





# Womenia

## Take care of your skin on a sunny day

TANAYA SARMA

MANY women are worried about dry skin, sun-burns, rashes or countless other ways that could trouble your skin this summer. There's absolutely no doubt about the fact that taking care of one's skin is essential, even if it's just about spending most of your time indoors. Things like working and studying from home and irregular sleep cycles do take a toll on the health of your skin. So, here are ten tips that will help your skin be summer-ready and combat all these issues and then some.

### Don't be stingy with hydration

Whether it's your food or your fluids, doing simple things like drinking plenty of fluids and avoiding sugary aerated drinks can go a long way. Replace tea and coffee with coconut water, sugarcane juice and other natural fruit juices. Eat light meals with green vegetables and fruits that are high on water content like watermelons and cucumbers while avoiding any oily and fried foods.

### Only use quality sunscreen

A good sunscreen can protect your skin from getting harmed and aging from the sun's radiation. So even if you're just stepping out to walk your dog, in that moment, a quality sunscreen is your true best friend.

### Maintain a skincare regimen

Your skin during the summer is like a magnet for dust and pollutants, all thanks to humidity. So make sure to cleanse with co-



conut oil and/or Jojoba oil, tone with rose water and moisturize once again with Jojoba oil to give your skin a wholesome care treatment.

### De-tan naturally at home

Use tomato juice to clean your face or make a facepack out of gram power (besan), some curd, a pinch of turmeric powder and some lemon juice to de-tan at your own comfort and pace.

### Use calming natural products

Battling skin rashes and burns can become easier if you use aloe gel and some sandalwood paste. Aloe gel has anti-inflammatory properties which make it a great option to keep your skin cool.

### Hydrating your skin is important too

Using food-grade rose water

and spraying/dabbing it around your face and neck two to three times a day is a sure shot way to keep your skin hydrated and toned.

### Use jojoba oil to tackle oily skin

Jojoba oil tricks our skin pores into thinking that it has produced enough oil since they are similar in nature, leading to zero excess oil built up on the face.

### Use an antiseptic face pack

Just add two to three drops of tea tree oil to your facepack and make a natural antiseptic solution for your skincare routine. Always make sure to use a therapeutic grade tea tree oil/eucalyptus oil.

### Take a natural medicine bath

Neem leaves and Eucalyptus

oil are excellent ingredients to add to your bath and relax while every pore in your body is decongested and it opens up fresher than ever before!

### Use natural mosquito repellants

Mosquito repellants in the market currently are loaded with chemicals and are a big deterrent for the well-being of your skin. Instead, just add 8-10 drops of Eucalyptus oil to 15ml of Lemongrass water and spray it on your arms and legs. It's risk-free and super effective in keeping mosquitoes away.

Beat the heat with these simple skincare tips and make your skin as soft, glowy and perfect as you ever wanted.

(The author is a Co-Founder of Speaking Herbs)

## Make your own chemical free lip balms

Usually, women use lip balms or lip gloss multiple times in a day. It instantly makes your lips smooth and soft and bring glow to the face. The product has become of the favourite beauty product and is found in every handbag. It is reached when your lips become dry and chapped due to the weather or the lipsticks you apply. You get different varieties of lip balms in the market from plain Vaseline lip balm to fruity ones in gorgeous shades. However, these store-bought products have many chemicals that can be harmful for your lips.

Here we are bringing you the pretty easy ways to prepare your own lip balm which will be chemical free.

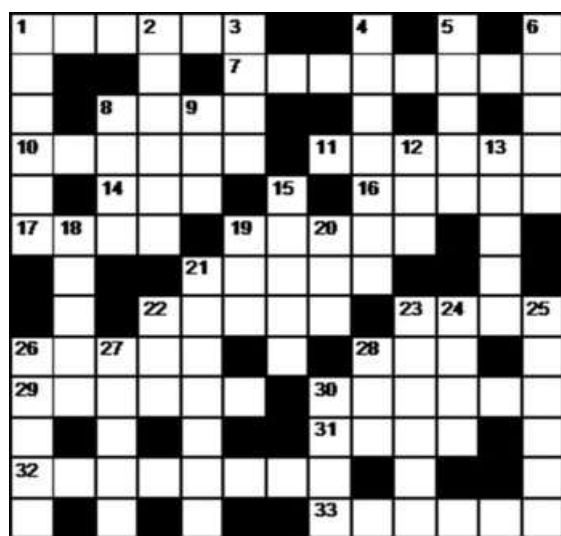


**Lime lip balm:** Lime lip balm will keep your lips soft and fresh through the day.

Place a double boiler over low flame. Add cocoa butter, almond oil, beeswax and coconut oil to it. Stir and let the oils melt and combine. Remove from the flame and add in lime essential oil and mix well. Transfer it to a small con-

tainer. This will take about an hour to cool and harden. You can use this lime lip balm for about three months. After that, make a fresh batch for use.

**Raspberry lip balm:** Who doesn't like a tinted lip balm? You will not have to use a lipstick if you have a tinted lip balm. You need freeze dried raspberry for this recipe. Use a double boiler to combine the coconut oil and beeswax. Once the mixture is melted, remove it from the flame. Add the grounded freeze dried raspberries and mix well to combine the ingredients. Transfer the balm to a small container. The balm will harden in about 10 minutes. If you want harder consistency, you need to increase the amount of beeswax.



SOLUTION TO JUNE 11

### CROSSWORD

#### Across

- 1 Literary castaway (6)
- 7 Reading disorder (8)
- 8 Competed (4)
- 10 Capital of Austria (6)
- 11 A tax or duty (6)
- 14 Short native? (3)
- 16 Zing or pizzazz (5)
- 17 Mark (4)
- 19 Dawn or first light (3-2)
- 21 Royal house (5)
- 22 Arrives (5)
- 23 Squeal (4)
- 26 Organization (5)
- 28 Make mistakes (3)
- 29 Cadaver (6)
- 30 Distressing situation (6)
- 31 High male voice (4)
- 32 Inflexible quality (8)
- 33 Submerged (6)

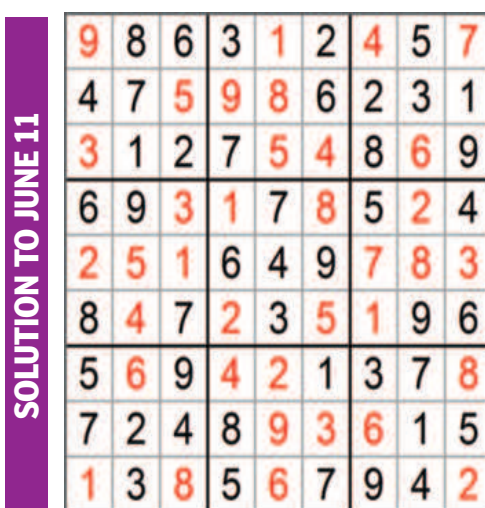
#### Across

- 1 Sailcloth (6)

#### Down

- 2 Black eye (6)
- 3 Norse poems (4)
- 4 Uproar (7)
- 5 Law or proposition (5)
- 6 Our planet (5)
- 8 Miles from Hollywood (4)
- 9 Abstract being ? (3)
- 12 Explosive sound (3)
- 13 Slop; a lighter (5)
- 15 W. H. \_\_\_\_, poet (5)
- 18 Small film role (5)
- 19 Total (3)
- 20 Rejections (3)
- 21 Cut of beef (7)
- 22 Trophy (3)
- 23 Largest moon of Neptune (6)
- 24 Jason's craft (4)
- 25 A young cat (6)
- 26 Fright (5)
- 27 Shallow gardening baskets (5)
- 28 Bend in a pipe (3)
- 30 Gives compensation for (4)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO JUNE 11

### NEWS ROUNDUP

## Minissha Lamba launches app to engage with fans

Actress Minissha Lamba has launched her own application, which focuses on providing her fans a scope to engage directly with her via chats and video calls.

"Minissha official app" will let fans connect directly with the actress, which is not possible all the time using social media applications. Apparently, Minissha had always dreamt of talking to her favourite stars while growing up but there was no interface back then.

"There have been lots of messages from fans and followers on how their messages were lost due to too many comments or messages. That pushed me to work on my own app. I wish to connect to my fans via

video chats or normal chats directly and the app empowers me to do so. It's live now and available," she says.

The actress, who was last seen on the silver screen in 2017 film "Bhoomi", also wants her fans to stay safe during the tough times of Covid pandemic.

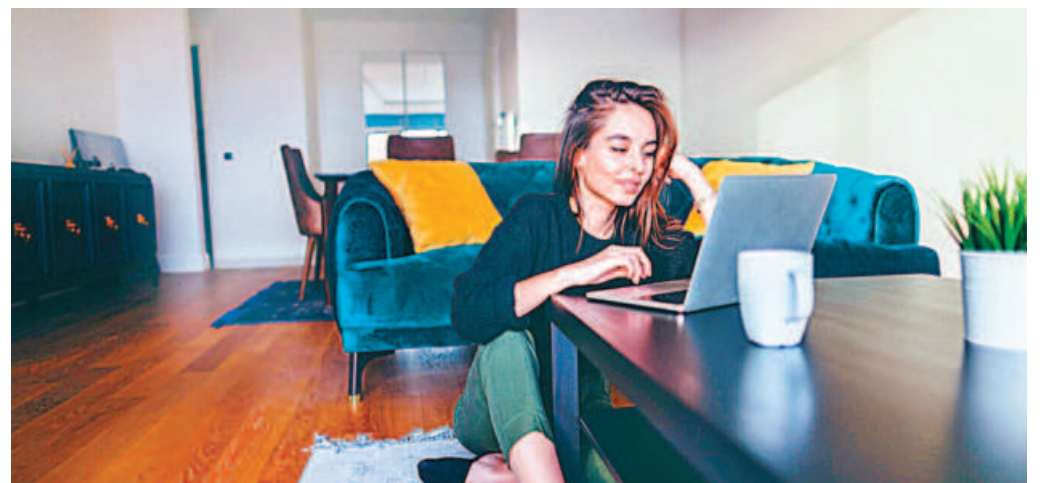
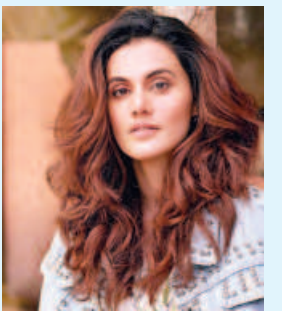
"I pray and wish for everyone to stay safe during these times. It's been tough and let's get stick to protocols to the best of our abilities," she says.

Earlier this year, the actress was also part of a play called "Hello Zindagi", which was written by actress Smriti Bansal and was performed in New Delhi in March.



### TAAPSEE PANNU @TAAPSEE

Ek tha Raja, ek thi Rani, hui shuru ek khooni prem kahani.  
#HaseenDillruba  
#TheUltimateKaunspiracy



## The future of workwear

PUJA GUPTA

Women's workwear, which was initially confined in the boundaries of monotonous monochromatic, simple solids and rigid silhouettes, has undergone a humongous change. Today formal and daily wear for work is more youthful, vibrant and chic that resonates with the sartorial choices of contemporary women.

The pandemic, however, brought a major change to the this segment, shifting from the standard of a "work uniform" to professional comfort wear.

Rupanshi, founder of Qua, says, "Considering the current situation, consumers are likely to work from home for the foreseeable future. Key categories like work-leisure that are trans-seasonal will come to the forefront. During the lockdown, we saw a tremendous rise in our sales as consumers are now moving towards all-year-long comfy workwear by slow fashion brands."

Qua has been catering to the workwear needs of women by including flowy dresses, shirts with statement sleeves, and comfy cords besides the classic shirts, pantsuits and trousers

So what's the forecast in the coming months?

