful content, an issue that European Union regulators are targeting with tough new rules that could come into force next year.

"As currently stands, operators of online plat-

## HUL HIKES SUPPLY CHAIN CAPACITY, PREPARE FOR THIRD COVID WAVE



New Delhi, June 22: FMCG major HUL has added 30 per cent more capacity in its supply chain, making it more flexible and agile, while adding alternate sources

in order to meet the challenges in case of a third wave of Covid-19, its chairman and managing director Sanjiv Mehta said on Tuesday.

Addressing the company's 88th annual general meeting (AGM) virtually, Mehta also

**SHORT TAKES**



Karnam Malleswari

**Malleswari VC of Sports Varsity**

New Delhi: The Delhi government on Tuesday appointed former Olympic medalist weightlifter Karnam Malleswari as the first Vice Chancellor of Delhi Sports University. "The Lt Governor, who is also Chancellor of Delhi Sports University, is pleased to appoint the Padmashri awardee as first Vice Chancellor of the university," said an official order.

Malleswari is the first Indian woman weightlifter to bring home an Olympic medal. She created history at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 by lifting 110 kilogram and 130 kilogram in the 'snatch' and 'clean and jerk' categories.

Born in Vosavandipeta near Amaravatipetla in Andhra Pradesh, Malleswari started her career when she was 12, under coach Neelamshetty Appanna. In 1997, she married a fellow weightlifter Rajesh Tyagi, and settled down in Delhi. In 1995, she received the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, India's highest sporting honour, and in 1999, the civilian Padma Shri award. The Delhi Assembly had in 2019 passed a bill to set up a Delhi Sports University (DSU), which will offer graduation, post-graduation and doctorate degrees in cricket, football, and hockey among other sports. — PTI

**Handball prez Jagan for Tokyo**

Hyderabad: Handball Federation of India president Arishanapally Jagan Mohan Rao has been nominated to attend the Tokyo Olympics as an Indian representative. With the Indian Olympic Association naming him in the Indian delegation to Tokyo, Mr Rao is the first official from Telugu states at the Tokyo Olympics so far. After receiving the official letter from IOA secretary Ravi Mehta on Tuesday, Mr Rao expressed happiness at the opportunity to watch the Olympics.

**Indian swimmers in Olympic lane**

New Delhi: The Swimming Federation of India has nominated Srihari Nataraj and Maana Patel to compete in the Olympics via the University places qualification system, which allows countries to recommend their two highest ranked swimmers for the show-piece if none makes the cut through the regulation process. The University quota allows one male and one female competitor from a country to participate in the Olympics, provided no other swimmer from the same gender qualifies for the Games or receives a FINA invite based on his or her Olympic Selection time (B time). Both the Indian swimmers, who will participate in the 100m backstroke event, have been nominated as they are the highest-ranked Indian swimmers in their respective genders. — PTI

**Golfer Lahiri grabs last Games spot**

New Delhi: Seasoned Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri qualified for his second successive Olympic Games by grabbing the last available spot in the final Tokyo Games Rankings for men, released on Tuesday. The Indian made the cut at the 60th spot, the last quota available as per the Games rankings. India was eligible for one spot and Lahiri being the highest-placed golfer from the country at the 340th position, qualified. "I'm feeling really blessed and fortunate right now. I was obviously not expecting it. I had no clue or information about what was going on with the withdrawals," Lahiri said. Lahiri is lone Indian golfer in the men's field as of now and women player Aditi Ashok should also comfortably make the grade as she currently 44th on the list. — PTI

# SHAMI KABAB

**India feast on Mohammad's special as NZ bowled out for 249**

**Southampton, June 22:** Mohammed Shami's artistry was on full display as India bowled New Zealand out for 249 on the fifth day of the World Test Championship final here.

India were 64 for two with a lead of 32 runs at stumps.

Pacer Tim Southee removed both the openers, Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma.

