

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA  
HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | 8 JUNE 2021

## WEATHER

 **Max:** 35.6°C  
**Min:** 25.6°C  
**RH:** 44%  
**Rainfall:** Nil

**Forecast:** Cloudy sky.  
Moderate rain likely.  
Max/Min temp. 36/26°C

## ASTROGUIDE

**Plava:** Uttarayana  
**Tithi:** Vaishakha Bahula  
Dwadasi till 8.48 am  
**Star:** Bharani till 5.35 am (Wed)  
**Variyam:** 1.18 pm to 3.06 pm  
**Durmuhurtam:** 12.41 pm to 1.33 am; 3.17 pm to 4.09 pm  
**Rahukalam:** 7.30 pm to 9 am  
**HJRI CALENDAR**  
Shawwal 26,1442 AH  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 4.31 am  
**Zohar:** 12.25 pm  
**Asar:** 4.51 pm  
**Maghrib:** 6.55 pm  
**Isha:** 8.12 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY 6.49 PM**  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.41 AM**  
**MOONRISE TOMORROW 4.02 AM**  
**MOONSET TODAY 5.08 PM**

## COUNTER POINT



The vaccination centre is 2 km away? The queue has reached our house!

## SHORT TAKES

### BSE firms worth record ₹229tr

**New Delhi:** The market capitalisation of all BSE-listed companies reached a fresh lifetime high of over ₹229 lakh crore (₹229 trillion) on Monday following bullish investor sentiment. Investors wealth rose by ₹1,81,694.26 crore from Friday. The BSE utilities, power, telecom, energy, oil and gas indices have gained.

### SC panel drafts streaming model

**New Delhi:** The e-committee of the Supreme Court on Monday released the Draft Model Rules for Live-Streaming and Recording of Court Proceedings which is aimed at bringing greater transparency. The final decision as to whether or not to allow the live-streaming of the proceedings will be of the bench and it will not be justiciable.

### Bezos to ride rocket to space

**Washington:** Jeff Bezos will ride his own rocket into space next month, joining the first crew to fly in a Blue Origin capsule. The Amazon founder announced on Monday he will launch July 20 from Texas along with his firefighter brother Mark. He is stepping down as Amazon's CEO on July 5 to spend more time on his space company.

## SWACHH WATCH

# Public toilets go ‘missing’ in GHMC

**MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

Thousands of public toilets have gone missing in the city post Swachh Survekshan and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) polls.

Incidentally, officials are refusing to reveal data pertaining to the amount spent on erecting these toilets across the city before the Swachh Survekshan and municipal polls.

The civic body had in January claimed that about 7,800 public toilets had been installed at 3,500 locations all across the municipal

## Top official ordered GHMC to remove toilets due to improper use

# Public toilets go ‘missing’ in GHMC

In January, GHMC had said it will build 10,000 toilets. After GHMC polls Swachh survey, it feels having a huge number of public toilets on city footpaths and arterial stretches is not a good idea.

corporation limits, while efforts will be made to meet the state government's target of having 10,000 such toilets. The corporation went on to claim that Hyderabad now has the highest number of public toilets compared to any other city in the country.

Most of these facilities have been installed under Build, Operate and Transfer basis involving different agencies. Though installation of 10,000 public toilets across GHMC limits should have been completed by January, GHMC took the stand that their construction had got delayed mainly due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Officials maintained that the balance 2,200-odd toilets will be installed at the earliest, as tenders had already floated for them.

The municipal corporation further asserted that these toilets will be well maintained by different

agencies, including a few self-help groups. For this, GHMC has earmarked ₹3,500 per toilet per month. The annual expenditure for maintenance of these toilets is estimated to be between ₹22-25 crore. Of the 6,000 new public toilets, around 1,000 have been installed in LB Nagar zone, 1,000 in Kukatpally, 1,034 in Charminar, 1,000 in Serilingampally, 905 in Khairatabad and 1,032 in Secunderabad zone.

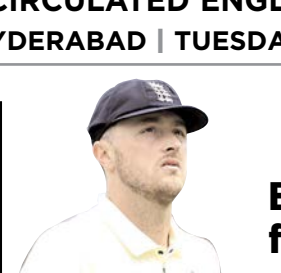
The civic body has, however, taken a 'U' immediately after conclusion of GHMC polls and Swachh Survekshan survey.



## WORLD | 10

### No misunderstanding with India, says Oli

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



## SPORTS | 12

### England cricketer fired for racist tweets

## TABLOID

### Juhi's 5g PIL: Publicity or public good?



Vol. 84 No. 158 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

# Jagadish next? Min. comes in cross hairs

**IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY | DC**  
HYDERABAD JUNE 7

Ousted health minister Etala Rajendar, it seems, was not the odd man out in the Telangana Rashtra Samiti. Another storm is brewing within, centering around energy minister G. Jagadish Reddy.

Jagadish Reddy is on the radar of the party's top leadership after he held a private event in January last, at which several “unsavoury” comments were made by some participants against TRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, his leadership style and the growing trend of “family domination” in the ruling party.

The meeting took place at a resort in Hampi, Karnataka, where Jagadish Reddy was celebrating his son's birthday. Four TRS MLAs besides some other dignitaries attended the birthday party.

As per sources, these MLAs and other dignitaries discussed the political situation in the state



G. Jagadish Reddy

As per TRS sources, four MLAs, who attended the birthday party of energy minister Jagadish Reddy's son at Hampi, reportedly made remarks against KCR on mishandling of the Etala issue. The minister, however, remained silent and the video reached the CM

## TRS woos TD's Ramana

**DC CORRESPONDENTS**  
HYDERABAD, KARIMNAGAR, JUNE 7

The TRS leadership is making moves to garner support of Backward Classes to minimise the impact of Etala Rajendar's exit from the party. Rajendar was a strong BC leader,

who ensured victory for TRS in his native district right from the inception of the party. The party is learnt to be luring Telangana TDP chief L. Ramana, a BC leader, into its fold and reportedly offered him an MLC seat.

■ Full report on Page 4

extensively. They also discussed the already simmering Rajendar issue in the party. The discussions hovered around the possibility of Rajendar launch-

ing his own party if KCR's son and minister K.T. Rama Rao was made CM.

■ Page 5: Jagadish's silence at party to cost him dearly

# Pandemic forces revision in state budget yet again

**L. VENKAT RAM REDDY | DC**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

With the second wave of Covid-19 hurting government finances, the state Budget numbers are set for major revisions for the third consecutive year.

Substantial sums have to be kept apart for expenditure in the health sector and for subsidised distribution of food for poor for a few more months.

The impact of the pandemic on state economy and government finances would come up for discussion at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday. Officials said decisions on increasing budget funds for health and police departments to fight Covid19 and cutting down funds for a few other departments are likely.

The government is incurring additional expenditure on the Covid front and to provide additional ration to the poor caught in the pandemic and lockdown situations besides extending financial assistance and ration to teachers and staff working in private schools. The government is also incurring expenditure for upgrading the facilities in hospitals for Covid treatment.

Chief Minister Chandra-

Officials said decisions on increasing budget funds for health and police departments to fight Covid-19 and cutting down funds for a few other departments are likely.

shekar Rao had pruned the 2019-20 Budget by 20 per cent citing the economic slowdown then and in view of the drastic cuts in Central government funds and grants. The budget size was slashed from ₹1.82 lakh crore to ₹1.46 lakh.

In 2020-21, the year of the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, the Budget was of ₹1.82 lakh crore but this was later downsized to ₹1.66 lakh crore as the state government suffered a revenue loss of ₹50,000 crore due to the Covid-19 situation.

For the fiscal 2021-22, the state government presented an even more ambitious budget of ₹2.30 lakh crore, hoping for revival of the economy from April. But the Covid-19 second wave since April and subsequent lockdowns dashed its hopes again.

■ Page 5: State lost ₹25,000cr in two months

## CITY COPS CALL FORGERY OF VOTER ID NOT CRIMINAL ACT

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD JUNE 7

The city police have concluded that the case of knocking of a valuable property in Jubilee Hills by way of impersonating the plot owner and forging her identity allegedly by chairman of NTV Telugu news channel T Narendra Chowdary and others, is not a criminal act, but “civil in nature”. Based on the recommendations of ACP, Banjara Hills division, the Jubilee Hills CIS Rajasekhara Reddy submitted a report to a local court.

■ Full report on Page 3

## CITY COPS CALL FORGERY OF VOTER ID NOT CRIMINAL ACT

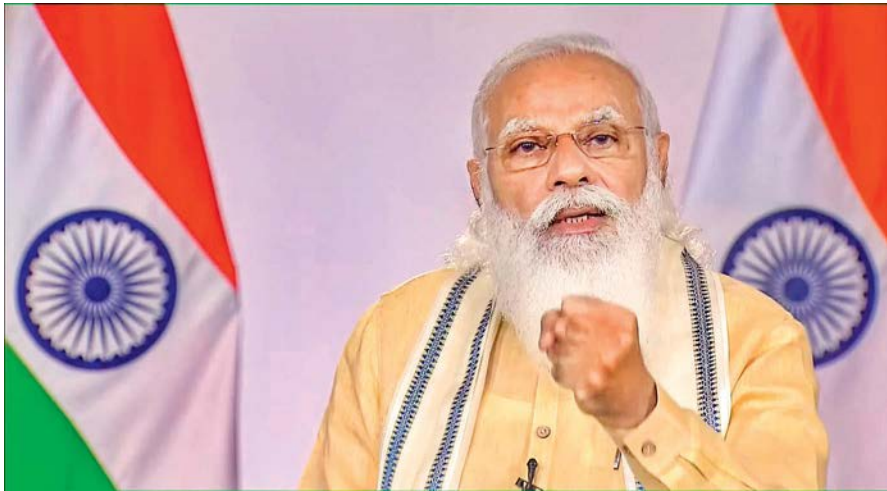
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The corporation has now changed its mind and feels having a huge number of public toilets on city footpaths and arterial stretches is not a good idea.

■ Page 5: Toilets will give a shoddy look to city, feels govt

■ Full report on Page 3



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the nation on Monday.

— PTI

# Daily Covid cases drop 14% to 86,480 in one day

**DC CORRESPONDENTS**  
HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

Finally, India has reported a daily addition of less than one lakh Covid cases after over two-month long unprecedented health crisis.

According to data from Covid19India.org and other sources, India has reported 86,480 new Coronavirus cases on Monday, which is 14 per cent less than the previous day's figure. This is one of fastest decline in the Covid cases.

On Sunday, India had added 1,00,866 cases. The last time that the country had reported

80,000 cases was on April 2, when the second wave of Covid was gathering steam. The country had also seen this level on October 2, 2020.

Maharashtra, which had most Covid cases, reported 10,219 cases, which is lowest since March 9.

The government, meanwhile, has waived the mandatory 12-16-week (84 days) interval between two doses of the Covishield anti-Covid-19 vaccine for students going abroad for studies, skilled migrant workers and sportspersons headed for the Tokyo Olympics.

They can now take their second shot after a 28-day gap between the two doses

on production of documents that prove they have to go abroad. This facility is available to those who need to undertake international travel for these specified purposes in the period up to August 31, 2021.

In such cases, the Centre has said vaccination may be availed through passports, so that the passport number is printed in the vaccine certificate. If a passport was not used at the time of administration of the first dose, the details of the photo ID card used for vaccination will be printed in the vaccination certificate and mention of the passport will not be insisted upon.




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## Gaur's calf named after Komaram angers tribals

Adivasis slam zoo officials for 'insulting' the legend

PILLALAMARRI SRINIVAS | DC ADILABAD, JUNE 7

Adivasis are up in arms against Nehru Zoological park's authorities for naming the calf of a gaur after Adivasi legend Komaram Bheem, who sacrificed his life fighting against Nizam forces for Adivasi rights in the 1940s. The gaur calf was born on June 2 and officials named it after Komaram Bheem as part of celebrating the world

environment day on June 5. The overenthusiasm of the zoo officials is snowballing into a major controversy with adivasis strongly opposing it. They are planning to stage protests across the state.

They asked if officials would dare to use any other legend's name for animals. They wondered how they had chosen the name of Komaram Bheem, who is considered a leader for marginalised and downtrodden sections. His family members

also expressed dissatisfaction. One should not forget that Komaram Bheem was a symbol of sacrifice and one who fought for Jal, Jangal, Jameen rights of the Adivasis.

Thudum Debba district president Godam Ganesh said that naming the calf after Komaram Bheem was nothing but insulting the Adivasis and their leader. He demanded the state government, zoo and forest officials to immediately drop the name otherwise, they would launch

state-wide agitations. Adivasis say if the state government wanted to show respect to Komaram Bheem, then they should name after stadiums, cultural conventional centres and government schemes after their legend.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Komaram Bheem's grandson Komaram Sonerao criticized zoo officials as what they proposed was an insult to the great man and adivasi were feeling offended.

## Anjani Kumar checks vaccine drive



Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar visited the Police Learning Centre at Petlaburj and reviewed the vaccination programme being held there on Monday. Anjani Kumar, accompanied by South Zone DCP Gujarao Bhupal, went around the premises and interacted with police personnel and their family members who had come to take the Covid-19

vaccine. He said that the city police were taking initiatives for the welfare of the personnel and that all preventive measures necessary were being taken to protect policemen from the pandemic. Anjani Kumar also asked the people to take precautions and stay safe. He asked people to venture out of their houses only if it was necessary and unavoidable.

## Holiday for tiger tourism as fears of Covid-19 lurk

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

Tiger tourism in the country is taking a break. Till October this year, all tiger reserves will remain shut as per order from the National Tiger Conservation Authority. This is due to the possibility of transmission of Covid19 from humans to tigers and other wild animals.

TS has two tiger reserves — Amrabad and Kawal — while AP has one, the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve.

The instruction from NTCA comes less than a month from the mandatory closure of all tiger reserves in the country for the monsoon season - from July 1 to September 30 with no tourism activities allowed inside the

reserves during this period. Tiger tourism is a money-spinning activity in states like Maharashtra, MP, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand, bringing in hundreds of crores of rupees each year for the reserves and these states. However, in TS's two tiger reserves, tourism activities are rudimentary at best.

On May 1, the TS forest department had ordered the closure of all zoos, wildlife sanctuaries and tiger reserves, following instructions from the Union ministry of environment, forests & climate change on April 30. This was as part of the efforts to stop the spread of Covid-19 from humans to wild animals. TS has seven wildlife sanctuaries, three national parks,

two tiger reserves and two zoos, one in Hyderabad and one in Warangal.

In its latest advisory, the NTCA referred to the death of a lion at the Vandalur Zoo in Tamil Nadu from possible Covid-19 infection. Several other lions too in the zoo were suspected to have contracted the disease.

"This latest instance of indicates the likelihood of transmission from affected human beings to captive wild animals," it said.

It also said: "A similar transmission may also happen in tiger reserves. In view of this, it is once again reiterated that for preventing possible transmission, all tiger reserves under your jurisdiction need to be closed for tourism activities until further orders."

## Vax supply will improve: Modi

FROM PAGE 1

While saying Covid-19 was the worst calamity that India has faced in the last hundred years, the Prime Minister said that the supply of vaccines would increase in the coming days.

In his address to the nation, Modi said: "Last year when the lockdown was imposed due to corona, free ration was provided to more than 80 crore people for eight months under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana."

This year too due to the second wave of the pandemic, the scheme was implemented for May and June, he added.

"Today, the government has decided to extend PMGKAY till Deepawali. During the pandemic, the government is standing

with the poor. Till November, a fixed quantity of free foodgrains will be made available to more than 80 crore people," Modi said. Under the PMGKAY, the Centre is distributing 5 kg foodgrains per person per month free of cost.

## 'When Covid-19 struck, we rose to the occasion'

Rachakonda police chief Sajjanar says health has become priority

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

The way Rachakonda police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar sees it, Covid-19 has changed policing in some ways. In an exclusive interview, Sajjanar explains how the focus in the near-term has turned to health. The most visible government apparatus for more than a year now, police has evolved into something much more than an agency that chases criminals and maintains law and order.

Excerpts: *Did you, during your training as a young IPS officer, ever imagine that you would be spearheading any battle with a virus?*

Never. We are prepared for dealing with crime and other regular cases but never a pandemic. However, we rose to the occasion and are fighting the battle in the best possible way.

*How is policing different now compared to the pre-pandemic days?*

There have been drastic changes in policing. In a way, the pandemic has changed policing totally. Earlier we were busy with crime and general duties like arranging bandobast and traffic management. Now our priority has become health-related issues and we are ensuring public safety by strictly enforcing lockdown regulations as directed by the Union and state governments.

*What are the challenges you are facing during the second wave compared to the first?*

During the first wave, there are more apprehensions. Further, when one person contracted the virus, the individual would immediately be isolated and taken care of. In the second wave more and more people are getting infected. It has become a family phenomenon. If one person tests positive, in no time, all others in the family are getting affected.

*This is the era of social media. Are you under pressure from what people have to say on social media, including those pointing out mistakes?*

## Man booked for rape of minor, 14

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

A 25-year-old man was booked on Monday for allegedly raping a 14-year-old girl at her residence in Banjara Hills while she was alone. Her parents are construction workers.

The police identified the accused as K. Rajesh, a driver. The girl did not disclose the assault to her parents initially. However, upon being questioned by her mother,



V.C. Sajjanar

**SOCIAL MEDIA** has helped us reach out to people and spread our message. We helped a lot of people in dire need of medicines, plasma and blood.

*How has social media changed policing?*

Social media has helped us reach out to people and spread our message. We helped a lot of people in dire need of medicines, plasma and blood. In addition to criticism and advice, we also get accolades. We are taking everything in a constructive way and moving forward.

*Have the acceptance levels of police been less or more among people?*

Earlier meeting police was considered taboo. If any person met the police he/she would have been either a complainant or a criminal. Now the scenario has changed. More and more people are approaching us for help and the relationship between police and the public has grown better.

*How do you keep yourself safe being at the frontline day after day? Also, there is the pressure of keeping your families safe. How are you managing this?*

First and foremost, I got vaccinated to be safe. With a good healthy lifestyle we could avoid getting Covid-19. Early morning after a good bath I do breathing exercises and yoga. Secondly, I wear a mask when I am outside. Despite best efforts to maintain physical distance, sometimes it becomes difficult when people approach me. However, I take all precautions to avoid getting infected.

● The police identified the accused as K. Rajesh, a driver. The girl did not disclose the assault to her parents initially.

she revealed what happened and a police case was booked, the police said.

The girl was shifted to a government hospital for a medical examination. Efforts are on to nab Rajesh, who is at large.

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SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

Nearly 1,000 students who are planning to go abroad for studies have received the first jab of Covid-19 vaccine so far at the international health vaccination centre at the Institute of Preventive Medicine (IPM) at Narayanguda. Around 10,000 outbound students have registered for vaccination at the centre, Dr Ch. Prabhakar, deputy civil surgeon, and incharge of international vaccinations at the IPM, said.

"On day one of this drive, 269 students were vaccinated, and on Monday close to 700 have been vaccinated," he said giving out details.

A student, Sham Sunder Reddy, said it was a special day for him as he was all set to start a new round of education at University of New Haven in the United States of America. After standing in queue for a while at the centre he became one of the nearly 1,000 students planning to go abroad for studies to receive the first jab of Covid-19 vaccine.

Dr Prabhakar said once students registered for vaccine shots, when they came to get it, they should carry with them their passport with the student visa, and the admission letter from the college or university.

"Once verification is completed, the students are given their shots. We

## HOW TO GET THE VAX

- For slot booking log into: health.telangana.gov.in
  - Click on 'vaccination for students going abroad'
  - Upon receipt of confirmation, reach venue at the appointed time
  - Carry passport, student visa and admission letter from the college or university.
- VENUE:** Institute of Preventive Medicine, international health vaccination centre at Narayanguda.

have deployed 12 medical staff for this special vaccination drive," he explained.

The government facili-

tated free vaccination for students going abroad for their studies. Many students were anxious after their applications for

admissions were not approved by various colleges and universities because vaccination is mandatory for travel and joining classes. The decision of the state government provided great relief to the students and their families.

Most students who lined up at the IPM on Monday plan to leave India in August or September, and they need to get both their shots before leaving. The authorities are planning to get these students vaccinated after a gap of 28 days against the period of 84 days, as currently mandated for those receiving Covishield.

With the US government recognising only Covishield as an approved

Covid-19 vaccine, this is being administered to the students seeking the vaccine shots.

Pallavi Majumdar, who secured admission in the University of London, said she registered on the portal on June 4, and that the entire process was quite smooth.

Preetam, who will be leaving for University of Hawkins, Texas, said, "It's absolutely easy to enrol, everything here is well organised." Praney, bound for Missouri State University in USA, said, "After we get the date of vaccination, there is a counter where we show our confirmation message on our phones, and a token is given, after which we get our shot."



## IN BRIEF

DOCTORS AMONG  
4 HELD WITH  
FUNGUS DRUGDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

The North Zone Task Force police apprehended four men with a medical background for illegally selling anti-fungal injections in black. Officials seized six liposomal amphotericin B injection vials and four mobiles along with Rs. 29,600 from their possession.

Police laid a trap near a hospital in Saifabad and apprehended Dr D. Ramesh Kumar, BAMS, who runs a clinic at Saidabad, Dr Lingala Raghavendra Goud, a medical practitioner at Nikhil & Indo US Hospital, Jallu Srikanth, a pharmacist, and Mohd Asad, a medical technician, both from Medico Hospital, said the police. Apart from the four, Vutla Saidulu, an agent who supplies medicine to Dr Ramesh Kumar, was reported absconding.

