

politician Gambhir's foundation. The court noted that through the supporting documents have not been filed by the police, the concerned DCP stated they have collected them during the enquiry.

"We would like you (Drug Controller) to tell us what enquiry you have done. Here there is a very clear case made out. Tell us under what provisions action is required to be taken and against whom. All this has to be done by the Drug Controller and not by the Delhi Police, as per the Supreme Court's order," the bench said.

It added once the allegations have come to the knowledge of the Drug Controller, it cannot shut its eyes and asked it to look into Gambhir's incident. It said since the violation falls in the realm of drug controller, let the material collected be placed before the Drug Controller of Delhi which shall undertake the necessary enquiry and file a status report.

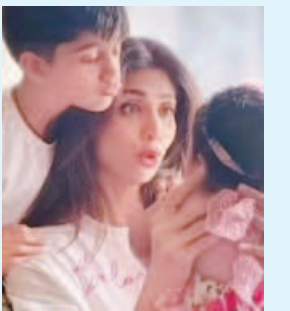
Womenia

TWEET PATROL



SHILPA SHETTY KUNDRA
@THESHILPASHETTY

Having a younger sibling somehow makes the older one responsible, protective, mature, & even territorial (I would know!) I've had Rakhi brothers much later in life, but Samisha's lucky to have a real one. To see this just makes my heart melt. Priceless!! #HappyBrothersDay



LIVING THE DREAM OF ART



Pavani Kotrike has been living her passion of art. Even after not being able to get a professional training or course in art, her passion has strived her to created these impressive portraits. She has also gifted her portraits to Samantha and Sai Kumar



TEJAL SINHA

The saying, "A dream is a wish your heart makes," goes well with the journey of this Hyderabad-based artist. Pavani Kotrike who hails from Kurnool and has been currently settled in the city for the past three years has been creating impressive portraits that look like a real photograph.

Pavani was always interested in drawing ever since her childhood. She shares, "During those days, I had no idea about the career options we had in drawing

after which I thought of doing fashion designing. I had applied in NIFT and also got selected but due to financial problems, I had to drop out from NIFT. I then went to do BSC but even then, I was very much interested in drawing and for my degree also I was searching ways to learn drawing. Through a lecturer, I got to know that we can do BFA and which does not cost much so I went to Yogi Vemana University in Kadapa but I didn't find anything helpful. I have done TTC in drawing because I thought I could get posted as a government

drawing teacher but even that was not useful. In 2015, I tied up with local gift galleries on commission basis where they used to showcase my portraits and when they get orders they used to contact me. I used to make the portraits and give it to them and they used to sell them for a price."

In 2018, Pavani shifted to Hyderabad after her marriage and she shares that her husband said her that the type of portraits that she made generally costs more.

She adds, "I recently joined Instagram. I used to post my previous art works on my page and then people used to text me asking if I can do it for them. After this, I started selling it for my own prices. I wanted to improve so I started following different artists. I used to also take their suggestions on how can I improve."

The turning point in her life was when she drew a combined portrait for a lady who reached her. She shares that the lady was pregnant when her husband passed away and he didn't get a chance to see the baby. She wanted a picture of her and her husband holding the baby.

Sharing about the same, Pavani says, "It was the first time for me to draw two combine pictures it was the turning point for me because there must be many families who lost their loved ones and many important events must be happening without them. I have learned everything step by step like how should I pack so that it will reach them safely and how should it look so that I could get a good response and I have started reading their reviews."

The pandemic came with difficulties for Pavani like that for the rest. She shares, "My husband was not getting his complete salary due to the pandemic. We then thought that many of them are suffering and wanted to do something by raising some funds through these drawings. I was able to raise an amount of Rs 25,000 through her drawing and donated the amount to the PMCARES funds. The pandemic was another turning point in my life."

Pavani feels for her, her home is better than a studio to do her art work as she didn't want her passion for art look like a regular routine.

"I charge Rs 2500 for graphite pencil artwork for face and Rs 3500 for face colour. Lipsika Bhasyam, Jahnvi (mahathalli) who ordered and I met Samantha and Sai Kumar and recently I have started a series called musical legends so I did Janakamma design in that and I have reached her I am so happy and she really loved it she kept it at her home I have got the photos of it she said that everyone in her family loved the drawing after listening to that I felt really blessed. After the PMCARES funds, I have started doing for Abhaya foundation. This time my aim is to achieve Rs 50,000 as Abhaya foundation is donating oxygen concentrators and they are also serving free food for covid patients so even we want to help them out," adds Pavani. Pavani also runs a podcast 'Telugu Kathalu' where she narrates stories and one of her stories include how she met her husband. She has also started a series called 'Matrimonial Love'.

Kritika debuts as a director

Bollywood Actress Kritika Sachdeva puts on the hat of a director for her next project. Recently her project "Viraaat" where she was the lead has also been released and she is getting an amazing response for the project. Now her directorial debut is up for release soon.

Kritika shares, "When I started my career in acting, I had thought that at some point of time I will go for directing a project. And somehow things worked out in favour in recent times and I got the opportunity. I am happy to have directed the project. Be it in acting or in directing, I love experimenting. Therefore my vision as a director is to work in all kinds of genres."

Kritika shares that for now acting is her preference, if both comes on her plate. While acting you can learn more and more about direction. She believes that her preference in acting now will help her as director in future.

She adds, "I have recently done two projects as a director. The trailer of the first project (House no 446) has

Kritika Sachdeva is the name of a popular Indian film actress, who comes to the timeline around the showbiz industry within a very short time. She is a newcomer Bollywood star and she became popular after her first movie in 'B.A. Pass 2' in 2017. She now makes her debut as a director for her next project 'House no 446'

been released and the other one is yet to be revealed. It's my directorial debut so yes, awaiting a amazing response. But at the same time it was a learning experience for me. Hoping people will shower same love and affection as they have given to my other projects."



Experimenting with the 'Desi Look'

PUJA GUPTA

FASHIONISTA

The elegance and appeal of Indian ethnic wear have been maintained since days of yore, and the occidental culture has consistently been interested by the gloriousness of the famous ethnic outfits - saree, salwar suit and the lehenga. Fashion biggies have been mixing the western and ethnic sensibilities together to bring -- the rich patterns, cuts and comfort part of western wear were combined with the conventional luxury and style, and it normally indented up the fame of Indian ethnic wear in the worldwide market.

These tips by Anuj Mundra, MD and Chairman of Jaipurkurti.com will help you rock the 'desi look':

- While getting an ethnic wear for working environment, consistently look sharp. Stay away from substantial flowy dupattas that are very diverting. All things being equal, choose a du-

patta that has hand printed themes. Patiala pants are ideal workwear. Wear a botanical print kurti with fully spread solid Patiala salwar.

- To break the tedium of ordinary western or ethnic wear, you can generally pick an Indo-western combination wear. Wear a short combination kurta and provincial dhoti-style salwar or bottoms embellished well.
- Another method of pulling off an ethnic look without getting carried away with salwar kameez is to wear flared long dresses. With strong themes, flower prints and wide hemlines, these designs look stylish and are agreeable.
- Multi-shaded palazzos with block prints matched with a plain kurta can add an alternate appeal to the entire outfit. On the off chance that you are not a kurta fan, these palazzos can be combined with tank tops or short kurtis.
- Your ethnic wardrobe is incomplete without a few stunning anarkali pieces. From easygoing to celebrations, these anarkali kurtas look very lovely and comfortable to wear for a more extended time frame length. The flared hem and the designed neck make these kurtas a top pick for everybody.



GEETIKA MITTAL

There is a whole gamut of skincare products available right now online and in stores that might give our skin the glow, shine, anti-ageing, smoothness that we all crave. But, what happens when we stop using these products? Many of us have an endless list of skin concerns like pigmentation, others about dryness or oiliness, or pimples, or allergies. However, as you grow older, one of the best ways to take care of your skin is to focus on what you eat, rather than what you apply.

Many of us face challenges in deciding what to eat to keep our skin young and healthy, defining a healthy diet, and understanding the role of diet in ageing. Currently, the buzzing topic is finding ways to maintain

healthy skin and delay skin aging.

According to a study, there is a close association between sugar and some food processing methods (such as grilling, frying, baking, etc) with skin ageing, and their mechanisms are related to skin advanced glycation end products. Skin health is closely linked to nutrition, which is required for all biological processes in the skin, from youth to ageing or disease. Nutritional deficiencies and eating habits can both repair and cause damage to the skin. There are several simple things we don't follow regularly that can cause skin ageing: Not drinking enough water, deficiency of vitamin, proteins, trace elements like zinc, copper, iron, iodine, etc.