The finale is tantalisingly poised with the contest now spilling into the reserve day.

New Zealand showed more intent on keeping the scoreboard ticking with Kyle Jamieson (21) and Tim Southee (30) throwing their bats around for useful runs which certainly put the pressure back on India going into the final session of the day.

The tea break was called after the fall of last New Zealand wicket.

Mohammed Shami (4/76), after a mesmerising morning spell, got a couple of more wickets in the post-lunch session. He dismissed Colin de Grandhomme with a delivery angled in and Jamieson with a bouncer.

During the final half-hour, India's senior-most player Ishant Sharma (3/48) denied half-century to a dogged skipper Kane Williamson (49) with a classic Test match dismissal — delivery rearing up and shaping out which was edged to Virat Kohli at third slip.

Sensing that mere survival would spell doom, New Zealand scored 114 runs in the post-lunch session even as Shami



Mohammed Shami (left) celebrates the dismissal of New Zealand's B.J. Watling (right) on the fifth day of the World Test Championship final at the Rose Bowl in Southampton on Tuesday. — AP

## SCORECARD

**India first innings: 217**

New Zealand first innings (o/n 101/2): Tom Latham c Kohli b Ashwin 30, Devon Conway c Mohammed Shami b I. Sharma 54, Kane Williamson (c) c Kohli b I. Sharma 49, Ross Taylor c Shubman Gill b Mohammed Shami 11, Henry Nicholls c R. Sharma b I. Sharma 7, B.J. Watling b Mohammed Shami 1, Colin de Grandhomme lbw b Mohammed Shami 13, Kyle Jamieson c Umbrath b Mohammed Shami 21, Tim Southee b Jadeja 30, Neil Wagner c Rahane b Ashwin 0, Trent Boult not out 7, Extras (b 4, lb 16, nb 6) 26. **Total (in 99.2 overs) 249.**

FoW: 1-24, 2-51  
Bowling: Tim Southee 9-3-17-2, Trent Boult 8-120-0, Kyle Jamieson 10-4-15-0, Neil Wagner 3-0-8-0.

## Cook predicts beating Eng will be tough task for India

### BUTTLER UNLIKELY TO PLAY REMAINDER OF IPL

**London, June 22:** Star England wicketkeeper-batsman Jos Buttler doesn't expect to play in the remainder of the IPL, to be held in September-October, if it clashes with the national team's schedule.

The IPL is expected to clash with England's limited tours of Bangladesh and Pakistan ahead of the T20 World Cup.

"Usually the pocket of the IPL doesn't clash with any international games, which makes it a very easy tournament to be available for. When it clashes with international cricket, England will take precedence I'd have thought," Buttler was quoted as saying by *The Telegraph*.

The IPL had to be suspended in May after 29 games due to multiple Covid-19 cases were reported in its bio-bubble.

The rest of the games have been moved to the UAE from India. — PTI



Jos Buttler

quoted as saying by *The Telegraph*.

The IPL had to be suspended in May after 29

games due to multiple Covid-19 cases were reported in its bio-bubble. The rest of the games have been moved to the UAE from India. — PTI

month. Cook said England have been left "chasing their tail" in the last few Tests due to an incorrect rotation policy which has robbed skipper Joe Root the opportunity to play his best XI. The new rest-and-rotate policy in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic has seen many of England's top players being left out of the tour.

"India will start pretty well but, consistently over five games, to beat England at home is a monumental effort. So I think if England hang in with India early on, there's no reason why they can't win."

England have lost the away series in India 1-3 before suffering a 1-0 defeat against New Zealand earlier this month. Cook said England have been left "chasing their tail" in the last few Tests due to an incorrect rotation policy which has robbed skipper Joe Root the opportunity to play his best XI. The new rest-and-rotate policy in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic has seen many of England's top players being left out of the tour.