They were illegally procuring and selling the injections in black market for ₹50,000 per vial. The original MRP of these was ₹7,400.

NUMBER OF  
ORPHANED  
KIDS TO RISE

From Page 1

In an apparent dig at the Delhi government for not collecting data on children left orphaned or lost one of the parents, Justice Nageswara Rao reminded though it is a Union Territory, it was not like Dadra & Nagar Haveli and needs no direction of the court to take steps for the welfare and benefit of such children.

"Please identify (such children) and upload (data on NCPDR website) and don't need our orders to extend benefits to them," Justice Nageswara Rao told counsel appearing for Delhi government.

The largest number of children who have lost either both the parents or one of them is from Maharashtra, 7,084, followed by Uttar Pradesh (3,172), Rajasthan (2,482), Haryana (2,438), Madhya Pradesh (2,245), Andhra Pradesh (2,089) and Kerala (2,002).

The number of children, who have been orphaned or lost one of their parents, is likely to go up as many states/UTs, including Delhi and West Bengal, are in the process of identifying such children and furnishing the information about them to the National Commission for Protection of Child Right (NCPDR).

Advocate Gaurav Agrawal, who is assisting the court as amicus curiae in the matter, said that these children should be paid ₹2,000 by the state they are residing in and another ₹2,000 coming from the Centrally sponsored Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) — a suggestion which has not found instant favour with the court as it wants to hear different states before deciding on the quantum of the amount.

Agrawal said that the amount required to meet the day to day requirement of such children would be undoubtedly more and ₹4,000 that he was suggesting was only for to deal with the immediate situation.

He said that though largely these children are studying in government schools, some of them were studying in private schools. He said that those studying in private schools could be covered under the 25 per cent seats earmarked for the children from weaker sections in these schools under the Right to Education Act, which provides for free and compulsory education to children. "Benefits for the girl child should be higher, as chances of trafficking are much higher," Agrawal said.

On the reports of illegal adoption of such children, Additional Solicitor General K.M.Natraj told the court that the adoption would be strictly in accordance with the law.

Though the court said that the order in respect of today's hearing will be pronounced on Tuesday (June 8), Justice Aniruddha Bose in the course of the hearing focused on the need for a dedicated set-up to monitor that the benefits of the measures for these children actually reach them. Justice Bose said that these numbers may go up.

It was suggested that a local official or a retired official could be entrusted with the monitoring of 15 children so that he could see one child a day. It was suggested that the file of each child has to be updated to record the progress made by him/her and to ensure that child is not lost or trafficked.

## Going home



Guest workers continue to head back to their native places from Kacheguda railway station as they do not have any work during the lockdown.

— P. SURENDRA

3 dengue cases surface,  
civic body starts survey

One case each at Jeedimetla, Quthbullapur, Bowenpally

KANIZA GARARI | DC  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

Even before people can heave a sigh of relief from the devastation caused by Covid-19 pandemic, fresh troubles are brewing for residents of Hyderabad, as new cases of dengue have been reported in the state capital.

As many as three cases of dengue have been recorded in Jeedimetla, Quthbullapur and Bowenpally in the GHMC in the first week of June. The presence of aedes aegypti mosquitoes has been found in Bowenpally area and the entomology wing of the GHMC is surveying areas and asking people to empty fresh water containers kept outside for birds and other stray animals.

With the early onset of monsoon and pre-monsoon



- Dengue cases in 2020 in the state: 2,173
- Dengue cases in 2021 in the state (till May): 143

soon showers in summer, early breeding of dengue mosquitoes began, bringing bad tidings for the city's populace.

There are fresh water bowls for animal and bird feeding which are kept in residential localities in summers which are being noted as breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Flower pot trays, collection of fresh water in broken, discard-

ed plastic bottles, bags and containers are also some of the places where these mosquitoes breed.

From January to May, 46 cases of dengue have been recorded in the GHMC areas. In the year 2020, there were 300 cases recorded in the GHMC areas. Dr Ram Babu, chief entomologist at the GHMC says, "We have already started anti-larva operations in 30 lakes in the city. There are a total of 39 lakes and the works in the remaining nine lakes are also to start soon. Other works of fogging and awareness are also being carried out. Localities where we know that people have to be reminded to cover their drinking water cans and not allow fresh water to collect in containers are also being carried out. We are asking them to dry these containers com-

pletely a day in a week to avoid breeding of these mosquitoes."

The cases this year have been mild and doctors say that children and teenagers are the most infected.

Dr Karuna Madapu, a paediatrician says, "Breeding sites of aedes are a concern and it is important that the government acts fast and creates proper awareness. There were less cases last year but we must be alert this year as the monsoon has arrived early. There can be variations in the cycle of dengue virus."

In 2019, Hyderabad witnessed a large number of dengue cases and the state recorded 13,331 cases in the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme. This experience has got the government and medical fraternity on alert.

## Docs advise caution in 'unlock'

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

Unlocking procedures must be gradual and large social gatherings must not be allowed at any cost to keep the situation under control and to avoid the third wave, say experts. With cases declining in Telangana, 50 per cent beds are empty in government hospitals in districts with less than 50 new cases per day. The districts which are still seeing between 50 and 100 new cases per day have 30 per cent beds empty in government hospitals. There is a decline in mild, moderate and severe cases across the state.

Delta variant, according to sources, has infected one in four people in Telangana and there are now not many host bodies for the virus. But the adjoining states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are still seeing new cases in

DAILY COVID BULLETIN DATA		Update: Cases   Deaths	
	Fresh Cases	1933	
	Deaths	16	
	Tests Done	1,32,996	
	Active Cases	25,406	
	Total Cases	5,93,103	
	Total Deaths	3,394	
Highest New Cases		Lowest New Cases	
GHMC (Hyderabad)	165	Kamareddy and Adilabad	6
Khammam	160	Nirmal	11
Nalgonda	148	Narayanpet and Komaram Bheem-Asifabad	13
Ranga Reddy	116	Sangareddy	23
Medchal Malkajgiri and Bhadradi Kothagudem	95		

high numbers.

Dr Kiran M, senior government doctor in Nizamabad explains, "Fever survey of the government has helped in identifying infected people early. This helped in early hospitalisation of severe cases in rural areas of the state. Lockdown has

helped in bringing down cases. The decline means that there will be respite for two to three months."

Experts argue that unlocking must be carried out by the state gradually and entertainment sectors must not be opened up immediately.

Dr Narsinga Reddy, sen-

- DELTA VARIANT, sources said, has infected one in four people in TS and there are not many host bodies for the virus.

ior member of Indian Medical Association says, "Safety protocols have to be followed even after the decline in cases. It does not mean that the virus will go away. Due to the inappropriate behaviour of people and complete disregard to safety, there are new variants. People's behaviour will determine the nature of the third wave."

With the neighbouring states still recording a high number of new cases, interstate travel must be strictly monitored, say experts.

Movement of people for work, social and economic reasons will also allow movement of viruses which is also one of the reasons for emergence of new variants.

Cops say forgery case on  
NTV's Chowdary is 'civil'DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

The city police have concluded that the case of knocking of a valuable property in Jubilee Hills by way of impersonating the plot owner and forging her identity allegedly by chairman of NTV Telugu news channel T Narendra Chowdary and others, is not a criminal act, but "civil in nature".

Based on the recommendations of the assistant commissioner of police of Banjara Hills division, the Jubilee Hills inspector S Rajasekhara Reddy submitted a report to the additional chief metropolitan magistrate court, Secunderabad.

The ACP also suggested that the complainant in the case should seek relief from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

The report by the ACP, a copy of which is available with Deccan Chronicle, is self-explanatory - that the police have not made any effort to investigate the allegations of serious offences. These offences include impersonation and forgery of an identity

proof -- that too a voter ID card issued by the Election Commission of India - by the accused.

Notably, the accused have been granted anticipatory bail by the Telangana High Court.

Instead, the inspector dwelled at length on his investigation into the backdrop of filing of the case, the bitter rivalry between Chowdary and the complainant in the recently held society elections, and the efforts of a few to encroach into the plot allotted to one Ch Sirisha and is lying vacant.

The report filed before the magistrate completely ignored the deposition made by the owner of a house in Jubilee Hills, the municipal number of which was mentioned in the voter ID card of Sirisha, to establish proof of residence.

According to complainant B Ravindranath, secretary of the Jubilee Hills cooperative housing society, the NTV chairman along with others conspired to sell the Rs45 crore worth plot using illegal means. The plot

was originally allotted in the name of Sirisha, who was later found to be settled in the US, married an American and became a citizen there.

However, during the thick of the pandemic, Chowdary and secretary Hanumantha Rao completed the allotment process and registered the plot to a person who claimed herself to be Sirisha.

The person, who allegedly impersonated Sirisha, within no time registered a gift deed in favour of one Srihari who, in turn, sold it to former AP Minister P Pulla Rao's wife.

"The Jubilee Hills inspector referred to a high court order directing the society to register the plot in the name of Sirisha perhaps in support of his civil-in-nature claims. Other plots were indeed registered following the High Court order.

But this particular case pertains to the criminal procedure in which the plot was registered," said Ravindranath, adding that he was filing a protest petition against the police report.

Owaisi: SC made  
PM give free vaxDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi has maintained that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcements on Coronavirus are an outcome of Supreme Court pulling up the centre.

"Yet, the PM has blamed states for the terrible vaccine policy," he said. In a series of tweets, the Hyderabad MP said "Modi has put politics before saving lives. It's always gimmicks over efforts to increase vax production. Forget everything else, the only question for the PM is why there is such large shortage of vaccines." The MIM president emphasised that the only real test at this stage is how many Indians have been fully vaccinated? "Less than 4 percent," he pointed out.

Owaisi said till April 2021, no money was spent on ramping up vaccine production. When there are no vaccines, it does not matter who procures them. Not surprisingly, private hospitals will continue to have a 25% quota, so that rich have a "VIP queue" while poor continue to wait for vaccine availability, he observed.

The MP accused PM of congratulating himself for vaccinating frontline staff "in time". Of the 30-crore priority group, only 10 percent had been vaccinated by early May. "We need 60 crore doses to vaccinate priority groups by July. Currently, we are getting only 8 crore doses per month. Despite failing in basic math this way, Modi has congratulated himself that India is vaccinating people better than many countries," he remarked.

The MIM chief said the Prime Minister had even appreciated COWIN.

"How can one take pride

MODI'S MOVE IS  
A LANDMARK:  
GOVERNORDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Monday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his announcement of free Covid-19 vaccination for everyone above 18 years of age in the country.

The Governor said Modi's assurance will be an important milestone in India's fight against the pandemic. The Centre's efforts in augmenting vaccine supplies from other countries will "help in vaccinating all eligible people in our country. Soon the country will witness intensified vaccination," she said.

The Governor appealed to the people to strictly adhere to the Covid preventive norms to break the chain of virus infection and end the Covid-19 pandemic.

in COWIN? What purpose does it serve? It's a lottery. Till recently, it was only available in English, a language understood by a small minority. It excludes women, poor, rural Indians and the majority who don't have internet. Why have walk-in vaccinations been stopped," he asked.

Owaisi said it is good Modi has pointed out that many people have spread propaganda against the vaccines. "Hope his government takes action against such people and punishes ministers who have been always at the service of such anti-science people," he added.

SANJAY: MODI  
DECISION GIVES  
RELIEF FOR ALLDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar, "speaking for the people of Telangana", on Monday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for announcing that all people in the country will be vaccinated free.

In a statement, Sanjay stated that this would be a major relief to the poor, middle and upper class sections as many were avoiding the jab because of the costs. He said that it was because of the Centre's nod that two vaccines have been made available and three more are in trials.

Modi has assured about research on nasal vaccines, he said. He appreciated the Prime Minister for holding consultations with manufacturers of vaccine and oxygen, and ensuring appropriate medication for Corona victims.

INFECTION  
ACADEMY CALLS  
IT RATIONALDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

The Infection Control Academy of India called the Centre's decision on free Covid-19 vaccination rational and welcome. "The reversal of earlier decisions is a reflection of relentless effort, public debates, letters and representations of several organisations, healthcare workers, NGOs, and state governments," academy president Dr Ranga Reddy Burri said.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for listening to stakeholders and tweaking the policy.

## FRONTLINE | FIGHTER

## IMA asks PM to identify Covid martyrs, aid their kin

## 1 doc died every 48 hrs in 2nd wave

BALU PULIPAKA | DC  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

The second wave of Covid-19 in Telangana state took a heavy toll on lives, with as many as 1,672 people dying from the disease.

Of these, at least 34 were doctors and every one of these medical professionals either died of Covid-19 or post-Covid-19 complications, according to the Indian Medical Association. With the general agreement being that the Covid-19 second wave took hold from April, this means in Telangana, one doctor died from Covid-19 every two days between April 1 and June 6.

The IMA said that in the neighbouring Andhra

Pradesh, 35 doctors have lost their lives to Covid-19 in the second wave so far. The highest number of deaths — 109 — among doctors in Covid-19 second wave were in Delhi, the IMA said.

Doctors who lost their lives in the war against the Covid-19 pandemic should be recognised as 'Covid martyrs' with due acknowledgment of their sacrifice, the IMA said, adding that their families must be supported by the government.

Though insurance benefits were extended to families of doctors who lost their lives battling Covid-19 under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, only 168 families of the 754 that lost a doctor to the disease were

- THOUGH INSURANCE benefits were extended to families of doctors who lost their lives battling Covid-19 under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, only 168 families of the 754 that lost a doctor to the disease were able to apply under the scheme.

The IMA in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged him to create an effective mechanism for identifying and verifying all these victims through the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) and also ensure that the sup-

- TAKING AIM at the likes of Baba Ramdev who had made critical comments on doctors practicing Allopathic medicine, the IMA asked the PM that any person who spreads misinformation against the vaccination drive must be punished under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.

port is given to the affected families as solatium at their door steps.

Taking aim at the likes of Baba Ramdev who had made critical comments on doctors practicing Allopathic medicine, the IMA asked the Prime Minister that any person who spreads misinformation against the vaccina-

tion drive which is meant to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, must be punished under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, the Indian Penal Code and the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

All such acts on behalf of "any person raising doubts in the minds of the common public against the protocol guidance issued by Ministry of Health for treatment of Covid-19 patients ought to be punished and any attempt of any person to fool gullible public and promote so-called 'magic remedies' or 'wonder drugs' without the approval of the Ministry of Health, Government of India, must be immediately curtailed," the IMA told the Prime Minister.

Applications are invited from eligible officers working under the Central Government or State Government or Union Territory Administration or Public Sector Undertakings or recognized research institutions or Universities or Autonomous or Statutory Organisations for filling up of one post of Assistant Director (Law) in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad-500 052, by deputation including short term contract. The details and application form are available in Academy website <http://www.svpnpa.gov.in/vacancies>.

Sd/- (A. Roy)  
Administrative Officer (Estt.)

<b>NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED</b> (A Govt. of India Undertaking) CIN : L74899DL1974G0007417 Corporate Office & Central Marketing Office : A-11, Sector - 24, Noida - 201301 (UP), Phone: 0120-2412294, Fax: 0120-2412397 Website: <a href="http://nationalfertilizers.com">nationalfertilizers.com</a>									
<b>IMPORTANT INFORMATION</b> (For Farmers, Dealers and Retailers) The Government of India has revised the NBS rate of phosphorus fertilizers, as per Notification Number 23011/1/2021 dated 20.05.2021. Accordingly, the sale rates of DAP, NPS and NPK fertilizers have been revised by National Fertilizers Limited (NFL). The said revised selling rates will be effective from 20.05.2021. The new sale rates of fertilizer are as follows:									
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of Fertilizers</th> <th>New selling rate per bag (effective from 20.05.2021)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>DAP 18-46-0</td> <td>Rs. 1,200/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NPK 10-26-26</td> <td>Rs. 1,375/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NPS 20-20-0-13</td> <td>Rs. 1,090/-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of Fertilizers	New selling rate per bag (effective from 20.05.2021)	DAP 18-46-0	Rs. 1,200/-	NPK 10-26-26	Rs. 1,375/-	NPS 20-20-0-13	Rs. 1,090/-	
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NPS 20-20-0-13	Rs. 1,090/-								
All dealers and retailers are directed to ensure that the fertilizers of the company are sold at the prescribed rates (MRP) only.									
@NFL_Kisan F @nationalfertilizers in National Fertilizers Limited									



## SHORT TAKES

MODEL TOWNS  
IN TS SOON,  
SAYS KTRDC CORRESPONDENT  
KARIMNAGAR, JUNE 7

Strong attempts are being made to transform all towns in the state into model towns in the country under the guidance of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, IT minister K.T. Rama Rao said.

Accompanied by welfare minister Koppula Eshwar, MLAs K.Vidyaasagar Rao and Dr Sanjay Kumar and zilla parishad chairperson Dava Vasantha, he participated in various developmental activities during his tour of Korutla and Metpally municipalities on Monday. Speaking to media persons, Rao said that around 43 per cent of the state population lives in towns. Before the formation of Telangana state, there were only 68 municipalities but it has now risen to 142.

With rapid urbanisation, thousands of people are shifting to nearby towns and cities for livelihoods. Keeping these in mind, several steps are being taken for providing all basic facilities to transform towns into beautiful cities while strictly implementing the new Municipal Act, he said.

Despite the financial crisis, the state government has allotted ₹500 crore for developing towns and to establish vegetarian and non-vegetarian markets in all municipalities, he informed.

Towards this, a foundation stone was laid for establishing veg and non-veg markets in Metpally municipality at a cost of ₹6.5 crore.

DESILT NALAS  
SOON, MAYOR  
TELLS GHMCDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

City mayor Gadwal R. Vijayalakshmi on Monday directed Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) officials to expedite desilting of nalas and take up their widening on a priority basis. She instructed the staff to lay emphasis on submerged and flooded areas in the city.

"Draining out rain water, prevention of inundation, widening of nalas and development is proposed with an outlay of ₹858 crore. Officials should prepare DPRs and invite tenders in this regard. They should provide mobile numbers of agencies and contractors in the public domain to ensure transparency and accountability. Officials should also provide numbers of emergency teams to facilitate people in case of any adversity", Vijayalakshmi said.

GHMC commissioner D.S. Lokesh Kumar instructed the officials to upload photos and information on progress of desilting of nala works by tagging to corporators and MLAs concerned.

After Etala exit, TRS  
eyes TD's Ramana

Party attempts to keep BC voters in good humour

DC CORRESPONDENTS  
HYDERABAD, KARIMNAGAR, JUNE 7

The TRS leadership is making moves to garner support of the Backward Classes to minimise the impact of Etala Rajendar's exit. Rajendar was a strong BC leader, who ensured victory for TRS in his native district right from the inception of the party.

The party is learnt to be luring Telangana TD president L. Ramana, a BC leader, into its fold and reportedly offered him an MLC seat.

Speculations are rife in TRS circles that minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao and TRS Jagtial MLA M Sanjay Kumar held negotiations with Ramana and made this offer as per the directions of TRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.

Ramana is considered a prominent BC leader from North Telangana and hails from Karimnagar district. Ramana is expected to join TRS very soon. The TD which already lost its



Telangana TD president L. Ramana — DC

leader and cadre base to the TRS would receive another major blow with Ramana's exit.

Ramana, who belongs to Padmashali community from Jagtial, has considerable hold in Karimnagar district. The TRS leadership apparently feels that Ramana could fill the vacancy created by Rajendar who is all set to join the BJP, so that he could balance the BC equations in the district. Ramana, got elected to the Assembly in 1994 and 2009. He worked as handlooms and textiles minister in Chandra-babu Naidu's Cabinet in 1995-96. After bifurcation, in

2014, he was appointed as Telangana TD president. Ramana contested the recent Legislative Council election for the Hyderabad-Ranga Reddy-Mahabubnagar constituency but failed to retain deposit.

Ramana continued in the TD despite his colleagues like Errabelli Dayakar Rao and A Revanth Reddy quit and joined other parties.

By taking Ramana into the party fold and elevating him as MLC, the TRS leadership wants to pacify BCs and wants to send a message to BCs in general and Karimnagar in particular that the TRS gives prominence to BCs and sacking of Rajendar should not be viewed as anti-BC stand of the TRS. Since there are six MLC seats to be filled under MLA quota and one under Governor quota, the Chief Minister is ready to give one to Ramana.

Ramana started his political career in 1978 as student leader from the Congress and joined the TD after its formation the N.T. Rama Rao.

ENUGU REDDY,  
MEN UNDER  
SURVEILLANCEDC CORRESPONDENT  
NIZAMABAD, JUNE 7

Intelligence sleuths are concentrating on followers and those in support of former MLA Enugu Ravinder Reddy. In this context, the former MLA is interacting with supporters in Yellareddy, Nagireddy, Lingampet, Gandhari, Sadashivanagar, Rajampet and Ramareddy mandals.

Supporters in huge numbers attended his meeting in Yellareddy on Monday, which was barred for the media. Reportedly, Ravinder Reddy discussed their strong base in villages and the future course of action. The participants wholeheartedly backed his move, sources said.



State Congress president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and others take part in a demonstration at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad, demanding free treatment for Covid and black fungus patients. — P. SURENDRA

Treat poor patients for  
free: TS Cong. protestsDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

State Congress president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday pleaded that the government provide free treatment to the poor and middle class segments for the Covid and Black Fungus diseases.

The party held a Satyagraha Deeksha at Gandhi Bhavan to press this plea. CLP leader in the Assembly Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, MLC T. Jeevan Reddy, former PCC president Ponnala Laxmaiah, MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, MLA T. Jayaprakash 'Jagga' Reddy, AICC secretary Madhu Yaski and several senior leaders participated in the Deeksha.