Water deficiency in the body can lead to tissue dehydration and functional issues (such as ageing and inflammation). Skin is no exception, and the state of moisture in the body is reflected in the appearance of the skin on the lips and limbs. It is advisable to at least drink more than two litres of water every day. Almonds are a source of 15 nutrients such as vitamin E, magnesium, protein, copper, zinc, iodine, etc. A new research suggests that there may be more than one reason to add almonds to your daily skin care routine. The



BEAUTY FUNDA

study found that eating almonds daily in place of typical calorie-matched snacks improved measures of both wrinkle severity and skin pigmentation in postmenopausal women. Almonds are known to be a rich source of antioxidant vitamin E and deliver essential fatty acids and polyphenols, which make them a great addition to one's daily diet for improved skin health. Lack of Vitamin C can also cause skin disorders. They are avail-

able in abundance in oranges, lemons, strawberries and guavas. All of the body's tissue cells are constantly renewed, and only a sufficient protein intake can keep normal tissue renewal and repair going. The skin is no exception, with a 28-day skin renewal cycle being the norm. Apart from almonds that are rich in protein, you could also consume other protein-rich foods such as yoghurt (dahi), lentils and oats for healthier skin.

Sona Mohapatra says all her savings went into 'Shut Up Sona' before pandemic

Singer Sona Mohapatra took to social media on Monday to open up on how all her savings went into making her documentary film "Shut Up Sona" just before the pandemic, and the ensuing lockdown has left her with no means of income.

"Pain is inevitable, suffering is optional.. making happy whenever I can. My film #ShutUpSona is yet travelling to places around the world & winning festivals. All my savings went into this film, just before the pandemic broke & stopped us in our tracks with no means of income," Sona tweeted. In a separate tweet, the singer also announced that her documentary film has been nominated in the category of "Best Documentary" at the New York Indian Film Festival 2022. "SHUT UP SONA: Official selection & Nomination for Best #documentaryfilm at the @nyindianff 2022. @DeeptiCam @EspressoMedia #NewYork #we-mademovie #love #music #travel," Sona tweeted earlier in the day. Directed by Deepti Gupta, "Shut Up Sona" revolves around her journey as a singer, her brand of music, love for her country's roots and culture and how she has become a symbol of hope for a larger movement.

Wine Day

Sweet or dry, red or white, fizzy or flat, let's raise a glass to one of the most loved and historical alcoholic tipples there is the sophisticated and often sassy glass of wine.

For centuries and centuries, wine has been a firm favourite of cultures across the world. Whether it's for helping creativity, religious ceremony, or simply livening up a gathering, there's no doubt that this fruity fixture of the alcoholic drink repertoire well deserves its own day of observance.

On the 25th of May, it's time to celebrate everything that makes a wine great. And everything that makes a wine great is, of course, everything about it.

You may think every day has the potential to be a Wine Day depending on how hard the day at work has been, but for when your boss hasn't been getting on your nerves there's Wine Day.

Unlike Drink Wine Day, which is in February, Wine Day is more about celebrating the beverage itself rather than the act of drinking it – although of course, that isn't stopping you from enjoying a tippie or two!



CENTRE IN HC ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

‘Nobody is dying for want of marriage certificate’

NEW DELHI

THE Centre on Monday opposed the urgent hearing in Delhi High Court on a batch of pleas seeking recognition to same-sex marriages in India under the Hindu Marriage Act, Special Marriage Act and Foreign Marriage Act.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, submitted before a division bench of Justices Rajiv Sahai

Endlaw and Amit Bansal that law officers were struggling with COVID-19 issues amid the pandemic and the government is focussing on urgent issues.

As a counsel argued that the matter requires urgent hearing as it affected the daily lives of lakhs of people.

Mehta submitted, “You don’t need marriage certificate for hospitals nobody is dying because they do not have marriage certificate,” as the counsel

pleaded that people are being left out in hospitals and medical treatment.

The Centre also submitted a letter seeking adjournment, pointing out the High Court was only hearing “extremely urgent” cases currently.

Mehta also raised the issue with respect to the roster of the division bench hearing the petitions.

Senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal, appearing for one of the pe-

tioners in the matter, argued that the urgency of the subject matter should be looked upon in a neutral manner and only decided by the court. Kirpal urged the court to take up the petitions next week after clarity on issue of roster.

The High Court noted that the Union government may obtain clarification with respect to the roster, and after a brief hearing in the matter, the court adjourned the hearing on the

batch of pleas to July 6.

The Centre had opposed the petitions stating that in spite of decriminalisation of homosexuality under Section 377 of the IPC, there was no fundamental right of same-sex marriage.

The Centre had said the acceptance of the institution of marriage between two individuals of the same gender is neither recognized nor accepted in any uncodified personal laws or any codified statutory laws.



Himachal CM opens 250-bed makeshift Covid hospital

SHIMLA

HIMACHAL Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Monday dedicated a 250-bed makeshift hospital at Paraur in Palampur subdivision set up by religious sect Radha Soami Sat-sang Beas for Covid-19 patients..

Virtually dedicating the hospital, the Chief Minister said volunteers of the sect providing food to the patients and their attendants free of cost, is a great service towards humanity. All beds in the hospital have been equipped with oxygen supply to ensure better treatment to the patients.

Thakur said the state government has laid special emphasis on capacity building in health in-

frastructure. It was due to the efforts of the state that the Central government has enhanced Himachal’s oxygen quota from 15 to 30 metric tonnes (MT).

He said the government has now urged the Centre to increase the oxygen supply by 10 MT and it has agreed in principle.

In the last few days the recovery rate has gone up to 83 per cent. The CM said the government would ensure the patients in home isolation were regularly contacted so that their health parameters could be monitored.

Health Minister Rajiv Saizal said the role of several religious organizations and NGOs was commendable in tackling the Covid situation.

HP extends Covid curfew till May 31

SHIMLA

THE Himachal Pradesh Cabinet on Monday reviewed the Covid-19 situation and decided to extend the statewide curfew till May 31, with the restrictions on movement and holding community functions to continue.

It was decided that the Department of Health would encourage private hospitals to increase vaccination. It was felt the legislators may review, along with the subdivisional magistrate, the welfare and treatment of the Covid patients in home isolation.

The Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, gave its approval to the excise policy for 2021-22 that envisages collection of Rs 1,829 crore revenue, which is Rs 228 crore higher than the previous fiscal. Considering the present situation arising out of Covid, the excise year 2020-21 has been extended by one month till June 30. The new excise policy will be operational for nine months from July 1.

Approval was also given for the renewal of retail excise vends in the state for 2021-22 for the renewal fees of three per cent of the



value of unit or vend with an objective to gain adequate enhancement in government revenue, reduction in the price of liquor, and to curb its smuggling from the neighbouring states.

According to the new policy, low-price brands of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFLO) will be cheaper as license fees and excise duty have been reduced. Also, the facility of transfer of quota within district and inter-district has been approved.

The policy also allows 15 per cent of country liquor quota for liquor manufacturers and bottlers to be supplied to the retail licensees. The balance 85 per

cent quota can be lifted by the retail licensees from the suppliers of their choice.

This was earlier 30 per cent. It envisages the increase in licence fees by five per cent and quota by three per cent. Also the new licence for serving of liquor in tented accommodation has been approved and new licenses for visitor centre in wine manufacturing units and wine tasting festivals has been approved.

The licence fees for CSD canteens have been reduced and facility of liquor canteen license in L-9 & L-9A has been allowed to all the central armed police forces.



Meat-seller assaulted, UP cops book victim

MORADABAD

A Muslim man was allegedly assaulted by a group of men led by a person calling himself a ‘gau rakshak (cow vigilante)’. The victim, identified as Mohammed Shakir, is in the business of transporting and selling meat. The incident took place in a village under the Katghar Police circle when Shakir was transporting meat.

Based on a complaint lodged by the victim’s brother, the police have registered a case against the men who led the assault. However, the police have also filed a counter case against Mohammad Shakir, under IPC sections relat-

ing to ‘mischief by killing an animal’, ‘committing an act likely to spread infection’, and ‘violation of Covid lockdown guidelines’. Shakir had been arrested but was not jailed as the sections invoked against him are ‘bailable’. He is currently recovering at home. The ‘gau rakshak’ Manoj Thakur, who led the assault has not been arrested as yet.

Moradabad superintendent of police (SP), Prabhakar Chaudhary said in a statement, “We got a video of a meat-seller being beaten up and we have filed a case. There are five to six accused who have been named. We are carrying out searches and will arrest them soon.

Yogi plans to vaccinate all parents ahead of 3rd wave



LUCKNOW

THE Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, has decided to set up special booths to vaccinate parents in every district. The chief minister has directed officials that a proper action plan should be prepared in this regard. Special guardian booths should be set up in every district. Parents, especially those who have small children, should be contacted and invited for vaccination.

This will be run as a campaign. It is being done after reports said that the third wave of the pandemic would be a major threat to children.

“Since parents remain in close proximity with children, it is necessary to get them vaccinated before the third wave sets in so

that the children can be in a safe environment,” said a government spokesman.

At present, vaccination is being given to people in the age group of 18 to 44 in 23 districts of the state.

From June 1, people in the age group of 18 to 44 will be vaccinated in all districts. The chief minister said that 10.50 lakh people in the age group of 18 to 44 have been vaccinated in the state.

He said that all necessary steps are being taken by the state government to cover all the people with vaccine cover.

Global tender has been issued for the supply of vaccines. It should be an effort that more and more vaccine manufacturing companies become partners in it.