"India will start pretty well but, consistently over five games, to beat England at home is a monumental effort. So I think if England hang in with India early on, there's no reason why they can't win."

England have lost the away series in India 1-3 before suffering a 1-0 defeat against New Zealand earlier this month. Cook said England have been left "chasing their tail" in the last few Tests due to an incorrect rotation policy which has robbed skipper Joe Root the opportunity to play his best XI. The new rest-and-rotate policy in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic has seen many of England's top players being left out of the tour.

"India will start pretty well but, consistently over five games, to beat England at home is a monumental effort. So I think if England hang in with India early on, there's no reason why they can't win."

England have lost the away series in India 1-3 before suffering a 1-0 defeat against New Zealand earlier this month. Cook said England have been left "chasing their tail" in the last few Tests due to an incorrect rotation policy which has robbed skipper Joe Root the opportunity to play his best XI. The new rest-and-rotate policy in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic has seen many of England's top players being left out of the tour.

just weeks after undergoing brain surgery for a blood clot. "I never had access to the medical history made by the treating doctors," Forlini said in a written statement handed to prosecutors in San Isidro, a source close to the case said.

Nancy Forlini, 52, is the fourth of seven people under investigation for manslaughter to testify in the case that has gripped the country. Like the three before her, she pointed the finger of responsibility at Maradona's treating doctors. But her written statement claimed that her job was limited to managing the care prescribed by Maradona's general practitioner Leopoldo Luque and his psychiatrist Augustina Cosachev, both of whom are being investigated and are due to be interviewed later this week.

Prosecutors opened an investigation after a board of experts looking into Maradona's death found he had received inadequate care and was abandoned to his fate for a "prolonged, agonising period".

Last week, nurses Dahiana Gisela Madrid,

### YOUNIS STEPS DOWN AS PAK'S BATTING COACH

**Karachi, June 22:** Former captain Younis Khan on Tuesday stepped down as Pakistan's batting coach in a surprise decision which the cricket board said was agreed upon "reluctantly but amicably" even though no reasons were specified.

The Pakistan team is due to start a tour of the UK from June 25 to July 20 for three ODIs and three T20s. The team will next go to the West Indies from July 21 to August 24 to feature in five T20s and two Tests.

"Pakistan men's national cricket team will travel to the United Kingdom without a batting coach, while the decision to appoint Younis Khan's replacement for the West Indies tour will be made in due course," a Pakistan Cricket Board statement said two days before the team's departure.

The announcement was followed by speculation that Younis himself had decided to quit the position as he was not happy with his role and wanted greater say in selection matters.

According to a source, he was not satisfied with the way the national team is being prepared for the future. Younis was appointed last year in November on a two-year contract until the 2022 ICC T20 World Cup. — PTI

squad in the last eight Tests. "You have to say it hasn't worked for Roto, and I do genuinely feel sorry for him," said Cook.

"When you're playing for England, or you're the captain, coach or selector, you get judged on end results most of the time and he hasn't had his best players available." — PTI

squad in the last eight Tests. "You have to say it hasn't worked for Roto, and I do genuinely feel sorry for him," said Cook.

"When you're playing for England, or you're the captain, coach or selector, you get judged on end results most of the time and he hasn't had his best players available." — PTI

squad in the last eight Tests. "You have to say it hasn't worked for Roto, and I do genuinely feel sorry for him," said Cook.

"When you're playing for England, or you're the captain, coach or selector, you get judged on end results most of the time and he hasn't had his best players available." — PTI

### NO CONTACT

Forlini said she had never even been to the house where Maradona received treatment and only spoke to Luque and Cosachev by telephone. "I didn't even know the patient or the people around him. My contact was with the carers, occasionally with the family and with the treating doctors," she said.