Uttam Kumar Reddy

said similar satyagraha was would be organised at all Assembly constituency headquarters on June 14. He urged the government to implement a High Court order that said the excess charges being collected by private hospitals should be recovered and given back to the patients.

It, he said, was shameful that though 15 months have gone by since the onset of the Covid pandemic, the government failed to improve the medical infrastructure in the state. There existed a shortage for beds, oxygen, ventilators and medicines.

Several patients have died in King Koti Hospital due to the shortage of oxygen. Till now, there was no drinking water supply at TMS hospital where

about 1,500 patients took treatment a day. Water is supplied through tankers to the hospital in the absence of water pipelines.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said though Bharat Biotech and Reddy Labs in Hyderabad are producing the vaccines for Covid-19, the state government failed to procure sufficient doses for the state.

He alleged that the ruling TRS party leaders have been receiving 8 per cent commission for the irrigation works in the state. In the past one year, about ₹40,000 crore has been spent by the state on irrigation projects. "Can't the government spend a few hundreds of crore to provide free treatment to Covid patients by adding this provision to Arogyasri scheme, he asked.

TS NOW LARGEST  
PRODUCER OF  
PADDY: KCRDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao said that Telangana state had not only achieved food security but had become a source of food security for the country.

In a press release issued by Chief Minister's Office (CMO) to mark World Food Safety Day on Monday, he said that Telangana stood first in the country by producing three crore tonnes of food grains.

Recalling the efforts put in by the government to turn Telangana into a rice bowl, Annapurina, from a region which faced famine and starvation as part of united Andhra Pradesh, the CM said that within a short span of time, Telangana was able to create fertile land of two crore acres which can yield two crops. The CM said it was a moment of pride for the state which has become number one in paddy output by completing irrigation projects like Kaleswaram, and reviving and restoring tanks under Mission Kakatiya programme.

He said even during the Covid-19 pandemic, Telangana farmers have provided food security to the country.

TPCC TAKES  
COGNISANCE OF  
UNWARRANTED  
SM POSTSDC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

Telangana Pradesh Congress disciplinary committee met under the chairmanship of M. Kodanda Reddy and took cognisance of complaints and acts of indiscipline and derogatory statements in the press and social media by some party functionaries against the senior leadership and party affairs.

The committee said that the party has always encouraged internal democracy and anyone can voice grievances and express their opinion within the party forum. They were unhappy that some self-styled leaders had been indulging in anti-party activities that were damaging the image and credibility of the party. The panel made it clear that it would not tolerate any kind of indiscipline and would initiate strict disciplinary action against such elements.

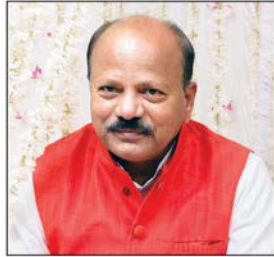
Any member of the party may report and bring it to the knowledge of the appropriate forum and make internal complaints to the grievance committees at DCC and PCC levels or may even take them to AICC based upon the nature and seriousness of the issue. The Committee decided to take serious action against those who were threatened and abused in the episode concerning former MP V. Hanumantha Rao.

## CS ORDERS PLAN FOR VIRUS CONTROL IN DIST

Hyderabad: Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar held a teleconference with district collectors, medical and health officers and superintendents of Government General Hospitals of Bhadradi-Kothagudem, Karimnagar, Khammam,

Nalgonda and Suryapet districts on the Covid situation, tests, positivity rate and bed occupancy. The Chief Secretary instructed the collectors to prepare a plan and pay special attention on control of Covid in the villages. — INVA

## SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In everlasting and loving memory of my dear husband  
**GURRULA NARSIMHA REDDY**  
14/11/1954 - 08/06/2019

We miss you every day of our lives. Your presence continues to surround us. You still live in the hearts and minds of the loving family you left behind.

Fondly remembered by  
Wife - Gurrula Rajitha Reddy  
Daughters - Gurrula Sruthi Reddy, Gurrula Sheetal Reddy  
Sons-in-law - Beenish Bhatia, Kotha Avinash Reddy, Near & Dear

## 2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

**K.M. DATHA RAJ**  
DOB: 10.06.1959 DOD: 08.06.2019  
We miss you every moment in our life.  
Inserted by: **KONGARI FAMILY**  
Ph: 9291224050

(S/2122/D00288)

## FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

"I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever" Psalms 23:6  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF

**Mr. UJJIEL ALBERT KOTHAPALLI**  
S/o Late Kothapalli Abraham Albert  
DOD: 08-06-2020  
"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7  
Inserted by: Family Members  
985401883

## OBITUARY

**Retd. Sr. Journalist Jabbar Siddiqui**  
R/o Farhat Nagar, Dabeerpura, Hyd. T.S. died on 06-06-2021 (Sunday) at 11.30 p.m. Namaz-e-Janaza performed at Masjid-e-Ghousia, Farhat Nagar, Dabeerpura at 11 a.m. on Monday and Buried in Masjid-e-Ilahi Qabristan, Chaderghat, Hyd.  
Contact: 9618031374/9346237601/9949582920

## 1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

**G. CHARAN DASS**  
[Retd. Income Tax, Tankbund]  
DOB: 06-06-1941 DOD: 08-06-2020  
"We miss you Baba and continue to miss you for our entire life."  
Inserted by:  
Sons, Daughters, Son-in-law & Grand Children.

(B/2122/D00046)

## 3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY

**Smt. ARUNA ALLADI**  
W/o Raghunath Rao Alladi  
DOB: 07-11-1957 DOD: 08-06-2018  
"Beautiful memories silently kept, of the one that we loved and will never forget."  
Inserted by:  
Raghunath Rao Alladi and Family

## 3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

"I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever" Ps 23:6

**GOVADA MARSHALL SAMPATH KUMAR**  
DOB: 02-12-1927 DOD: 08-06-2018  
Legend of Indian Basketball  
Former Chairman Technical Commission, BFI  
"We miss you boom, not a day goes by without thinking of you!"  
Inserted by: John Samuel - Son  
Sharon Evangeline - Grand Daughter

## OBITUARY

**Smt. Vasantha Kannan**  
(02.05.1936 - 05.06.2021)  
W/o Late Sri Rajagopal Kannan  
Attained Acharyan  
Thiruvadi on 05th Jun, 2021  
In loving memory  
Sri Sriram Kannan (Son) & Family  
Smt Rohini Raghavan (Daughter) & Family  
+91 9849743150 / +91 9949210047

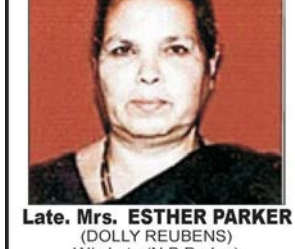
## 13th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

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

**Mrs. P. DEBORAH JASON**  
(Retd. Teacher, Railway Mixed High School)  
D.O.B: 20-08-1946 D.O.D: 08-06-2008  
"She was gentle as a dove and brave as a lioness"  
Husband: Jason  
Son & Daughter-in-law: Ratan & Shanthi,  
Daughter & Son-in-law: Sharon & David,  
Daughter: Symphony,  
Grand Daughter: Daphne Deborah  
Grand Son: Joshua Samuel.  
Ph: 9866987971

## 14th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever Psalm 23:6

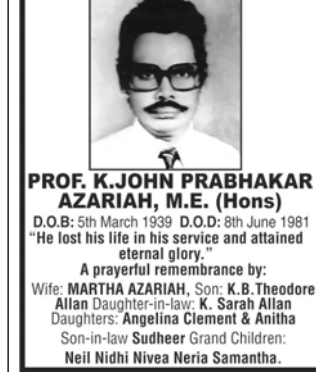
**Late. Mrs. ESTHER PARKER**  
(DOLLY REUBENS)  
W/o Late (N.B. Parker)  
Retd. P.G. T.K.V. Sangathan  
D.O.B: 14 Sep 1939 D.O.D: 8 Jun 2007  
Mother thou art gone to rest. And this shall be our prayer that when we reach our journey's end his glory we may share  
**DANIEL PARKER**  
Ph: 9000555972, 7675871972

## 13th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

**THAALLA SHAKUNTHALA**  
W/o. Late T. Suryanarayana  
Though you are not with us, you will always remain in our hearts  
Inserted by: Sons, Daughters-in-law, Daughters & Sons-in-law & Grand Children  
Ph: 9849033553

## FOND REMEMBRANCE

I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever ps-23:6

**PROF. K. JOHN PRABHAKAR AZARIAH, M.E. (Hons)**  
D.O.B: 5th March 1939 D.O.D: 8th June 1981  
"He lost his life in his service and attained eternal glory."  
A prayerful remembrance by:  
Wife: MARTHA AZARIAH, Son: K.B. Theodore  
Allan Daughter-in-law: K. Sarah Allan  
Daughters: Angelina Clement & Anitha  
Son-in-law: Sudheer Grand Children:  
Neel Nidhi Nivea Neria Samantha.

## 2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

**DODLA SHYAMALA**  
W/o. Late. Dodla Venkiah (Thasildar Retd.)  
DOB: 04-05-1936 DOD: 08-06-2019  
Two year has passed without you but we remember you in tears daily. We miss your affectionate presence. You will remain in our hearts forever.  
Inserted By: Family Members  
H.No. 1-9-52, Shyamala Nilayam, Ramnagar, Hyderabad, Ph: 9849137526

## 12th DAY CEREMONY

**B.VITHAL RAO**  
DOB: 07/08/1937 DOD: 28/05/2021  
Your Memories Are Always In Our Hearts...  
**K. R. LAXMI** (Wife)  
Sons Daughters & Grand Children.  
12 day ceremony on 08-06-2021 and lunch follows at our residence # 8, Indrapuri Railway Colony, West Maredpally

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My client M/s PBSAMP Projects Private Limited, Hyderabad seeks to bring the following to the Notice of Public that : in arbitration matter in connection with the Property bearing Premises Nos 8-2-120/120/120/A, 8-2-120/A/1 to 18 in all an extent of Ac 3-28 Guntas Road No 10, Banjara Hills, (opposite Cancer Hospital), Hyderabad between my client PBSAMP Projects Private Limited, Hyderabad (PBSAMP for brevity) as claimant and Hotel Leela Ventures Limited, Mumbai (LEELA for brevity) as respondent; the Arbitral Tribunal consisting of Hon'ble Dr Justice Arjit Payasat (Retd) Hon'ble Justice TNC Rangarajan (Retd) and Hon'ble Justice A Kulasekharan (Retd) having considered all the evidence and after hearing the arguments of the parties gave its final award on 8th September 2019 rejecting the counter claims of HLV and holding that "The claimant is entitled to Rs 15.5 Crores with interest at 21% p.a from the date it was given to the date it is paid. The Respondent has kept the documents of title in escrow for security purposes.

That LEELA instead of repaying the advance to PBSAMP as per the Arbitral Award had preferred an appeal (C O P No 118/2019) under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996. The Hon'ble Special Court for Commercial Disputes, City Civil Courts, Hyderabad after hearing the parties and considering various judgments on the subject passed its Orders on March 19, 2021, dismissing the Appeal preferred by LEELA with Costs and confirming the said Arbitral Award.

Recently PBSAMP came to know that LEELA has colluded with and took huge advances from Sri Kadiyala Subba Rao and other Partners of Sri Venkateswara Constructions who had already entered into Development Agreement vide Document No 4894/2019 -with the same persons who had executed 18 sale deeds in favour of LEELA in 2005, hiding the above facts and claiming that PBSAMP has no interest in the Property in order to deny PBSAMP the benefits of above referred Court orders. PBSAMP through a Public Notice dated 29.01.2021 had already cautioned the concerned against dealing with the said Property as all title documents of the said property were kept in joint Escrow Account as security towards the advances paid by PBSAMP and an FIR (No. 52/2021) registered in PS Banjara Hills against Sri Vivek Nair, CMD of Hotel Leela for cheating & misappropriating the monies advanced by PBSAMP.

PBSAMP will continue to have lien over the title documents of the said Property till the total money advanced to LEELA together with 21% interest per annum is paid back to PBSAMP and that all transactions, deals, acts, commissions and omissions done or proposed to be done by any one for or on behalf of LEELA with an unlawful intention of directly or indirectly alienating the said property to play fraud on my client by colluding with Sri Kadiyala Subba Rao and others will be strongly resisted. In spite of this Notice if anybody is dealing with the said property in any manner; they are doing so at their own risk and costs.

07.06.2021  
HyderabadSuresh Challa - Advocate  
C-68 Balaji Towers, 1-1-538, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad-50.  
Cell: 8688216167



## IN BRIEF

## Two burglars get two year jail

**Hyderabad:** Two burglars were convicted to undergo two years imprisonment by a local court under Rachakonda commissionerate. The accused were identified as Mala Yogendher and Mandula Janaki. Police said the accused broke into some houses and committed theft of valuable ornaments in December last. The residents were away at that time. After completion of Investigation, Neredmet police filed a chargesheet. During the trial, the court found the duo guilty of two burglaries and convicted them to two years rigorous imprisonment.

## STATE LOST ₹25,000 CR IN TWO MONTHS

From Page 1

The state government has to earn nearly ₹20,000 crore per month to meet this target. In April, it earned ₹9,980 crore and in May, the collections fell to ₹5,100 crore due to the lockdown.

During a review meeting at Pragathi Bhavan on the impact of Covid-19 on state finances, the Chief Minister asked finance minister T. Harish Rao to identify the departments from where funds can be diverted to health and police departments.

The government has decided to auction government lands and plots, as also flats of the Telangana housing board to raise additional funds besides seeking Central nod for an increase in the FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) limit by 3 to 5 per cent to borrow more from external sources as was done last year.

## AP TO GIVE COVID JABS TO MOMS OF KIDS

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 7

The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to administer Covid-19 jab to mothers having kids below five years, estimated to be 15-20 lakhs in the state soon, keeping in mind the impending third wave of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Health principal secretary Anil Kumar Singhal told media persons here on Monday that in the wake of the third wave of the pandemic, the state government had decided to administer Covid vaccine to mothers of children below five years of age as they were also supposed to stay put at the hospitals along with their children infected with the virus to undergo medical treatment and added that they were going to issue modalities for its implementation to the district collectors shortly.

The senior health official said nearly 600 private hospitals were given permission for Covid care in the state and added that CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had instructed them to find out how many paediatric wards could be set up and infrastructure to be strengthened in such hospitals for kids. He said the mothers with kids along with people aged above 45 years would be given the jab. The official said that AP registered 1,623 black fungus cases by Monday and added that the Centre had released 13,105 injections of amphotericin B for their treatment. He also said that the state government had ordered for purchase of 91,650 injections and added that as the Centre was allocating the quantum of injections to the states, they were purchasing its equivalent injections. He said a state level committee with experts was formed for preventive measures for the Covid third wave.

## Traffic cops use lockdown break to complete works

Accident-prone zones are being redesigned to provide for safe driving

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

Lockdown is helping Cyberabad traffic police to improve road safety infrastructure across its jurisdiction. They have identified around 30 junctions in the commissionerate limits for improving infrastructure in such a way that it would inculcate road sense among users and also prevent jaywalking.

For instance, at the Cyber Tower junction, its centre is marked with yellow lines to indicate to the drivers that they are forbidden from stopping their vehicle on those lines.

Good road infrastructure coupled with civic sense can improve road safety. Towards this, they have started redesigning various junctions by taking up zebra marking, installation of signboards, railing on the



At the Cyber Tower junction, the road is marked with yellow lines to indicate that drivers are forbidden from stopping their vehicle there.

central median and bollards at vulnerable road curves, among others.

According to Cyberabad traffic police, after close analysis and inputs from engineers, they have identified around 30 accident-prone

junctions, including Cyber tower junction, Gachibowli junction, Nizampet junction, Aramghar junction, and others.

Also identified are high-risk roads which report frequent accidents

like the NH65 stretch from Moosapet to ICRISAT, Old Mumbai Highway, road under the PVR Expressway and others.

Explaining about the yellow boxes, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad Traffic S. M. Vijay Kumar said, "In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the city, we have laid yellow boxes at the junction. They denote that once a vehicle enters the area it should not stop but keep moving. In other words, vehicles should enter the area when the way is clear for them."

They have analysed accident data and identified accidents that were mainly reported at the intersection of internal roads with the main roads.

Either the sudden entry of vehicles coming from internal roads to main roads or vice-versa are

resulting in accidents. "To prevent this, we are planning for arrow marks at intersections, indicating that there is an internal road and a possibility of vehicles coming in. This cautions the road users and he can change gears accordingly" explained Vijay Kumar.

"We can't deploy police personnel at each and every place to ensure compliance of rules. The problem is that most pedestrians lack civic sense. They cross the road wherever they want and indulge in jaywalking. To prevent this, we are preparing designated places for crossing the road so as to bring about orderliness. We have installed railings on medians to prevent jaywalking," he said, adding that lockdown has been helping in going about works aimed at improving road infrastructure.

## ALLEGATIONS BY REVANTH FALSE: GHMC BOSS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

Denying the allegations levelled by TPCC working president A. Revanth Reddy regarding the demolition of portions of the Secretariat building, GHMC commissioner Lokesh Kumar on Monday called them false. The case, which was filed last year, alleges that the demolition was against all environmental laws.

As part of the proceedings of the case in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) the civic body chief has said that all allegations, averments and statements contained in the application made by the Lok Sabha member were 'false'.

He added that the GHMC has set up permanent mechanism for waste management by setting up recycling plants at Jeedimetla and Fatullguda with a capacity of 500 tonnes per day. All the waste was transported to the recycling plants and not dumped at Jawahar Nagar as alleged, the statement said.

## 19 HELD FOR PLAYING CARDS ILLEGALLY

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

Nineteen persons who gathered in a plot to play illegal card games despite the lockdown restrictions were nabbed by the Malkajgiri Special Operations Team. The police seized ₹2 lakh from them.

The Special Operations Team police said they raided a plot in Netajinagar under Keerasa police station with specific information. "Investigation revealed the main accused Ch Babu is secretly organizing three-card gaming by betting money in his house," the police said.

The SOT Malkajgiri police laid a trap on Sunday at around 9 pm, raided the premises and found the 19 persons gambling.

## Jagadish's silence at party to cost him dearly

From Page 1

One of the TRS MLAs sang a song on the situation existing in the TRS and gauging what would happen if Rama Rao becomes Chief Minister. A video of these promptly reached the Chief Minister's Office. It was noticed that minister Jagadish Reddy did not admonish the MLA. Instead, he remained silent while the detractors had a go at Chandrashekar Rao and his family.

An intellectual, whose loyalty to the Chief Minister was a criterion for his appointment to a nominated post, too was very aggressive in his criticism of Chandrashekar Rao. It was noticed that the minister kept silent, including on the remarks against Chandrashekar Rao in relation to the "mishandling" of the Rajendar issue.

There are eerie coincidences to the Rajendar saga. TRS sources had, in a similar setting, likened it to the beginning of the end for the former health minister. In a meeting held by Rajendar in Bengaluru last year, he was vocal about how unhappy and disappointed he was at the governance styles of Chandrashekar Rao. A leaking of such comments at this meeting eventually sealed Rajendar's fate.

On his return from Bengaluru, too, Rajendar made sensational remarks against the government and the party high command. The sequences of such remarks continued despite Rajendar being grilled once by the party leadership over such of his "indulgences". Rajendar came on the Chandrashekar Rao family's radar after this episode and it eventually ended with the CM forcing his health minister out of the Cabinet.

Now, it's Jagadish Reddy's turn to be on the radar of the TRS top brass. As the proceeding at the January

meeting leaked and reached the high command, the CM made enquiries about Jagadish Reddy and his meeting with the MLAs.

Party sources say the minister has explained to the CM that he organised the celebrations for his son's birthday along with his family and close friends. He stressed that there was "no significant political discussion" at the event.

The CM's radar is powerful and ubiquitous, which picks up all kinds of signals and does not miss anything important, especially matters that involve his ministers and party leaders. Chandrashekar Rao keeps getting reports about the meetings and movements of all key political figures. His rivals are specially kept track of. The state intelligence closely monitors all key political activities every day, and reports to the CM as to who meets whom, who is going where, and the sleuths are invariably keeping a close watch on ministers and other influential people.

A close look at the suspected anti-Chandrashekar Rao moves was not done immediately because of the Nagarjunasagar bypoll. Now, discussions have turned to an impending Cabinet reshuffle. Sources say Jagadish Reddy could be replaced by Palla Rajeswar Reddy, who had recently been re-elected as a graduate constituency MLC. The matter does not end there. The TRS is looking for a strong leader from the Reddy community, a leader who could play the role of in-charge of the erstwhile Nalgonda districts. Palla fits the bill, and he's close to the CM as well as minister Rama Rao.

Only time will say if the Jagadish Reddy saga too ends like that of Rajendar or get 'settled'. The TRS party meanwhile is keeping its eyes and ears open.

## Andhra Court allows ayurvedic concoction

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 7

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday directed the state government to allow giving the Ayurvedic preparation 'K', developed by B. Anandaiah of Krishnapatnam in Nellore district, to those who want it.

A division bench comprising Justice K. Vijaya Lakshmi and Justice D. Ramesh observed that as the state government had submitted that the product 'K' was meeting the quality parameters intended for human

consumption, it was directing the respondents not to obstruct Ayurvedic practitioner Anandaiah from administering the preparation.