Panel to probe demolition of Barabanki mosque

LUCKNOW

THE Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has set up a three-member committee to probe the veracity of documents in the Barabanki mosque case that was razed by the district administration last week. The state Minority Affairs Department has already lodged an FIR against eight persons for getting the mosque designated as a Waqf property by submitting forged documents in 2019. The internal



committee under the Department, including special secretary Shivakant Dwivedi, has been asked to check documents alleged to be forged in construction of an illegal structure at Ram Sanehi Ghat in Barabanki. Other

members on the committee include two deputy directors of the Department. The Sunni Waqf Board has said that the structure was over 100-year-old mosque, legally registered with it while the Barabanki district administration had claimed that the “illegal structure was demolished as part of an anti-encroachment drive”. The Sunni Waqf Board and All-India Muslim Personal Law Board has flayed the demolition and threatened to move court on the issue.

Man hacks couple to death, mutilates toddler



BHADOHI

IN a shocking incident, a man hacked his brother and sister-in-law to death with a butcher’s knife and chopped off the limbs of their one-year-old child in Bhadohi district. The accused Naushad has been absconding along with his mother. According to the police,

the couple identified as Jameel, 42, and Ruby, 38 were declared brought dead at the hospital. Their child is battling for his life in hospital. Bhadohi Superintendent of Police, Ram Badan Singh, said the offence was committed by Naushad, a butcher by profession, on Sunday night in his home. Following a dispute in the family, he attacked his brother and sister-in-law with a sharp-edged weapon used for cutting meat, and after hacking the couple to death, he also chopped off an arm and leg of his one-year-old nephew. The SP said that efforts were on to arrest Naushad.

Woman held trying to sell minor daughter

MATHURA

THE Mathura police have detained a “mentally unstable” woman for allegedly trying to sell her 5-year-old daughter for Rs 500. This is not her first attempt at selling. Seven years back she apparently sold her eldest child and herself to a man for Rs 40,000. Now he is her husband.

Both the younger daughters of the woman have been taken into custody by the district adminis-

tration and sent to government’s child shelter home after conducting their medical examination on the orders of the Child Welfare committee Mathura.

The committee has also marked an inquiry by Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of Mathura after learning that the woman had allegedly sold her elder daughter to a resident of Punjab, six years ago.

Snehlata Chaturvedi, member of Child welfare committee, said,

“We are investigating the case and if anyone is found guilty, legal action will be taken.”

District Coordinator of Child Line, Narendra Parihar told reporters that they got a call on their toll free number 1098 on Saturday evening that a woman, identifying herself Rajveer Kaur, was trying to sell her younger daughter for Rs 500.

A 3-member team immediately reached the spot and took them to Farah police station. Af-

ter completing all the formalities, they took the girls to the community health centre for medical check up where a Covid test was also conducted on Sunday.

After the girls tested negative, they were sent to the government child shelter home.

Some mobile number was found in woman’s bag and when the police contacted one of the numbers, a person who identified himself as Jassa Singh said

that he is from Punjab and the woman is his wife who has been missing with the girls for the past four-five months.

He also told them he had bought the woman with her elder daughter, who is now 7-year-old, for Rs 40,000 almost 6 years back.

The police said that Singh is coming to Mathura to join the investigations. The matter is now being investigated from the human trafficking angle.

AMU organises online competition to promote water conservation

ALIGARH

STUDENTS Mohammad Umar Afzal, Anha Rahat Khan and Afifa Fatima won the online poster making competition in Abdullah School organised by Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) to implement the nationwide ‘Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain, where it falls when it falls campaign. This campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for conservation of water and for addressing the challenges of the growing water

crisis. Essay and slogan writing competitions were held in the virtual mode on ‘World Water Day’ in compliance with the Indian government’s regulations on social distancing to curb the spread of Covid-19.

“The campaign spreads awareness on water conservation among school students through their active participation. It will help to create rain-water harvesting structures at the grassroots level,” said Umra Zaeer, Superintendent, Abdullah School.

On Jaipur man’s complaint, NHRC notice to TN on Covid bio waste

JAIPUR

ON the complaint made by a Jaipur law student with regard to the Covid-19 biomedical waste lying scattered in garbage dumps near Redhills, Chennai, the National Human Rights Commission slapped a notice to the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary directing him to take appropriate action within 8 weeks.

One Tapish Saraswat, a law student from Jaipur was quite upset to read the media reports of Covid biomedical waste including the PPE suits, test kits and syringes lying open in garbage dumps in Chennai and hence wrote to National Hu-

man Rights Commission alleging serious negligence on the part of the concerned authorities.

In his complaint, Saraswat said, “The biomedical waste generated during treatment and diagnosis of Covid-19 patients is required to be treated and disposed off in a scientific manner and in line with provisions under Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016. The second wave of the pandemic is serious to mankind. A large number of Covid patients are detected every day and a massive amount of medical waste is generated. PPE suits, Covid test kits and syringes are seen in open garbage dumps near

Redhills, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

“This is a serious negligence on the part of the concerned department as it not only spreads the virus but is also a threat to the environment. The average generation of Covid-19 related biomedical waste in the country shot up from 75 tonnes per day in March to 203 tonnes per day in May following the spike in cases, according to estimates by the Central Pollution Control Board. The average monthly generation increased to 139 tonnes per day in April from 75 tonnes in March. As on May 10, the corresponding figure was 203 tonnes per day.” Peak generation of about 250 tonnes per

day was reported on May 10. The earlier peak in the year 2020 was in the range of 180 to 220 tonnes per day,” as per the estimates by the Central Pollution Control Board, he said, adding, “Despite a spike in the number of patients, there was no proportional growth in the quantity of Covid related biomedical waste generated owing to the proper segregation of waste,” said Saraswat.

Acting on his complaint, NHRC directed the chief secretary of Tamil Nadu to take appropriate action within 8 weeks, associating the complainant/victim and to inform him/her of the action taken in the matter.



Abortion still a raging issue in US

A transformed US Supreme Court on May 17 agreed to hear an abortion case that directly challenges women's reproductive rights. After months of internal debate on the matter, the justices announced that they would add to their 2021-22 session a dispute over a Mississippi ban on abortions after 15 weeks. The controversy, which would likely be heard in the fall and decided by June of 2022. A couple of earlier cases had prevented effectively bans on pre-viability abortions, that is, before the foetus would be able to live outside the womb. The court placed viability at 23-24 weeks in one such 1992 case.

In 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States made a decision in the case of Roe vs Wade. The decision passed to uphold a woman's right to abort an unborn child based on the fourteenth amendment. The fourteenth amendment states "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Thus, the court decided that based on the right of citizens of the US to privacy, the fourteenth amendment upholds the right to terminate a pregnancy before term. However, the mother's right to privacy must be balanced against the rights of the unborn child. Roe v Wade concluded that states had no right to limit abortions in the first trimester of pregnancy, states had the right to impose some limitations in the second trimester, and states had the right to prevent abortions in the third trimester unless there is severe health and safety risk to the mother.

From Roe v Wade, courts are further required to evaluate challenged abortion laws under strict scrutiny, the highest level of judicial review. Under strict scrutiny, the laws must be addressing a specific and important state interest, that the laws must be tailored to specifically address that purpose, and that the laws must accomplish this task in the least restrictive way possible.

Abortion politics have influenced the presidential screening of nominees, senators' votes and the increasing force of special interest groups in the con-

federation orbit. Republican lawmakers especially have fought to make this moment possible, in statehouses across the country and in the US Senate. For nearly 30 years, the justices spurned appeals that would have meant such a deep reconsideration of precedent.

The court worked around the edges, in recent cases reviewing regulations on clinics and physicians, issues that affected women's access to abortion but not the core right or viability line. Newer justices increasingly complained about the pattern. Conservatives who voiced an interest in reversing prior decisions on abortion were no doubt unsure whether they would have at least five votes for a major decision.

The medical profession has a long way to go before abortion services become part of routine care, and well-organised, intensely motivated activists can always pressure wobbly elites. Abortion will thus remain a flashpoint in U.S. national and state politics, as well as in continuing disputes over medical services and judicial appointments. The end of this morally charged political battle is not yet in sight. Or is it?



Can Boris Johnson be both Indophile and Sinophile?

GRAY SERGEANT

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has previously described himself as a "son-in-law of India", owing to his former wife's Indian mother. According to reports, he is a self-proclaimed Indophile. While in office, he has also put on record his fervent Sinophilia. But can he really be both?

Perhaps, I am sure it is perfectly possible for one person to have a profound attachment to the people and culture of both India and China. Although I suspect in the Johnson's case, such words are motivated by a desire to be popular and increase trade with as many countries across the world as possible. A dive into the Prime Minister's past speeches and newspaper columns would probably reveal a whole host of nations who he has declared a special affinity towards. Yet even if his love of all things Indian and all things Chinese is sincere, when it comes to diplomacy, a choice must be made. The choice must be India.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, views in the UK towards China have hardened, especially on the government's backbenches. Over the past few months prominent Conservative parliamentarians have demanded tougher measures against Beijing for its treatment of Uighurs, and other ethnic minorities, in Xinjiang. On several occasions these rebels have been remarkably close to defeating the government in parliamentary votes and have, they claim, in the process exacted concessions.