After months of multiple lockdowns, consumers have invested more in comfort-wear and work-leisures, and are looking forward to styling them in a way that can adapt between professional and private environments. The coming months will see the comeback of the comfort-driven approach and it is going to be a year of comfort over trends.

According to Rupanshi, "Amidst the chaos of the pandemic, nothing seems more appropriate and comforting than softer and breathable fabrics like cotton, viscose and linen. With the lifestyle change, the demand for functionality and versatility will take precedence in workwear. The waist-up dressing will continue to prevail which will put the spotlight on detailing like statement sleeves, necklines and exquisite pieces of jewelry. Puff sleeves, power shoulders, ruching and knot details, contemporary collars, wide-legged and cotton-lined pants, pantsuits in vibrant colours, oversized shirts and minimalistic jewelry will reinvent workwear and empower women while working from home. She adds, "Fresh and calming colours like sorbet

pastels, which are hassle-free and easy to pair, will be preferred and generate a greater than usual demand. Solids might take a backseat, unusual pairing of colour and prints will be favoured to give a touch of vibrancy to the monotonous 'WFH' lifestyle. Colours mixed with neutrals, pastel colour-blocking, combination of different prints like florals, geometric and stripes, will be seen having their fashion moments in the coming months."

During the first lockdown, Qua introduced dresses, co-ords and jewelry in its collection. The collection comprised versatile styles that women could easily wear while working from home because honestly, it wasn't going to be pyjamas forever, and it received a pretty good response.

"Presently, we are seeing a rising demand for comfort fits and relaxed silhouettes. Hence, in our next collection, we'll be introducing jumpsuits and Supima t-shirts along with more dresses and pantsuits," tells Rupanshi.

## Peanut Butter Cookie Day

Most people are familiar with peanut butter for its presence on sandwiches, often accompanied by jelly...or bananas

But peanut butter is also an extremely useful ingredient in the kitchen, added to savoury meals or sweet desserts. Today, the featured baked good is the rich and tasty peanut butter cookie.

Peanut butter cookies are yummy snacks that can be enjoyed any time, but especially on Peanut Butter Cookie Day.

Take some time to enjoy and celebrate Peanut Butter Cookie Day in a variety of creative ways, such as:

### Bake Peanut Butter Cookies

Celebrate Peanut Butter Cookie Day by baking your own cookies using a traditional recipe – make sure to put traditional criss-cross fork marks on top – then enjoy eating them with friends and family.

One peanut butter cookie recipe is so easy that all it requires is three ingredients and can be whipped up super fast. No chilling or rising or waiting at all. Just mix, roll, bake and eat!

### Try out this super simple recipe:

- 1 cup of peanut butter
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 egg

Stir the ingredients together, roll into balls, press with a fork, then bake in a 350-degree oven for about 12 minutes. Voila! Super easy and tasty peanut butter cookies.

Because this recipe is so easy, it's a great one to try out with kids who are learning how to bake. And since it doesn't contain flour, it's a great option for people with gluten allergies. But don't forget to preheat the oven because the cookie dough will be ready to go in no time!

THIS DAY IN HISTORY  
June 11th



# Uttarakhand disaster was caused by massive rock and ice avalanche: Study

NEW DELHI

THE February 7 disaster in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, that resulted in over 200 dead or missing, was the result of an avalanche that dropped about 27 million cubic metres of rock and glacier ice from the nearby Ronti Peak, according to a study by an international team of researchers. The region experienced a humanitarian tragedy on February 7 this year, when a wall of debris and water barrelled down the Ronti Gad, Rishiganga and Dhauliganga river valleys. To investigate the cause,

scope, and impacts of the disaster, a global team of 53 scientists came together in the days following the tragedy. The researchers, including those from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi and Indian Institute of Technology Indore, determined that the flood was caused by falling rock and glacier ice that melted on its descent, and not by a lake or diverted river.

The study, published in the journal Science on Thursday, suggests that climate change is contributing to such events happening more frequently, and highlights risks of increasing de-

velopment projects in fragile environments. The rock and ice avalanche rapidly transformed into an extraordinarily large and mobile debris flow that transported boulders 20 metres in diameter, and scoured the valley walls up to 220 metres above the valley floor, the researchers said. The finding will help researchers and policymakers better identify emerging hazards in the region.

The study used satellite imagery, seismic records, and eyewitness videos to produce computer models of the flow. Initial hypotheses for the cause of the event

suggested a glacial lake outburst flood. However, there are no glacial lakes large enough to produce a flood anywhere near the site, the researchers noted. "Our access to high-resolution satellite imagery and research software, and our expertise in satellite remote sensing were crucial to get a bird's-eye view of how the event unfolded," said study co-author Shashank Bhushan, a doctoral student at the University of Washington in the US. "We worked with our French collaborators to coordinate satellite collections within days of the event and rapidly process the im-

ages to derive detailed topographic maps of the site," Bhushan said.

The team compared the images and topographic maps from before and after the event to document all of the changes and reconstruct the sequence of events. "We tracked a plume of dust and water to a conspicuous dark patch high on a steep slope," said study lead author Dan Shugar, associate professor at the University of Calgary in Canada.



## SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

# NATL PANEL SUMMONS PUNJAB CHIEF SECRETARY

CHANDIGARH

WITH the failure of the Punjab government to reply on the hardship being faced for post-matric scholarship for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) Chairman Vijay Sampla on Friday said the state Chief Secretary and two others were summoned for personal appearance in his office for June 17.

All the three notices issued by the commission to the Punjab government relating to the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme being availed by the Scheduled Caste (SC) students went unanswered. The notices were issued



on May 25, June 7 and June 10.

The Chief Secretary along with the Principal Secretary (Department of Social Justice, Empowerment and Minorities) and

the Principal Secretary (Department of Higher Education) has been asked to provide action taken report and other relevant documents to facilitate the hear-

ing. "It is unfortunate that senior officers of the Punjab government are ignoring the notices issued by the NCSC, a constitutional body set up under Article 338 of the Constitution of India," said Sampla in a statement here.

"As Chairman I am duty bound to secure the rights of Scheduled Castes and ensure that they get justice in all respects," added Sampla.

He asked the state government that "if they have not done anything wrong in implementing the scheme, then why they are running away from replying to the letters issued by the NCSC".

A day earlier, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh wrote

to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking release of the state's pending amount and revised sharing pattern under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for 2017-2020.

In his letter, the Chief Minister said though the Centre had, on December 31, 2020, amended the guidelines for the scholarship to introduce a revised sharing pattern between the Centre and the states (60:40), the same had been made effective only from April 1, 2020.

No decision had, however, been conveyed on the issue for the period April 2017 to March 2020, thus jeopardising the future of lakhs of Scheduled Caste students, he added.

## Four family members among 5 dead in Patiala due to heavy rains



CHANDIGARH

FOUR members of a family and a motorcyclist were killed in Patiala district as rains and strong winds lashed Punjab and parts of Haryana, police said on Friday.

The four members of a migrant workers' family, including two children, died when the brick wall adjoining the room they were living in collapsed in Saidkheri village, Superintendent of Police Sandeep Kumar Garg told PTI over phone. In another incident in Patiala district, a motorcyclist who had taken shelter under a stationary container on the roadside died after it tilted, trapping him under it, SHO, Kheri Gandian, Patiala, Inspector Kulwinder Singh said. High-velocity winds accompanied by heavy rains lashed several places in Punjab, Chandigarh and parts of Haryana on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday.

In Patiala and a few other places, trees were uprooted and

electric poles damaged. Giving details of the wall collapse incident, the SHO said the family was living in a room which had a tall brick wall on its side. "The storm was heavy and there was heavy rainfall.

The wall collapsed trapping the family under it," he said. "So strong was the storm that even I was forced to stop my Scorpio vehicle and take shelter under a flyover for nearly half an hour as I found driving very risky in such adverse weather conditions," the SHO told PTI.

According to the Meteorological Department officials, rains were widespread in Punjab while few parts of Haryana including Panchkula, Ambala, Yamunanagar and Kurukshetra were also lashed by rains on Thursday night. In Chandigarh, the high-velocity storm caused disruption in power supply for a few hours at many places. Earlier on May 30, a high-velocity storm had swept Chandigarh and a few parts of Punjab and Haryana, uprooting trees and disrupting power supply at many places.

## Cong holds protests in Punjab, Har against rise in fuel prices

CHANDIGARH

THE Congress held symbolic protests at petrol pumps across Punjab and Haryana on Friday against the rise in fuel prices, and demanded an immediate rollback of the hikes. Besides the steep hikes in rates of diesel and petrol, prices of other commodities of daily use like cooking oil and gas have also registered a manifold increase, senior leaders of the party said. Protests were held at various places like Amritsar, Mohali, Kurali, Patiala, Bathinda, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Panchkula, Hisar, Gurgaon, Kaithal, Ambala, Panipat, Karnal, Fatehabad, Rohtak and Faridabad. In Amritsar, some protesters set fire to an old car, saying they wanted to send a message to the Centre that common people are unable to afford vehicles because of the high cost of fuel. Carrying posters and placards that read "Jumlon Ki Sarkar", "Tel Ki Mar" and "Tel Ka Khel", Congress workers raised slogans against the Centre and demanded a rollback of the price hikes. The party's workers staged a street play in Panchkula to highlight the plight of the common people as a result of the rise in prices of fuel and other essential commodities.

Some even rode bullock carts



and horse carts as a mark of protest. In Haryana's Kaithal, Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala led the protest. A bullock cart was seen pulling a tractor there. Surjewala said prices of diesel and petrol are being increased at a time when the people of the country are battling the pandemic.

He said the sharp rise in fuel prices has adversely hit various sections, including the farmers. Haryana Congress president Kumari Selja led a protest in Ambala City. She said the BJP-led government was "insensitive" to the plight of the common people and was putting more burden on them when they were already going through a difficult time. Leading a protest in Kurali, Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar said, "The arrogant gov-

ernment at the Centre has constantly been increasing fuel prices instead of providing relief to the people during the current crisis."

"During the Congress-led UPA regime, despite international crude oil prices being very high, diesel prices hovered around Rs 50, which is now near Rs 90 per litre, while petrol is touching Rs 100 per litre," he said. "Despite international crude oil prices being high, the government led by Dr Manmohan Singh did not allow the burden to be passed on to the people, but just the opposite is happening under the Modi regime," Jakhar added. Punjab Congress leader Raj Kumar Verka said the steep rise in prices of petrol and diesel has broken the backs of the common people amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Death by drowning listed as disaster in UP

LUCKNOW

THE Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has listed 'death by drowning' as a disaster, making the victim's family eligible for a compensation of Rs 4 lakh under the state disaster relief fund (SDRF).

Death by suicide, however, will not be considered for compensation. According to an order issued by additional chief secretary (revenue) Renuka Kumar, this is in addition to nine situations considered disasters under the SDRF. Death by drowning in a well, river, lake, pond, canal, pit and puddle will also be considered as a disaster from now on.

The district magistrate, where the death takes place, will have the authority to determine whether the death was an accident or suicide as the families of suicide victims will not be eligible for state assistance. To ensure this, a panchnama of the victim will have to be carried out compulsorily.

For the release of funds under any category of disaster, the SDM will have to verify the claim of the family. This step is being



taken to ensure that no fraudulent claims are made. In 2018, the government had added four categories of death to the list of disasters. These were snake bite, boat tragedy, death while cleaning sewer or gas leak and man-animal conflict. An official had said that snake bite had been included since there were several such cases, particularly in flooded areas, during monsoon. The categories already listed under SDRF before 2018 included death due to unseasonal rain or heavy rainfall, lightning, storm, loo and falling into a borewell.

The directions come in the light of a central government order which had asked the state to formally list state-specific disasters within the local context for inclusion in SDRF.