With regard to the eye drops, it was stated that efforts were being made to ascertain their quality and safety and samples had been sent to agovernment-approved lab for quality and safety related tests.

The lab authorities had furnished a report that the quality parameters were satisfactory.

The court said that it was informed that the sterility test could not

be conducted due to the preparatory conditions, packaging and transport and the thick consistency of the sample. Ayush-approved labs had been approved which wanted one to three months to conduct the prescribed tests.

The high court directed the state government to the send eye drops sample prepared by Anandaiah for sterility tests and see that the report is obtained as expeditiously as possible within a period of two weeks.

The next hearing in the case was posted to June 21.

## Distribution of Anandaiah's mixture begins in Sarvepalli

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, JUNE 7

After a gap of over two weeks, the distribution of herbal medicine prepared by Anandaiah began at the abode of Bhagawan Avadhoota Sri Venkaiah Swamy in G o l a g a m u d i, Venkatachalam mandal on Monday.

Interestingly, Anandaiah was absent at the programme although he was represented by his second son Sridhar and brother Nagaraju.

The concoction known as P (Preventive) was

packed in a plastic cover for five members in each family.

The sachet had photographs of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Anandaiah, Sarvepalli legislator Kakani Govardhan Reddy and his father Kakani Ramana Reddy.

A pamphlet containing details on using the medicine was also kept in the cover.

Speaking on the occasion after formally inaugurating the distribution, Govardhan Reddy said they have identified volunteers in all the

villages. They will deliver the medicine at the doorstep of 1.80 lakh people living in five mandals of Sarvepalli segment in the first phase. He said that they intend to provide the medicine both for prevention and cure all over the state. He also hinted that they would supply the medicine for those seeking it from across the country and abroad.

Govardhan Reddy thanked Jagan Mohan Reddy for giving permission to produce the herbal medicine on a war-footing.

## Contest among IAF trainees ends

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

The inter-squadron drill competition marked the culmination of competitions of the under-trainee officers and flight cadets at the Air Force Academy, at Dundigal on Monday.

The Commandant, Air Marshal I.P. Vipin, presented trophies to winners of various competitions.

Brar Squadron bagged the winner's trophy for the inter squadron drill

competition. The Commandant's Banner is conferred on the squadron which displayed exceptional performance in various inter-squadron competitions including sports, debate, quiz, cross country, drill and academics.

The winning squadron is called the 'Champion Squadron' for the next six months and its cadets will have the privilege of wearing a lanyard on the shoulder over their uniform.



Commandant Air Marshal I.P. Vipin presents trophies to winners of various competitions.

## Jr NTR fans hoist flag in Naidu bastion Kuppam

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC TIRUPATI, JUNE 7

Adding fuel to the persistent demand from Telugu Desam functionaries to bring in Tollywood actor Junior Nandamuri Tharaka Ramarao to active politics and project him as the face of the party, his fans hoisted a flag with his image imprinted on it in Kuppam constituency. Kuppam is the bastion of TD chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

The fans of the actor, grandson of legendary NTR, erected a 40-foot-long flag post and hoisted on it a white-coloured flag with Jr NTR's picture on it and raised a banner with this demand at the Mulakalapalli village.

The activists raised slogans in support of Jr NTR and pleaded with him to return to active politics and take over the reins of the party from former chief minister Naidu, whose stocks are steadily down. Ever since the TD faced a



A 40-foot-long flag post erected in Kuppam.

humiliating defeat in the 2019 assembly polls and in recent local body elections,

there has been plea that Jr NTR take over the leadership of TD. Else, if the party perishes, it would be suicidal for the rank and file. Whenever Naidu held a meeting with his party workers, it became a routine practice among activists to echo this demand. When Naidu was addressing the public at Santhipuram mandal in his own constituency on February 26, he faced a tricky situation. Party activists raised slogans in support of Jr NTR and

Naidu was embarrassed. A few TD leaders also opined that if Jr NTR could be projected as the next chief ministerial candidate, the party's fortunes would revive and help it win the 2024 polls. The flag-hoisting event turned many heads towards Kuppam.

Some prominent TD leaders in Kuppam are upset and in despair after the party faced humiliating defeats in 2019 elections and in the recent local body elections.

Currently, anti-TD winds

are blowing strong in Kuppam. A few leaders have approached the party high command, saying they see less chances of reviving the party as CM Jagan with his welfare programmes is outwitting the Opposition.

In the meantime, a section of TD rank and file, mainly the young lot, has come to the conclusion that Junior NTR can be the saviour for the party. The actor has, on several occasions in the past, made it clear that he would work as an activist for the party.

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF T.S. LTD.**  
OPERATION CIRCLE, SAROORNAGAR  
**SHORT TENDER NOTICE No. 02/2021-22**  
Tender: Specification No. W/03/2021-23, Estimate for extension of supply to 80Nos 1-ph of each 2KW D/Load, 1No. 3-ph of each 5KW D/Load for sump water (common load), 1 No. 3-ph of each 5KW for Street lights and making total load of 170KW on 2BHK houses (G+3 Pattern) at Meerpet (V) in Champapet Division of Saroornagar Circle, G.S. 04/2021-22, for supply of Materials to General Section in Saroornagar Circle & G.S. 05/2021-22, Printing Items in Saroornagar Circle. Please visit [www.sso.southernpower.com](http://www.sso.southernpower.com). Contact Person No. 7901093649. Sd/- Superintending Engineer/Elect, Op/Saroornagar Circle, Hyd.  
R.O. No. 12563-PP/CL/Advt/1/2021-22

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
**PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL OFFICER, REGIONAL OFFICE PR NALGONDA**  
"e" Procurement Tender Notice  
e-Proc.T.N.No.PR/33/2021-22 Dt.05.06.2021  
No. of works (1): Name of the Work Balance work of C/Bridge cum checkdam on road from Palleghat to Prupally ZP road to Suddala (V) Gundala (V) Yadadri-Bhongir-Dist only in undersigned Total EC/V975.90 Lakhs Tenders Download Start & End Dt. 08.06.2021 to 22.06.2021 for further details "e" Procurement Market place i.e. [www.eprocurement.gov.in](http://www.eprocurement.gov.in)  
RO No.1840-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22 Dt:07-06-2021 Sd/- Regional Officer, RO, PR Nalgonda

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, ROAD DIVISION, GUMLA**  
e-Procurement Notice  
e-Tender Reference No. RCD/GUMLA/411  
Date :- 05.06.2021

1.	Name of the work	Reconstruction of Dumri (On MDR-036)- Bara Katra - Kerakona(Jharkhand - Chhatisgarh Border) Road including HL Bridge (Total Length -11.400 km)
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 40,37,39,310.00Rs. Forty crore thirty seven lacs thirty-nine thousand three hundred ten ) Only.
3.	Time of Completion	18 Months
4.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids	08.07.2021 Up to 12.00 Noon
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	17.06.2021 From 10.30 A.M.
6.	Date of Opening of Tender	09.07.2021
7.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department, Road Division, Gumla.
8.	Contact no. of e-Procurement officer	06524-222097
9.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

1. Tender amount can be increased or decreased.  
2. Details can be seen on website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>  
Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer, Road Construction Department, Road Division, Gumla.**  
PR 247616(Road)21-22"D



# DECCAN Chronicle

8 JUNE 2021

## Ahead of polls, talk of change in Punjab and UP

Congress-run Punjab and BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh have seen considerable political activity from within the ruling parties in recent weeks, leading to speculation of possible change in guard. That may appear somewhat far-fetched. Assembly polls in these states are just over six months away and changing the leader so near an election is hardly common. Even so, the changes that the Congress and the BJP may bring about in Punjab and UP respectively, if any, are likely to be a matter of considerable interest, not least because of the context. In UP the grapevine is abuzz with stories of dissonance between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Adityanath, both regarded as the heaviest weight Hindutva icons. In Punjab at the present juncture, Chief Minister Amrinder Singh is veritably the tallest politician cutting across parties. Even so, cricketer-turned politician Navjot Sidhu, who gave up his place in the cabinet, has become a thorn in the CM's side. His steps are meant to further his ambition to be the next CM, should the Congress return to power. He has succeeded in gathering a small group of MLAs around him.

Not wishing to let the matter hurtle down any further months before the state polls, the Congress leadership at the Centre felt obliged to invite every single MLA, including Mr Sidhu and, of course, the CM, to Delhi for discussions. No one needed persuading that it would be foolhardy for the party to go into the election under any leader other than the Captain. Therefore, the adjustments and compromises to be made without upsetting the applecart will be keenly watched. It would be surprising if the CM, known to be his own man, will happily concede to the raucous dissident the position of deputy CM. If not, will there be more fireworks? And will that be an advantage to the Akali Dal, the opposition party which has broken off with traditional ally BJP to back the months-long farmers' agitation against the Centre? The CM has evidently calculated it won't. If the Congress' inner-party discord is to be brought to a close for now, the former opening batsman might do well to accept an organisational position. At the Centre, the Gandhis may be well-advised not to lean in the direction of backing a bickering dissident who, for years, is somehow seen as having their ear.

In UP, speculation of change of guard remains rife. This is because the mismanagement of the fight against Covid has become too glaring to ignore, even within senior BJP circles, including legislators. But the CM is fighting for his turf. He is said to have ignored the PM on accommodating a new legislator, a retired Gujarat cadre IAS officer, as the deputy CM. Combined with evident popular dissatisfaction on the handling of Covid, this added dimension has caused a flurry of visits to Lucknow of senior RSS and BJP officials, and later confabulations at high levels in New Delhi. It is to be kept in view that while the CM is rabidly Hindutva-minded, he is not from the RSS but the Hindu Mahasabha. He may therefore be hard to persuade to step down. It is in this uncertain atmosphere that all concerned appear to have agreed to call a truce, even if it is uneasy? Electoral consequences, if any, are in the future. But UP is the gateway to Delhi for the BJP. That links the party's fate in the next Parliament poll with the upcoming UP election.

## Rationing Delhi's powers

The Delhi government of Arvind Kejriwal has been trying to put in place the delivery of rations at the doorstep of about 17.8 lakh ration card holders with about 72 lakh beneficiaries. It is being manacled by the Centre which is putting spokes in the wheel of what appears to be a good scheme that may not only reduce the role of the 'ration mafia' in distorting the distribution chain for illegal gains but also lessen the chances of 2,000 PDS shops acting as spreaders of Covid-19. In a long running battle to launch the scheme, the Delhi government also offered to drop the 'Mukhyamantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana' from the scheme's title, but to no avail.

In the normal scheme of things, Kejriwal may be the most attritional of chief ministers with a penchant for demonstrativeness despite being the duly elected executive. The problem has been exacerbated in the passing of the Government Of National Capital Territory Of Delhi (Amendment) Act 2021. The Centre, through the good offices of a pliant Lt. Governor, has arrogated even more powers than would devolve in governance of the capital territory with its security implications as the seat of the Union government. The ration scheme may seem logical enough but it was bound not to have a smooth passage because an elected Delhi government's powers have been eroded thus.

In a divided state of affairs stemming from a rancorous sharing of power, the government led by a chief minister and the Lt. Governor answerable to the Centre have always been at odds. But then all this is only part of a larger manifestation of the problems of political power play seen in territories from Delhi to Lakshwadeep and also Puducherry where a popular mandate is yet to lead to the formation of a Cabinet more than a month after the declaration of election results. At no time has the administration of the NCT and Union Territories been so fraught as now. This is so because the traditional sharing of power in a federal structure is being stretched by a lust for power for its own sake.

### DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER  
Editor

K. SUDHAKAR  
Printer & Publisher

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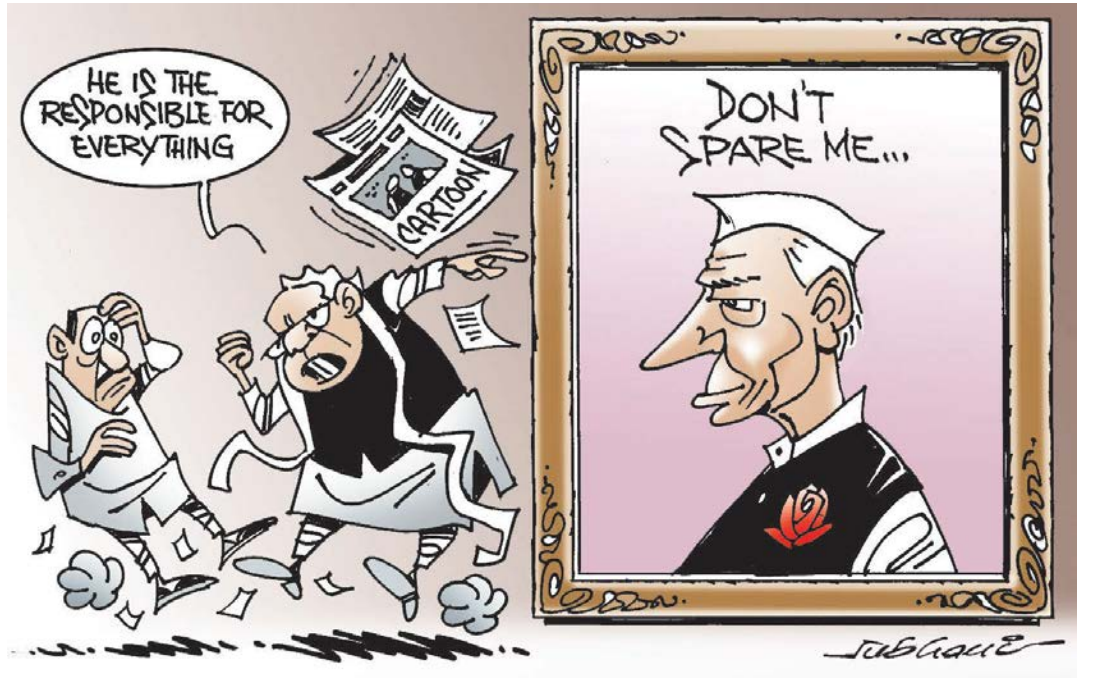
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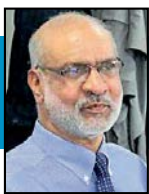
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Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. HSD-348/2006-08

Subhani



## It's not for India to clean up the Afghanistan mess



Mohan Guruswamy

The American drawdown has begun in earnest, and it is only a matter of weeks before it becomes total. Till China's People's Liberation Army woke us up and Covid-19 knocked us down, Indian diplomats, both professional and self-styled, were arguing for an active Indian policy in Afghanistan, suggesting if problems in that historically uncontrollable country were not controlled these will spill over into India. This is nonsensical. India doesn't have a border with Afghanistan. India has Pakistan as its buffer. If the Afghan situation were to boil over it will spill out mostly into Pakistan, a country dedicated to our destruction.

No one country has played a more deleterious role in unleashing chaos in Afghanistan than Pakistan, and it is only Pakistan, because of its unique history and geography that can still play an active role in Afghanistan. We must never forget that half the Pashtun nation lives in Pakistan. And to understand what Afghanistan is today we only have to recall the words of a great Afghan poet, Khushal Khan Khattak: "Son one word I have for thee./ Fear no one and no one you flee./ Pull out your sword and slay any one./ That says Pashtun and Afghan are not one./ Arabs know this and so do Romans./ Afghans are Pashtuns./ Pashtuns are Afghans."

Afghanistan only emerged as a country of sorts in the mid-18th century, when Ahmad Khan, later Ahmad Shah, leader of the Abdali contingent in the Persian army of Nadir Shah, carved out a buffer zone between Persia and a crumbling Mughal empire in the Indian subcontinent. This later evolved into a

buffer zone between Czarist Russia and British India. As a consequence of the May 1879 Treaty of Gandamak after the Second Afghan War, Britain had taken control of Afghanistan's foreign affairs. This treaty also gave Britain control over traditional Pashtun territory west of the Indus, including Peshawar and the Khyber Pass.

After the Panjdeh incident, a Anglo-Russian boundary commission, without Afghan participation, fixed the Afghan border with Turkistan, which was the whole of Russian Central Asia now — Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Thus, as a consequence of the competition between Britain and Russia, a country, the Afghanistan that we know today, was created to serve as the buffer.

The US' National Intelligence Council's 2008 report "Global Trends 2025" has this to say about Pakistan's prospects: "The future of Pakistan is a wild card in considering the trajectory of neighbouring Afghanistan. Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province and tribal areas probably will continue to be poorly governed and the source or supporter of cross-border instability. In due course a broader coalescence of Pashtun tribes is likely to emerge and act together to erase the Durand Line, maximising Pashtun space at the expense of the Punjabis in Pakistan and the Tajiks and others in Afghanistan." If this comes to be, should it worry us too much?

Now let's take a reality check on the Afghan situation. With a population of about 39 million and growing at 2.33 per cent annually, it has a GDP of \$19 billion, placing it among the world's poorest countries. It ranks 173 out of 177 in the world

HDI rankings. But what this GDP is made up of should cause us sleepless nights. Almost 45 per cent of the GDP is due to grants from America and its allies, Saudi Arabia and some from even countries like India.

Since 2002, the United States has deployed about \$150 billion on non-military aid to Afghanistan, but in the same period it also spent about \$900 billion on military operations in Afghanistan, which really means mainly on itself. Afghanistan's own revenues are less than 10 per cent of its GDP. Quite clearly, without this continued burn rate of Western aid, Afghanistan's GDP will undergo a massive contraction, something few nations can emerge from without irrevocably and irretrievably changing. Just not to fall off the treadmill Afghanistan needs an annual grant-in-aid package of about \$15 billion. Military operations will cost a lot more.

The other numbers are equally distressing. In 2015, the country produced nearly 7,000 tons of opium and converted almost 670 tons of heroin. Afghanistan produces 87 per cent of the world's heroin. Other estimates suggest Afghanistan accounts for 92 per cent of the world's non-pharma grade opiates. In the Taliban period, the total area under opium cultivation was just 30 sq km. During the ISAF occupation this rose to about 285 sq km. The pressure to cultivate opium is huge. Opium earns about \$16,000 per hectare, while wheat just fetches about \$1,600 per hectare.

The total value of 'legal' exports from Afghanistan are estimated to be about \$776 million, accounting for around 20 per cent of

**It ranks 173 out of 177 in the world HDI rankings. What this GDP is made up of should cause sleepless nights. Almost 45% of the GDP is due to grants from the US and its allies, and countries like India.**

GDP. The main Afghan exports are carpets and rugs (45%); dried fruits (31%) and medicinal plants (12%). Its main export partners are Pakistan (48%), India (19%) and Russia (9%). Afghanistan imports almost 10 times that, which leaves it with a trade deficit of \$5.8 billion. This underscores its dependence on grants-in-aid.

But this situation isn't entirely without hope. For a mountainous and mostly desert country, Afghanistan has a fairly large available arable acreage. It has eight million hectares of it, but right now exploits only 1.6 million. It also has sufficient water resources, but its rivers mostly flow into the Indus and Pakistan doesn't allow Afghanistan, either by direct pressure or more unorthodox means, to develop these resources for agriculture. Fruit and vegetable production was over \$800 million last year and contributes hugely to its exports. The scope to expand is great, but Pakistan's water aggressiveness must be curbed to benefit Afghanistan.

To be able to prosecute the war against the Taliban and grow at a useful rate to meet the demands of its fast-growing population, Afghanistan needs about \$2 billion a month. In 1992, after the Russians precipitously pulled out of Afghanistan, it took \$300 million from Russia to enable the Najibullah government to hold on. One month after it was stopped, the Najibullah government collapsed.

In 1841 William McNaughten sent a message to the Governor General in Calcutta that read: "What can you do with a kingdom whose revenues are only Rs 15 lakhs a year?" Now it has revenue of about \$2.6 billion, and grants help it to barely stay afloat. When the West pulls out and the money spigots run dry, what will happen to Pakistan?

*The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.*

### LETTERS

#### EDUCATION

The education system has lost much due to Covid-19. States and the Central government have directed educational institutes to promote students without conducting board exams, which is nothing but appeasement. The missed syllabi should be completed during the coming academic year by increasing the working days. This is possible only by cancelling term holidays, reducing festival holidays to one and avoiding the second Saturday holidays.

**S.M. Arif Hussain**  
Secunderabad

#### VACCINATION

This is one more first in the country by the Telangana state and the organisers of mass vaccination deserve a big compliment (*AK take the shot at massive camp, DC June 7*). Such camps are required everywhere in the country to vaccinate the 1.3 billion population before the year end.

**Dr O. Prasada Rao**  
Hyderabad

#### COVID-19 CASES

It is a good news that Covid-19 cases are coming down in the country and states are heading towards unlock mode. However, the nation cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of violation of Covid-19 guidelines committed before the second wave, as the consequences would be severe. Speeding up vaccination and ensuring strict compliance of Covid-19 protocols are important.

**Kshirasagara Balaji Rao**  
Hyderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN

## DECCAN Chronicle

### Pak demonetises currency notes

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7.

The Chief Martial Law Administrator in Rawalpindi today issued a new martial law regulation demonetising Rs. 100 and Rs. 500 currency notes with immediate effect, Radio Pakistan reports.

The order said that Rs. 500 notes should be deposited with commercial banks on June 8 and 9 and Rs. 100 notes on Jun 8,9 and 10. After this date the notes will not be accepted.

The Radio said that any currency on which Joy Bangla Desh was written will not be honoured.

Aakar Patel



## Modi's 15-point Vikas Yatra: How far has his govt really delivered?

The NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked its seventh anniversary at the end of last month. The celebrations were muted because of the sickness and death that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought to us. But the Prime Minister did put out a document on the achievements of the seven years. It was called "Vikas Yatra" and had 15 points.