In fairness, the UK government has shown some resolve too. In response to serious human rights violations in Xinjiang, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, has spoken out at the UN Human Rights Council. Subsequently, in coordination with allies, some Chinese Communist Party officials carrying out these crimes have been sanctioned. On Hong Kong, London has also rallied its allies to condemn the draconian National Security Law's imposition, whilst simultaneously offering millions of Hongkongers the opportunity to live and work in the UK.

Moreover, the pandemic has also raised wider concerns about relations with Beijing, beyond specific human rights issues. This past year revealed the UK's dependency on China for critical goods, including personal protective equipment. The problem with this situation was made even more apparent after Beijing halted and slapped sanctions on Australian grain, wine and beef imports after Canberra called for an independent inquiry into the origins of Covid-19. Given this, it is no surprise that many in government are looking to get the UK off its current trajectory of ever-increasing dependence on China.

There has also been a marked shift in British public opinion. Last summer, a Pew poll showed a record 74 per cent of Britons held an unfavourable view of China. This was up 19-points on the previous year and completed a profound reversal of the relatively positive perception of the country which existed throughout the preceding decade. This trend is not limited to Britain. A similar hardening of views occurred across the free world from Canada to South Korea, and, unsurprisingly, in Australia too.

India was not included as part of this poll. However, previous polling by Pew suggests that Indians may have been ahead of the game. In 2019, unlike many of people surveyed Indian respondents did not share the view that China's economic growth was good for their country. Concerns about Beijing's growing military might were even higher. The pandemic will have done nothing to assuage these fears, not least given the recent heightening of tensions, and actual confrontation, between both nations along their Himalayan border.

Going forward, this shared scepticism of China's growing global influence should give both the UK and India greater cause to strengthen ties with one another. The UK government's Integrated Review outlines its ambitions to tilt towards the Indo-Pacific and already highlights India as a key partner in the region. Ambitions to enhance bi-lateral trade and defence cooperation will be mutually beneficial in themselves and it will also make both countries more resilient to Chinese coercion.

To meet this challenge a multilateral approach should also be pursued. The UK's decision to invite India, alongside South Korea and Australia, to this year's G7 summit is a positive step forward. Pushback against the idea of turning this G7+3 into a more permanent Democratic 10 (D10), purportedly from Europeans concerned about appearing anti-China, should be resisted. Furthermore, both countries should explore how they can increase each other's involvements within existing bodies, whether that be India in the Five Eye intelligence alliance or the UK in the Quadrilateral security dialogues.

The increasing recognition, amongst Britain and India's politicians and publics, of the challenges posed by China is something which can only enhance the case for a stronger partnership between both countries.

Bail to Raju exposes incredible 'credibility' of AP



THERE is a huge debate in media including TV, print and social media platforms about achievement of bail order to MP Raghurama Krishnam Raju, from our apex court. Many journalists, writers, activists and professors who were charged with sedition failed to get bail repeatedly from the Supreme Court. It's very unfortunate. Everyone knows certain FIRs do not attract prima facie charges of sedition, still the bail is rejected at all levels. Justice Madan Lokur commented that the reason for most of sedition accused being in jail without bail is 'timidity'. Whose timidity?

Timidity of those who are supposed to decide objectively what is sedition and whether complaint constitutes sedition. Major threat to justice is not bias, but the fear. For bias we can question the authorities on ethical grounds. But if a decision is given with fear, there is no way the system can deal with it. Courage cannot be imposed by external factors, but it should be coming from internal honesty. That is what is missing in our executive, legislature and to some extent in judiciary also.

In these circumstances, where series of bails were rejected except in cases like high profile pro-BJP personality Arnab Goswami, bail to Raghurama Krishnam Raju is a stupendous achievement of sorts. It is not only a major achievement for Raju, but a greatest defeat for mantris, including the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Main reason for the bail is the ill-treatment given to Raju during custody. The Government has not felt ashamed to make senior Counsel Dushyant Dave to tell SC that it was self-inflicted injury of Raju. The apex court did not believe it.

The medical report of Army Hospital raised heavy doubts about credibility of AP Police and AP medical professionals under the Government. It is an event where the Home Minister and Medical Health Minister of AP should resign, and criminal actions should be initiated against those who tortured Raju in custody and for lying to everywhere up to Supreme Court. The medical doctors who signed the report should be immediately placed under suspension and inquiry should be begin. But we know it will not happen. The people also stopped asking for such resignations, though worth demanding.

Second reason for the bail is that there is no averment in the FIR or anywhere that Raju's words led to violence. FIR says "it was an attempt to create hatred, provoked his followers to take up violence", which is not enough to say that he incited violence. The language that slipped into the FIR has reflected unwittingly the truth of not having incited violence. This can be read by unbiased and fearless mind, which are scarce commodities nowadays.

SC's first interim order to bring Raju from the custody in AP to Telangana, constitution of medical board totally not involving anybody in AP, putting under control of judicial nominee appointed by Telanagana HC and then asking Y category security to escort him upto Army Hospital, each exposed the credibility and

genuineness of AP departments which are working under the beck and call of the political powers, without using discretion given to them by law.

The SC is convinced by the contentions of Mr Rohatgi on behalf of Raju. First point is that statements issued by the appellant were mere criticism of the actions of the State Government and in no case such a criticism, which according to the learned senior counsel would be classified as fair criticism, could be treated as sedition to be punishable under Section 124-A of IPC. He said that such a section has been included in the FIR only to ensure that the offence becomes non-bailable, as the other sections under which the appellant is charged are offences punishable below seven years.

This is the bone of contention, along with ill-treatment in custody, which stood strong against the actions of AP Government and took Raju out of AP police, out of AP Medical team, out of AP territory and finally out of AP custody. The SC said entire medical examination shall be videographed and kept in custody of Registrar General of Telangana HC. SC did not believe the AP.

Rohatgi pointed out that Raju has been tortured and injured in police custody. This was mentioned by the Magistrate while considering the application for remand. The Magistrate, directed on 15.05.2021, for a medical report from the Government doctors as well as directed that the appellant be also examined by a private hospital. This is because of the deep animosities between Raju and ruling party. Both sides have apprehended false and biased report.

Final stroke against credibility of AP is the Army Hospital's medical report. The truth in black and white amidst coloured remarks.

A. Foot (table on right side)
B. Clinical examination of hip joint, thigh, knee joint and legs on both sides: Normal

4. Xray Both feet (Dorso-plantar and Oblique views) No.10260 dt.18 May 2021: Un displaced fracture of the distal phalanx of the second toe (left foot)"

Rohatgi has submitted that from a bare perusal of the Report by Army Hospital, it is clear that Raju has been tortured by the police while the appellant was in custody, so much so that there is an undisplaced fracture of the second toe of the left foot. He has further submitted that the edema, ecchymosis as well as tenderness and other difficulty in movement of the ankle is also a result of the torture, which the appellant had undergone while in police custody. He further said that the detention of the appellant in the State of Andhra Pradesh would not be safe for the appellant and that he should be enlarged on bail. And this was granted.

What are the contentions of AP State through Dushyant Dave? They are mainly technical like "there is an alternative remedy available to the appellant of filing a bail application before the Trial Court, the High Court rightly relegated the appellant to approach the Trial Court". It is straight away in contradiction to Section 439 of Cr PC. Simple law. This is first point of Dave, that means state could not give any plausible reason to plead against bail petition of Raju. It is neither failure of Dave nor the State. But it reflects the total lack



Justice Madan Lokur commented that the reason for most of sedition accused being in jail without bail is 'timidity'. Whose timidity? Timidity of those who are supposed to decide objectively what is sedition and whether complaint constitutes sedition. Major threat to justice is not bias, but the fear. For bias we can question the authorities on ethical grounds. But if a decision is given with fear, there is no way the system can deal with it. Courage cannot be imposed by external factors, but it should be coming from internal honesty. That is what is missing in our executive, legislature and to some extent in judiciary also

Examination of Foot	Rt. Lower Limb	Lt. Lower Limb
a) Pedal edema	Non pitting edema present over the lower one third of the leg and the dorsum of the foot	Non pitting edema present over the lower one third of the lg and the dorsum of the foot
b) Ecchymosis	Present over the dorsum of the forefoot including the toes and over the plantar aspect of the forefoot and over the medial longitudinal arch	Present over the dorsum of the mid-foot, forefoot, the second toe and the plantar aspect of the lateral aspect of the foot and over the medial longitudinal arch.
c) Tenderness	Present over the medial malleolus, the sole of the foot over the ecchymotic region	Present over the ecchymotic patch of the heel and over the second toe
d) Movements	Normal ankle movements.	Painful ankle movements.
	Painfully restricted subtalar and forefoot joint movements including interphalangeal joints.	Painfully restricted subtalar and forefoot joint movements including interphalangeal joints.

of basic points for the case. There is no case as alleged.

Second main point of AP is that they need more time with Raju in custody. SC said all the contentions in the FIR are borne out by video recorded talks, and there is nothing beyond this to interrogate. It was rejected.

Then followers of ruling party are claiming victory because bail was not unconditional. That has to be decided on the content of conditions. First condition that Raju should cooperate with investigation, etc, and fifth to furnish securities are general and routine. Second and third conditions are conditions for the police not to Raju, about 24-hour notice and presence of Raju's advocate at distance during interrogations. These points again prove in favour of Raju and totally against police. The fourth condition is surely against Raju, that he shall not address the press (print or visual media) on any of the sub-

jects which relate to this case and the pending proceedings. It is limited to this case and limited to pendency of the proceedings. Quite reasonable.