## BJP to help Yogi govt in scaling up vaccination

LUCKNOW

THE Uttar Pradesh unit of the ruling BJP will now help the Yogi Adityanath government in scaling up the Covid vaccination drive.

The drive, which will be a part of the 'Seva hi Sangathan' campaign, will be carried out till July 15. Party workers will fan out across the state and carry out mass awareness programme to help the people take the vaccine and check the spread of the virus. UP BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh said that the party organisation stood by the Yogi Adityanath government in sending out relief measures to the Covid-struck people.

State General Secretary and in-charge of the party's vaccination campaign, Govind Narain Shukla, said that party functionaries, ministers, MLAs and MPs have been asked to reach



out at the booth level to expedite the vaccination programme.

Functionaries of the Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) and BJP IT cell will also help people in getting registered for vaccination.

The party will also lend its services to people by setting up post-Covid centres. The state government, too, had decided to set up post-Covid centre in government hospital to help people to tide over symptoms after recovering from infection.

MPs, MLAs and UP ministers have already been asked to adopt CHCs and PHCs to accelerate the vaccination drive and strengthen the medical infrastructure.

## Five arrested for gangrape of sisters in UP

LAKHIMPUR KHERI

FIVE men were arrested and sent to jail for allegedly holding three sisters hostage and gangraping two of them in Uttar

Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district. The sisters, aged 18, 20 and 22, who work as labourers, had gone to work on the farm of one Mohan Kumar in Phoolbehar on June 4. Kumar had

also called four unidentified persons at the farm. When the girls asked for their wages at the end of the day, Kumar and others locked them up and later raped two of the sisters.

The police that initially believed that the complaint was a result of money dispute, later registered an FIR at Phoolbehar police station.

The sisters were sent for

medical examination and their statements were recorded. The girls have identified all the accused. Lakhimpur Kheri SSP Vijay Dhull said further investigations in the case are still on.

## Chorus for reform within Congress grows again after Jitin's exit

NEW DELHI

IN wake of the departure of UP leader and former Union Minister Jitin Prasada, the chorus for reforms within the Congress has grown louder with a section of leaders calling for a "major surgery" in the party.

These party leaders contend that only those with surname should not be promoted in the party but those with a mass base and for this, the party should go for elections to the Congress Working Committee, the party's highest decision-making authority, and to the Congress

President's post.

Kapil Sibal, one of the vocal members of the G-23 who last year wrote a letter for sweeping reforms in the party, and had criticised Prasada -- a fellow signatory -- for moving to the BJP as "prasada politics", reiterated that the issue which had been highlighted in the letter remains and the party should look into it, if it does not want to face the consequences. "Jitin Prasada joins the BJP but the question is will he get 'prasada' from the BJP or is he just a 'catch' for UP elections? In such deals if 'ideology' doesn't matter, changeover is easy,"



he said. Another leader who is battling for "major surgery" within the party is Veerappa Moily who said that party should build regional leadership and only promote committed people who are faithful to the ideology of the Congress. He said that Prasada's ideology was in doubt and the party should think over promoting such people.

The Congress, which is reeling after its defeat in 2014 and 2019 general elections, had already seeing an exodus of leaders from Assam followed by Goa, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka, leading to it losing its grip in these

states. Before Jitin Prasada, it was Jyotiraditya Scindia, who left the party along with his supporters, leading to the collapse of the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh. However, Congress insiders say that "these young people want power without any effort and do not have commitment towards the party". The party exists because of lakhs of Congress workers, not the leaders who switch side for personal gains, said a party leader, speaking on condition of anonymity. But the larger question remains that the leadership is unable to hold the people because of

its electoral defeats, the leader added.

The larger question raised by many is about ideology which is the core to Congress, and those who differ with the ideology should not be promoted to the top echelons of the organisation or the government, say leaders.

Meanwhile, the Congress is facing tough time to resolve issues in Punjab and Rajasthan, where it is ruling, as younger leaders demand their due even as it has to prepare for a string of key polls next year including to Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Uttarakhand.



## Turkey’s environmental disaster, a global lesson

OVER the last six months, a huge mass of organic matter has bloomed over the surface of Turkey’s Marmara Sea, south of Istanbul, boosted by global heating and an overload of pollutants including wastewater and pesticides. This is yet another example of the rot unleashed by man on nature. The water has been taken over by a sticky web of “sea snout” caused by rising sea temperatures and ineffective waste management, and if something is not done soon there is no way one could carry on fishing in the sea. The current flare-up, which began in December, is the inland sea’s largest recorded marine mucilage bloom and it is devastating the ecosystem, from the shores of Europe’s most populous city, Istanbul, to the Aegean, a popular spot with holiday-makers.

Environmental experts say the slimy substance is the result of an overproduction of phytoplankton, caused by climate change and the dumping of household and industrial waste. Divers have observed mass fish deaths and say corals and sponges are fully coated in clumps of organic matter, often fatally, while ugly brown froth is being coughed up to the surface like phlegm from a diseased lung. The phenomenon is a stark warning to the world – a glimpse into an imminent future if humans continue to push the planet’s life support systems to the edge. In the resort town of Erdek to the south, which sits on a peninsula that has seen some of the worst visible effects of the mucilage explosion, fishermen such as Karisik say their livelihoods have all but been stalled for the last six months.

The sludge collects in their nets making them so heavy they often break or get lost. The ones that do make it back are frequently empty as the strings are coated making them visible to the fish. Karisik, 35, who has a family and a two-and-a-half-year-old child to support, said he is out at sea most days from 5pm to 5am, and yet he barely makes more money than it costs. Over the weekend, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pledged to save the sea from the snout problem, blaming the outbreak on untreated water from cities, including opposition-run Istanbul. However, according to those who live and work around the sea, the problem is not new and has been going largely unreported and untreated since 2007, al-

though this is the worst it has been. The heavily industrialised sea has a special ecosystem because of being inland, yet untreated waste and agricultural runoff are poured straight in causing high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. Little effort has been made over the last few decades to reign in the creep of unsightly industrial facilities and concrete structures along the shores of a sea which is one of the smallest on Earth. Successive governments and municipalities have failed to prioritise the environment and instead continued to dump their waste into the sea. But, then is it not true about our cities also? Governments often pay just lip sympathy to such causes because it does not really fetch them votes. Majority of the people are concerned about their immediate and daily livelihoods and raising their families. Long term impacts do not occupy centrestage in their lives.



## Revitalising government system of healthcare in TS

VANAM JWALA NARASIMHA RAO WITH VJM DIVAKAR

KEEPING in view some of the unique conditions in Telangana state it is of utmost significance to revitalise the government system of health care by providing adequate medical and health facilities. Ultimately, in the long run it is only a technology-based health care that would be able to address the medical and health needs of people.

In Telangana like in other parts of the country, specialties and super specialties healthcare is available mainly in private sector and partly in Government sector whereas the entire primary care is done by government. Another problem in India in general and particularly to the middle-class people is the huge costs for diagnostic services which are provided mainly by private centers. For instance, a PET (Positron Emission Tomography) Scan costs anywhere around Rs. 25, 000 and an MRI (Magnetic resonance imaging) costs around Rs. 15, 000 and many more like that. These need to be provided by Government at affordable costs. This is now realised by government thanks to KCT initiative.

In this context, an action oriented massive plan conceived and launched in the medical and health sector by CM KCR needs a special mention. From the day when he assumed office, KCR had put public health high on his state government’s agenda. As is his wont he studies the subject thoroughly before he defines, designs, develops, delivers and then implements a programme.

Realising that the people have a very poor opinion about the government hospitals and many songs ridiculing the sordid state of government hospitals and medical treatment available became very popular among the masses under the united AP rule, KCR had embarked upon revamping the government hospitals from the Primary Health centres (PHCs) to the tertiary care hospitals. He started allocating more funds for the public health.

Adequate funds are given to improve the basic infrastructure facilities in the government hospitals from beds, medicines, and instruments to even the bed linen. He instructed the officials concerned to place their bulk orders for bedsheets, spreads, pillow covers to curtains and other cloth material from the handloom sector. He filled up all the vacant posts in the Medical and Health Department.

KCR introduced what is popularly known as the KCR Kits. Under the Scheme, each pregnant woman is given financial aid both pre and post natal period. She is also provided with a Kit containing clothes, quality baby soaps, baby oil, baby powder, mosquito nets, toys, nappies, and diapers. She is also given Rs 12,000 during the period for the loss of wages she incurred for taking a holiday. The woman is given an extra Rs 1000 if she is blessed with a baby girl. A free Ambulance service under Amma Vodi scheme is provided to her to take her from her home to hospital and then back home with the baby. This scheme has increased institutional deliveries in the government hospitals by leaps and bounds.

With CM KCR initiative, massive eye camps were conducted all over the state known as Kanti Velugu, where entire population in the State are provided with free eye tests, spectacles and medicines. For people who needed further treatment, they are referred to the specialty hospitals in Hyderabad for a free treatment. Kanti Velugu was done on a massive scale which Infact should find place in the world record books. Now health profile is being taken-up.

KCR had introduced Basti Dawakhanas in Hyderabad, which became very popular and he had to expand them to other Municipal Corporations, Municipalities on public demand. Now there is a demand for Basti Dawakhanas model from the rural areas.

When corona pandemic broke out all over the country, he instilled confidence among the people and explained to them the need to follow certain procedures in their personal and public life. He repeatedly told them the need to have nutritious food, intake C vitamin through consumption of fruits, hygienic way of living etc. When needed, he imposed lockdowns and relaxed them when it required.

When the pandemic was on its peak, Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS) at Gachibowli in a sprawling campus was established. Gandhi Hospital was notified as a Covid Hospital. During the second wave, since a majority of people having Covid can be treated at home isolation, CM KCR launched a two-pronged strategy of conducting the fever survey and distributing corona medical Kits to the needy. He also instructed the officials to step up the Covid tests to curtail the Corona Virus spread in the State. He also increased the number of Rapid Antigen Test kits and in all the medical centres.

In the wake of reports of Black Fungus disease spreading, for its treatment, special beds were created and required medicines were kept ready in the State. The process of recruiting doctors and other medical staff was done on a war footing. Several existing medical colleges were given permission to start Nursing Colleges and seven more medical colleges along with the Nursing Colleges were sanctioned in the State. All the beds in the government hospitals were converted into Oxygen beds and Oxygen production in the state has increased to 600 MT daily.

The Government took care of its junior doctors and their problems were all solved. The CM increased the honorarium paid to the Senior Residents by 15 percent. The CM also extended the Senior Residents’ honorarium to the medical students who are engaged in the Covid duties after their three years of medical course. Better medical facilities are provided to Junior Doctors and their family members at the NIMS.

CM observed that the medical treatment is becoming more and more costly and the cost of diagnostic tests became more than the disease. Tests for the heart, liver, kidney, lungs, cancer, thyroid etc. became a necessity for the poor. People are forced to go to the private clinics, spend thousands of rupees and get the tests done. This has become a heavy financial burden on the poor.

KCR launched diagnostic centres in 19 identified district headquarters in the State and in the major government hospitals recently. This is a landmark decision in the history of medical and health sector in the State. In phases these will be set-up in the remaining districts. The free diagnostic centers are started in the government sector, as the CM realised that patients are spending more on the tests than on their treatment. About 57 tests are being done at the Centers. Very expensive equipment with state-of-the-art; modern technology is installed at the centers. Required number of pathologists, microbiologists, radiologists are posted at these centers.

For the emergency services, the government is running 428 ambulances under 108 services. 300 Vehicles are already in operation for pregnant women under Amma Vadi Scheme, where the pregnant mothers are transported free to the hospitals and back home after the delivery. 100-bedded hospitals in Sathupalli and Madhira will be set up shortly and the Warangal Central Prison is now shifted and, in its place, a super specialty mother and child care centre would come up.