The first point was "Ease of doing business". In the World Bank's report, India has risen from 142 to 63 in "doing business". This is commendable. What does it mean? It is a survey of limited firms of a particular size and how easily they are able to obtain permits in two cities (Mumbai and Delhi). The Vikas Yatra document does not refer to what the result of India climbing on the index was. Presumably making doing business easier would result in more businesses investing in this country.

But India's investment rate has fallen from 38 per cent of GDP before Narendra Modi to 28 per cent now.

The second point is called "Ease of living". This is not an index that the

world measures and it is not quite clear what is meant by it, so I will leave it alone. The third one is "Eliminating corruption", and it says that "PM Narendra Modi has led a historic battle against corruption... Now, honesty is honoured, and transparency is the norm".

In Transparency International's Global Corruption Perceptions Index, India has fallen from a rank of 76 in the world in 2015 to 86 this year. The fourth point is called "Empowering youth opportunities". It says: "The last seven years of the Modi government have focused on clearing the path of India's youth as they navigate through opportunities across fields."

The latest Periodic Labour Force Survey conducted by the Narendra Modi government says that youth unemployment in urban India is 23 per cent. This means that one in four young people looking for work cannot find it. This is the highest rate that India has ever had.

The fifth point is "Health for all". Here we need not look beyond what is going on all around us at this very time. India's government is unique

in the world in several ways. First, because it has the highest cost of vaccination in the world. Second, because there are three different vaccination procurements — the Centre, states and private companies. And third, because India has defaulted on its commitments to vaccinate the world. We need not go into all the details of this today. So far as health for all is concerned, only a few days ago oxygen was being sold for ₹60,000 a cylinder lasting for a few hours in Delhi and there was (and there is) no national helpline for finding oxygen and essential drugs.

The sixth point is called "Infra for growth". India's GDP growth has been falling since January 2018, according to the government's own figures. It fell from eight per cent to seven per cent to six per cent to five per cent to four per cent to three per cent even before the pandemic. Last year the economy contracted in the biggest fall in its history.

The seventh point is called "Mobility for the middle class" and says that "no other government has done more for them as the Modi government". Last month a report by the

Azim Premji University showed that during the pandemic 27 crore Indians were pushed into poverty. This means that they were not poor according to the government's poverty line before but have become now.

The Vikas Yatra's eight point is called "Nari Shakti for New India" The participation of women in India's labour force is around 10 per cent today, the lowest in history. In a 2018 study by Thomson Reuters, India was found to be the most dangerous place for women in the world. In the 2020 Georgetown Institute's Women, Peace and Security Index, India ranked 133, having fallen two places since 2017.

Point 9 says "Prosperous farmers for prosperous India". It claims that "farmers' welfare is a top priority for the Modi government". The tens of thousands of farmers currently holding protests outside Delhi's borders, who have been sitting there for the past six months and who have been vilified as terrorists, Khali-stanis and anti-nationals, will disagree.

Number 10 is "Putting India first". The claim here is on national security. We haven't been told yet what the

status of our patrolling in Depsang is by the government, but if experts are to be believed we have given away considerable space to China.

Numbers 11, 12, 13 and 14 are called "Renewed focus on the Northeast", "Social empowerment", "Taking development to the poorest" and "Transformative economic growth". These are generic terms, but we can accept that work has been done on them. The final point is "India fights Corona". It would be interesting to see what the world thinks of that statement. Even with its under-reporting of numbers on infections and deaths, India has the second highest number of cases in the world and the third highest number of deaths. Estimates say that in reality it is the leader in both and that the number of deaths just in the second wave has been over a million across India.

This then is the state of the Government of India and of our country as we enter the eighth year of the Narendra Modi government.

*The writer is a columnist and a senior journalist*



## SHORT TAKES

CENTRE MULLS  
NEW RULES FOR  
DOCS' SAFETYDC CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

Home ministry is in the process of formulating "uniform guidelines for providing adequate security cover and a safe environment to all doctors, nurses and other para-med staff" who are not only involved in Corona related duties but providing other medical treatment as well. The guidelines must be followed by all states and Union Territories and they can make them more stringent but not dilute them.

The move comes close on the heels of the Indian Medical Association, an umbrella organisation of doctors in India, wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to ensure that doctors on duty be provided with proper security.

IMA had written the letter after videos went viral on social media of two doctors being attacked by relatives of patients in Assam. Even though the state police had taken a serious note of the incident, the IMA is now demanding that Centre must ensure adequate safety for doctors on duty. Sources said that Union home minister Amit Shah has given clear instructions that there would be no compromise on safety of frontline warriors. Centre is working on making stringent guidelines with provision for strongly legal and criminal action against those involved in attacks on doctor and paramedics staff.

CASES IN ODISHA  
DIP FOR FIFTH  
CONSECUTIVE DAYAKSHAYA KUMAR  
SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 7

The trend of steady decline in the number of new Covid-19 cases in Odisha continued for fifth consecutive day with the state reporting 6,118 infections.

However, the toll due to the contagious virus remained high with 41 fatalities in the last 24 hours.

On Sunday, the state had recorded 7,002 cases and 42 deaths. Similarly, the state on June 5 registered 7,395 new cases and 40 deaths. The downward trend in Covid cases has started from June 3 when the state recorded 8,839 new Coronavirus cases and 42 deaths.

The state has so far recorded 8,19,214 confirmed cases while the number of deaths jumped to 3,035 deaths, official sources said.

Of the new infections, 3,453 people tested positive for the virus from quarantine centres while 2,665 caught the infections from local contacts.

Since Sunday morning, 7,358 people recovered from the disease, taking the cumulative recoveries to 7,39,376. At present, there are 76,750 active cases in the state, the state health department added.

K'TAKA TO SPEND  
₹1,500CR TO  
UPGRADE HOSPS

**Bengaluru, June 7:** The Karnataka state Covid task force has given its approval to upgrade 149 taluk hospitals and 19 district hospitals by spending ₹1,500 crore to prepare itself for the possible Covid-19 third wave, deputy chief minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan said on Monday.

He said that the upgradation has been given a time limit of maximum of 3 months. "The government intended to provide maximum health facilities at the taluk level itself and up to 97 per cent special health services in districts.

Out of the estimated ₹1,500 crore, around ₹800 crore will be needed for infrastructure, and the remaining ₹600-700 crore will be needed towards salary expenses which will be recurring every year, Narayan, who is also the head of the task force, said.

This upgradation will require the appointment of about 4,000 doctors, 2-3 nurses per each doctor and other staff, and diagnostic facilities will also be augmented across the state correspondingly, the DCM was quoted as saying by his office in a release.

"District hospitals will have a minimum of 100 beds all oxygenated (25 ICU with ventilators+25 HDU beds + 50 normal oxygenated beds) and taluk hospitals will have a minimum of 25 oxygenated beds," he added. The minister said that as per the National Skill Commission's guidelines, 6 skills have been listed under Covid management support skills.

RESTAURANTS,  
GYMS, SALONS  
OPEN IN MUMBAI

**Mumbai, June 7:** Restaurants, gyms, salons, public grounds and other commercial establishments reopened after nearly two months on Monday in Mumbai, which falls in level-3 of the Maharashtra government's five-level 'unlock plan'.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) appealed to citizens not to let their guard down and follow all precautions to check the spread of Covid-19.

Buses of the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST), the city civic body's transport wing, were allowed to ferry passengers with 100 per cent seating capacity, though local trains were restricted for those working in medical and essential services.

The BMC in a tweet said, "Mumbai, a gentle reminder! While we are getting back on track with the phase-wise opening, we can't go off the rails on our common main goal — a Covid free Mumbai. Let's reopen, but with care. Follow all precautions!"

The Maharashtra government has announced a five-level plan to relax the Coronavirus-induced restrictions in the state, based on the weekly positivity rate and the occupancy of oxygen beds.

Easing of curbs under level-3 category are applicable for places where the positivity rate is five per cent to 10 per cent and the oxygen bed occupancy is more than 40 per cent.

The BMC on Sunday issued detailed guidelines on the easing of restrictions.

Mumbai is at the level-3 with a positivity rate of 5.56 per cent and oxygen bed occupancy rate of 32.51 per cent for the May 28-June 3 week.

As per the government's order, essential shops in Mumbai will remain open on all seven days in a week till 4 pm, but non-essential shops will function only on weekdays till 4 pm, BMC officials said.

Earlier, both essential and non-essential shops were allowed to remain open till 2 pm. — PTI

## 18 die in Pune fire



A fire breaks out at a factory at Ghotawade Phata in Pune on Monday. At least 18 workers, mostly women, were charred to death in the devastating fire. Fire brigade officials said the bodies were found in multiple groups with the victims clinging to each other in a desperate attempt to stay together and escape the inferno. The firm, located near Uravade village, around 40 km from the city, is into manufacturing of chemicals, including chlorine dioxide, which are used in water purification.

— PTI

TN e-pass website crashes  
on Day 1 of 'partial unlock'

Portal sees 60 lakh users logging in at the same time to obtain e-registration

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

The state government website crashed on Monday as too many people logged in to e-register for their travel within their own cities, districts and state after the total lockdown, imposed a fortnight ago, was partially lifted, allowing the opening of some shops and movement of independent workers like plumbers and electricians.

State IT minister Mano Thangaraj told the media at the Secretariat that the database of the state website — www.tnega.org — was designed to take 6 lakh users at a time and it could take a maximum of 12 lakh users.

But on Monday, it saw 60 lakh users logging in at the same time to obtain e-registration and hence it crashed.

People who desperately wanted to reach offices, their workplaces and other official destinations felt stranded as they could not get the e-registration printouts that have been made mandatory to be out of homes.

With the police intensifying their monitoring of the vehicles at the check points on the roads — in some places they had even erected shamanias to provide shade to the personnel on duty — motorists had a tough time negotiating their way to their destinations.

Many vehicles were seized and many motorists were fined for their inability to prove the authenticity of the purpose of their stepping out of homes. The police checks led to the mad scramble to obtain the e-registration that led to the crashing of the website that was rectified only around 4 pm.

But many users complained that e-registration, post the rectification, was not allowed for certain reasons that were earlier allowed. Shop keepers, on their part, started to open their establishments from early morning itself. Most of them were groceries, vegetable shops and meat, chicken and fish stalls that were not allowed to open during the last fortnight when people depended on the push carts and vehicles that went around selling the good on the roads or e-commerce.

People too started lining up in the morning to make their purchases, ahead of the full complement of personnel landed at the police checkpoints. However, as the office-goers started taking to the road, there was chaos on the roads as there were too many vehicles.

Since most traffic signals at intersections were switched off the vehicular movement was slowed down at the police checkpoints, traffic snarls were witnessed at many junctions and on the roads, making it look like a regular Monday morning.

Though regular government staff could pass through the checkpoints

by showing their official identity cards, those working on contract basis at offices of the government and government undertaking had to go for e-registration.

Informal workers like plumbers, electricians and mechanics who were allowed to work under the new lockdown regime in all districts other than the 11 where total lockdown is in force also depended on e-registration that did not come by for many, leaving them missing appointments.

With the new lockdown rules in force for another week, it needs to be seen how the e-registration process works in the coming days, facilitating the movement of people on the roads.

Though regular government staff could pass through the checkpoints

J&K: Task force set  
up for orphaned kidsYUSUF JAMEEL | DC  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 7

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday decided to constitute a special task force which will work on district levels to provide care and protection to children infected by Covid-19 and also identify those whose one or both parents have fallen victim to the deadly pandemic or have just contracted the virus in the Union Territory (UT).

The task force to be headed by respective district magistrates and which will have on it the concerned chief medical officers, district police chiefs or their deputies, district social welfare and child protection officers and other important stakeholders has been tasked to compile details of all adults who have

died due to Covid-19 and find out any children orphaned or children in need of care and protection.

"It would then produce such children before the Child Welfare Committee which shall decide their rehabilitation such as adoption, foster care, sponsorship, etc. and institutionalisation as the last resort as per the provisions of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015," an official spokesman said.

Until such a permanent arrangement is made, these children would be put up in temporary shelters. The task force has been asked to ensure timely referral of children infected with Covid-19 to treatment centers and also to provide them nutritional support during post treatment period.

C'garh mulls reopening of  
schools; MP begins 'unlock'RABINDRA NATH  
CHOUDHURY | DC  
BHOPAL, JUNE 7

The Chhattisgarh government is mulling reopening of schools, closed for almost 15 months, in the wake of the fall in positivity rate in the state. "We are considering reopening schools on June 16. However, the decision in this regard will be taken after reviewing pandemic situation in the state shortly", Chhattisgarh education minister Prem Sai said.

Positivity rate in Chhattisgarh came down to 2.6 per cent on Sunday. Chhattisgarh on Sunday reported 999 fresh cases taking the tally of cases to 9,80,575. The state has recorded 25 deaths on Sunday taking the death toll to 13,217.

● **WITH THE positivity rate declining drastically in Madhya Pradesh, the state government decided to unlock Bhopal on June 10. However, night curfew in capital will remain in force till further order.**

Meanwhile, with the positivity rate declining drastically in Madhya Pradesh also, the state government on Monday decided to unlock Bhopal on June 10. The decision was taken at the district crisis management meeting, chaired by state medical education minister Vishwas Sarang here in the evening. It has been decided in the meeting to unlock Bhopal on June 10, Sarang told reporters here.

However, night curfew in the capital will remain

in force till further order, he added. The state government has allowed the commercial establishments and businesses to resume operation from June 10 with a rider that they have to vaccinate all their staff.

"The commercial establishments and shops will be sealed if any of their employees are found not vaccinated", Sarang said. The positivity rate in Bhopal has come down to 1.9 per cent now.

Bhopal on Monday reported 131 fresh cases taking the tally of cases in the city to 1,22,082. The capital has recorded three deaths in the last 24 hours taking the death toll in the city to 955.

It has also been decided in the meeting to impose a lockdown on every Sunday till further order.

Mamata cancels  
Class XII examsRAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC  
KOLKATA, JUNE 7

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced the cancellation of secondary and higher secondary (HS) examination this year in the state following the footsteps of the Centre due to the second wave in Covid-19 pandemic.

The Trinamul Congress supreme had earlier rescheduled both the examinations in July and August in an announcement by herself on May 27.

On Sunday she tweeted, "Our children's future is my greatest priority. To this regard, we have formed an expert committee to decide over holding the Class 10th & 12th board exams in 2021. We are also inviting views & opinion from parents, general

public, sector experts, civil society & students. I request each one of you to send us your feedback on the issue by e-mailing us on following addresses by June 7th, 2021, 2pm — pbssm.spo@gmail.com, — commissioner-schooleducation@gmail.com-wbssed@gmail.com. Your suggestions will be valuable to us."

On Monday, Banerjee declared her government's decision at a meeting in the state secretariat Nabanna. She also tweeted, "Thank you very much for sending us your valuable opinions and suggestions. GoWB thus arrives at the decision of cancelling *Madhyamik/Uchhamadhyamik* examinations for 2021. We will work out the best possible way to secure the future of our children."

## SKIN CARE

Doctors says Covid-19 compromises immunity of a patient leading to multifarious complications

## Herpes, hair fall: Doctors caution on post-Covid problems

**New Delhi, June 7:** From reactivation of herpes infection to loss of hair, several Covid patients in recovery phase are facing one dermatological complication or another due to lowered immunity, say doctors.

Skin care experts at leading facilities in Delhi, Mumbai and other cities concurred that Coronavirus patients even after being discharged from hospitals or having finished their home quarantine period should watch out for any skin inflammation or consult a doctor immediately if "it grows uncontrollably".

Dr D.M. Mahajan, senior consultant, dermatology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals in Delhi, said many post-Covid patients with skin complications are rushing to OPDs, fearing they have contracted mucormycosis or black fungus but people should be cautious not paranoid. "Several Covid patients in recovery phase are facing skin complications and the most common one being reported to us are cases of herpes. In many patients with a history of herpes it is get retriggered and in others they are just contracting it afresh, both due to lowered immunity,"

he said.

Infection with herpes simplex virus, commonly known as herpes, can be due to either herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) or herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2). Herpes labialis which occurs around the lip area with lesions in cluster preceded by burning pain is caused by HSV.

Herpes zoster is viral infection that occurs with reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus. It is usually a painful but self-limited dermatomal rash.

Skin experts, who are seeing post-Covid patients, said cases of herpes zoster

are being reported more than herpes from HSV.

Mahajan said cases of infection from Candida fungus have also been seen among the Covid patients who are in recovery phase. It is a mould like infection and can result from excessive medication or use of steroids. This infection can cause white patches on genitalia. Candidiasis is a fungal infection caused by a yeast (a type of fungus) called Candida.

Mumbai-based dermatologist and hair transplant surgeon Dr Sonali Kohli said Covid-19 compromises the immunity of a patient leading to multi-

faries complications, including in skin, hair and nails.

"Though there is no clinical study to correlate the two but herpes infection is being reported in large number of Covid patients during recovery phase even a month later. Besides hair loss and nail complications are too happening with many patients," she said.

As far as nail complications are concerned, cases of melanonychia or Beau's lines are also being seen in such patients. Melanonychia entails whitish or brown lines on nails, she said. — PTI



A health worker administers a dose of Covid vaccine to a woman at a regional hospital in Kullu on Monday. — PTI



SHORT TAKES

YOUTH DROWNS WHILE TAKING SELFIE AT DAM

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 7

Taking a selfie with a mobile phone at a dam in Odisha's Sundargarh district has cost dearly to a youth as he drowned in the water reservoir, reports said on Monday.

Another youth and friend of the deceased also fell into the dam and has been rescued in critical condition.

According to reports, Pramod Parida from Basanti Colony along with Sumant Dey from Brahmapur Basti and three others went to Kanshbahal dam for a picnic on Sunday afternoon.

An eyewitness said while taking a selfie with a mobile phone on the dam's embankment, Pramod and Sumant fell into the water reservoir.

Some locals immediately swung into action and rescued Pramod. They then sent him to a local hospital where doctors declared him dead.

After receiving information, the fire personnel reached the spot and launched an operation to trace Sumant.

Latest report said Sumant was rescued by the fire services men in critical conditions.

SUSHANT CASE: NCB APPROACHES HIGH COURT

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC MUMBAI, JUNE 7

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has approached the Bombay High Court to decide on whether the weight of paper ought to be included while weighing LSD for prosecution under the NDPS Act in actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case.

The NCB approached the high court with an appeal against an order passed by special Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act court on the application filed by Anuj Keshwani, an accused in the drugs case related to Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

The special judge had directed NCB to send the sample in Keshwani's case to the Forensic Science Laboratory in Gandhinagar, Gujarat to ascertain the weight of purported LSD drugs without the blot paper and asked whether the weight of the sample included the weight of the paper. The NCB is opposing this order and has also sought a stay on it till this appeal is decided. Advocate Shreeram Shirsat, appearing for NCB, requested Justice A.S. Gadkari for a second adjournment as the Additional Solicitor General wanted to address the court on the question of law.

ANTIGUA STARTS PROBE INTO CHOKSI CASE

**New Delhi, June 7:** The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has started investigations into the alleged abduction of absconding diamond-taire Mehul Choksi to neighbouring Dominica on a complaint filed by his lawyers, Prime Minister Gaston Browne told a local media outlet.

Browne said that Choksi's lawyers gave the names of people involved in the alleged abduction to the police commissioner in a complaint, the Antigua News Room reported.

The Antigua and Barbuda prime minister also said that if the claims are true, then it is a serious matter.

Browne said police are taking the complaint seriously, the report said.

"Choksi has filed a complaint with the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda to the extant that he was abducted. He made a formal claim through his attorneys that he was abducted from Antigua and taken to Dominica so it is a report that police is taking seriously and they are currently investigating the abduction," Browne said.

Another report in the Associates Times poked holes in the theory of Dominica opposition leader Lennox Linton, who had reportedly claimed that Choksi was brought to Dominica in the Yacht Calliope of Arne around 10 pm on May 23.

The family of Choksi had claimed that he was in Antigua till 5 pm on May 23 which makes it impossible to cover a 120-mile distance in four to five hours, which approximately takes about 12-13 hours, the publication said.

Lightning kills 20 in WB



Pre-monsoon rain clouds hover over the city in Kolkata Monday. At least 20 people were killed while several others injured in a thunderstrike on Monday afternoon in three districts of West Bengal during heavy rainfall as monsoon reached the state. Among the victims, while nine each were from Murshidabad and Hooghly, the remaining two were from East Midnapore.

— AP

Abhijeet wants TMC to take on BJP in 2024

Plans to make Trinamul a ‘formidable’ national party

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, JUNE 7

Emboldened by his promotion to national general secretary from youth wing president in the Trinamul Congress after its third term victory in West Bengal, chief minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee on Monday unveiled the party's ambitious plans to expand its domination in other states, become a formidable “national” player in the country's politics and “take the BJP head on” in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The Diamond Harbour MP said, “the way the people of Bengal replied to the BJP in the Assembly polls this time for its politicisation and misuse of each and every federal institution, including the Central agencies and the Election Commission, with the help of money, muscle and mafia power, it has created hope in the country. We have received one lakh emails congratulating us for our victory, which shows the way before the country from all the states in the last one month.”