We need to refer to last sentence of the fifth condition, which says: "It is further provided that the appellant shall be discharged from the Army Hospital, as and when the doctors so advice". This is a very clear order that leaves no scope for AP Police to interpret in favour of ruling party.

It's total success for Raju. But it cannot be interpreted as failure of police or legal team of AP. Because there is no life or strength in the case. Only issue is that Police and Medical officers should have acted independently and with some amount of courage or truthfulness to the law and their duty. It is unfortunate.

(The writer is Professor of Law, Bennett University and former Central Information Commissioner)

LETTERS

Herbal drugs to treat the pandemic: How effective?

FOR the last one week, the use of herbal drugs to treat Covid-19 has become a key issue of discussion in media. The huge response from the patients and their relatives seeking medicine from Sri Anandaiah, a herbal medicine practitioner from Krishnapatnam, Nellore, A.P, was the on-set for this discussion.

The composition that was used in this Krishnapatnam herbal combination is open to all. No high-quality, rigorously peer-reviewed clinical trials of herbal drugs used in this combination have been reported yet in internationally recognised journals. The approvals, based on in-vitro investigations and anecdotal clinical data,

have not yet been established.

In the pandemic situation like the world is facing now, first, safety is the top priority. Advocates argue that herbal drugs are widely used and safe, but the truth is that all drugs carry risks. It was reported in literature that some women, who followed a slimming herbal remedy, developed rapidly progressive renal failure and urothelial carcinoma. Later investigations highlighted the role of aristolochic acid in this case, a compound found in many traditional herbs. Although herbal drugs have been used clinically for several years, when we apply them to a novel disease like Covid-19, especially in combination with other antivirals, antibiotics, and immune suppressants, the safety should be cautiously evaluated.

Second, more evidence is required through controlled clinical trials to support the efficacy of these herbal drugs. Many traditional medicine practitioners, as they are tailored to each individual's syndromes, believe that herbal remedies cannot be tested. Although this argument is simply not convincing, it appears to be so.

Thousands of years of usage and faith cannot be taken as evidence for the efficacy of traditional herbs. Third, the basic molecular mechanism is obscure. Herbal drugs usually contain many active ingredients, and it is important to better understand which ingredients are functional, and how they work. Safety and efficacy were not guaranteed by Limited experimental cell cultures and animal studies. Lastly, the public can easily purchase herbal drugs with-

out a doctor's prescription.

Driven by the claim that some herbal combinations can effectively treat Covid-19, some patients with or without symptoms if Covid-19 are likely to self-medicate with herbal remedies and avoid going to hospital, thus delaying the proper diagnosis and treatment of the disease, and hampering the government's testing, tracing, and quarantining efforts. Given the formidable morbidity and mortality of Covid-19, it is understandable to see emergency use of unproven drugs, but the approval of a new indication for herbal drugs should still build on evidence. The Government has to invest on the modernisation and standardisation of traditional medicine, carrying out sustainable basic and clinical research to get international recognition, but the rushed approval seems to be a backward step. The attempt to develop rigorously tested

drugs from traditional herbal medicine should not be given up. It will be the only way to protect our vulnerable patients and mankind.

Dr M Venkata Ramana, Khammam

Govt should be tough on violators

IT is deeply deplorable to know that many private hospitals, corporate hospitals, drug sellers, black marketers, middlemen and many medical service providers violate the government regulations regarding the maximum charges fixed for COVID - 19 treatment. They are trying to make a fast buck at the expense of the travails of the patients battling for their lives. Sundry Covid patients opine that they are scared of the treatment because the treatment in private hospitals

turns deadlier than the disease.

The survivors feel that they have pushed their families into a deep financial crisis. No doubt, they are robbed of their breadwinners and distraught families. They have lost their dear ones besides their life savings to the fleeing hospitals and greedy suppliers of medicines.

In some cases, the lone survivors, who have become orphaned children stare at a bleak future pinning their hopes on government aid. It is time the government understood the bizarre situation and came forward with a whip to cancel the recognition of hospitals that violate Covid regulations. Vaccination drive should reach high by instilling willpower and positive mindset in the patients. I congratulate all those who emerge triumphant in the second wave if Covid - 19 pandemic disease.

Tulluri Venkateswarlu, Bapatla

Speed up paddy purchase: BJP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANAMKONDA

THE BJP leaders across the erstwhile Warangal district on Monday staged protests as part of the ‘Telangana Raitu Gosa’, demanding a solution to the problems faced by the farmers.

Warangal Urban district president Rao Padma, who was on a sit-in protest in her residence, criticised the State government for its failure to procure paddy from farmers. “15 days on since the farmers took their produce to market yards, however, their wait is on. On the other hand, the untimely rains had already drenched the farmers’ produce,” she said. The government has so far procured just around 40 per



BJP Warangal Urban district president Rao Padma staging a protest as part of Rythu Gosa at her residence in Hanamkonda on Monday

cent of the total paddy produced, she said. The farmers were also not getting their payment as assured by the government, she added.

There was no facility at the procurement centres for the farmers to lodge their complaints, she said. Padma demanded the government to purchase paddy including discoloured grain on a war-footing. She urged the officials to stop harassing the farmers in the name of talu and depreciation.

Emphasising the need for waiving crop loans, Padma urged the government to release cash assistance under the Rythu Bandhu scheme with immediate effect. The protests were carried out by the BJP leaders following the Covid-19 guidelines.

Govt neglecting paddy purchase, alleges MP Arvind

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NIZAMABAD

FOLLOWING the call of BJP State unit, Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind launched ‘Rythu Gosa Deeksha’ at his residence on Monday. He alleged that the Telangana government was neglecting the purchase of paddy.

Meanwhile, BJP State Executive Member Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta participated in ‘Rythu Gosa Deeksha’ at his residence on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Suryanarayana said that he was aware that the farmers in the State were facing many difficulties and assured the BJP would fight in support of farmers. He alleged that the government didn’t purchased paddy brought



MP Dharmapuri Arvind staging ‘Rythu Gosa Deeksha’ at his residence on Monday

by the farmers to agricultural markets even after 10 to 15 days. He demanded the government to purchase paddy immediately.

Party district vice-president Nagolla Lakshmi Narayana, cor-

porator Master Shankar, city vice-president Bikan Madhu, leaders Illendula Prabhakar, Amandu Vijay Krishna, Bhaskar Reddy and others were present on the occasion.

Prof Mallesh takes charge as V-C of Satavahana varsity

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

PROF Sankesala Mallesh assumed charge as the new Vice-Chancellor of Satavahana University in Karimnagar town on Monday. He is the third regular V-C of the University since its formation in 2008. After the formation of separate Telangana State, the university was headed by only in-charge VCs - B Janardhan Reddy and T Chiranjeevulu.

Speaking to the media, Prof Mallesh said that his priority would be to secure the UGC 12B to the university, which was delayed due to non-availability of regular V-C since for the six and half years. He assured of taking up recruitment of vacant teaching and non-teaching that was pending since long and mandatory for



Prof Mallesh

securing the UGC recognition.

Stating that the UGC recognition would help the university to secure funds from national agencies and help in more research and project works, Prof Mallesh said that he would take measures to strengthen the academics and ensure that the students were employable after completion of their courses. The V-C said that they would take steps to introduce some job-oriented courses and help the student community.

Reacting to a query on poor admissions into the government degree colleges when compared to the private degree colleges, he said that they would streamline the admission process and ensure that the students preferred to join the government sector colleges and learn from a qualified faculty members.

GANGULA INAUGURATES ROCK GARDEN AT CPTC

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

BC Welfare and Civil Supplies Minister Gangula Kamalakur inau- gurated Rock Garden at City Police Training Centre (CPTC) in Karimnagar on Monday. The garden was developed by Karimnagar police as part of its green initiative and turned the CPTC into a major tourist attraction with Miyawaki plantation, Rasi vanam, Navagraha vanam and Nakshatra vanam.

Speaking after inaugurating the garden, the Minister appreciated Commissioner of Police VB Kamalasan Reddy for spreading greenery in Karimnagar besides being engaged in maintaining law and order in an effective manner. Kamalakur noted that the Rock Garden, developed with statues of tiger, deer, duck, swan, desert plants and others with materials such as gravel, pebbles, sand, paddy husk, block soil and



BC Welfare Minister G Kamalakur at Rock Garden at CPTC in Karimnagar on Monday

water fountains, has become an eye-catcher.

Minister Kamalakur walked around three kilometres inspecting the garden and Miyawaki project 1 and 2. He said the State government emulated the Miyawaki forest developed at CPTC at Yadadri where a model forest was being developed and the credit goes to the CP and all the police officials and personnel who strived

in developing the CPTC into a tourism spot.

CP Kamalasan Reddy informed that at present there were around 60,000 plants on PTC premises and there were planning to plant 5,000 to 6,000 more plants in the coming monsoon. Similarly, steps were being taken to plant trees

at all police stations and offices in all police circles and divisions, the CP said while thanking the elected members and officials of other government departments for their help in spreading the greenery.