CM KCR had allocated a whopping Rs 10,000 crore additionally to the Medical and Health departments other than the funds allocated in the Budget. A healthy Telangana is in offing along with Bangaru Telangana thanks to the initiatives of CM KCR.

## Unbridled aquaculture in East Godavari district

# Why it needs to be monitored

P V KRISHNA AND  
CHARUDUTTA PANIGRAHI

THE East Godavari region is a huge fish tank and a prosperous showcase of the Blue Revolution. The scale is overwhelming – with 13 coastal mandalas spread across a coast line of 161 kilometres, aquaculture is actively practised in more than 17,000 hectares (40,000 acres).

This supports as many as 400,000 fishermen backed by 650 and more fishermen cooperatives.

East Godavari district alone is home to a third of the hatcheries in the country. One can imagine the livelihoods generated by such a mega-scale vocation. Livelihoods bring to focus the significant role of ponds in meeting broader nutritional security needs as well as its importance in local and more extended value chains.

Such is its lure that agriculture is furiously converting into aquaculture in the district. Paddy cultivation is giving way to fish-rearing. More farmers are venturing into aquaculture.

Over 30 per cent of aqua production is exported to foreign countries while the rest meets domestic demand. Paddy cultivation does not yield expected returns to farmers; the lush green paddy farms are hence fast turning into fish tanks.

The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) stalemate has dealt a severe blow to the industry and the stakeholders; the owners of hatcheries and feed firms are sceptical about their future. Any more delay in the resuscitation of the aquaculture activity may lead to a complete collapse of the industry.

But it is also the right time to bring about changes in our understanding of the interrelationships between aquaculture and poverty. There is a growing realisation across sectors and geographies that the impacts of aquaculture need to be assessed from a more comprehensive value-chain perspective rather than through a narrow production focus.

It is no more relevant to view the practice as a targeted intervention to alleviate poverty. It is posing a serious threat to agri-

culture because the discharges from the fishponds are being released into the nearby paddy fields. Salt water is used in aquaculture, so the ground water gets saline in the entire area.

The importance of aquaculture development as part of the measures to mitigate water scarcity and to support sustainable intensification of food production generally is under cloud. The development of appropriate safety nets for the poorest groups cannot be done risking the entire ecological sustenance of a large, progressive region like East Godavari.

It is accepted that the NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute) report has opined that aquaculture is a source of severe nutrient pollution and over a period of time this has the potential to destroy the entire aquatic ecosystems, as nutrient wastes are discharged directly into the surrounding areas and waters.

It states: “For every ton of fish, aquaculture operations produce between 42-66 kilograms of nitrogen wastages and 7.2-10.5 kilograms of phosphorus wastes.”

Since intensive aquaculture necessitates large quantities of fresh water, pumping ground water in coastal areas invariably causes saltwater to ingress into aquifer and contaminate the underground reserves. Salt water can percolate into surface water bodies, sub-surface water reservoirs, canals, etc.

The unchecked sucking of ground water depletes water tables and contributes to the desertification of the area, gradually but steadily. Salt water stored in the ponds gets mixed with ground water. This causes widespread soil and water salinity, thereby damaging the land and water resources.

This would aggravate poverty inter-generationally. The negative environmental impacts of aquaculture include water eutrophication, water quality, alteration or destruction of natural habitats; introduction and transmission of aquatic animal diseases. The excess feed and faecal matter sedimented in the pond gets ammonified, which leads to excess ammonia formation in water.

Microbial diseases kill the fish



East Godavari district alone is home to a third of the hatcheries in the country. One can imagine the livelihoods generated by such a mega-scale vocation. Livelihoods bring to focus the significant role of ponds in meeting broader nutritional security needs as well as its importance in local and more extended value chains. Such is its lure that agriculture is furiously converting into aquaculture in the district. Paddy cultivation is giving way to fish-rearing. More farmers are venturing into aquaculture. Over 30 per cent of aqua production is exported to foreign countries while the rest meets domestic demand. Paddy cultivation does not yield expected returns to farmers; the lush green paddy farms are hence fast turning into fish tanks

and spoil the water. Agricultural production in the area also suffers.

Local aquaculture farmers need to be sensitised about the negative impact of unbridled, unmonitored aqua-farming. No one can deny the benefits of aquaculture, which include an increase in food production and highly remunerative economic returns and profits. But we need to be cognisant of the side effects that devastate the ecology.

We need to minimise the negative impacts, rather than just prohibiting the activity. Livelihoods should take care of the environmental health and it is possible to achieve a sustainable aquaculture. The strategies should be supported and practised by the farmers, the civil society and all of us.

The process should start by defining “sustainable” aquaculture. Aquaculture techniques, like the different closed-system technologies, including re-circulating tanks, raceways and flow-through systems would reduce the harm.

The water should be treated before discharge without any fish escape. Open pens are not sustainable. The problems of fecal waste, predators’ interaction, alienation of non-native / exotic species, excess inputs (food, antibiotics), habitat destruction, disease transfer continue in the pens.

The Union government should provide special incentives / grants to projects that focus on expanding and improving the way the fish is farmed sustainably. There is a lot of handholding the capacity building required for the aquaculture farmers.

Aquaculture (prawn ponds) started in Nedenuru, a village in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, about a decade ago. In the last five years, it has proliferated, and the scale has multiplied manifold. We observed the following drastic changes in the area (this is intuitive and experiential and not backed by any scientific study)

- An intolerable increase in humidity.
- A decrease in the production

of coconut owing to a new disease

- A dwindling paddy production (it was a paddy-intensive area)
- Daily labourers depending on agriculture have lost their work and are now jobless or not gainfully employed
- Shrinking ground water levels
- Abnormal increase in PH of drinking water observed in tests conducted by the panchayat
- Blood pressure and blood sugar abnormality in youth identified recently in the village
- Certain varieties of fish – such as Mattagidasa, Goraka, Koramenu, Marpu, Ingidiayi, Bommidaiyi, etc – have disappeared from the local water. They were naturally available in the canals in olden days a decade ago. They are no longer seen.

It has come to light that local authorities many a time pass off prawn fields as paddy fields, even as applications for aquaculture have been turned down by the government. It has become more evident that the local economy is going downhill due to aquaculture and the lure of quick gains and profits is destroying the habitats and the food security system.

If aquaculture continues unbridled in the area, a day will soon come when nothing else will grow. Excess of everything is bad. Excess of aquaculture has started killing families and perpetuating poverty through generations.

It’s time we act.

(Courtesy: Down To Earth)

## LETTERS

### Jagan govt doing very well

YSRCP Government in AP may be the first State government in the history of India to go on fulfilling the promises made during the electioneering. It is estimated that they have fulfilled more than 95 per cent of promises within 2 years. The programme of Navartna is based on the problems faced by the people in AP, which Jagan Mohan Reddy, the present CM of AP, could understand during his Padayatra. He formulated Navaratnas based on people’s problems and his experiences during padayatra with people. The performance of YSRCP during the past 2 years is very good.

The opposition party TDP could not give any constructive suggestions, instead it is going on creating obstacles in the implementation of various welfare programmes run by YSRCP. If TDP continues this way, they cannot get more than three seats in the next elections in AP. Voters are able to understand his cruel intentions. TDP should give constructive suggestions and help the ruling party for smooth implementation of various welfare programmes and get a good name from voters.

Sambasiva Rao Choda, Hyderabad

### Too many turncoats in BJP

JITIN’S entry into BJP after abandoning his thickest pal Rahul Gandhi will be a non-starter as BJP is getting saturated with too many turncoats. The Congress which seems to be a sinking ship may feel ‘less luggage, more comfort’ even if all the remaining 22 leave the party. There is nothing to be left in the party unlike something or someone rises from the ashes in a proverbial manner.

Floor crossing in all directions will now resume as some state elections culminating into LS elections in 2023-24 are in the pipeline. Only in politics it is possible to change colours rampantly and unashamedly putting the chameleon to shame.

Comparing the present day politician to this environment friendly creature may be taken as an affront by its reptilian community. Back home, we are yet to see the benefits reaped by DK Aruna, Jitender Reddy, and now Eatala Rajender claiming to strengthen BJP. Now it remains to be seen who will join which party and who will win or lose in doing so. People have insulated themselves

from these machinations and see them more as a time pass event.

D Nagarjuna, Hyderabad

## II

FORMER Congress minister Jitin Prasad’s joining the BJP may not bring any good to his new party but it is definitely a blow to the sinking image of the Congress. The oldest political party of the country has lost many golden opportunities to strengthen itself and put up a fight of sorts with the Modi wave. Before the Bengal elections, the Congress should have patched up with Mamata Banerjee and her win would have also helped the Congress. The lack of internal democracy and hero worshipism are the two well-known weaknesses of the Congress party. It is a pity that the party has learnt no lessons from its two consecutive defeats at the ‘hands’ of the BJP. It is time Sonia and Rahul shed their weaknesses, and infused the party with new blood and with pulsating leadership. Sonia must sink differences with leaders like Mamata to team up with forces that can help it defeat the BJP. For the Congress it is a now or never situation to cash in on the none-too-impressive 10 year ruling of the BJP government at the Centre.

Matam Somasekhara Prasad, Hyderabad

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### Hiking ATM charges unfair

THE decision of the RBI in allowing only 5 free ATM transactions from the respective bank ATMs where the account is maintained is unfair. There should not be any limit for such transactions because it should be noted that the customer’s money is continuing to be made available for the bank’s productive lending policies all the time. Therefore, it is certainly a benefit for the bank to increase its incomes in a fair manner by prudent lending measures. The bank of course can levy charges from the account holder if the customer uses another bank’s ATM more times than the prescribed limit, say three transactions per month. The RBI as well as the central government should motivate people to park their funds in the banks as a sort of savings and should not tax them if the customer utilises the same bank’s ATM under a set limit of transactions.

In fact, it is a blessing in disguise for the banks to have an abundant liquidity position if the customer draws money in instalments. Not only this, even the counter service in bank branches gets reduced to a great extent and the services of the bank staff can be utilised for loan monitoring and recovery of loans which is becoming an everyday problem for the banks hitting their basic survival for a long time.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao, Hyderabad



# Congress protests against petrol, diesel price hike

- State Congress chief demands the Central and State governments to reduce the tax
- Accuses the governments of burdening common people and making their lives miserable
- Recalls how the Congress-led UPA was efficient at controlling the fuel prices

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday has demanded the Central and State governments to reduce the prices of petrol, diesel and gas and ease the burden on common people.

Speaking during a protest at a petrol pump near Secretariat against increasing prices of petrol and diesel, Uttam said that the high taxes levied by the Central and State governments were the reasons for the steep hike in fuel prices.

Adding that lives of poor and middleclass were in utter distress



TPCC president Uttam Kumar Reddy along with senior leaders staging a protest against hike in petrol and diesel prices at the Secretariat in Hyderabad on Friday  
Photo: Ch Prabhu Das

due to apathy of governments, the State Congress chief said both the Central and State governments have made life miserable for people.

“Prime Minister Narendra Modi has garnered the dubious distinction of raising the prices of petrol and diesel for 43 times in one year. The TRS government at the State level has also casted burden on the people by raising the Value Added Tax (VAT),” he said.

He said that under BJP and TRS governments, the Telangana citizens were paying more tax on

petrol than its actual cost. About 60 per cent of petrol and 53 per cent of diesel prices comprise of central (excise) and state (VAT) taxes.

Uttam said that during Congress - led UPA government, the total tax collected on petrol and diesel in 2013 was Rs 52,537 crore, while the Modi government in 2014 collected more than Rs 72,000 crore in the form of taxes on petrol and diesel.