Mr Banerjee elaborated, “I want to take Ms Banerjee's message to every nook and corner of the country. In the next two to three weeks or a maximum of one month, we will come out with a concrete plan - what the TMC wants to do, which are the states we want to start our units in and our expansion plans. But make no mistake, let me put this on record, when we come out with a plan, this TMC attempt to go national is going to be

● **THE DIAMOND HARB-OUR MP** said that the party in the next 2-3 weeks or a maximum 1 month will come out with a concrete plan regarding its expansion at national level.

very different from what the TMC attempted in the past.” He added, “If we go to any state irrespective of its size, we will not be there to fight the polls only, get one or two MLAs and increase voteshare. We will go there to win it. Wherever we will go, we will start to win the state. We want to be a platform of choice for people of that particular state. We do not want to exist in the Opposition in the form of three or four or five MLAs. It can be a state in southern or northern or Northeast India. But we will take BJP head on to win the state.”

On the BJP's allegations of “dynasty politics” against him, Mr Banerjee said, “The BJP is rattled and bewildered by Abhishek Banerjee's appointment. On one hand they are saying there is no existence of the party outside Bengal, so why are they scared? I am advising the BJP to ‘preach what you practice’, I am requesting Amit Malviya of the BJP to pass a bill to put a full stop to dynasty politics. Can Jay Shah, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket of India, come out into the open and say: I do not want to be the BCCI president for the next 20 years? But I can clearly say I do not want to be in the state, or for that matter any ministerial berth, for the next 20 years... Sometimes, dynasty is better than being nasty. Take it that way.”

Dhankhar rejects nepotism allegation

DC CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA, JUNE 7

West Bengal governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday refuted Krishnanagar Trinamul Congress MP Mahua Moitra's allegations a day before of his nepotism in the appointment of his family members, relatives and acquaintances as the officers on special duty (OSD) for six different roles at his office, Raj Bhavan.

Mr Dhankhar pointed out the OSDs' roots to “three states and four different castes” and slammed Ms Moitra's attack as a “distraction strategy” to divert his attention from the poor law and order situation in the state under chief minister Mamata Banerjee's rule.

He tweeted, “Assertion @MahuaMoitra in tweet & Media that six coterminous appointee OSDs in personal staff are relatives is FACTUALLY WRONG. OSDs are from three states and belong to four different castes. None of them is part of close family. Four of them are not from my caste or state.”

On Sunday, Ms Moitra tweeted the names of the six OSDs in a list alleging Abhuddoy Singh Shekhawat, designated as OSD to Governor, as the son of Mr Dhankhar's brother-in-law while claiming Akhil

Chowdhury, posted as the OSD Coordination, to have “Close family relation with Governor.”

The rest, the TMC MP argued, are Ruchi Dubey, the OSD Administration, is the “wife of Major Gorang Diksit, Ex ADC to Governor.” Prashant Diksit, the OSD Protocol, is “brother” of Maj Diksit, Koustav S Valikar is the OSD IT, is the “brother-in-law of present ADC to Governor Srikanth Janardan Rao” and Kishan Dhankhar, a “newly appointed OSD,” is a “close relative of the Governor.”

Mr Rao is a 2015-batch IPS officer of the West Bengal cadre in rank of a superintendent of police.

Mr Dhankhar added, “This is unfolding of “distraction strategy” to divert attention from alarming law and order scenario @Mamata Official. Would continue undeterred and with zeal to serve the people of state and vindicate my oath of office under Article 159.”

Hitting back at Mr Dhankhar immediately Ms Mahua Moitra tweeted, “Asking Uncleji to lay out right here what antecedents of the appointees are & how each one got into Raj Bhavan. Do it NOW. BJP IT Cell can't get you out of this one Uncleji..And I don't think Vice President of India also happening for you.”

Hawala charge during Kerala polls hits BJP

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUNE 7

Allegations of use of hawala money in recent Assembly elections have rocked Kerala state unit of the BJP.

The central leadership of the party has asked metroman E. Sreedharan, former union secretary Ananda Bose and former Kerala DGP Jacob Thomas (all three had joined BJP ahead of the polls) to conduct separate probe into the use of funds during elections.

The BJP performed badly in the polls even losing its lone sitting seat. And now the allegations of hawala money have come as a bolt from the blue for the party.

It started with a complaint filed by one Shamsheer Shamshuddin on April 7 alleging that a gang had stopped his car on Kodakara flyover and robbed ₹25 lakh kept in the vehicle. The vehicle was on its way to Kozhikode.

During the subsequent probe into the robbery incident, the investigation team reportedly got information that around ₹9.5 crore was brought for three districts during the polls.

The amount of ₹3.5 crore robbed at Kodakara was the money left after spending in these districts.

A large portion of the

● **IN THE HAWALA** case, the Kerala police has so far arrested 21 accused and recovered ₹1.25 crore.

● **THE POLICE** had earlier said that the money was sent from Karnataka.

money was allegedly meant for Konni Assembly constituency from where BJP state president K. Surendran had contested the polls.

He had also tried his luck from Manjeshwaram in Kasargod district. Two days ago an independent candidate, a namesake of Surendran in Manjeshwaram had alleged that the BJP gave him ₹3.5 lakh and a cell phone to withdraw from the fray.

The police is now set to register a case against Surendran based on the complaint of independent candidate.

Meanwhile in the hawala case, the Kerala police has so far arrested 21 accused and recovered ₹1.25 crore.

The police had earlier disclosed that the money was sent from Karnataka.

BJP Kerala general secretary incharge M. Ganesan and office secretary Gireesh were also questioned since they had made continuous phone calls to RSS worker Dharmarajan who was carrying the money on the day of the incident.

Do not indulge in signature campaign: BSY

**Bengaluru, June 7:** Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Monday asked ruling BJP legislators not to indulge in signature campaign or issue political statements on speculation about his replacement, and instead focus on Covid management in their constituencies and help the needy.

“At a time when people are facing distress because of the Covid pandemic, every BJP legislator should give priority towards controlling Covid in their constituencies. I appeal that no one should indulge in any kind of signature campaigns or making political statements, and help people in distress,” Yediyurappa said.

The Chief Minister's statement was following a series of political statements on speculation about attempts to replace him, and claims by his political secretary M.P. Renukacharya about having a letter signed by more than 65 legislators in his favour.

Meanwhile, Revenue Minister R Ashoka said, state BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel has constituted a committee to put



B.S. Yediyurappa

an end to open expression about resentments and statements on leadership change, which are causing embarrassment to the party and the government.

He also said that the party president has issued an order not to carry out any kind of signature campaign, and warned action against those involved.

Stating that the committee consists of state president, Chief Minister, four general secretaries, four Ministers, Ashoka, who is also part of the committee said, “it is with a purpose to clear confusion and stop open statements.Those with grievances can approach it.”

— PTI

LEGAL | MATTERS

Justice Chandrachud has sought suggestions from Chief Justices of HCs

SC seeks suggestions on live streaming

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

The Supreme Court's e-Committee, headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, on Monday released the draft model rules for live streaming and recording of the proceedings of the High Courts, and the subordinate courts and tribunals falling under their respective jurisdiction inviting suggestions and inputs before June 30 from all stakeholders.

Releasing the 20-age document, Justice Chandrachud said, “Right of access to justice includes right to access live court proceedings.”

Chandrachud has written to the Chief Justices of all High Courts to share inputs and suggestions for the better implementation of the live streaming of

court proceedings across India. The Supreme Court has already started live-streaming of its proceedings for accredited journalists since last month.

A press release issued by the e-Committee “envisages a judicial system which is more accessible, efficient and equitable for every individual who engages with the justice delivery system” and that “the right of access to justice, guaranteed under Article 21 of the constitution encompasses the right to access live court proceedings.”

It said the project of streaming of court proceedings was undertaken on priority, so that access to proceedings, including on matters of public interest to citizens, journalists, civil society, academicians and law students, on a real time basis is enabled.



The rules will come into force from the date notified by the concerned High Court and the streaming, as per the draft rules, will be with a delay of 10 minutes.

As regards the content of recordings, they will be vetted and posted, usually within three days on the conclusion of the proceedings on the court's website or made available on the digital platforms.

The draft rules are based on the recommendations of a sub-committee comprising the judges of Delhi, Bombay, Madras

and Karnataka High Courts set up to frame the rules. The committee framed the rules, taking into account the principles enunciated in the 2018 top court judgment including concerns of privacy and confidentiality of litigants and witnesses, business confidentiality, prohibition or restrictions in trial stipulated by central and state laws and in some cases to preserve the larger public interests owing to the sensitivity of the case.

Live-stream or live-streamed or live-streaming under the draft rules means a live television link, webcast, audio-video transmission via electronic means or other arrangements whereby any person can view the proceedings as permitted under these rules. It covers both judicial and administrative

proceedings as also Lok Adalat proceedings and full-court references.

Recording means audio and video data of proceedings stored in electronic format, whether live-streamed or not.

The draft rules require fixing the cameras in the courtroom covering at least five angles, one towards the bench, the second and third towards the advocates engaged in the concerned matter, the fourth towards the accused, if applicable, and the fifth towards the deponent/witness, as required. The presiding judge will have a remote control device to pause or stop the live-streaming at any time.

The system is to be dealt with by a dedicated control room set up in every court complex and it shall ensure that nothing unciv-

il or inappropriate is streamed in the public domain. The draft rules say the live-streaming in certain cases may be restricted to the final arguments.

The parties can raise objections to the live-streaming by a party, but the final decision rests on the Bench.

Nine kinds of proceedings will be excluded from live-streaming and these include matrimonial matters, cases concerning sexual offences or gender-based violence against women, matters concerning children, in-camera proceedings, cases which in the court's opinion provoke enmity among the communities, recording of evidence, including cross-examination, and privileged communications between the parties and their advocates.





SHORT TAKES

WOMAN FALLS IN CANYON IN PARK, DIES

**Springdale (US):** A 26-year-old woman has died after falling in a canyon at a US national park in Utah, officials said.

The woman's body was recovered Sunday evening from Mystery Canyon at Zion National Park, the National Park Service said in a news release. According to visitors, the woman was canyoneering alone and fell 50 to 80 feet (15 to 24 meters) on Saturday afternoon. Crews launched a search and rescue effort that closed various areas of the park.

A helicopter was sent to rescue the woman but was unable to pull her out "due to the steep, narrow canyon walls," the park service said in the release. Medics later reached the woman before she died a short time later. The woman had injuries consistent with a high-elevation fall, park officials said. Her name was not immediately released.

PROTESTS RISE IN MINNEAPOLIS OVER MAN'S KILLING

**Minneapolis:** Protesters took to the streets for a fourth consecutive night in Minneapolis over the shooting death of a man of colour by members of a U.S. Marshals task force.

Crowds marched on Sunday evening in response to Thursday's fatal shooting of 32-year-old Winston Boogie Smith Jr. in Minneapolis' Uptown neighbourhood. Officers stood watch during the demonstrations. There were no immediate reports of injuries or arrests stemming from Sunday's protests.

Authorities said on Friday that Smith was wanted in a weapons violation and fired a gun before two deputies shot him while he was inside a parked vehicle. Members of the US Marshals Fugitive Task Force were trying to arrest him on a warrant for allegedly being a felon in possession of a gun.

Family and friends described Smith as a father of three who was often harassed by police.

OLDEST MALE CHIMPANZEE DIES IN SAN FRANCISCO

**San Francisco:** The oldest male chimpanzee living in an accredited North American zoo died Saturday at the San Francisco Zoo & Gardens. He was 63.

The chimpanzee, named Cobby, had been a hand-reared performing chimpanzee before he was brought to the San Francisco zoo in the 1960s. Although the zoo said in a news release that the chimpanzee's cause of death had not been determined, the animal had recently been ill and zoo officials believe old age was a factor.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists chimpanzees as endangered, and they are considered among the most at-risk primates in Africa due to hunting, habitat loss and disease. The average life expectancy of the 100,000 to 200,000 chimpanzees living in the wild is 33 years.

2 HELD IN ROAD RAGE SHOOTING DEATH OF CHILD

**Santa Ana (US):** Two people were arrested Sunday in connection to a road rage shooting in Southern California that killed a 6-year-old boy, the California Highway Patrol said.

Eriz Marcus Anthony, 24, and Lee Wynne, 23, were taken into custody outside their home in Costa Mesa, the highway patrol said in a statement. Their relationship was not immediately known. Officials said the pair were expected to be charged with murder.

Aiden Leos, 6, was fatally shot in the abdomen on May 21 while seated in the back seat of a car driven by his mother, Joanna Cloonan, on State Route 55 in the city of Orange. Highway patrol officials said the road rage incident stemmed from "a perceived unsafe lane change."

According to accounts from the mother and witnesses who stopped to help her, another car cut her off, she responded with a hand gesture and the car slipped in behind her and someone inside fired a shot through the rear of her car. A \$500,000 reward had been offered for information leading to an arrest, Southern California News Group reported.

50 killed, 70 hurt in Pak passenger train smash

**Karachi, June 7:** Two passenger trains collided in Pakistan's southern Sindh Province early on Monday morning, killing at least 50 people and injuring 70 others, prompting authorities to call in the Army and paramilitary forces for the challenging task of rescue and relief operations.

The accident occurred when the Millat Express train from Karachi to Sargodha derailed and fell on the opposite track and collided with Sir Syed Express headed from Rawalpindi to Karachi, a spokesperson of Pakistan Railways said.

The collision, in which bogies of the Millat Express train overturned, took place near Dharki, a city located in the Ghotki district of upper Sindh.

An emergency has been declared at hospitals in Ghotki, Dharki, Obaro and Mirpur Mathelo where injured were rushed. At least 50 people have lost their lives and 70 others sustained injuries, ARY News quoted Ghotki Deputy Commissioner Usman Abdullah as saying.

The deceased included women and some railway officials.

Reacting to the train accident, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that he was "shocked by the horrific train accident".



Angela Merkel

MOMENTUM WITH MERKEL PARTY AHEAD OF ELECTIONS

**Berlin, June 7:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives on Monday celebrated a thumping win over the far right in the last regional vote before a general election that also exposed the weaknesses of the Greens, their main rivals at the national level.

The Christian Democratic Union (CDU) under new party chief Armin Laschet won around 37 percent of the vote in Saxony-Anhalt on Sunday, preliminary results showed, well ahead of the second place anti-immigration, anti-Muslim AfD party on around 21 per cent.

"This is a good day for the CDU and for democracy in Germany," a beaming Laschet told reporters, calling his party a "bulwark against extremism" after polls had predicted a much stronger AfD score.

The Greens, who are running neck-and-neck nationally with the Union alliance between the CDU and its smaller Bavarian CSU sister party, scored a disappointing result of around six per cent.

The outcome in the economically depressed former East German state is a huge boost for would-be chancellor Laschet ahead of Germany's general vote on September 26.

— AFP



Security personnel carry out rescue operations at the site of a train accident in Daharki area of the northern Sindh province on Monday.

— AFP

Shocked by the horrific train accident at Ghotki early this morning leaving 30 passengers dead. Have asked the Railway Minister to reach the site & ensure medical assistance to injured & support for families of the dead. Ordering comprehensive investigation into railway safety faultlines, he said on Twitter.

Sir Syed Express train's driver Aijaz Shah said that he was rescued by locals after two hours of the collision.

He said that the train was running at its normal speed when he suddenly saw the derailed bogies of Millat Express train at the track. Due to the short distance, the train rammed into the derailed bogies of Millat Express, leading to the accident, it said.

Officials were facing difficulties in rescuing the people trapped inside the overturned bogies.

Speaking to *Geo News*, the Ghotki Deputy Commissioner said that 13 to 14 bogies have derailed

in the accident while six to eight were "completely destroyed".

Rescuing passengers who are still trapped is a "challenge" for the rescue officials, he said, adding that a relief train has departed from Rohri.

"This is a challenging task. It will take time to use heavy machinery to free citizens (still trapped). We are also establishing a medical camp to provide medical aid to citizens," he said.

— PTI

Sea at risk



The Marmara sea at the Caddebostan shore, on the Asian side of Istanbul on Monday, seen with a huge mass of marine mulch, a thick, slimy substance made up of compounds released by marine organisms. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan promised on Saturday to rescue the sea from an outbreak of "sea snot" that is alarming marine biologists and environmentalists.

— AP

Russia pulls out of Open Skies deal

**Moscow, June 7:** Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday signed a bill to withdraw from an international treaty allowing surveillance flights over military facilities, following the US exit from the pact. The bill was endorsed by Russian lawmakers after US officials told Moscow last month that President Joe Biden's administration had decided not to reenter the Open Skies Treaty that the US left under President Donald Trump.

As a presidential candidate, Biden had criticised Trump's withdrawal as "short-sighted." Moscow had signalled its readiness to reverse the withdrawal

● **THE OPEN SKIES**  
Treaty was intended to build trust between Russia and the West.

procedure and stay in the 1992 treaty if the United States returned to the agreement, but now Putin's signature seals the Russian withdrawal that would take effect in six months. Putin and Biden are to have a summit in Geneva on June 16, a meeting that comes amid soaring tensions in Russia-US ties that have hit post-Cold War lows after Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, accusations of Moscow's interference in

US elections, hacking attacks and other issues.

The Open Skies Treaty was intended to build trust between Russia and the West by allowing the accord's more than three dozen signatories to carry out surveillance flights over each other's territories to oversee troop deployments and other military activities. More than 1,500 flights have been conducted under the treaty since it took effect in 2002, helping foster transparency and monitor arms control agreements.

Trump pulled out of the pact last year, arguing that Russian violations made it untenable for Washington

to remain a party, and the United States completed its withdrawal in November. Russia has rejected any violations, arguing that a few restrictions on observation flights it imposed in the past were permissible under the treaty and noted that the US imposed more sweeping restrictions on observation flights over Alaska.

As a condition for staying in the pact after the US pullout, Moscow has successfully pushed for guarantees from NATO allies that they won't hand over the data collected during their observation flights over Russia to the US.

— AP

BORIS' PARTY REBELS SET TO CHALLENGE FOREIGN AID CUTS

**London, June 7:** Senior Lawmakers from Britain's governing Conservative Party are hoping to reverse the government's contentious cut in foreign aid spending — just days before Prime Minister Boris Johnson welcomes world leaders to the country for a Group of Seven summit.

The government dropped its long-standing commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of the UK's gross domestic product on international aid, citing the Coronavirus pandemic's blow to the economy. It says the cut — to 0.5 per cent — is temporary. But Johnson's predecessor Theresa May, along with former Cabinet ministers Andrew Mitchell and David Davis, are among the Conservatives pushing for a reversal. A vote on the issue could take place on Monday if the amendment is selected for a vote by House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle.

Mitchell, a former international development secretary who is leading the rebellion, said he has the support of more than 30 Conservative lawmakers and is confident of pushing that to 45. That would be enough to overturn Johnson's working majority of 85 in the House of Commons.

— AP

Writ against Oli reshuffle filed in Nepal

Plea tells SC caretaker PM plan is against Constitution

**Kathmandu, June 7:** A writ petition was filed at Nepal's Supreme Court on Monday demanding nullification of the Cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, arguing that being a caretaker premier he did not have the executive power to reshuffle or induct new ministers.

The writ filed by senior advocate Dinesh Tripathi urged the apex court to rescind the caretaker prime minister's decision to induct new ministers as it goes against the spirit of the Constitution, *The Himalayan Times* reported. The writ argued that Oli is a caretaker prime minister for now — as the House of Representatives stands dissolved — and as such he does not have the executive power to reshuffle or induct new ministers. The writ demands that the court issue an order to rescind the June 4 Cabinet expansion and reshuffling and stop the prime minister from taking any decision that would increase the economic burden on the national exchequer.

Beleaguered Prime Minister Oli, 69, joined hands with the key Madhesi Janata Samajwadi Party after effecting a major Cabinet reshuffle on June 4. Oli, who has been facing strong opposition from within his own party against his move to dissolve the House of Representatives, retained only four old Cabinet members — Lilanath Shrestha, Basanta Kumar Nembang, Bishnu Paudel, and Krishna Gopal Shrestha in the Cabinet. He removed some key ministers, including his Deputy Prime Minister Ishwor Pokharel and Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali in the Cabinet rejig. He had inducted eight ministers and two state ministers from the Mahanta Thakur-Rajendra Mahato Faction of the Janata Samajbadi



K.P. Sharma Oli

OLI JOINS HANDS WITH JANATA SAMAJWADI PARTY

**Kathmandu, June 7:** Nepal's beleaguered Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli has joined hands with the key Madhesi Janata Samajwadi Party after effecting a major Cabinet reshuffle, a move regarded by many analysts as hitting two targets with one arrow as it involves consolidating his grip on power and boosting ties with neighbouring India.

Oli, who has been facing strong opposition from within his own party against his move to dissolve the House of Representatives, removed some key ministers, including his Deputy Prime Minister Ishwor Pokharel and Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali in the Cabinet rejig on Friday.

— PTI

Party-Nepal. The Mahantha Thakur-led faction of the JSP decided to join the Oli-led minority government after the prime minister agreed to meet some of their key demands, including the citizenship issue that has been on hold in the parliamentary State Affairs Committee for the last three years and withdrawal of cases filed against 120 leaders and cadres of the JSP. The Opposition and experts have flayed his move, saying it was against the constitutional norms.

— PTI

Seoul court rejects slave labour claim against Japan firms

**Seoul, June 7:** A South Korean court on Monday rejected a claim by dozens of World War II-era Korean factory workers and their relatives who sought compensation from 16 Japanese companies for their slave labour during Japan's colonial occupation of Korea.

The decision by the Seoul Central District Court appeared to run against landmark Supreme Court rulings in 2018 that ordered Nippon Steel and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to compensate Korean forced laborers. It largely aligns with the position maintained by the Japanese government, which insists all wartime compensation issues were settled under a 1965 treaty normalising relations between the two nations that was accompanied by hundreds of millions of

dollars in economic aid and loans from Tokyo to Seoul.