City Mayor Y Sunil Rao, Conservators of Forests MJ Akbar and Saidulu, Municipal Commissioner Valluri Kranti, Additional DCPs N Srinivas, G Chandramohan and others were present.



TPCC chief and Nalgonda MP Uttam Kumar Reddy interacting with patients during his visit to Covid ward in Suryapet Government Hospital on Monday

Uttam seeks funds to set up ICU ward in Huzurnagar govt hospital

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SURYAPET

TPCC chief and Nalgonda MP Uttam Kumar Reddy visited Covid ward at District Government Hospital in Suryapet on Monday and interacted with the patients. He discussed various issues of the hospital with the Superintendent and doctors and assured them that as a local MP, he would take the pending issues of the hospital to the notice of

the State and Central governments for necessary action.

Uttam later met District Collector T Vinay Krishna Reddy and requested him to sanction district mineral funds for setting up a small ICU ward with ventilators and for purchasing CT scan equipment for Huzurnagar Government Hospital. He also asked funds to purchase dialysis equipment and for arranging oxygen facility in Kodad Government Hospital.

12 get death for highway murders

- Judge finds 19 members of the notorious Munna gang guilty
- The gang killed crew of iron-laden lorries in 2008 and sold the cargo as well as vehicles
- Killers stopped vehicles in the name of checking documents posing as police officials

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ONGOLE

THE notorious Munna gang, which is behind the bars for almost 10 years for the ruthless and organised crime spree in Prakasam district, received its verdict from the 8th additional sessions court on Monday. The judge found 19 members of the gang guilty in four cases last week and awarded death sentence to 12 of them, including Munna, and life sentence to other seven members in the fully packed court hall here on Monday.

In 2008, the drivers and cleaners of lorries plying between West Bengal, Nagaland and Tamil Nadu started to disappear along with the vehicles carrying iron loads on the National Highway-16. One of the owners of the lorries, Veerappan Kuppusamy of Tamil Nadu complained to the



Syed Abdul Samad alias Munna, at district jail in Ongole (File picture)

Yadav and Chandan Kumar Mehto of Chhattisgarh, Guduri Syambabu and Guttula Vinod Kumar of East Godavari district and another driver of Nagaland for the iron load. The police also found that the gang leased a godown at Seetharama Puram of Maddipadu mandal to cut the lorries into parts and sell them as scrap. The police received complaints that 17 lorry drivers and cleaners were missing along with their vehicles at that time, but the Munna gang didn’t confess to their disappearance.

After 13 years of the investigation and trial, public prosecutor S Siva Ramakrishna Prasad proved that Syed Abdul Samad

alias Munna, Shaik Riyaz, Syed Hidayatulla, Mohammad Jamaluddin, Battula Salmon, Epuri China Veeraswamy, Peda Veeraswamy, Gunduboyina Sridhar, Gundu Bhanuprakash, Rachamalla Sampath, Shaik Hafeez, Arla Gangadhar Rao, Shaik Kamal Saheb, Shaik Ramtulla, Shaik Dadapeer, Shaik Irfan, Shaik Rafi and two others as guilty in four of the seven cases on May 18. On Monday, the 8th additional sessions judge G Manohar Reddy awarded maximum punishment of death to Munna and 11 others and life sentence to the remaining seven convicts, including other punishments under various sections.

Decision on Krishnapatnam med after reports, says CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday discussed with Ayush officials about Krishnapatnam medicine during a review on Covid situation. He directed the officials to get the drops being given in eye to be examined with specialists and a decision on the distribution of the herbal medicine can be taken after the report from Central Council of Research in Ayurvedic Studies.

State Ayush commissioner Ramulu informed the Chief Minister that Anandaiah has been distributing medicine in Krishnapatnam for 30-35 years. For Covid patients, five types of medicines are being given, including eye drops. Ramulu said Anandaiah has been using 18 ingredients, all natural products.

He said Anandaiah had shown the preparation of medicine to them and also given formula and added that they had sent the medicine samples to lab for investigation.

The commissioner said some reports are out and some are awaited and added that these samples were sent to Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Studies and they have



Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy reviews Covid situation at his camp office in Tadepalli on Monday

given the medicine to 500 people and were analysing the results. The officials said the detailed report will be received in 6-7 days.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to take utmost precautions in wake of black fungus and focus on procuring injections for its treatment.

During the review, the Chief Minister said information is being received on white fungus and yellow fungus and directed the officials to be on alert regarding them. He ordered alternative arrangements for uninterrupted supply of oxygen in the wake of Yaas cyclone and added that focus be on supply and storage of oxygen.

He said 15,000 oxygen concentrators are being procured and

- Ayush Commissioner informs the CM all the detailed reports on the herbal medicine are likely to be received in 6-7 days
- CM directs officials to get prepared to supply oxygen without interruption during Yaas cyclone

instructed the officials to focus on their maintenance and adopt a system to ensure they work properly.

The Chief Minister said every hospital with more than 50 beds should have oxygen facility and oxygen generation arrangements should be completed by August in these hospitals.

The officials informed the Chief Minister that they had identified 34 children who became orphans as their parents died of Covid. The Chief Minister instructed the officials to deposit Rs 10 lakh each in their accounts. He directed that measures should be taken to shift Covid patients areas where Yaas cyclone is likely to have an impact. He said chief secretary would be stationed in Vishakapatnam to monitor situation due to cyclone Yaas.

Paediatricians rule out third wave effect on children

‘Only a small percentage of infected children are likely to develop moderate or severe disease’

Any fresh surge in the Covid-19 epidemic is “highly unlikely” to predominantly or severely affect children, the Indian Academy of Paediatrics has asserted to try and allay what doctors say are baseless fears circulating on social media about a third wave hitting children hard.

The IAP, a body representing over 32,000 paediatricians across the country, said that while children appear as susceptible as adults and the elderly to develop the coronavirus infection, 90 per cent of infections in children are mild or without symptoms, according to The Telegraph report. The public advisory from the IAP’s Covid-19 committee comes amid what paediatricians say are unsubstantiated suggestions that a third wave of the epidemic is likely to affect children harder than the first and second waves did. “We wanted to re-

fute wrong messages and misconceptions going around,” Bakul Jayant Parekh, a Mumbai-based paediatrician and former president of the IAP said. “This advisory represents the IAP’s viewpoint based on global scientific evidence.”

The IAP said that while severe disease occurred primarily in the elderly and in individuals with underlying chronic illnesses during the first wave, a larger proportion of people aged 30 to 45 had developed severe disease during the ongoing second wave. Clinical data collected during India’s first and second waves show that Covid-19 infections in children are less likely to require admission to intensive care units. The IAP said there was “no evidence” to suggest that most children with Covid-19 would develop severe disease in the third wave. Paediatricians and public health experts specu-



late that the emergence of new and more infectious coronavirus variants such as the one named B.1.617 in the second wave have led to a spurt in rumour-mongering. Medical researchers, however, say there is no data yet to suggest that the variants are causing severe disease. “But there is so much speculation on social media and panic among parents,” Dhanya Dharmapalan, a Mumbai-based paediatrician and member of the IAP’s Covid-19 committee, said.

“We see more children get infected during this (second) wave, but this is likely because there are more infections overall. As the numbers of overall infections grew, so did the number of (infected) children.”

The IAP said only a small percentage of infected children were likely to develop moderate or severe disease. “If there is a massive increase in the overall numbers of

infected individuals, a larger number of children with moderate or severe disease may be seen,” it said.

The academy said that besides looking out for the infection, patients should watch out for mental health issues among children. They should stay vigilant about child abuse, limit screen time and prepare the children for safe school reopening.

India’s second wave of Covid, which began in February-March after the epidemic shrank steadily following the first wave’s peak in mid-September, has stirred speculation about a possible third wave later this year, particularly because vast sections of India’s population are expected to remain unvaccinated.

Public health specialists have asserted that it is too early to predict whether a third wave would occur or how large the epidemic would grow.

WINDOWS

Notice to Twitter over toolkit row

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police Special Cell has sent a notice to micro-blogging site Twitter over the alleged toolkit row, sources said on Monday. A Delhi Police source said that the Special Cell has sent notice to Twitter for describing a tweet as “manipulated media” in connection with the alleged toolkit controversy, that erupted last week. In the notice, police has asked Twitter to share all the information with it, on how it described the toolkit as manipulated media. Delhi Police is yet to register a case in the matter. The Congress last week had approached Delhi Police with a complaint against BJP national president J.P. Nadda, party spokesperson Sambit Patra, party leader B.L. Santhosh and Union Minister Smriti Irani and others over the alleged toolkit matter and accusing them of “forgery”.

Param Bir granted relief from arrest

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government on Monday informed the Bombay High Court that it would not arrest former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh till June 9, provided he cooperates with the police in an atrocities case registered against him. Singh, a 1988-batch IPS officer, is currently serving as the Comandant-General of the state Home Guards after he was transferred from the post of Mumbai Police chief last month. On April 28, following a complaint filed by police inspector Bhimrao Ghadge, the Akola Police had registered a case under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities Act), 1989 and the Indian Penal Code against Singh. Senior Counsel Darius Khambata, appearing for the Maharashtra government, told a vacation bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and N.R. Borkar that Singh would not be arrested till the next date of hearing on June 9. Khambata argued that Singh cannot ride two horses at the same time by seeking relief from both the Supreme Court and the Bombay High Court in the same case.