Criticising the TRS government in the State, he said it was equally responsible for the rise in fuel

prices, he said that in 2014, before the division of the combined Andhra Pradesh, the then Congress government had levied VAT of 31 per cent on petrol and 22.25 per cent on diesel. But the TRS government increased it in 2015. As of now, Telangana government has been collecting a VAT of 35.2 per cent on petrol and 27 per cent on diesel. Telangana's VAT on petrol is the third highest in the country, after Rajasthan and Manipur. He said that Telangana's VAT on diesel was the second highest in the country after Odisha.

He said that though the crude oil prices were low in the international market, prices of diesel and petrol were much high in the country. He said that the price of crude oil fell drastically in the last seven years (2014- 2021). However, this benefit was not passed on to the consumers as the central and state governments have kept on increasing the taxes and burdened the consumers.

AICC official spokesperson Dasoju Sravan, former president of PCC Ponnala Laxmaiah, former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav and PCC leader B Kishan took part in the protest.

# Demand for resumption of MMTS services gets shriller

- With MMTS shut travellers are forced to pay hefty amount to reach their destination
- So far SCR didn't get any guidelines from the Railway Ministry or Central government to resume MMTS

MEGHNA NATH  
HYDERABAD



IT is almost one year since the Multi Modal Transport System (MMTS) has not yet resumed. This has brought hardship to the passengers who are dependent on MMTS services as they are finding it difficult to travel to their workplaces and to reach other destinations. Following which they have requested the State government and railway department to ply a few trains in peak hours in the morning and evening.

Even though MMTS is the most economical and popular public transport solution for urban cities, its second phase project is progressing at snail pace. While the authorities claim that the works are delayed due to shortage of funds. The project is a joint project of the Ministry of

Railways and Telangana government on the basis of cost-sharing (one-third by the South Central Railways and two-third by the State government).

“We have appealed to Railway authorities to plan to introduce few trains in peak hours in the morning and evening for the benefit of IT commuters, general public like vendors and daily labour working class. The transportation associations also urge Chief Minister and Finance Minister to allot funds for MMTS second phase project. Delay may escalate the cost of the project due to increase of rates of essential equipment and labour cost,” said Noor Ahmed, President for LT (long train) & MMTS Travelers Association.

“We are very much dependent on the MMTS service as it is the cheapest means of transport. Since Covid lockdown last year these services are shut due to we are forced to pay hefty amount to reach our destination. It would be better if the railway department arranges few trains in the peak hours,” said Rahul reddy, a daily MMTS traveller, Secunderabad.

On condition of anonymity, a senior SCR officer said, “So far we didn't get any information and any guidelines from the Railway Ministry or Central government to resume the MMTS train services. Once we receive any information from the higher authorities, we would resume the operation by following Covid guidelines.”

# Southwest Monsoon turns active in State

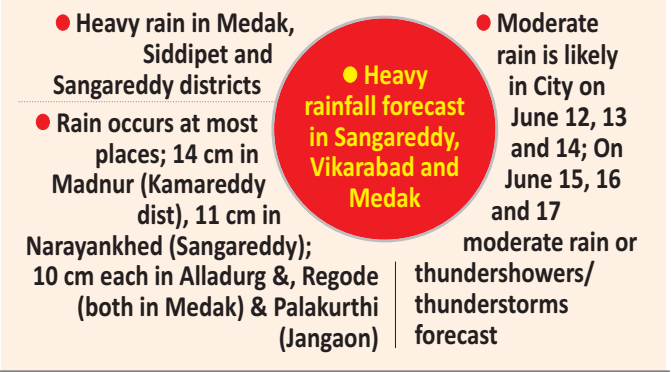
HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BEGUMPET

AS the Southwest Monsoon turned active over Telangana, heavy to very heavy rainfall lashed isolated places in Kamareddy district, heavy rain at a few places in Kamareddy and Medak districts and at isolated places in Jangaon, Nizamabad, Rajanna Sircilla, Siddipet and Sangareddy districts during the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Friday, the IMD bulletin said.

Rain occurred at most places across the State. There was heavy rain in Madnur (Kamareddy district) which recorded 14 cm. While Narayankhed (Sangareddy) received 11 cm and Alladurg (Medak), Regode (Medak), Palakurthi (Jangaon) 10 cm each.

The chief amounts of rainfall (in cm) were: Bejjanki (Siddipet), Jukkall (Kamareddy) 9 each, Birkoor ( Kamareddy), Jogipet (Sangareddy) 8 each, Banswada (Kamareddy), Raghunathpalle (Jangaon), Gambhirapet (Rajanna Sircilla), Narsapur (Medak), Tekmal (Medak), Yellareddy (Kamareddy), Varni (Nizamabad) 7 each, Kamareddy, Balkonda (Nizamabad), Chigurumamidi (Karimnagar), Yellareddypet (Rajanna Sircilla), Kohir (Sangareddy), Velpur (Nizamabad) 6 each, Sangareddy, Raikode (Sangareddy), Ellanthukunta (Rajanna Sircilla), Tamsi (Adilabad), Domakonda (Kamareddy), Sirpur (Kumaram Bheem), Bheemdevarpalle (Warangal Urban) 5 each.

There was 4 cm rain each in Pitlam (Kamareddy), Papanapet (Medak), Kerameri (Kumaram Bheem) Kotgiri (Nizamabad) Bheemgal Nizamabad,



Hathanoora (Sangareddy), Munipalli (Sangareddy), Dindigul (M. Malkajgiri), Nizamsagar (Kamareddy), Bachhanpet (Jangaon), Dichpalle (Nizamabad), Marpalle (Vikarabad), Gandhari (Kamareddy), Kagaznagar (Kumaram Bheem) and Mulug.

Three cm rain each occurred in, Hakimpet (M. Malkajgiri), Machareddy (Kamareddy), Kondapur (Sangareddy), Sadasivpet (Sangareddy), Sadasivanagar (Kamareddy), Sircilla (Rajanna Sircilla), Srirampur (Peddapalle), Mahbubabad, Bayyaram (Mahbubabad), Naykal (Sangareddy), Talamadugu (Adilabad), Chinthakam (Khammam), Adilabad, Medchal, Kowdipalle (Medak), Nagaredipet (Kamareddy), Mustabad (Rajanna Sircilla), Jangaon, Sathupalle (Khammam), Shamirpet, Khammam Urban, Kodakandla (Jangaon), Vikarabad, Nawabpet (Vikarabad). Two cm rain each was recorded in Huzurabad (Karimnagar), Dubbak (Siddipet), Mominpet (Vikarabad), Velagatoor (Jagtial), Garla (Mahbubabad), Bhiknur (Kamareddy), Kondapak (Siddipet), Uppal, Dornakal (Mahbubabad), Bejjur (Kumaram Bheem), Ghanpur (Jangaon), Bheemini (Mancheria), Parvathagiri (Warangal Rural), Ramgundam,

Dharmasagar (Warangal Urban), Suryapet, Konijerla (Khammam), Mortad (Nizamabad), Armur (Nizamabad), Hyderabad 2, Tadwai (Kamareddy), Jammikunta (Karimnagar), Devuruppal (Jangaon), Bhuvanagiri, Noothankal (Suryapet), Dharmaram (Peddapalle), Golkonda, Mothe (Suryapet), Kaleshwaram (J. Bhupalpally), Saroornagar, Sultanabad (Peddapalle), Karimnagar (Karimnagar), Hayathnagar, Yadagirigutta.

Meanwhile, as low pressure area is formed over the north-west Bay, heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at a few places and very heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in Sangareddy, Vikarabad and Medak, besides 16 districts, on June 12. Thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) are likely in all districts on June 12, 13, 14 and 15.

On June 13 heavy rainfall is forecast in Sangareddy, Vikarabad, Medak and 15 other districts. On June 14 and 15 heavy rain is likely in 12 districts.

In Hyderabad cloudy sky with moderate rain is likely on June 12, 13 and 14. On June 15, 16 and 17 moderate rain or thundershowers/thunderstorms are forecast.

## SCRIBES' PROTEST



Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) organised a protest, demanding the release of journalist Raghu arrested by police, at Sundarayya Park, on Friday

# After Jagan's Delhi visit, focus now on shift to Vizag

- Buoyed by the smooth and successful interactions with Amit Shah and other Union Ministers, the Chief Minister is likely to make a move towards making his 3-capitals decision a reality
- The recent emphatic statements by party senior leader Vijayasai Reddy and Minister Botcha that the govt administration will soon shift to the executive capital despite hurdles being created by the opposition, gives credence to this assumption

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

WITH the successful conclusion of Delhi visit, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is likely to start functioning soon from Visakhapatnam, the executive capital. His discussion with Union home minister Amit Shah on



Thursday night centred round on three capital issue. He made it clear that the state government was committed to the concept of balanced regional development and decentralisation of governance. He said the government promulgated 'Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and inclusive development of all regions Act 2020' in August 2020. He also requested the Union home minister to initiate process of renomination of locating High Court in Kurnool. In addition, the hints from YSRCP MP V Vijayasai Reddy and senior

minister Botcha Satyanaayana also indicate that the Jagan Mohan Reddy government is determined to make a move towards realising its aim of shifting capital to Visakhapatnam, though no formally. The official shifting will be delayed due to legal hurdles.

The municipal administration and urban development minister, Satyanarayana, speaking at Visakhapatnam recently said that the process of shifting capital had already started and the Chief Minister was committed to his statement in Assembly on three capi-

tals. He said the executive capital will be shifted as per constitutional obligations and clearing legal hurdles. He alleged that the TDP was trying to stall the shifting of capital to Visakhapatnam by creating hurdles.

Earlier, Vijayasai Reddy, the senior ruling party leader, too made it clear that the administration will shift to the port city irrespective of court cases. He explained that the cases relating to repeal of AP Capital Region Development Act have nothing to do with the shifting of administration. As the Covid positive cases are also coming down in the state giving a relief to state government, now the focus is likely to be laid on shifting the capital.

Sources in YSRCP expressed happiness over the successful meetings of Chief Minister with Amit Shah and several other Union ministers. As the meetings ended on a positive note, the party sources also expect that the Chief Minister would opt to shifting to Visakhapatnam soon, most probably by next month.

# CJI offers prayers at Tirumala

Says Lord's blessing responsible for his high position

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUMALA

WITH the benign blessings of Sri Venkateswara Swamy I reached this apex level in my career, said the Chief Justice of India (CJI), Justice N V Ramana. The CJI, who is on a two-day maiden visit to Tirumala after taking over the reigns of the Supreme Court, offered prayers in the hill shrine along with his family on Friday.

Speaking to SVBC (Sri Venkateswara Bhakti channel) after darshan, he said he had come across many interesting incidents in his life. “It is with the grace of Venkateswara Swamy what I am today. With His blessings I will do my best to take up the legal system to the next level,” he added.

Earlier, on his arrival at Mahadwaram, he was received by TTD chairman Y V Subba Reddy and EO Dr K S Jawahar Reddy and was offered traditional Isthikaphal

Welcome by temple chief priest Venugopala Deekshitulu. Later, he offered prayers in front of Sri Venkateswara Swamy. After this followed Vedaseervachanam in Ranganayakula Mandapam by Vedic pandits. The TTD chairman and EO offered Theertha Prasadam to the dignitary.