A total of 85 plaintiffs had sought a combined 8.6 billion won (USD 7.7 million) in damages from 16 Japanese companies, including Nippon Steel, Nissan Chemical and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. The court dismissed their civil lawsuit after concluding the 1965 treaty doesn't allow South Korean citizens to pursue legal action against the Japanese government or citizens over wartime grievances.

Accepting the plaintiffs' claim would violate international legal principles that countries cannot use domestic law as justification for failures to perform a treaty, the court said. Some plaintiffs told reporters outside the court they planned to appeal.

— AP

WAR | HERO Post World War II, Dushman trained Soviet Union's women national fencing team for 40 years

Last of Soviet soldiers who liberated Auschwitz dies at 98

**Berlin, June 7:** David Dushman, the last surviving Soviet soldier involved in the liberation of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz, has died. He was 98.

The Jewish Community of Munich and Upper Bavaria said on Sunday that Dushman had died at a Munich hospital on Saturday. "Every witness to history who passes on is a loss, but saying farewell to David Dushman is particularly painful," said Charlotte Knobloch, a for-

mer head of Germany's Central Council of Jews. "Dushman was right on the front lines when the National Socialists' machinery of murder was destroyed."

As a young Red Army soldier, Dushman flattened the forbidding electric fence around the notorious Nazi death camp with his T-34 tank on Jan. 27, 1945. He admitted that he and his comrades didn't immediately realise the full magnitude of what had happened in

Auschwitz. "Skeletons everywhere," he recalled in a 2015 interview with Munich newspaper *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*. "They stumbled out of the barracks, they sat and lay among the dead. Terrible. We threw them all of our canned food and immediately drove on, to hunt fascists."

More than a million people, most of them Jews deported there from all over Europe, were murdered by the Nazis at Auschwitz-Birkenau

between 1940 and 1945. Dushman earlier took part in some of the bloodiest military encounters of World War II, including the battles of Stalingrad and Kursk. He was seriously wounded three times but survived the war, one of just 69 soldiers in his 12,000-strong division. His father — a former military doctor — was meanwhile imprisoned and later died in a Soviet punishment camp after falling victim to one of Josef Stalin's

purges.

After the war, Dushman helped train the Soviet Union's women's national fencing team for four decades and witnessed the attack by eight Palestinian terrorists on the Israeli team at the 1972 Munich Olympics, which resulted in the deaths of 11 Israelis, five of the Palestinians and a German policeman.

Later in life, Dushman visited schools to tell students about the war and the horrors of the Holocaust.

— AP



David Dushman



## SHORT TAKES

17 DIE IN LANKA  
FLOODS, SEVERAL  
HOMELESS

**Colombo:** Army relief workers in aluminium dinghies handed out rice and other food to residents in submerged parts of the Sri Lankan capital as the death toll from monsoon floods across the country rose to 17 on Monday.

The monsoon hits the South Asian country twice a year, bringing vital rain for irrigation and hydro-power generation, but it can be deadly and destructive.

At least 17 people have died since Friday, after heavy downpours inundated 10 of the country's 25 districts.

"Our kitchen is still flooded and we managed thanks to cooked food distributed by the military," Kusuma Dahana-yake said over telephone from Gampaha, the worst-affected district, just outside Colombo.

The 73-year-old said it was the worst flooding she had experienced at her home since she moved there in 1995.

SOUTH DARFUR  
TRIBAL FIGHT  
CLAIMS 36 LIVES

**Khartoum:** Weekend clashes between Arab and non-Arab tribes in South Darfur have killed at least 36 people and left dozens wounded, according to state media and witnesses.

The fighting broke out on Saturday between the Arab al-Taisha and ethnic African Fallata tribes in the remote Um Dafuq area of South Darfur, witnesses said.

Official news agency *SUNA* said calm was restored by Monday.

"Military forces were deployed to the areas of clashes to resolve the conflict between Fallata and Taisha tribes which left 36 killed and 32 wounded," *SUNA* reported late Sunday citing South Darfur officials.

It was not immediately clear what triggered the clashes but similar fighting often erupts in the Darfur region over land and access to water.

"We heard the sound of heavy weapons throughout the fighting," a resident said.

6 KILLED, 14  
INJURED IN KNIFE  
ATTACK IN CHINA

**Beijing:** A deadly knife attack in eastern China has killed at least six people and left 14 wounded, local officials have said, in what was the third such indiscriminate assault on civilians by the disgruntled citizens in recent weeks.

A 25-year-old unemployed man named Wu from Huainiung county attacked the civilians on Saturday to vent out his anger as he was going through family problems, local officials in Anqing city in Anhui province said.

"He killed out of anger, because of family troubles and pessimism," the municipal government said in a statement.

As of Sunday, six victims of the attack were dead and 14 others were being treated for injuries. One of the injured was in a critical condition while the other 13 were in a stable state, Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* reported.

VETERAN CHARGES  
3 OZ PAPERS WITH  
DEFAMATION

**Sydney:** Australia's most decorated living war veteran on Monday began a defamation trial against three Australian newspapers that he alleges depicted him as a criminal who broke the moral and legal rules of military engagement in Afghanistan.

Victoria Cross recipient Ben Roberts-Smith is suing *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and *The Canberra Times* in the Federal Court in Sydney over articles published in 2018. The former Special Air Service Regiment corporal has rejected all allegations against him while Nine Entertainment, which owned all three newspapers in 2018, is relying on truth as its defence.

Roberts-Smith's lawyer Bruce McClintock described his 42-year-old client as a courageous, highly organised and disciplined leader who risked his life in battle in line with the SAS motto of "Who Dares Wins" during tours between 2009 and 2012.

"This is a case about courage, devotion to duty, self-sacrifice," McClintock told the court. Roberts-Smith's reputation had been torn down by lies and "corrosive jealousy" by "bitter people", McClintock said.



People sit in deck chairs as they enjoy the sunshine in Green Park in central London on Monday as the government lifted curbs imposed due to Covid-19 pandemic. — AFP

Trump demands China  
pay \$10tn for pandemic

We believe Americans have fair sense of judgement, says China

**Beijing, June 7:** China on Monday rejected former US President Donald Trump's demand to pay USD 10 trillion as reparations to America and the world for the death and destruction caused by the Covid-19, saying the accountability lies with politicians who ignored people's lives and health.

Speaking at a Republican Party convention in North Carolina on Saturday, Trump, who termed the Covid-19 as "China virus" and "Wuhan virus", said China should pay hefty compensation. "China should pay USD 10 trillion to America, and the world, for the death and destruction they have caused!" said Trump.

When he was in power, Trump had called for a probe alleging that the virus had leaked from China's Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) and even pulled out of the World Health Organisation (WHO) accusing the UN health agency of supporting Beijing. Commenting on Trump's remarks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here that during Trump's tenure there were more than 24 million (2.4 crore) Covid-19 cases and the death toll exceeded more than 410,000. "Trump repeatedly ignored the facts and tried to shirk his responsibilities of failing to respond to the epidemic

and tried to divert people's attention," Wang said.

"We believe the American people have a fair judgement as to who should be held accountable. It is those hypocritical politicians who ignored people's lives and health should be held accountable," he said.

Trump persisted with the allegations against China for failing to control the virus at home and letting it spread to the world when the Coronavirus spread like wildfire in the US in 2020 and later. While China persistently denied the allegation pointing to the conclusion of the WHO probe which visited the WIV early this year.

— PTI

the first tranche of 2.5 crore doses — of unused Covid-19 vaccines from its stockpile to countries in South and Southeast Asia as well as Africa by the end of June.

Biden said the US will share the vaccine to many countries to fight the pandemic through the UN-backed COVAX global vaccine sharing programme as part of his administration's framework for sharing 80 million (8 crore) vaccines globally.

"The crisis in India is devastating and demands more action from (President Joe) Biden. More



The "Liberty Enlightening the World" by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi in Paris. — AP

Mini Liberty statue  
to leave for US soon

**Paris, June 7:** (AP) A replica of the Statue of Liberty, smaller but based on the original plaster cast of its big sister on Ellis Island, a gift from France, was given a send-off Monday ahead of a trip to the United States where it will be displayed for Independence Day.

The nearly 3-meter-high (nearly 10-foot high) bronze will make a nine-day trip across the Atlantic Ocean later this month, sailing out aboard a container ship from the French port of Le Havre to Baltimore. It will then be transported to Ellis Island, arriving in time for July 4 celebrations. — AP

**Beijing, June 7:** Residents of the southern Chinese city of Guanzhou will not be able to leave unless they can show that it is absolutely necessary to do so, following an outbreak of Covid-19 that has sickened dozens of people in recent days.

Anyone who is given permission to leave must show a negative test for the virus taken in the previous 48 hours, according to rules issued by the city government that take effect on Monday. The same rule applies to anyone seeking to leave the surrounding province of Guangdong.

The city also is restricting indoor dining, conducting mass testing and banning residents in high-risk neighbourhoods

from leaving their homes. At least two districts in the city of 18 million people have been closed off entirely.

The variant causing the Guangzhou outbreak - the delta variant first identified in India - is reportedly more infectious because those who have it are slower to display symptoms while carrying more virus particles. — AP

Lankan Parliament  
session cut over virus

**Colombo, June 7:** Sri Lanka's Parliament would meet for only one day this week instead of its regular four days, parliament officials said on Monday as the country is facing a third wave of the Coronavirus.

Parliament's communication office said that Tuesday's session would be held between 10 am and 4.30 pm when a motion moved by the Opposition on the pandemic would be taken up for the debate.

The decision to limit Parliament proceedings this week was taken in view of the rising number of positive cases.

A rapid increase in the number of people infected with the virus has been noted over the past several weeks. Over 100,000 new cases have been reported since mid-April in a sudden surge.

At least 10 police officers serving in Parliament found positive for Covid-19. — PTI

desperately need," he said.

Senator Roger Wicker from the Senate Armed Services Committee said that it is important for the US to continue helping other nations beat the virus.

"Sending excess vaccines to close allies like India doesn't just make sense, it is the right thing to do," he said.

Congressman Michael McCaul, a ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs, tweeted, "Glad to see critically needed vaccines and other therapeutics will be sent to India to continue to support a longstanding partner and ally." — PTI

China hosts 10  
Southeast Asian  
ministers' meet

**Beijing, June 7:** China is hosting foreign ministers from 10 Southeast Asian nations this week amid heightened competition between Beijing and Washington for influence in the region.

Chinese state media said that the meeting on Tuesday in the southwestern megacity of Chongqing will cover issues from restoring tourism and other economic exchanges battered by Covid-19, to more coordinated efforts in fighting the pandemic and the feasibility of creating a vaccine passport to allow freer travel among them.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is also expected to meet separately with each of his counterparts on the sidelines of the conference. Beijing has been building influence with the 10 countries that make up the Association of Southeast Asian

● **THE MEETING** will cover issues from restoring tourism to economic exchanges hit by Covid.

Nations, despite frictions with some of them over rival territorial claims in South China Sea.

The Philippines has complained repeatedly over the presence of Chinese boats moored at a reef that it claims and Malaysia last week protested over an intrusion by 16 Chinese military aircraft into its airspace, calling the incident a "serious threat to national sovereignty and flight safety." Chinese economic and diplomatic heft have helped override such concerns, however, while the bloc has been unable to form a unified stand in the face of opposition from Chinese allies within, primarily Cambodia. — AP

Harris reaches  
Guatemala with  
message of 'hope'

**Guatemala City, June 7:** U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris arrived in Guatemala on Sunday, bringing a message of "hope" to a region hampered by Covid-19 and which is the source of most of the undocumented migrants seeking entry to the United States.

Harris, who will also visit Mexico, is making her first journey abroad as President Joe Biden's deputy with an eye toward tackling the root causes of migration from the region — one of the thorniest issues facing the White House.

She landed at an air force base outside Guatemala City on Sunday evening, where she was greeted by Foreign Minister Pedro Brola and U.S. Ambassador William Popp.

Harris will meet with President Alejandro Giammattei on Monday before leaving to meet with Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Tuesday.

"I am certain that it will be a successful visit and that we will continue to strengthen bilateral relations for the benefit of our peoples," Giammattei tweeted as he extended a "most cordial welcome" to

Harris.

Harris also has plans to meet with community, labour and business leaders during the trip, according to her team.

Her exit from Washington was briefly delayed when her plane was forced to turn around soon after take-off due to a technical problem, and she had to take a different plane.

Harris said she hopes to have "very frank and honest discussions" with the two leaders about corruption, crime and violence. Giammattei, speaking to CBS ahead of the visit, seemed to agree, saying Harris "doesn't hold back, which is good. She is frank." Detentions of undocumented travelers along the US-Mexico border, including unaccompanied minors, hit a 15-year high in April. Nearly 180,000 people were intercepted — more than 80 percent of them coming from Mexico or the so-called Northern Triangle of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

"We have to give people a sense of hope ... that if they stay, things will get better," Harris has previously said, after Biden tasked her with leading diplomatic efforts on the issue in March. — AFP



US Vice President Kamala Harris waves alongside Guatemalan Foreign Minister Pedro Brola upon arrival in Guatemala City. — AFP

## ECONOMIC LOSS

G7 countries will lose nearly \$5tn within 30 yrs if temp rises

## Climate crisis to shrink G7 economies

**London, June 7:** The economies of rich countries will shrink by twice as much as they did in the Covid-19 crisis if they fail to tackle rising greenhouse gas emissions, according to research.

The G7 countries — the world's biggest industrialised economies — will lose 8.5 per cent of GDP a year, or nearly \$5tn wiped off their economies, within 30 years if temperatures rise by 2.6C, as they are likely to on the basis of government pledges and policies around the world, according to research from Oxfam and the Swiss Re Institute.

The economies of G7 nations contracted by

about 4.2% on average in the Coronavirus pandemic, and the economic losses from the climate crisis by 2050 would be roughly on the scale of suffering a similar crisis twice every year, according to the research. The UK's economy would lose 6.5 per cent a year by 2050 on current policies and projections, compared with 2.4 per cent if the goals of the Paris climate agreement are met.

Other nations will be hit much worse, including India, whose economy will shrink by a quarter owing to a 2.6C temperature increase, while Australia will suffer a loss of 12.5% of output, and South Korea will lose nearly a

● **OTHER NATIONS** will be hit much worse, including India, whose economy will shrink by a quarter owing to a 2.6C temperature increase, while Australia will suffer a loss of 12.5% of output, and South Korea will lose nearly a tenth of its economic potential.

tenth of its economic potential. The leaders of the G7 countries — the UK, the US, Japan, Canada, France, Germany, Italy — and the EU will meet in Cornwall on Friday to discuss the global economy, Covid-19 vaccines, taxes

on business, and the climate crisis.

The modelling by the insurance firm Swiss Re took account of the forecast direct impacts of climate breakdown, including extreme weather such as droughts and floods, as well as the effects on agricultural productivity, health and heat stress.

Jerome Haegeli, group chief economist at Swiss Re, said: "Climate change is the long-term number one risk to the global economy, and staying where we are is not an option — we need more progress by the G7. That means not just obligations on cutting CO2 but helping developing coun-

tries too, that's super-important."

He said vaccines for Covid-19 were also a key way to help developing countries, as their economies were hit hard by the pandemic and would need help to recover on a green path, rather than through boosting fossil fuels.

The insurer found that policies and pledges by governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions were still inadequate to meet the goals of the Paris agreement. As well as hosting the G7 summit, the UK will host vital UN climate talks, called Cop26, this November in Glasgow. — Agencies



quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	52,328.51	0.44
Nifty 50	15,751.70	0.52
S&P 500*	4,219.36	-0.25
Dollar (₹)	72.80	0.28
Pound Sterling (₹)	102.98	0.14
Euro (₹)	88.54	-0.11
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	48,107.152	0.31
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	1.570	0.010
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.022	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	71.71	-0.25

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

RBI slaps penalty on BoI, PNB totalling ₹6 crore

The RBI imposed penalty of Rs 6 crore on Bank of India and Punjab National Bank for contravention of norms, including one related to "Frauds Classification and Reporting". A penalty of Rs 4 crore has been imposed on BoI and Rs 2 crore on PNB. The RBI said its examination found non-compliance with/contravention of directions, viz., breach of transaction limits; delay in transfer of unclaimed balances at BoI.

Central Bank Q4 net loss narrows to ₹1,349 crore



Central Bank of India reported a narrowing of its net loss to Rs 1,349.21 crore on a standalone basis in the fourth quarter against a net loss of Rs 1,529.07 crore in the January-March 2020 quarter. Sequentially, there was a net profit of Rs 165.41 crore in the December quarter of FY21. Net profit (standalone) for FY21 was down by 20.84 per cent to Rs 887.58 crore against Rs 1,121.35 crore in FY20.

'Firms struggling with rising cost of raw materials'

Businesses are struggling with rising cost of raw materials amid disruptions in supply chains, the PHDCCI said. In a survey, the industry body said going ahead, a substantial stimulus to push the economy would be crucial. "The survey, which was conducted across 34 sectors, revealed that 73 per cent of respondents were struggling with rising cost of raw materials... disruptions in supply chains and contraction in demand," it said.

Nissan launches subscription programme

Nissan Motor India said it has introduced its subscription programme for Nissan and Datsun models. Launched in partnership with ORIX India, the plan will be initially available in Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad and Chennai, followed by Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai. After paying a nominal refundable security deposit, customers can choose to use a brand new car without actually owning it by paying a fixed monthly fee, Nissan said.

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80% MNCs will cull 'slow-to-transition suppliers' by 2025 Big companies to remove suppliers over emissions

ALASTAIR MARSH JUNE 7

For the world's biggest companies, reducing emissions means cutting suppliers that aren't moving quickly enough to prepare for a low-carbon economy. Just short of 80 per cent of multinational companies will start culling "slow-to-transition suppliers" by 2025, and 15 per cent have already begun to do so, according to a report from Standard Chartered Plc based on a survey of corporate executives at 400 of the world's largest companies. Since more than 70 per cent of emissions for such businesses come from their supply chains, lowering those emissions is the first step in their climate-change strategies. With companies such as Apple Inc, Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Unilever Plc



all committing to reach net-zero emissions, the carbon contribution of global supply chains is under scrutiny like never before. While dropping suppliers may provide a quick win for a company's road to net zero, it also will disproportionately affect emerging economies that are likely to face the greatest social and economic toll from climate change. "This should be a wake-up call to suppliers," said

Amit Puri, global head of environmental and social risk management at Standard Chartered. "The net-zero debate has intensified the focus on carbon emissions, and companies are working to understand the sources of emissions and their impacts in a more meaningful way." Standard Chartered found 57 per cent of multinationals were willing to replace emerging-market suppliers with ones in developed markets that

are less reliant on fossil fuels if it would help them reach net zero. The 400 companies surveyed by the bank had at least one supplier based in either Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, South Africa, South Korea, Singapore or the United Arab Emirates. In those 12 countries, about a third of exports, or \$1.6 trillion, are "set to be subject to multinational corporation zero tolerance on carbon," according to the report. "For the net-zero trailblazers, outsized opportunities await," said Simon Connell, global head of sustainability strategy at London-based Standard Chartered. "Those that fail to take up the challenge, meanwhile, can expect to lose access to a significant slice of business in the near future."

— Bloomberg

World Bank okays \$500 mn support to MSMEs

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JUNE 7

The World Bank has approved a \$500 million programme to support India's Covid-hit micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The programme targets improvement in the performance of 5.55 lakh MSMEs and is expected to mobilise financing of \$15.5 billion as part of the Indian government's \$3.4

billion MSME Competitive-ness-A Post-Covid Resilience and Recovery Programme (MCRPR). The \$500-million Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme is the World Bank's second intervention in this sector, the first being the \$750-million MSME Emergency Response Programme, approved in July 2020 to address the immediate liq-

uidity and credit needs of viable MSMEs. Till date, five million firms have accessed finance from the government programme, WB said in a release. The World Bank's financing towards the MSME sector amounts to \$1.25 billion over the past year. Having supported the immediate liquidity and credit needs of viable MSMEs in the first phase, the RAMP Program will

support the government's efforts to increase MSME productivity and financing in the economic recovery phase. The MSME sector is the backbone of the country's economy, contributing 30 per cent of India's GDP and 40 per cent of exports. Out of some 58 million MSMEs in India, more than 40 percent lack access to formal sources of finance, said the multilateral bank.

UNION BANK Q4 NET AT ₹1,330 CR

New Delhi, June 7: Union Bank of India on Monday reported a standalone net profit of Rs 1,329.77 crore for the March 2021 quarter against a net loss of Rs 2,503.18 crore in the year-ago quarter. Union Bank said the results of the fourth quarter and the financial year include operations of the erstwhile Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank, and hence are not comparable with the corresponding periods of the previous year. The two banks were amalgamated into Union Bank of India with effect from April 1, 2020. Total income during the March 2020-21 quarter was at Rs 20,025.99 crore. In the year-ago period it was Rs 11,306.99 crore. For the full year 2020-21, there was a net profit of Rs 2,905.97 crore on a standalone basis. In 2019-20, it had a net loss of Rs 2,897.78 crore, as an amalgamated entity. Total income was at Rs 80,104.19 crore against Rs 42,491.91 crore in 2019-20. Gross NPAs fell to 13.74 per cent of the gross advances as of March 2021 against 14.15 per cent a year ago. — PTI

Google to change global ad practices after French fine

MATHIEU ROSEMAIN JUNE 7



Google said it would make changes to its global advertising business to ensure it did not abuse its dominance, bowing to antitrust pressure for the first time in a landmark settlement with French authorities. The deal with the French competition watchdog could help rebalance the power over advertising in favour of publishers, which held sway over the business in the pre-internet era but lost control with the rapid rise of Google and Facebook. The settlement, which was announced on Monday and also saw Google fined 220 million euros (\$268 million), is the first time the US tech giant has agreed to make changes to its huge advertising business, which brings in the bulk of its revenue.