Put PM’s pic on death certificates: NDA ally

Vaccination 57 per cent below production, shows Centre’s data in Kerala High Court

PATNA/NEW DELHI

FORMER Bihar Chief Minister and the president of the NDA ally in Bihar Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM), Jitan Ram Manjhi has raised serious objection on using Prime Minister’s photograph on vaccination certificates. Manjhi has said that PM Modi’s photograph should be printed on death certificates of those patients who died due to corona in the country.

“Prime Minister is taking credit for corona vaccination in the country, his photograph should also be printed on death certificates of those patients who died due to corona in the country. It will be the real justification,” Manjhi tweeted on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Centre told the Kerala High Court that India is producing over 8.5 crore vaccine doses a month. The average number of vaccines administered across the country in a day is around 12 to 13 lakh, added the Centre, which has come under heavy opposition criticism over the crippling vaccine shortage in the country. According to the figures provided, the daily production is around 28.33 lakh, and only 57 per cent of this reaches the people.

Detailing its vaccination policy in an affidavit, the Centre told the Kerala High Court that there is “no fixed target for dispensation of vaccines to the States and Union Territories”.

Giving data on vaccine production in the same affidavit, the Centre said currently, the Pune-based Serum Institute of India is producing 6.5 crore doses of Covishield a month. Covaxin manufacturer Bharat Biotech is producing 2 crore doses of a month.

Production of the Sputnik V vaccine against coronavirus will begin in India this summer, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) and pharmaceutical company Panacea Biotech announced on Monday. RDIF and Panacea have agreed to produce 100 million doses per year of Sputnik V.

With the ‘power outage issue’ and other ‘technical glitches’, Karnataka will see a 20 per cent drop in oxygen supply for the next two days after production was hit at two manufacturing plants in Bellari district, government officials said.

Worrying factor is that as per the data released by all districts on Sunday late night, demand to seek Oxygen supply as of now stands at over 885 MTs and reduction of 220 MTs is expected to create stress on supplies especially to those hospitals which use small cylinders to supply Oxygen to patients across the State.



The Auto Ambulance drivers pose for a photo before beginning their journey to help the Covid-19 patients in Kochi on Monday

Panacea Biotech to start Sputnik V production in India

Two O2 plants malfunction, K’taka to face shortage

Vaccination team attacked in MP

BHOPAL: A medical team that was in Malikhedhi village of Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, to create awareness about Covid-19 vaccination was attacked. One person has been injured after being hit on the head.

Police say that some villagers verbally abused them and hit the husband of the Asst Secretary on the head. A FIR has been registered against four people.

The victim, Shakeel Mohd Qureshi, says, “We went there to create awareness and vaccinate people but they didn’t want to get vaccinated. We thought we will go to them and talk to them but some people came there along with a crowd and one man hit me on the head with a stick. They were 50 in number.”

Vax? Villagers jump into river

LUCKNOW: While instances of vaccine hesitancy have often been reported from many parts of India, in a one-of-a-kind incident, a group of people in UP’s Sisaurha village jumped into a river after sighting a group of healthcare workers, who had visited the village to carry out the Covid inoculation drive. The villagers reportedly resorted to the extreme step after they were told that the vaccine was a “poisonous injection”. The incident occurred on Saturday and the villagers jumped into the Saryu river, said an official. Soon after, officials counselled the villagers and made them understand the importance of the vaccine, following which 18 people agreed to take the jabs, the official.

‘Free treatment for Black Fungus’

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government told the Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court that fungal ailment mucormycosis was now covered under the Mahatma Jotiba Phule Jan Aarogya Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana. Citizens will receive free treatment for mucormycosis at pre-identified hospitals and nursing homes across Maharashtra under the above schemes, the state said. The government told a bench of Justices R V Ghuge and B U Debadwar that it had identified 130 hospitals for treating anti-fungal ailments and citizens, even those who did not hold cards for the insurance schemes mentioned above, could avail the treatment for mucormycosis at these facilities free of cost.

Pfizer, Moderna refuse to sell vax directly to Delhi: Sisodia

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) led Delhi Government on Monday slammed the BJP led Central Government of delay in procurement of vaccines from the international markets. Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia during a digital briefing on Monday said US pharmaceutical companies manufacturing Covid vaccines - Pfizer and Moderna have made it clear they won’t sell directly to Delhi.

“We have spoken to Pfizer and Moderna for vaccines, and both the manufacturers have refused to sell vaccines directly to us. They have said they will deal with the central government. We appeal to the Centre to import vaccines and distribute to the states,” Sisodia, who is also nodal minister of Covid management in Delhi, said.

This has come a day after Punjab said Moderna has refused to sell vaccines to the state directly. The Amarinder Singh government had reached out to all such manufacturers, according to officials, looking for direct purchases.

Sisodia said all the 400 vaccination sites for the 18-44 age group have been closed in Delhi after the vaccine stock was over, while the centres administering Covaxin to the 45 and above age groups, healthcare workers and frontline workers too have been shut due to unavailability of jabs.

Sisodia informed that in view of mass vaccination in the capital, Delhi government has set up over 1,000 vaccination centres, of which 400 were for 18-44 age group and around 600 centers for 45 and above. He informed that all 400 centres which were administering jabs to youth have been shut until the fresh supply of vaccines is received from the Centre.

“All 400 vaccination sites for 18-44 age groups have been closed today in Delhi. It should not happen that by the time we get vaccines, the time comes that even the antibodies of those who have been vaccinated are finished and they will again require vaccination,” he added.

Severe cyclonic storm expected in 24 hours

NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday informed that the deep depression over the East-central Bay of Bengal has intensified into a cyclonic storm and it would further intensify into a severe cyclonic storm during the next 24 hours.

In a tweet, IMD informed, “Deep Depression over East-central Bay of Bengal intensified into Cyclonic Storm ‘Yaas’ and about 600 km of Port Blair. To intensify into a Severe Cyclonic Storm during next 24 hours and into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm during

subsequent 24 hours.” Keeping in view the approaching cyclone, the Railway cancelled 25 trains between May 24 and May 29. Yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparedness of the States and central ministries and agencies which will be dealing with the disaster arising out of the predicted cyclone Yaas.

The Armed Forces also have commenced preparations to mitigate the impact of the anticipated disaster by airlifting 950 NDRF personnel across the country, with 26 helicopters in standby for immediate deployment.

Chennai’s top school teacher accused of sexual abuse

A teacher at Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan (PSBB), KK Nagar, Chennai, has been accused of sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour by scores of school students. Several students reached out to one of the alumni of the school on Instagram, who posted their experiences from her handle. The students whose stories were recorded alleged that they had complained to the authorities at PSBB, despite which no action was taken against the teacher in question. The teacher has been accused of touching students inappropriately, making comments on students’ bodies, slut-shaming students,



asking a student out, turning up to online class topless, wearing just a towel around his waist, sharing links to pornography with his students. In the experiences of students shared online, one student said, “...and even though I went and complained to the Dean about this, no action was taken against him...” Another student too indicated that the management did nothing about their complaint. While a third student shared that complaints on the said teacher were sent ‘batch after batch’ but no action was taken by the management.

RARE RAINBOW



Bengaluru residents witnessed the rare sight of a rainbow-coloured ring around the sun. Residents of the city were left marvelling as the ‘halo’ appeared around the sun on Monday morning. The striking circular rainbow was visible from most parts of the capital of Karnataka

Colour classification of fungal infection misleading: Dr Guleria

NEW DELHI

As cases of black fungus continue to witness a rise in India, experts said that colour labelling of the fungus was misleading as the colour of fungus could be seen differently if it developed in different areas. Fungal infection is not a communicable disease and its colour could vary for different areas, AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria said on Monday.

Guleria classified fungus infection into three types, namely, Mucormycosis, Candida, and Aspergillosis. Mucormycosis is said to be seen occurring mostly in post Covid-19 cases and Aspergillosis is an infection that affects the lungs, he explained during a briefing by the

Union health ministry on Monday.

“People with low immunity are infected with Mucormycosis, Candida and Aspergillus infections. These fungi are mainly found in sinuses, nose, bone around eyes, and can enter brain. Occasionally found in lungs (pulmonary Mucormycosis) or in gastrointestinal tract,” the AIIMS Director said.

Guleria also spoke about reports suggestion children would be severely impacted from the third wave of Covid-19 pandemic, saying that the reports were not based on factual data. “It has been said that children will be infected the most in the third wave but Pediatrics Association has said that this is not based on facts. It might not impact children so people should not fear,” he said.



Not convinced Covid developed naturally: Dr Fauci

America’s top expert on infectious diseases, Dr Anthony Fauci said he is “not convinced” the novel coronavirus developed naturally and has called for an open investigation into the origins of Covid-19 virus.

When Dr Fauci was asked at an event whether he was still confident that the coronavirus developed naturally he said: “I am not convinced about that, I think we should continue to investigate what went on in China until we continue to find out to the best of our ability what happened.”