CJI who arrived on Thursday here participated in the Ekantha seva, the last ritual being conducted in the shrine before closing the temple. Among other prominent personalities who were present on Friday were local MLA and TTD board special invitees B Karunakar Reddy, trust board members Dr Nischita, Siva Kumar, DP Ananta, Parthasaradhi, additional EO A V Dharma Reddy and CVSO Gopinath Jatti. Later, the CJI offered coconuts at Akhilandam and fulfilled his vow and also visited Sri Bedi Anjaneya Swamy temple and performed



TTD chairman Y V Subba Reddy and Additional EO A V Dharma Reddy offer prasadam to Chief Justice of India Justice N V Ramana and his wife at Tirumala temple on Friday

poojas. Justice Ramana and his family offered prayers in the shrine of Sri Padmavathi Ammavaru also at Tiruchanoor before his departure from here on Friday. On his arrival at the temple entrance, he was received with Purnakumbham and welcomed by TTD chairman Subba Reddy and local MLA and TTD trust board ex-officio member Dr C Bhaskar Reddy. After the darshan of Sri

Padmavathi Ammavaru the protocol dignitary was offered Vedaseervachanam. The chairman, MLA and JEO Sada Bhargavi offered Prasadam and a laminated photo of Ammavaru. Later CJI was seen off at the airport by AP High Court judge Justice Lalitha Kumari, district judge K Ravindra Babu, TTD chairman Subba Reddy, EO KS Jawahar Reddy, district collector M Harinarayana and others.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

THE High Court division bench comprising Justice MS Ramachandra Rao and Justice T Amarnath Goud strongly reacted to the proposal made by Agrigold Company and ruled that the Agrigold Company would have to oversee the High Court for another twenty years if it agreed to the proposal.

On Friday, the High Court division bench heard the writ petition filed by A Ramesh Babu, president of Telangana Agrigold Depositors Welfare Association, on the Agrigold Depositors scam.

The High Court directed AP and Telangana governments to respond to the revised proposals made by the Agrigold Company.



The Bench categorically informed that the Chief Justice of Telangana High Court is considering transferring Agrigold Company assets to the AP High Court under the AP Separation Act as most of the assets are in Andhra Pradesh. Telangana CID SP files an affidavit alleging that the Agrigold acquires land in Midjil through a Benami transaction. Further, the Telangana CID suspects that the man, who bought

150 acres of land in Midjil area for Rs 15.18 crore is Agrigold Company Benami. The person involved in the bid has links with Shivshakti Timber Estate, owned by Avva Sitarama Rao, Director, Agrigold Company. According to the Telangana CID, a person who worked as a constable could not afford to buy 150 acres for Rs 15.18 crore. Andhra Pradesh Advocate General Shri Ram asked the High Court for time for the two States to discuss the Agrigold issue and find a solution together. Further, the AP Advocate General sought time for CID to look into the allotment of Agrigold's shopping mall to a single bidder at an auction conducted by SBI in Vijayawada. For further hearing, the matter adjourned next to June 25, 2021.



Survey conducted in last seven days

# Only 27% succeeded in getting vax appointment on CoWIN

NEW DELHI

Only 27 per cent of those who tried to get Covid vaccine appointment on the CoWIN/Aarogya Setu app in the last seven days were able to do so, said a survey by LocalCircles.

The survey sought to understand the magnitude of issues with the CoWIN portal that still persist. When people were asked about their experiences with the CoWIN site, 21 per cent said "was able to register and get an appointment easily", while 6 per cent said "was able to register after many attempts and get an ap-

pointment".

Breaking down the poll further, 44 per cent said "was able to register easily but couldn't get an appointment", 20 per cent said "was able to register only after many attempts but couldn't get an appointment", while 9 per cent said "wasn't able to register due to OTP or other issues".

On an aggregate basis, the findings of the poll indicated that only 27 per cent of those who tried to get the Covid vaccination appointment on CoWIN site or Aarogya Setu app in the last seven days were able to do so. This question in the survey received 8,278 responses.

The survey also said that with vaccine hesitancy at a low of 18 per cent, many more people are now seeking the vaccine as compared to early March.

This coupled with supply, procurement and distribution issues has led to a shortage with 70 per cent citizens surveyed having someone in their social network who could not find a vaccine dose when they went for vaccination in May.

The availability of vaccines is likely to rise in the coming months with India placing an order for 400 million additional doses.

The survey found that 70 per

cent citizens had someone in their social network who could not find a vaccine dose when they went for vaccination in May.

The percentage of citizens who were unable to find a vaccine dose at the vaccination centres went up by almost 4 times from April to May.

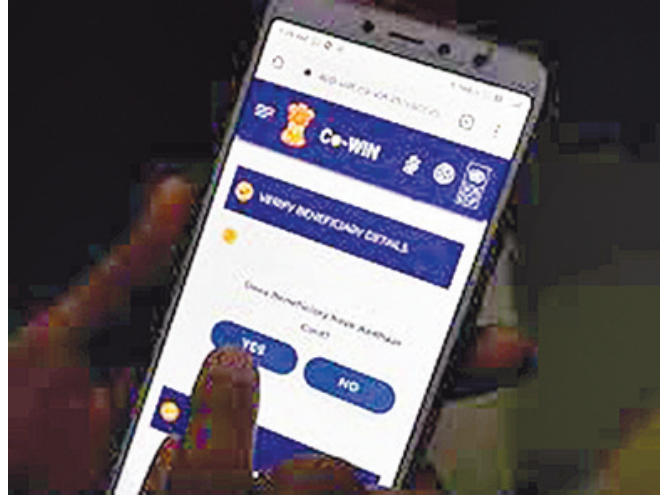
Meanwhile, veteran Congress leader and six-time Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Virbhadr Singh has been tested positive for Covid 19 for the second time in 60 days.

Admitted at Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) hospital, for over a month, Virbhadr

Singh had returned from Max Hospital Mohali (Punjab) on April 30 after getting fully cured of Covid-19 infection.

Senior Medical Superintendent Dr. Janak Raj said sometime back that a Covid test conducted on ailing former Chief Minister has surprised the doctors.

"We don't know right now if it's the same virus (earlier infection) or this is a new variant. Only an advanced genome sequencing will be able to provide some clear clues on this. The samples will be sent to Pune for getting the confirmations in next few days" he said.



## WINDOW

### 'Can't transfer Param's case outside Maha'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court refuses to entertain former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh's plea seeking transfer of all inquiries against him to an independent agency outside Maharashtra. "You've been in the police force for 30 years. You can't now say you want your inquiries outside the state. You can't have doubts over your own force. You're part of Maharashtra cadre and now you don't trust the functioning of your own state? This is a shocking allegation," SC says. Singh, a 1988-batch IPS officer, was removed from the post of Mumbai Police Commissioner on March 17 and was made the General Commander of Maharashtra State Home Guard after he levelled allegations of corruption and misconduct against the then Home Minister and senior NCP leader Anil Deshmukh.

### IIT-K improves ranking in best varsity list

Kanpur: The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) has climbed to an astounding 73 notches over its previous year's ranking amongst the best universities in the QS World University Ranking-22. This year, IIT-K has been ranked as the 277th position in the list of world's best university compared to the 350th position in the last edition. "No other Indian University has been able to achieve such a significant growth in this year's rankings. Amongst the best universities in India, IIT-K has been ranked number 4, improving its performance by a rank. IIT-Kanpur is among top 100 universities of the world in terms of citations per faculty, where it bagged 93rd position in QS World University Ranking-2022 and India's 4th best university in terms of the employer reputation as judged by 2021 ranking survey. QS 'Quacquarelli Symonds' is the world's leading provider of services, analytics, and insight to the global higher education sector, whose mission is to enable motivated people anywhere in the world to fulfil their potential through educational achievement, international mobility, and career development.

# Dr Fauci against extending vax intervals

## Maha adds 11,617 Covid deaths within 24 days after revision; Centre takes note

New Delhi: Extending intervals between vaccine doses could leave people vulnerable to infection by one of the Covid variants in circulation, Dr Anthony Fauci, the medical advisor to the United States President said on Friday.

Dr Fauci was responding to a question about recommended intervals in the light of revised guidelines by the Indian government last month, according to NDTV. "The ideal interval between doses for mRNA vaccines is three weeks for the Pfizer and four for the Moderna. The problem with extending intervals is that you become vulnerable to variants," he said.

"We've seen that in the UK, where they extended that interval, in that period you can get infected by the variants. So we recommend staying on schedule," Dr Fauci explained.

Last month the government extended the gap between doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine (manufactured and sold in India as Covishield) to 12-16 weeks - from the existing six-eight weeks.

That was the second time in three months Covishield dosage intervals were widened; in March states and UTs were told to increase the gap from 28 days to six-eight weeks "for better results".

The daily count in India remained below the one-lakh mark for the fourth consecutive day with the country reporting 91,702 fresh cases. The death toll climbed to 3,63,079 with 3,403 fresh deaths.

Maharashtra added 1,522 past deaths to the state's total toll, the largest in a single day during the almost month-long data reconciliation operation, prompting the Centre to take up the issue with the State government.

The latest addition has brought the total fatality toll to 1,03,748.

The state has added a total of 11,617 deaths since the reconciliation procedure of adding up deaths that occurred more than a week ago or may have been overlooked in the daily tabulation exercise began on May 17. The total daily toll (deaths in the previous 24 hours or within a week of that date) in the prior three weeks was 10,645 deaths, accounting for nearly 11% of the state's overall Covid toll since the pandemic began.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court rejected a plea that sought financial relief in the form of fresh loan moratorium, extension of time period under the restructuring scheme and temporary cease on the declaration of NPA, from the Government of India.



Activists wearing giant heads of the G7 leaders tussle over a giant Covid-19 vaccine syringe during an action of NGO's on Swanpool Beach, England on Friday. Leaders of the G7 begin their first of three days of meetings on Friday in Carbis Bay, in which they will discuss Covid-19, climate, foreign policy and the economy. Depicted from (left to right) are Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Italy's Prime Minister Mario Draghi, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, U.S. President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel

## India records 91K Covid cases & 3,403 deaths SC rejects plea asking for fresh loan moratorium

### TN's orphans mount to 1,400

CHENNAI: The District Child Protection offices of Tamil Nadu have identified about 1,400 children in the state who have lost either one or both parents to the Covid-19 pandemic since the first wave hit the state.

This data compiled by the district child protection offices are as on Wednesday. Of this 50 children are orphaned, losing both parents. The Tamil Nadu state government has announced 5 lakh to the children who are orphaned due to Covid-19.

However if a person is cured of Covid-19 and dies due to post Covid complications, there is no compensation to the children who lose their parents creating a major discrepancy.

### Black Fungus killed over 2,100

NEW DELHI: Black fungus or mucormycosis, a disease that has a mortality rate of 50% and is increasingly being seen in recovering Covid-19 patients in the country, has grown over 150 per cent over the last three weeks.

The various parts of the country reported 31,216 cases and 2,109 deaths due to black fungus in the last three weeks. The increase in numbers is partly due to the severe shortage of the key drug - Amphotericin-B - which is used for its treatment.

With 7,057 cases and 609 deaths, Maharashtra tops the list of worst affected states. Gujarat is a close second with 5,418 cases and 323 deaths. Rajasthan is third with 2,976 cases.

### Top neurologist Panagariya dies

JAIPUR: Prominent neurologist and Padma Shri recipient Dr Ashok Panagariya died of post-Covid complications here on Friday. He was 71. Dr Panagariya was on ventilator support for the past several days at a private hospital. His condition deteriorated in the past two days and he died on Friday, hospital sources said. Expressing grief over his death, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a tweet that his pioneering work in the medical field will benefit generations of doctors and researchers. "Dr Ashok Panagariya made a mark as an outstanding neurologist. His pioneering work in the medical field will benefit generations of doctors and researchers. Saddened by his demise. Condolences to his family and friends.

### Govt considering plea for ₹4 lakh to Covid victims, top court told

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday informed the Supreme Court that it was considering a plea to provide monetary compensation of Rs 4 lakh to the family members of those who have died due to Covid-19. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, submitted before a bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and M.R. Shah that the issue raised in the PILs is important, and the government would file its response in the matter.

Mehta said that the government is contemplating a national policy, and sought two weeks to file its reply.

As the bench queried why two weeks were needed, Mehta replied: "As your lordships are aware, the entire machinery is occupied with certain other pressing issues."