— PTI

## TOKYO | OLYMPICS

# Rijiju hopes for best show ever

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 22

India should do better than what it has in the previous editions. We are looking forward to a new standard and record (in terms of medal count). I am very hopeful. — KIREN RIJU

Sports Minister

Sports Minister

"We need to galvanise the country in cheering our athletes. They need our support as they set out for the biggest sporting competition," Rijiju said in an online interaction with media while announcing the launch of a slew of programmes to pump up the Indian contingent ahead of the Tokyo Olympics.

"India's presence must be big. For that we have short, medium and long term targets," he said, setting off the 30-day countdown.

Asked about medal expectations, he did not put a number to it but said: "India should do better than what it has in the previous editions. We are looking forward to a new standard and record (in terms of medal count). I am very hopeful."

"Our athletes have been provided the best platforms to practice, some of them are training abroad, others in important and well-equipped centres in India. The government has been providing full support and reaching out to the athletes. The total funding through Annual Calendar and Training Competition (including TOPS — Target Olympic Podium Scheme) in the last four years has been ₹1,100 crore for the training of athletes," he added.

The Minister also said that an Olympic Cell has been created in the Indian Embassy in Tokyo to assist athletes. "Should any of our sportspersons contract Covid during the Games, we will provide them all the necessary back-up support so that they are not inconvenienced," he said in reply to a question.



Sports minister Kiren Rijiju (centre) during a virtual press conference ahead of the Tokyo Games on Tuesday.

## MANPREET CAPTAIN OF MEN'S HOCKEY SQUAD

**New Delhi, June 22:** India on Tuesday named incumbent Manpreet Singh as the skipper of the men's hockey team for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics where he will have two deputies in defenders Birendra Lakra and Harmanpreet Singh.

India had announced a 16-member team for the show-piece event last week but refrained from naming the team's leadership group.

"...I am humbled to have this opportunity of representing India at the Olympics for the third time, this time as team Captain. It is a very proud moment for me to be given this charge," Manpreet said in a statement issued by Hockey India.

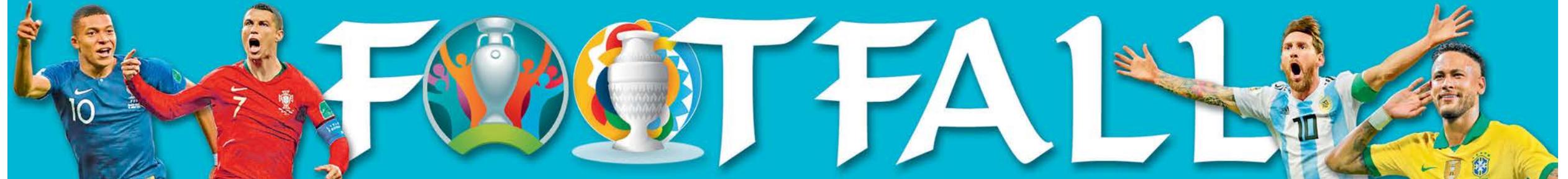
**IOA have media rights of athletes**

New Delhi, June 22: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Tuesday asserted authority on the digital, video and image rights of the country's Tokyo Games-bound athletes and said it would take action against those who do not agree to this arrangement.

The IOA said that there have been instances of resistance from few Olympic-qualified athletes on the ground that they have sponsorship contracts with other companies or entities. However, the IOA did not take any names.

"This is to inform you that for the Olympics, all digital, video and image rights of qualified athletes are with the IOA and IOA has the authority to utilise the same for all its sponsors etc," IOA president Narinder Batra and secretary general Rajeev Mehta said.

Mehta said that the Olympic-qualified athletes will have to wear only the kits provided by the IOA and action will be taken against athletes, officials or federations if they violate these rules.



DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 23 JUNE 2021

pg|12

## Quick passes



A Ukraine fan dances ahead of her team's Euro Group 'C' match against Austria in Bucharest, Romania, on Monday night. — AP

## Champs Portugal face flying France

France advanced without kicking a ball, and Portugal can move on as well even with a loss on Wednesday. Hardly the heavyweight showdown many had hoped for in a match pitting defending champion Portugal against World Cup champion France, and Cristiano Ronaldo against Kylian Mbappe.