"The decision to sanction Google is of particular significance because it's the first decision in the world focusing on the complex algorithmic auction processes on which the online ad business relies," said France's antitrust chief Isabelle de Silva. The watchdog found that Google's ad management platform for large publishers Google Ad Manager favoured the company's own online ad marketplace, Google AdX, where publishers sell space to advertisers in real-time. Ad Manager provided

AdX with strategic data such as the winning bidding prices, while AdX also enjoyed privileged access to requests made by advertisers via Google's ad services, the authority said. AdX, in turn, exchanged data more smoothly with Ad Manager than it did with other advertising management platforms, the watchdog added. Such platforms are crucial for publishers to manage and sell advertising space. Under the terms of the settlement, Google made commitments to improve the way Ad Manager services worked with rival ad servers and ad space sales platforms, the French watchdog said. Some changes would be implemented by the first quarter of 2022, it said, adding that Google would not appeal the decision.

— Reuters

NCLT approves Piramal's ₹37,250-cr bid for DHFL

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, JUNE 7

The Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd's resolution plan for debt-ridden Dewan Housing Finance Ltd (DHFL). The order is subject to the outcome of the appeal in the appellate tribunal and the Supreme Court. Piramal Group has offered Rs 37,250 crore to DHFL's creditors. This includes Rs 12,700 crore in upfront cash, Rs 3,000 crore cash from the interest income earned on the existing cash on DHFL's books, another Rs 1,000 crore for the insurance stake, and Rs 1,000 additional cash for interest income after the NCLT approval. This takes the total cash for the creditors at Rs 17,700 crore. The remaining Rs 19,550 crore worth of non-convertible debentures will be repaid over 10 years. According to sources, shares of DHFL would be

delisted post-acquisition as per the IBC guidelines and Sebi delisting norms. Also, the Piramal company may merge itself with DHFL, for which a call would be taken after all legal and regulatory clearances are obtained, reports said. Piramal Capital's resolution plan for DHFL has received 94 per cent votes by the committee of creditors (CoC). The bid amount will enable lenders to recover around 40 per cent of their dues, out of the total admitted claims at Rs 87,082 crore. A statement from Piramal Group said, "The approval from NCLT is a significant milestone in DHFL's resolution and an affirmation of the sanctity of the IBC process in India." Former DHFL promoter Kapil Wadhawan has moved the Supreme Court to get a stay on the NCLAT order that stayed an earlier order of the NCLT asking the CoC to consider the settlement offer put forward by Wadhawan.

Unlock theme plays out; hotels, food chains rally



RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, JUNE 7

Stocks of power, auto, hotels, fast food chains and movie theatres' rose as unlock themes gained in the broader market rally on Monday, with several large states having started easing restrictions with fresh Covid cases hitting near two-month low. On Sunday, fresh Covid cases reported were 1,00,636, far less than the April-May period. Badly impacted Maharashtra state extended shop opening hours in Mumbai till 4 pm. Delhi has also seen a sharp fall in fresh Covid cases to 381 on Sunday. Stocks in the broader market rallied more than benchmark indices Nifty-50 and Sensex, relieved by the consistently falling fresh Covid cases. The BSE Mid-cap Index gained 0.78 per cent and the BSE Small-cap Index gained 1.38 per cent compared to Nifty-50 gaining 0.52 per cent and Sensex gaining 0.44 per cent. The Nifty-50 continues to make new closing highs as it closed at 15,751.65, up 81.40 points and the Sensex closed at 52,328.51, up 228.46 points. "The broader market displayed buoyancy across multiple diverse themes ranging from Unlock Themes, cement, sugar, defence, power & pathology, among others. As a matter of fact, it would not be unfair to say that the day clearly belonged to the broader market," S. Ranganathan, head of Research, LKP securities said. Auto stocks also gained as the BSE Auto Index gained 0.70 per cent.

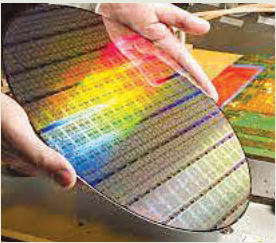
CHIPPING IN Dresden plant will supply to customers worldwide

Bosch opens German chip factory

CHRISTOPH RAUWALD JUNE 7

Robert Bosch GmbH opened a 1 billion-euro (\$1.2 billion) factory that should gradually help alleviate supply constraints and herald broader efforts to make Europe less dependent on imports from Asia or the US. The first chips manufactured at the plant near the Germany city of Dresden will be used in electric tools next month, and output for auto parts has been accelerated by three months to September, Bosch said on Monday ahead of the site's opening ceremony. Chancellor Angela Merkel will attend remotely. "There is no quick fix as ramping up production takes time," Bosch board

member Harald Kroeger said in a phone interview. "But the new factory certainly helps free up other capacity - every chip is a good chip." Chip-supply bottlenecks had already started disrupting manufacturing across business sectors when a fire at a Japanese factory and winter storms in Texas exacerbated shortages early this year. The woes have affected producers of electronics, vehicles and other goods and exposed the fragility of global supply chains. The European Union is particularly vulnerable and has set a goal to produce at least 20 per cent of the world's supply on a value basis by the end of the decade. "If a big bloc like the EU is not in a position to pro-



duce microchips, I don't feel comfortable about that," Merkel said during a virtual speech last month to a conference hosted by German research organisations. "If you are a car nation, it is not really good if you cannot produce the main component." Germany's federal economy ministry provided about 140 million euros of support to Bosch's factory as part of the Important

Project of Common European Interest programme, or IPCEI. Bosch's Dresden factory will supply customers worldwide, Kroeger said. Adding capacity for chips or ramping up output of existing factories is complex and time consuming. Three years after a groundbreaking ceremony, Bosch's highly automated Dresden factory employs about 250 people and will eventually have 700 staff. The site covers about 14 soccer fields and can churn out 300-millimetre silicon substrate wafers with structural widths of up to 65 nanometers. Bosch already makes 150 and 200-millimetre wafers at a factory in Reutlingen, outside Stuttgart.

— Bloomberg



## SHORT TAKES

## BCCI may push IPL final to Oct. 15

**New Delhi:** The BCCI brass is exploring the option of using the full window of Indian Premier League by pushing the final back to October 15 in order to reduce the number of double headers in the UAE's searing September heat. As reported, the tournament will start on Sunday, September 19 and while the final was tentatively planned for October 10, the BCCI as well as the Emirates Cricket Board are mulling stretching the lucrative T20 event till October 15. "September 15 to October 15 is the window. Initially, BCCI was thinking of having 10 double headers. But, in third and fourth week of September, having 10 afternoon matches can be physically exhausting for player in such short window," a BCCI source said on the condition of anonymity. — PTI

## Bhaji says sorry for Intsa post

**New Delhi:** Veteran Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh on Monday unconditionally apologised for a social media post in which he shared a picture of Khalistani militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale to pay homage to those who died in 'Operation Bluestar' of 1984. The 40-year-old off-spinner said he posted a WhatsApp forward on the 37th anniversary of the operation without realising that the man in the picture was Bhindranwale. "I just wish to clarify and apologise for an instagram post yesterday. It was a WhatsApp forward that I posted in a haste and without even realising the content used and what it signified and stood for," he said in an apology note posted on Twitter. "This is my unconditional apology for hurting the sentiments of my nation." — PTI

## Half of Japan now favours Olympics

**Tokyo:** Half of Japan's public favours holding the Tokyo Olympics this summer, a new survey showed on Monday, suggesting support for the contentious Games is rising seven weeks before the opening ceremony. The latest poll by the *Yomiuri Shimbun* daily showed 50 per cent of respondents want the Games to be held this summer, with 48 per cent in favour of cancellation. Postponement was not given as an option. National polls have tended to show that a majority of respondents oppose holding the Games this summer, backing either a further postponement or cancellation. In early May the same paper found 59 per cent of respondents wanted the Games to be scrapped. — AFP

## Record seventh title for Biles

**Fort Worth, US:** Simone Biles toned it down. A little anyway. And soared even higher. The 24-year-old gymnastics superstar claimed her record seventh U.S. title Sunday night, delivering another stunning and stunningly easy performance that served little doubt the pressure surrounding her bid to become the first woman to win back-to-back Olympic championships in more than 50 years is only pushing her to even greater heights. Shaking off a somewhat sloppy start Friday, at least by her impeccable standards, Biles put on a four-rotation showcase that highlighted why a GOAT emblem a nod to her status as the Greatest Of All Time has become a fixture on her competition leotard. — AP

## Clippers eliminate Doncic and Mavs

**Los Angeles:** Kawhi Leonard finished with 28 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists as the Los Angeles Clippers won game seven at home with a 126-111 win over the Dallas Mavericks to punch their ticket to the second round of the NBA playoffs. Los Angeles withstood a 46-point performance from Mavericks star Luka Doncic on Sunday to take the Western Conference series 4-3, finally cashing in on home court after the road team had won each of the first six games. Marcus Morris scored 23 points and Paul George tallied 22 and dished out 10 assists for the fourth-seeded Clippers at Staples Center arena in downtown Los Angeles. The Clippers advanced to the second round to face the top-seeded Utah Jazz with game one on Tuesday in Salt Lake City. — AFP

**Paris, June 7:** Novak Djokovic battled back from two sets down to reach the French Open quarterfinals for the 15th time on Monday as 17-year-old Coco Gauff became the youngest woman to reach a Grand Slam last eight since 2006.

World number one Djokovic stayed on course to become the first man in over 50 years to win all four Slams twice after surviving a rousing challenge from 19-year-old Lorenzo Musetti. The Italian teenager, ranked 76 and making his Grand Slam debut, was poised to condemn Djokovic to his earliest exit in Paris in 12 years when he captured the first two sets, 6-7 (7/9), 6-7 (2/7).

But Djokovic levelled by taking the next two sets, 6-1, 6-0 before Musetti, who had taken a medical time-out, retired at 4-0 down in the decider suffering from a stomach injury.

It was the fifth time in his Grand Slam career that the 34-year-old Djokovic has come back from to sets down to win. Djokovic, the 2016 champion and chasing a 19th major, reeled off 53 of the last 61 points against the weary Italian as he made a quarter-final at the majors for the 49th time.

Gauff, meanwhile, swept to an impressive 53-minute, 6-3, 6-1 win over Tunisia's Ons Jabeur.

At just 17, she is the youngest woman to reach the last eight of a Grand Slam since Nicole Pietrangeli who made the quarter-finals at Roland Garros in 2006.

## 'SUPER HAPPY'

Gauff is also the youngest American woman to book a place in the last eight in Paris since Jennifer Capriati in 1993.

In a composed performance on Court Philippe Chatrier, the American teenager, seeded 24, broke her Tunisian opponent three times without facing a break point herself. "I am super happy to reach my first Grand Slam quarter-final. I played really well," said Gauff who has yet to drop a set and also learned she had claimed a place on

## NO GAFFE

## Sublime Gauff youngest to reach Grand Slam Last 8



Coco Gauff of the US en route to her 6-3, 6-1 win over Tunisia's Ons Jabeur in their French Open fourth round match in Paris on Monday. — AFP

the American team for the Tokyo Olympics.

Gauff, who famously raced to the Wimbledon fourth round in 2019 as a 15-year-old qualifier, faces Barbora Krejickova for a place in the semi-finals.

The 33rd-ranked Czech

also reached her first Grand Slam quarter-final with a 6-2, 6-0 win over 2018 runner-up Sloane Stephens.

However, last year's runner-up Sofia Kenin, the fourth seed, was knocked out by Maria Sakkari 6-1,

6-3 as the Greek also made the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam for the first time. "I'm speechless. I love Paris. I'm having a great time and I don't want to leave anytime soon," said Sakkari. — AFP

## OSAKA PULLS OUT OF BERLIN TOURNAMENT

**Berlin, June 7:** Naomi Osaka has pulled out of next week's Berlin WTA grasscourt tournament in the wake of her controversial exit from the French Open, organisers confirmed Monday.

"We have received notification that Naomi Osaka cannot start in Berlin. After consulting her management, she will take a break," said a spokesman for the Berlin tournament, which starts June 14.

Osaka has not said when she plans to play next, casting doubt on her participation at Wimbledon, which starts on June 28, and the Tokyo Olympics.

The 23-year-old four-time Grand Slam winner has been in the spotlight since withdrawing from Roland Garros after a dispute over her refusal to attend press conferences.

As a result, French tennis officials fined Osaka \$15,000 and threatened to axe her from the tournament. — AFP

## THE RESULTS

**Men's singles fourth round:** Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) bt Lorenzo Musetti (ITA) 6-7 (7/9), 6-7 (2/7), 6-1, 6-0, 4-0 (retired); Matteo Berrettini (ITA x9) bt Roger Federer (SUI x8) (walkover); Diego Schwartzman (ARG x10) bt Jan-Lennard Struff (GER) 7-6 (11/9), 6-4, 7-5.

**Women's singles fourth round:** Coco Gauff (USA x24) bt Ons Jabeur (TUN x25) 6-3, 6-1; Barbora Krejickova (CZE) bt Sloane Stephens (USA) 6-2, 6-0; Maria Sakkari (GRE x17) bt Sofia Kenin (USA x4) 6-1, 6-3.

## MEXICO MATCH HALTED FOR RACIST CHANTS

**Denver, June 7:** A match involving Mexico's national team was stopped for the second time in four nights because of discriminatory chants.

Officials stopped the CONCACAF Nations League final against the United States at Empower Field for about three minutes during second-half stoppage time Sunday night under the regional governing body's anti-discrimination protocol.

A similar stoppage occurred Thursday night late in Mexico's semifinal against Costa Rica, which El Tri went on to win on penalty kicks. CONCACAF said stadium security ejected several fans during the first half for discriminatory language following warnings on the public address system.

Soccer officials repeatedly have attempted to stop homophobic chants at Mexican national team matches. — AP

## USA first Nations League winners

**Denver, June 7:** The United States beat Mexico 3-2 to win the inaugural CONCACAF Nations League Sunday, with a wild extra-time finish featuring a penalty from Christian Pulisic and a penalty save from substitute keeper Ethan Horvath.

The United States came from behind twice — from 1-0 and from 2-1 down — to force extra time before a raucous crowd at Empower Field.

The score was knotted at 2-2 after regular time and in the 114th minute Chelsea striker Pulisic put the United States ahead for the first time when he converted a penalty awarded after a VAR review.

Six minutes later Andres Guardado's attempt from the spot — awarded after VAR confirmed a handball by Mark McKenzie in the penalty area — was turned away by Horvath.

By then, Mexico's Argentinian coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino had been sent off, apparently for draping an arm



The United States team celebrate winning the CONCACAF Nations League championship in Denver on Sunday. USA beat Mexico 3-2 after extra time. — AP

over Panamanian referee John Pitti as he checked the video on the tackle by Carlos Salcedo that brought down Pulisic in the box.

The decision to grant the penalty prompted

Mexico fans to shower the pitch with debris.

Mexico had been quick out of the blocks, seizing a 1-0 lead in the second minute through Jesus Corona.

Gio Reyna answered for

the United States in the 27th — minutes after Mexico thought they had gone up 2-0 on a header by Hector Moreno that was disallowed upon VAR review because he was a hair offside. — AFP

## Belgium, Netherlands win last pre-Euro friendly ties

**Paris, June 7:** Belgium and the Netherlands completed their Euro 2020 preparations on Sunday with respective wins over Croatia and Georgia.

Belgium, the world's top-ranked side, beat the 2018 World Cup runners up 1-0 thanks to a first half goal from in-form Romelu Lukaku.

Roberto Martinez's side will be one of the favourites to win what would be their first ever major international trophy and line up in Group B alongside Denmark, Finland and Russia.

In a tight match it was Lukaku, 28, who was the difference between the two sides in a cagey contest, and he was unlucky not to open the scoring in the 31st

## THE RESULTS

<b>Denmark</b> (Braithwaite 18, Cornelius 73)	<b>2</b>
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>England</b> (Rashford 68-pen)	<b>1</b>
<b>Romania</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Luxembourg</b> (Strandberg 64)	<b>1</b>
<b>Scotland</b> (Adams 27)	<b>0</b>
<b>Netherlands</b> (Depay 10-pen, Weghorst 55, Gravenberch 76)	<b>3</b>
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Norway</b> (Strandberg 64)	<b>1</b>
<b>Greece</b> (Masouras 13, Androustos 21)	<b>2</b>
<b>Belgium</b> (Lukaku 38)	<b>1</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	<b>0</b>

minute with a wonder goal. The Dutch had an easier time of it with a 3-0 win over Georgia.

Frank de Boer's team will be aiming to make a big impression at their first major tournament since the 2014 World Cup and play all their Group C matches with Ukraine, Austria and North Macedonia in Amsterdam. They took the lead in the 10th minute through a Memphis Depay penalty and the Lyon forward was unlucky not to double his tally six minutes later, with Giorgi Loria pulling off a marvellous save to deny him.

Denmark also go into the tournament on a high after seeing off Bosnia and Herzegovina 2-0. — AFP

## Ollie suspended for racist tweets

**London, June 7:** Ollie Robinson will miss next week's second Test against New Zealand at Edgbaston after being suspended from all international cricket pending an investigation into racist and sexist Twitter messages, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced on Sunday.

Sussex quick Robinson made an impressive on-field England debut in the drawn first Test at Lord's concluded Sunday.

But his efforts with bat and ball were overshadowed by the re-emergence of racist and sexist social media messages the 27-year-old had posted as a teenager in 2012 and 2013.

"England and Sussex bowler Ollie Robinson has been suspended from all international cricket pending the outcome of a disciplinary investigation following historic tweets he posted in 2012 and 2013," said an ECB statement.

"He will not be available for selection for the second Test against New Zealand starting at Edgbaston on Thursday 10 June."

The paceman led England's attack with 4-75 in the first innings at Lord's and followed up with 3-26 in the second while in between making a useful 42 with the bat.

But he found himself making an unreserved apology after stumps on Wednesday, his first day in Test cricket, for tweets that included comments suggesting Muslim people were linked to terrorism, and derogatory remarks about women and people of Asian heritage.

His messages re-emerged on after both teams lined up before play on Wednesday for a 'Moment of Unity' designed to show their opposition to discrimination, with England wearing T-shirts stating 'Cricket is a game for everyone'.

— AFP



Ollie Robinson

## ROBINSON BAN 'OVER THE TOP' FOR MINISTER

**London, June 7:** English cricket's ruling body has gone "over the top" by suspending paceman Ollie Robinson over historical racist and sexist tweets, culture and sports secretary Oliver Dowden said on Monday.

He urged the England and Wales Cricket Board to "think again" over the sanction for the 27-year-old.

Robinson — who impressed with ball and bat in his debut Test against New Zealand, which finished in a draw on Sunday — has been suspended from all international cricket pending the outcome of an investigation following tweets he posted in 2012 and 2013. "Ollie Robinson's tweets were offensive and wrong," Dowden said.

"They are also a decade old and written by a teenager. The teenager is now a man and has rightly apologised. The ECB has gone over the top by suspending him and should think again," he said.

Robinson, in a statement issued after play on Wednesday, said he was "embarrassed" and "ashamed" by the posts. — AFP

## ROOT REVEALS OLLIE HAS SHOWN GENUINE REMORSE

**London, June 7:** England's new fast bowler Ollie Robinson's eight-year-old racist and sexist tweets were completely "unacceptable" but he has shown "genuine remorse", skipper Joe Root said while pushing for inclusivity in the country's cricket set-up, starting from the top.

Robinson, who made an impressive Test debut with a match-haul of 7 wickets against New Zealand at Lord's, has been suspended by the country's apex cricket body for some of his tweets dating back to 2012-13, for which he has already tendered an unconditional public apology.

"In regards to the stuff that's happened off the field, it's not acceptable within our game. We all know that. He addressed the dressing room straightaway. He obviously spoke to you guys and other media outlets straight away, fronted up to it," Root said after the drawn first Test.

"He showed a lot of remorse from that point onwards. You can see it's very genuine from how he's been around the group and the team."

The skipper said that he was shocked and didn't know initially how to react. — PTI

## Ollie episode is lesson to young

**New Delhi, June 7:** Senior India spinner R. Ashwin feels sorry for England pacer Ollie Robinson, who has been suspended for racist and sexist tweets posted back in 2012, and has called his punishment "a strong indication of what the future holds in this social media generation."

Robinson, who made his England debut in the first Test against New Zealand which ended in a draw on Sunday, was suspended from international cricket pending an investigation after his tweets, posted when he was a teenager, resurfaced on the opening day of the match at Lord's in London.

"I can understand the negative sentiments towards what #OllieRobinson did years ago, but I do feel genuinely sorry for him being suspended after an impressive start to his test career," Ashwin said on his Twitter handle.

"This suspension is a



R. Ashwin

strong indication of what the future holds in this social media Gen," he added.

The 27-year-old issued an apology on Wednesday, admitting to posting "racist and sexist tweets" as a teenager. He had expressed "deep regrets" about his actions while stating "I'm not racist and I'm not sexist."

Former India Test opener Wasim Jaffer responded to Ashwin's tweet with a cheeky post. "I am just glad I found Twitter after I retired," Jaffer tweeted. — PTI

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

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