A counsel appearing in the matter submitted that the death happening because of the black fungus is also result of Covid, therefore, the death certificate must mention this reason. To this, Mehta replied: "Your case is genuine, and it will be addressed by the Central government."

After a brief hearing in the matter, the bench said: "The Centre seeks time to file a reply. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta says issues are under consideration and a reply will be filed... List these petitions on June 21."

Two PILs were filed by advocates Gaurav Kumar Bansal and Reepak Kansal seeking court's intervention for payment of Rs four lakh ex-gratia amount to Covid victims' families.

On May 24, the court had sought a response from the Centre on the plea, and also asked it to inform whether there was a uniform policy on issuance of death certificates, when cause of death was Covid.

The bench had noted that said many time reasons given in a death certificate can be heart attack or lung failure, but these could be triggered by Covid-19.

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## TODAY'S QUOTE

### Stop creating obstacles for migrants

“The Delhi government should not create obstacles for poor migrants in availing PDS grains and implement the ‘One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)’ scheme. Setting up of e-PoS (electronic point of sale) devices in the Public Distribution System (PDS) is necessary for implementation of ONORC.”


—Piyush Goyal, Union Minister



## COVID LOCKDOWN

### Economy may recover only by Q3FY22

As the second wave of Covid-19 and the resultant lockdowns have severely impacted the livelihoods and the economy, a report by Brickwork Ratings said that in the current situation full recovery of the economy may become feasible only by the third quarter of the ongoing financial year.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	73.8	South	
Euro	89.71	African Rand	6.19
UAE Dirham	20.49	Hong Kong Dollar	10.83
Thai Baht	2.59	Japanese Yen	0.77
British Pound	104.5	New Zealand Dollar	53.02
Australian Dollar	57.23	Saudi Riyal	21.42
Canadian Dollar	60.07	Swedish Krona	10.15
Swiss Franc	82.35	Singapore Dollar	56.32

DELHI SATURDAY 12 JUNE 2021

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Biophore applies for DCGI nod for ‘Aviptadil’

Biophore India, a city-based pharmaceutical company, has applied for DCGI emergency use approval of ‘Aviptadil’ inhalation for the treatment of Covid-19. The pharma company developed the API and formulation in their own facility in Hyderabad. The company will be commencing commercial production immediately after the approval is received. Aviptadil is a synthetic form of Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide (VIP) that, when administered, results in rapid clinical recovery in patients with severe SARS-COV-2 infection. “Aviptadil is a very promising treatment option for Covid, especially in severe hospitalized cases where trials have shown a high recovery percentage and we hope to be able to quickly make it available through this approval,” said Jagadeesh Babu Rangisetty, CEO, Biophore.

### Vivo's new campaign

Vivo, the smartphone brand, on Friday launched #vivoSuperTime social activation with the support of football star Michael Owen. The campaign calls on fans to share their chants, cheers and applause for the opportunity to be featured in the UEFA EURO 2020 closing ceremony presented by the brand. “Football is back, and the game has never been more eager for fans’ dedication, passion and presence. Vivo is calling all football fans to rally once again to celebrate this beautiful moment, and we’re thrilled to be able to bring fans’ love for the beautiful game into the event with the help of technology,” said Spark Ni, enior vice president and CMO,Vivo.Fans who submit their videos and photos with #vivoSuperTime hashtag on social media may be featured in virtual display during the broadcast of the UEFA EURO 2020 closing ceremony.

# Car sales plunge 66% as Covid bites

Lockdowns across various States have impacted dispatches to dealers: SIAM

## NEW DELHI

PASSENGER vehicle wholesales in India witnessed a month-on-month decline of 66 per cent in May as lockdowns across various States impacted dispatches to dealers, auto industry body SIAM said on Friday.

Passenger vehicle wholesales in May stood at 88,045 units, as compared to 2,61,633 units in April. As per the latest data by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), two-wheeler dispatches to dealers dropped by 65 per cent to 3,52,717 units, compared to 9,95,097 units in April. Motorcycle sales declined 56 per cent last month to 2,95,257 units, as against 6,67,841 units in April. Similarly, scooter dispatches to showrooms were down 83 per cent to 50,294 units, from 3,00,462 units in April this year. Three-wheeler sales declined by 91 per cent to 1,251 units, as compared to 13,728 units in April. Vehicle sales across categories witnessed a dip of 65 per cent to 4,42,013 units last month, as against 12,70,458 units in April this year. Commenting on the sales data, SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said that many



Many auto companies had also shut down their manufacturing plants to divert oxygen from industrial use for medical purposes

States were under lockdown due to Covid-19 cases for most part of the May thus impacting overall sales and production during the month. “Many members (auto cos) had also shut down their manufacturing plants to divert oxygen from industrial use for medical purposes,” he added. Menon noted that the Indian automobile industry stands committed to support the government in its battle against Covid-19 pandemic through various initiatives to augment availability of oxygen, support healthcare infrastructure and local communities. Original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) have also taken up large-

scale vaccination of their employees, family members and dealer partners, he added.

Last month, the country’s largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India dispatched 32,903 units to its dealer partners, down from 1,35,879 units in April. Similarly, Hyundai Motor India’s wholesales last month dropped to 25,001 units as compared with 49,002 units in April. Kia India delivered 11,050 units, while Mahindra & Mahindra dispatched 8,004 passenger vehicle units to their respective showrooms last month as compared with 16,111 and 18,285 units respectively in April. Automobile retail sales in the country declined by 55 per cent in May as compared to April this year. With Covid restrictions in various States, total registrations across categories in May dropped to 5,35,855 units as compared to 11,85,374 units in April this year.

According to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), which collected vehicle registration data from 1,294 out of the 1,497 regional transport offices (RTOs), passenger vehicle (PV) sales declined by 59 per cent in May as compared with 2,08,883 units in April this year.

## MEIL supplies oxygen tanks to AP govt

### HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

MEGHA Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) on Friday handed over three oxygen cryogenic tanks to the Andhra Pradesh government. The tankers arrived at the Panagarh air base in West Bengal on an Indian Air Force special flight from Singapore last Tuesday.

The tankers, loaded with oxygen at Jamshedpur in Jharkhand



State, departed this Tuesday morning on a special train and reached Krishnapatnam port railway station on Thursday night. Megha Engineering officials

handed over these oxygen cryogenic tanks to Nellore District Collector KYN Chakradhar Babu at a function held at Krishnapatnam Port Railway Station on Friday.

On this occasion, Collector Chakradhar Babu said that MEIL has provided three oxygen tankers to the State government under corporate social responsibility as part of the Covid mitigation measures. “We have received the tankers at

KrishnapatnamPort on behalf of the government. They will be used to meet the oxygen requirement of hospitals,” he said.

MEIL representative Raj Kumar said that each tank has a capacity of 1.40 crore litres of oxygen. The three tankers supplied to Andhra Pradesh can supply 4.20 crore litres of oxygen.

Under its CSR initiative, MEIL has been supplying oxygen and cryogenic tanks to various State governments and hospitals.

## SAIL CVO takes additional charge as NMDC CVO

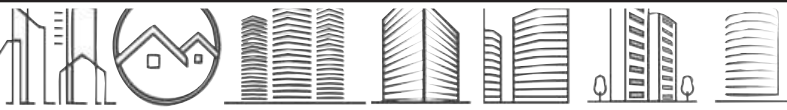
### HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

VINEET Pandey, CVO, SAIL, has taken over as additional charge of Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), NMDC. He started his career as an officer from Indian Railways Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE) in 1994. Pandey worked in organisations such as Indian Railways, SAIL, RITES and Central Electricity Authority, who has vast



experience in corporate coordination, maintenance of probity & integrity, project engineering, system integration,

production & maintenance of electrical rolling stock, energy management, and green-energy initiatives. He is a graduate in Electrical Engineering from Malviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur. He has attended management training modules at ICLIF/ Kuala Lumpur, INSEAD/ Singapore and ISB/Mohali. In addition to his present assignment as CVO, SAIL, he will have additional charge of CVO, NMDC.



## REAL CORNER



# 95% developers fear project delays

Credai says real estate sector in need of urgent relief measures from govt, RBI

### KUMUD DAS MUMBAI

OVER 95 per cent developers feel inevitable project delays if no urgent relief measures are announced by the central government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to rescue the real estate sector. These delays are attributed to a range of factors, with 92 per cent developers experiencing labour shortage at sites, 83 per cent developers working with less than half the workforce, and over 82 per cent of developers facing project approval delays, according to a survey carried out by realty body Credai.

Harsh Vardhan Patodia, national president, Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (Credai), said: “The real estate sector showed tremendous resilience post the first wave, despite

little relief measures from the government. However, the second wave has prompted us to reflect and re-evaluate the growth path of the industry, and we felt it was vital to assess the challenges faced by the customers and industry partners in light of the recent developments. The findings reveal that the second wave has had a more debilitating impact on the real estate sector than the first wave.”

Credai released findings of the survey conducted across north, east, west and south zones between May 24 and June 3, 2021, to assess the impact of second wave of Covid-19 on real estate sector in India. Conducted with stratified sampling method, the exploratory survey witnessed a first-of-its-kind extensive participation of 4,813 developers from 217 cities, providing crucial insights on the

## COVID 2.0 CRISIS



industry sentiment and the range of challenges faced by the real estate sector.

Added factors such as recent spike in construction materials including steel, cement etc have contributed to more than 10 per cent increase in construction cost for more than 88 per cent developers.

Various financial constraints and liquidity crunch are further adding to the problem, with 77 per cent developers experiencing issues in servicing existing loans, 85 per cent developers facing disruptions in planned collection, and 69 per cent are facing issues in disbursement of customer home loans.



The survey findings by the apex body of real estate developers also put spotlight on changing consumer behaviour, resulting in slowing of demand due to decrease in enquires and site visits. A staggering 98 per cent developers are facing reduced customer enquiries and 42 per cent developers are ex-

periencing a 75 per cent decline in customer enquiries. Furthermore, the report reveals that the second wave has caused 95 per cent of customers to postpone their purchase decisions.

“We have made a representation to the government citing the current survey and requesting the government to infuse urgent financial stimulus and initiate quick progressive measures to assist recovery. As a part of our presentations, we have requested for liquidity infusion, one-time restructuring of loans, across the board six months extension of completion date by Rera, stamp duty reduction or waiver, moratorium extension on principal & interest for six months, and freezing of SMA classification for another year. We are hopeful that the government will consider our appeal and will make urgent interventions this time,” Patodia, added.

Credai also felt that reducing cost of construction materials, implementing single window clearances for project approvals and work commencement, and allowing input tax credit for all sectors would help the sector immensely.

Continued and adequate policy support is critical for the revival of the sector. The real estate accounts for 6-7 per cent of GDP, is the second largest employer, and generates business generator over 270 ancillary industries in the country, it has added.

## Shankarpally sees sharp rise in real estate demand

HYDERABAD: Demand for plotted developments and villas has witnessed a rise in the western parts of Hyderabad after the pandemic. The rise has been particularly noticed in upcoming urban locations such as Shankarpally where infrastructure development has been on an upward trend.

Shankarpally which shares proximity to other peripheral developed regions such as Kokapet, Gachibowli and other financial districts is emerging as a residential hub. Along with the presence of business districts, offices of multinational companies operate in these localities. Robust physical and social infrastructure in the form of educational institutes, entertainment hub and shopping zones have also boosted the prospect of this region. Shankarpally corridor is considered as the ‘Green Zone’ of the city and ranks high on the livability index due to its low noise pollution and good air quality index (AQI) as its adjoining markets have development restrictions on real estate development due to GO-111 and Conservation Zoning.

The demand for residences primarily arises from the locals and young professionals who have settled in this growing city and are looking for large living space in the post pandemic environment.