Results on Tuesday guaranteed France a spot in the Round of 16. A one-goal loss for Portugal should be enough as long as Hungary don't win in Germany.

Still, that's unlikely to alter France coach Didier Deschamps' way of thinking, and he is thinking only of first place. "We still hold the cards. If we win then we'll finish first," Deschamps said.

The winner of Group 'F' will play one of the third-place finishers. Portugal can still win the group by beating France, but it depends on what happens in Munich in the match between Germany and Hungary. — AP

## Struggling Spain summon Sergio

Spain may summon their most experienced player for the most important match at the Euro. Sergio Busquets is set to return for the game against Slovakia on Wednesday, when "La Roja" face the possibility of an embarrassing elimination in front of their fans.

Only victory for Spain will be enough to ensure a spot in the Round of 16. A draw may be enough, but only if Poland don't defeat Sweden in the other Group 'E' match. Both games will be played at the same time.

The 32-year-old Busquets, the only player left from Spain's World Cup-winning squad in 2010, didn't play in the team's first two matches after testing positive for the Coronavirus. The Barcelona midfielder had to go into isolation and only rejoined the squad on Friday. — AP

## Poland have to punch real big

Robert Lewandowski is facing another early exit from a major international football tournament. Unless, that is, Poland can find a way past one of the tightest defences at the European Championship.

Beating Sweden is Poland's only route to the knockout stage of Euro — and that's something no team has managed in seven games in 2021.

Where there is Lewandowski, though, there is hope for Poland.

Sweden, after all, have four points from their opening two games in Group 'E' — a 0-0 draw against Spain and a 1-0 win over Slovakia — and were assured of qualifying for the Round of 16 because of the results of Monday's games.

A win would secure a first place in the group. Then again, so might a draw. — AP

## CHRIST'S SAKE!

Eriksen mates come back from the dead, into knockouts

Copenhagen, June 22: Denmark made it through to the Last 16 of Euro on Monday after a convincing 4-1 win over Russia which alongside Belgium's victory against Finland meant they finished second in Group 'B'.

Goals from Mikkel Damsgaard, Yussuf Poulsen, Andreas Christensen and Joakim Maehle gave the Danes their first win of the tournament on a joyous evening at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen.

Delirious fans showered each other with beer as Denmark rattled in the goals that allowed them to end the group stage in party mood after the trauma of Christian Eriksen's

**Denmark 4**  
(Mikkel Damsgaard 38, Yussuf Poulsen 59, Andreas Christensen 79, Joakim Maehle 82)

**Russia 1**  
(Artem Dzyuba 70-pen)

mid-match collapse in their opening fixture against the Finns.

Kasper Hjulmand's team will face Wales in the Last 16 in Amsterdam on Saturday, while the Russians go home after coming off worst in a three-way, head-to-head tie-breaker with Finland and the Danes.

Hjulmand praised the "amazing" team spirit and friendship after revelling in the on-pitch celebrations. "If anyone deserves this it's our players. I can't imagine how they managed to come back from what they went through," he told reporters.

"I think it helps the team and hopefully it gives the whole country some good moments," he added.

The Danes came into the match with no points from their first two matches but knowing a win over Russia by two goals or more and defeat for Finland would guarantee them passage



Andreas Christensen (right) of Denmark celebrates after scoring against Russia in their Euro Group 'B' match at the Parken stadium in Copenhagen on Tuesday. — AP

from the group as the second-placed team.

Denmark continued with the same aggression as in their defeats to Finland and Belgium but initially struggled to create chances against a Russia team who were content to keep things tight.

The nominal home team, Russia enraged the Danish

fans by taking their time over set-pieces and throw-ins as early as midway through the first half.