Veera Babu, Managing Director, Cushman & Wakefield – Hyderabad in a recently released report on emerging locations in Hyderabad stated, “Affordability, connectivity and proximity to economic corridors are key influencing factors towards the growth of Mokila – Shankarpally strip.

## NEW DELHI

HOUSING prices are likely to rise in the medium to long term as construction cost has gone up by 10-20 per cent due to a sharp increase in prices of cement and steel, realtors body Credai.

Credai Chairman Satish Magar said housing sales have fallen ‘drastically’ since April because of the onslaught of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. He, however, did not give

## Housing prices will go up: Credai

the quantum of the fall in housing sales expected during April-June compared to the previous quarter.

On housing prices, Credai president Harsh Vardhan Patodia said the prices of cement and steel have gone up sharply in the last one year. “In the medium and long term, prices of real estate are bound to go up,” he said here. Patodia said the developers will

be forced to increase the price as they are not in a position to absorb the rise in the cost of construction material. Patodia said prices for existing customers will not be raised, but rates may go up for new sales.

The association has written several times to the government to control steel and cement prices. It has also filed complaints with fair trade regu-

lator CCI (Competition Commission of India). Credai President-Elect Boman Irani said the construction cost has risen by about 15 per cent because of a sharp hike in cement and steel prices. However, he said, a rise in property prices does not mean increased profit margins for developers. “Our margins are getting squeezed,” he said. Irani said the impact of the

second wave of Covid on real estate has been more pronounced because everyone suffered in some way. “The second wave hit fast, hard and hit home,” he said. The Credai chairman said the government needs to step in and announce measures to bail out this sector, which is crucial for the overall economic growth. He suggested that the government should allow restructuring of developers’ loan, and a moratorium on loan to boost liquidity in the sector.



# Made sure every player on tour got a game: Dravid



NEW DELHI

WIDELY credited for creating India’s talent pool at the under-19 and A level, former captain and NCA Director Rahul Dravid says during his stint as coach with these teams, he made sure that every cricketer who toured got a game unlike his playing days.

Dravid will be head coach of a Shikhar Dhawan-led Indian team that will tour Sri Lanka for a white-ball series next month. He doesn’t travel with the A and U-19 squads any more but it was he who made sure all the squad members played on tours.

“I tell them upfront, if you come on an A tour with me, you will not leave here without playing a game. I’ve had that personal experience myself as a kid: going on an A tour and not getting an opportunity to play is terrible,” Dravid ESPNerinfo’s ‘The Cricket Monthly’.

“You’ve done well, you scored 700-800 runs, you go, and you don’t get a chance to show what you’re good at. And then you’re back to square one from the selectors’ point of view, because the next season you have to score those 800 runs again.

“It is not easy to do that, so there is no guarantee you’ll get a chance again. So you tell people upfront: this is the best 15 and we are playing them. This is not about the supposed best XI. At U-19, we make five-six changes between games if we can,” he said.

Indian cricketers are now among the fittest in the world but there was a time when they did not have the required knowledge on fit-



## Humbled to lead my country: Dhawan

NEW DELHI

HANDED responsibility to lead the Indian team on the Sri Lanka tour, opener Shikhar Dhawan on Fridays said he feels humbled after being appointed captain of the national side.

India will play three ODIs and as many T20s in Colombo starting July 13. The selectors picked a bunch of fresh faces for the Sri Lanka series on Thursday as the main team is in the UK for the World Test Championship final and five Tests against England.

“Humbled by the opportunity to lead my country. Thank you for all your wishes,” tweeted Dhawan. The 35-year-old has played 34 Tests, 145 ODIs and 65 T20s. Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been named Dhawan’s deputy. Five players have received their maiden India call up for the series including K Gowtham, Devdutt Padikkal, Nitish Rana, Ruturaj Gaekwad and Chetan Sakariya. (PTI)

ness and envied the more athletic Australians and South Africans, Dravid said.

Now in charge of the National Cricket Academy, Dravid has played a key role in producing the next generation of cricketers and a reserve pool which is the envy of India’s opponents.

In his playing days, Dravid said the awareness just wasn’t there. “Playing on the beach and playing on the road doesn’t make you a cricketer. It makes you someone who loves the game. That’s what we had. We had a lot of people who loved the game,” Dravid said.

## Ambrose backs Manjrekar for his comments on Ashwin

ANTIGUA

FORMER West Indies fast bowler Curtly Ambrose has come out in defence of India cricketer-turned-commentator Sanjay Manjrekar, who recently said that he has a “few problems” when people call off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin “one of the all-time greats of the game”.

“We all have our different opinions. We all look at greatness in different ways. Sanjay Manjrekar was a wonderful cricketer in his

time. He has his opinion of that; we all have our views. But, how do you define greatness? That is a good question,” Ambrose said on The Curtly and Karishma Show on YouTube.

“Because sometimes, to be quite fair, we use the word greatness loosely. So, we have to be careful with how we define greatness. According to me, greatness is when a player can be very consistent over a period of time, for years, not one or two years,” said the West Indian great, who has taken 405 wickets in 98 Tests

and 225 wickets in 176 ODIs.

Manjrekar had said that Ashwin didn’t have a five-wicket innings haul in certain countries.

“When people start talking about him (Ashwin) as being one of the all-time greats of the game then I have a few problems. One basic problem I have with Ashwin is that when you look at SENA [South Africa, England, NZ and Australia] countries, Ashwin doesn’t have a single five-wicket haul there,” he had said.

Manjrekar’s comment created a storm on

social media, and Ashwin’s fans criticised him for his views. Ashwin, who has played 78 Tests and taken 409 wickets, has 30 five-wicket hauls, most of them on Indian pitches.

Ambrose opined the best way to determine greatness was to look at the overall growth of a player since he made his debut. “Some guys can come into international cricket, and for two or three years, set the world on fire. And, for the next six to seven years, they do nothing,” said Ambrose. (IANS)

## No Indian Greco Roman wrestler at Oly: Foreign expert sacked

NEW DELHI

INDIA’S Greco Roman expert Temo Kasarashvili of Georgia has been sacked for non-performance of the Indian wrestlers, especially as no one could qualify for the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games, Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Friday.

“Kasarashvili contract with the SAI was from February 2019 till the Olympics Games. But Kasarashvili’s contract has been terminated following recommendation from the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) Kasarashvili has been relieved of his duties,” said the SAI statement.

The foreign coach was receiving a monthly salary of \$4,000 (Rs 2.90 lakh approximately).

Four years ago, India’s Hard-keep Singh (98 kg) and Ravinder Khatri (85 kg) had qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games in Greco Roman category.

But in the 2019 and 2021 Olympic qualification period none of the elite Indian Greco Roman wrestlers could qualify for the Tokyo Olympics, to be held from July 23 to August 8.

A national team coach said that an opportunity went abegging in April and May.

“India’s elite Greco Roman wrestlers missed a chance to win Olympic quota places in the Asian Olympic qualification tournament in Almaty in April. The national Greco Roman team also failed to grab an opportunity at the World Olympic qualification tournament in Sofia in May,” he said.

Gurpreet Singh of Punjab in the men’s 77kg and Asian champion Sunil Kumar of Haryana in men’s 87kg were in good form, but both couldn’t deliver goods at the right time, said the coach.

“We were expecting both Singh and Kumar to win the Olympic quota places but it was bad luck,” he said.

Eight Indian freestyle wrestlers, including four women, have qualified for Olympics. (IANS)



## French Open: It’s Barbora vs Anastasia in women’s final

PARIS

UNSEEDDED Czech Barbora Krejickova pulled off a remarkable upset by outlasting No.17 seed Maria Sakkari 7-5, 4-6, 9-7 in a French Open women’s semifinal match to reach her first Grand Slam final on Thursday.

Barbora saved a match point at 5-3 in the third set and went on to win the titanic battle in

three hours and 18 minutes.

Barbora will play first-time Grand Slam finalist No.31 seed Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, who defeated world No.85 Tamara Zidansek of Slovenia 7-5, 6-3 in one hour and 34 minutes in an earlier semis encounter.

On an 11-match winning streak, Barbora needed five match points over two games. She duly subdued the challenge from the Greek player and improved to 3-0 in their head-to-head rivalry.

Earlier, Anastasia, 29, became the first woman to play more than 50 major tournaments before reaching a final, having made her Grand Slam debut as a 15-year-old wildcard entrant at the Wimbledon in 2007.

Italian Roberta Vinci, who was the 2015 US Open runner-up in her 44th main draw, held the previous record. This tournament is the 52nd time that Anastasia has made the main draw of a Grand Slam event.

Anastasia will meet the winner of the second semifinal to be played between Maria Sakkari of Greece and Czech Republic’s Barbora Krejickova.

Anastasia is the first Russian woman to advance to a Grand Slam final since 2015, when Maria Sharapova reached the title round of the Australian Open where she lost to Serena Williams of the US. (IANS)

## Krejickova, Siniakova reach doubles final

PARIS: Barbora Krejickova will try this weekend to become the first woman to sweep Roland Garros titles since Mary Pierce in 2000. Krejickova and fellow Czech Katerina Siniakova advanced to the doubles final with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Magda Linette of Poland and Bernarda Pera of the United States. Krejickova also made it to the singles final by beating Maria Sakkari 7-5, 4-6, 9-7 after saving a match point on Thursday. She will be up against Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia in Saturday’s title match. The second doubles semifinal is pitting Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the United States and Iga Swiatek of Poland against Romanian Irina-Camelia Begu and Nadia Podoroska of Argentina. (AP)

## Wales travel far to take on Switzerland in Baku at Euro 2020

BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

FROM schoolboy to the national team, Dylan Levitt has come a long way since Wales went a long way at the last European Championship.

The Welsh reached the semifinals at Euro 2016 in their tournament debut, inspiring the likes of Levitt to work his way into the team for this year’s edition.

“Growing up watching that team, watching the games in the school hall. Every game, if I wasn’t in school I’d be watching it with my mates and my family,” the 20-year-old Wales winger said Wednesday.

“I don’t get bored with (hearing about) it really, I just want to remake it. Watching those games gave me more hunger to be in the next tournament.” Levitt and his teammates, a group that includes including Gareth Bale and Aaron Ramsey, will open their Euro 2020 campaign on Saturday against Switzerland in faraway Azerbaijan. Baku is nearly 4,200 kilometers (2,600 miles) from Wales on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

Azerbaijan allows foreign fans to make the journey despite the pandemic, but there will be far fewer than in France five years ago. In a squad with a strong youth contingent that includes midfielder Ethan Ampadu and right back Neco Williams, Bale has faith in his younger teammates.

“We’ve had little chats but at the same time they don’t need too much help. They’ve proven that over the qualifying campaign and we have full belief in what they can do as well,” Bale said Friday.

“We have a good mix of youth and experience so we’re excited to get the tournament under way.”

Wales’ preparations for the tournament, however, have been overshadowed over the last 12 months. Robert Page is the interim coach for Euro 2020 while Ryan Giggs awaits trial in January on charges of assaulting two women and exerting controlling and coercive behavior.

The Swiss would certainly like to start with a win over Wales ahead of what may be tougher Group A games against Italy and a resurgent Turkey team which will have passionate support in close ally Azerbaijan. Switzerland defender Ricardo Rodriguez plans to watch Bale closely.

“He’s a good player, you have to say, very experienced. But together we can stop him,” Rodriguez told Swiss broadcaster SRF on Wednesday. “If you leave him space to turn, it gets difficult.”

A disappointing 2020 for Switzerland, winning no games on the field and one by default when Ukraine had a virus outbreak, has given way to a better 2021 so far. Switzerland has won all of its five games this year, though it has yet to play top-level opponents. The Swiss have reached the round of 16 in their last three major tournaments. The challenge now is to build on that and reach the quarterfinals. (AP)





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