Six minutes before break Damsgaard showed why he was picked to replace Eriksen as Denmark's playmaker by scoring the first goal that opened the floodgates. — AFP



Austrian coach Franco Foda (centre) celebrates with players after winning the Euro Group 'C' match against Ukraine at the National Arena in Bucharest on Monday night. — AP

## Austria through to pre-quarters

**Austria 1**  
(Christoph Baumgartner 21)

**Ukraine 0**

Wembley on June 26 after advancing from the opening round at a major tournament for the first time since the 1982 World Cup.

"I can't quite comprehend it all, my head is really hurting! This is really special for all of us," Baumgartner told Austrian broadcaster ORF.

Austria will play Italy at

"The emotions right after the match were great. We wanted to write history, we did it, those are the great moments of football," said coach Franco Foda.

Ukraine, eliminated in the group stage at the past two European Championships, must wait to find out if they advance as one of the four best third-placed teams.

"I have no idea yet what to expect or what will happen," said Ukraine coach Andriy Shevchenko.

Baumgartner's evening ended prematurely due to injury. — AFP

recalled to the Austria line-up after the forward missed the 0-2 defeat by the Netherlands while serving a one-match ban for insulting a North Macedonia player in their opening game.

Needing victory to be assured of a place in the next round, Austria went ahead as Baumgartner beat 18-year-old defender Illia Zabarnyi to Alaba's corner and poked beyond Georgiy Bushchan.

Baumgartner's evening ended prematurely due to injury. — AFP

## Hungary up against heavyweight Germany

Munich, June 22: Both Germany and Hungary are trying to avoid early elimination from the European Championship.

The Hungarians need to win when the teams meet on Wednesday, the Germans don't.

The match will take place following a request to light the stadium in rainbow colours to protest what the Munich city council said was the "homophobic and transphobic legislation of the Hungarian government."

Hungary can reach the Round of 16 after defender Attila Fiola scored in a 1-1 draw with World Cup champion France. Hungary lost to Portugal 0-3 in their opening game. Germany bounced back from their opening loss to France with a 4-2 win over Portugal.

France leads Group 'F'

with four points ahead of its final group game against Portugal. Both Portugal and Germany have three points, and Hungary has one.

Influential forward

Thomas Mller is doubtful

with a knee injury sustained in the win over Portugal and defender Mats Hummels had a tendon problem in his knee. Both were recalled to the squad specifically for the tournament because of their experience and they've had a major impact.

Other players with minor injuries — Ilkay Gundogan, Toni Kroos and Robin Goseas — took part in Tuesday's final training session, when Mueller and

right back Lukas Klostermann were the only players missing.

Whoever Loew opts for will have to contend with a well-drilled defence.

Hungary will have to do without a full stadium of support for the first time.

Both their previous games took place in Budapest, the only venue at the tournament to allow full capacity. Hungary captain dm Szalai, who went off after receiving a blow to his head against France, has been cleared to play. — AP

## Argentina check into quarters

Sao Paulo, June 22: Alejandro Gomez scored in the 10th minute as Argentina beat Paraguay 1-0 on Monday and secured their place in the Copa America knockout stage.

The result at the Mane Garrincha stadium in Brasilia moved Argentina atop Group A with seven points from three matches. The game also gave Lionel Messi a record 147th cap for the national team, equalling the mark of retired defender Javier Mascherano.

Captain Messi, seeking his first major title with the national team, had to work with a team impacted by six changes in the starting line-up.

Defenders German Pezzella and Nicolas Tagliafico, midfielders Rodrigo de Paul and Leandro Paredes; and forwards Sergio Aguero and Angel di Maria started. Nicolas Otamendi, Marcos Acuna, Leandro Paredes, Giovani Lo Celso, Lautaro Martinez and Nico

**Argentina 1**

(Alejandro Gomez 10)

**Paraguay 0**

Gonzalez were left out of the starting lineup.

The changes did not stop Argentina from starting strongly. Early in the game, Messi found Di Maria on the right, and the veteran winger eluded the Paraguayan defense with an assist to Gomez. The striker lifted shot over Paraguayan goalkeeper Antony Silva.

Argentina forced Silva to make important saves in the first half but the energy of the team waned in the second half, as it has in several recent matches.

"I was waiting for this opportunity. I am thinking of my family, my friends. It comes to your mind that you made a lot of effort (to be there). I had the patience to wait," Argentina's Gomez said after the match. — AP



Alejandro Gomez (left) of Argentina and Paraguay's Alberto Espinola vie for the ball during their Copa America match at the Mane Garrincha Stadium in Brasilia on Tuesday.

## BIG BELGIANS BLAST PAST FLAILING FINNS

Saint Petersburg, June 22: Belgium scored two late goals to see off a valiant Finland 2-0 on Monday, pushing their opponents to the brink of a group-stage exit from Group 'B'.

Finnish goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky's 74th-minute own goal and Romelu Lukaku's third strike of the tournament ensured Belgium finished top of Group 'B'.

The world's number-one-ranked side will face a third-placed team in the next round on Sunday in

**Belgium 2**

(Lukas Hradecky 74-og, Romelu Lukaku 81)

**Finland 0**

Seville, Finland finish third in the group, but appear unlikely to be one of the four best third-placed teams.

Finland knew they would only need a point to go through if Denmark won against Russia, but despite holding off Belgium for more than 70 minutes, they couldn't keep it up in the Saint Petersburg heat.

This was arguably the strongest XI Belgium have fielded in the tournament so far, with captain Eden Hazard, De Bruyne and Axel Witsel all starting after recent struggles with injury. They did not take long to find their stride. — AFP

**Chile 1**

(Eduardo Vargas 26)

**Uruguay 1**

(Arturo Vidal 66-og)

Cup qualifying competition. Chilean goalkeeper Claudio Bravo made two difficult saves in the first 10 minutes, both to shots taken by Gorgian de Arrascaeta.

And then Chile scored. Vargas had a one-two with Ben Brereton on the right flank, entered the penalty box and shot with little angle past goalkeeper Fernando Muslera.

Uruguay once again struggled to give opportunities to Suarez and Edinson Cavani, their two talismanic players. — AP

## COVID-19 CASES IN COPA KEEP RISING, TOUCH 140

Sao Paulo, June 22: There were 140 known Covid-19 cases at the Copa America in Brazil, up from 66 positive tests on Thursday. South American football body CONMEBOL said in a statement that of the 15,235 tests, the number of people infected was 0.9% of the total. Most of the affected are workers, members of squads and outsourced staffers, CONMEBOL said.

In comparison with the previous figures, the incidence of the Coronavirus is lower, which is a clear sign that preemptive measures and health protocols are working as expected.

On Sunday, Chile admitted some of their players at Copa America violated the tournament's virus protocols after a barber visited the players' hotel in the Brazilian city of Cuiba. The Chilean FA did not give the number or names of players involved, but said they will be fined. — AP

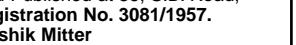
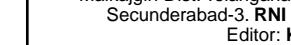
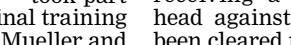
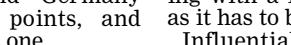
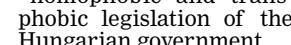
## Live on TV

EURO

Group Stage: Sweden vs Poland, Slovakia vs Spain from 9.30 pm; Germany vs Hungary, Portugal vs France from 12.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1, 2, HD

COPA AMERICA

Group Stage: Ecuador vs Peru from 2.30 am (Thursday); Brazil vs Colombia from 5.30 am (Thursday) on Sony Ten 1, 2, HD



Regd. No. HQ/SD/509/2021-23

Printed and Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Vallabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist, Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3. RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Kaushik Mitter