“Certainly, the people who investigated it say it likely was the emergence from an animal reservoir that then infected individuals, but it could have been something else, and we need to find that out. So, you know, that’s the reason why I said I’m perfectly in favour of any inves-

tigation that looks into the origin of the virus,” Dr Fauci was quoted by Fox News.

Meanwhile, three researchers from the Wuhan Institute of Virology sought hospital care in November 2019, weeks before Beijing disclosed the COVID-19 pandemic, a US media report said, citing a previously undisclosed American intelligence document that could add weight to growing calls for a full scale probe of whether the coronavirus may have escaped from China’s top bio lab. The details of the reporting go beyond a State Department fact sheet which said that several researchers at the Wuhan lab, a center for the study of coronaviruses and other pathogens, became sick in autumn 2019 “with symptoms consistent with both Covid-19 and common seasonal illness,” the Wall Street Journal reported.

TODAY'S QUOTE

MSMEs need to focus on value addition

Domestic micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will have to embrace technology and focus on value addition to enhance their global competitiveness. We are working on a policy to strengthen the export business. The government is also working on a policy to increase indigenous production.


— Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Minister of State, MSME



BANKING

Bank credit rises 6.02%; deposits 9.87%

Bank credit grew by 6.02% to Rs 108.69 lakh crore ended in May 7, 2021, from Rs 102.52 lakh crore ended in May 8, 2020. The deposits increased by 9.87% to Rs 152.17 lakh crore from Rs 138.50 lakh crore in the same period.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)				
US Dollar	73.69		South	
Euro	90.01		African Rand	5.98
UAE Dirham	20.46		Hong Kong Dollar	10.8
Thai Baht	2.56		Japanese Yen	0.77
British Pound	104.12		New Zealand Dollar	52.87
Australian Dollar	56.96		Saudi Riyal	21.39
Canadian Dollar	61.08		Swedish Krona	10.09
Swiss Franc	82.11		Singapore Dollar	55.96

DELHI TUESDAY 25 MAY 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

Amazon's Covid help

Amazon India has launched a Covid-19 Relief Scheme (CRS). Through this initiative, the company will provide additional financial assistance to frontline teams of associates hired through staffing agencies and other eligible employees with a Covid-19 allowance one-time grant per employee of Rs 30,600 for in-house Covid care, medical equipment, or medication related expenses. If employees exceed their maximum insurance cover due to Covid-19 related hospitalization expenses, company will reimburse insurance-approved hospital expenses up to Rs 1,90,000. Swati Rustagi, HR Director, Amazon India Operations, said: "Our frontline teams help deliver the items customers need at their doorstep. With the Covid-19 relief scheme, we are looking to provide an added security layer of support".

New offer from Big Bazaar

Big Bazaar has launched 'Believe it or not' offer from May 22 to May 31, 2021. The offer provides Rs 1000 cashback on shopping for Rs 1500. Customers can also avail this offer from the safety of their homes by choosing to shop at the Big Bazaar app or on the online store shop.bigbazaar.com and get all their requirements delivered to their doorstep. Customer will also get best prices on wide range of products along with the cashback in two-hour home delivery promise. Pawan Sarda, Group CMO- Digital, Marketing, E-commerce, Future Group, said: "As a brand we have always been with our customers. Savings matter the most currently to every household. This is the first time we are offering savings at this scale".

Fino Payment's initiative

Fino Payments Bank's merchant points across the country are geared up to help India's farming community by providing access to cash to the beneficiaries of government's direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme, the PM Kisan Yojana. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the transfer of over 19,000 crore directly into the accounts of more than 9.5 crore beneficiary farmer families. Each farmer receives 2,000 in his or her bank account. The beneficiaries of the DBT scheme having account in any bank can visit the nearest Fino point to avail service. Shailesh Pandey, CSO, Fino Payments Bank, said: "With restrictions on movement, Fino's Hamesha available neighbourhood outlets are open for extended hours providing convenience to people during these tough times. Beneficiaries can walk-in into the points at any time or avail doorstep services."

India Cements posts ₹44 cr net

India Cements on Monday reported a standalone net profit of ₹1.63 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2021 on the back of strong sales. The city-headquartered company which has re-appointed N Srinivasan as its Managing Director for five years with effect from May 26, 2021, posted a standalone net loss at Rs 111.07 during same quarter last fiscal. N Srinivasan, Vice-Chairman & Managing Director, said: "The company did very well, and the performance of the company last year was outstanding. Reason being as against a loss in the previous years, we had a profit before tax of over Rs 320 crore and a profit after tax of Rs 200 crore something which is very creditable given the fact that the factory operated only at 50 per cent whole of last year."

Market-cap of BSE-listed companies at record \$3 trn

BSE-listed companies' market valuation crossed ₹100L cr milestone on Nov 28, 2014

NEW DELHI

BSE on Monday added another feather to its cap with the market capitalisation of all listed companies on the exchange reaching three trillion for the first time ever. At close of trade, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies stood at Rs 2,18,94,202.30 crore (\$3 trillion). During the day, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies went past the Rs 219 lakh crore level.

"Market capitalization of equities of listed companies on @bseindia reached three trillion intraday for the first time ever. A great milestone on a long journey. Congratulations to all 6.9 crore+ registered investors, 1400+ brokers, 69,000+ MF distributors and 4700+ companies," BSE's MD and CEO Ashish Kumar Chauhan tweeted.

The BSE-listed companies' market valuation had crossed the Rs 100 lakh crore milestone on November 28, 2014. "Due to a steady decline in fresh Covid cases and hopes of the lockdown being lifted sooner has influenced the domestic market to extend its gains," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

SBI was the biggest gainer among the 30-share pack in Monday's session, spurring nearly 3 per cent, followed by L&T, Axis Bank, PowerGrid and ITC. On the other hand, Titan and IndusInd Bank were among the prominent losers. "Domestic equities remained upbeat despite mixed



Market capitalisation of equities of listed companies on @bseindia reached three trillion intraday for the first time ever. A great milestone on a long journey.

— Ashish Kumar Chauhan, MD, BSE

MARKETS EKE OUT SLIM GAINS

MUMBAI

THE Sensex and Nifty notched up gains for the second straight session on Monday, buoyed by banking and finance counters, as investors took heart from a continuing decline in Covid-19 cases. Mixed overseas cues and a weakening rupee capped the gains, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 111.42 points or 0.22 per cent to finish at 50,651.90. The broader NSE Nifty rose 22.40 points or 0.15 per cent to 15,197.70. SBI was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, advancing 2.73 per cent, followed by

L&T, Axis Bank, PowerGrid, ITC, Maruti, Dr Reddy's and HDFC. Index heavyweights HDFC twins accounted for most of the index's gains. On the other hand, Titan, IndusInd Bank, M&M, HUL, UltraTech Cement and Bajaj Finserv were among the major losers, shedding up to 1.22 per cent.

Domestic equities remained positive despite mixed global cues as persistent decline in daily Covid-19 caseload and improvement in recovery rate continued to lift investors' sentiments, said Binod Modi, Head - Strategy at Reliance Securities. "...a

steady decline in fresh Covid cases and hopes of the lockdown being lifted sooner has influenced the domestic market to extend its gains.

Positive quarterly earnings and easing asset quality woes helped banking stocks to attract buying interest while mid and small-cap stocks underperformed. "On the global front, UK and US Manufacturing PMI data reported record-high numbers, however investors are awaiting inflation data for guidance on monetary policy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

global cues as persistent decline in daily caseload and improvement in recovery rate in second wave of Covid-19 continued to lift investors' sentiments," said Binod Modi, Head

- Strategy at Reliance Securities. In the broader market, the BSE midcap and small cap indices gained up to 0.86 per cent. Sector-wise, BSE power, oil and gas, utilities, realty,

capital goods and industrials indices rose as much as 1.89 per cent, while telecom, metal, FMCG and consumer durables were among those to close lower.

FDI jumps 19% to \$59.64 bn in FY21

NEW DELHI

FOREIGN direct investments (FDI) into the country grew 19 per cent to \$59.64 billion during 2020-21 on account of measures taken by the government on the fronts of policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business, the commerce and industry ministry said on Monday.

Total FDI, including equity, re-invested earnings and capital, rose 10 per cent to the "highest ever" of \$81.72 billion during 2020-21 as against \$74.39 billion in 2019-20. "FDI equity inflow grew by 19 per cent in 2020-21 (\$59.64 billion), compared to 2019-20 (\$49.98

billion)," the ministry said in a statement. In terms of top investor countries, Singapore is at the top with 29 per cent share. It was followed by the US (23 per cent) and Mauritius (9 per cent) during the last fiscal.



"Measures taken by the government on the fronts of FDI policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in increased FDI in-

flows into the country," it said. It added that the inflows are an endorsement of India's status as a preferred investment destination among global investors. The computer software and hardware sector attracted the highest inflows with around 44 per cent share of the total FDI equity inflows. It was followed by construction (infrastructure) activities (13 per cent) and services sector (8 per cent), respectively.

"Gujarat is the top recipient state during 2020-21 with 37 per cent share of the total FDI equity inflows, followed by Maharashtra (27 per cent) and Karnataka (13 per cent)," it added.

PNB HYDERABAD ZONE GETS NEW HEAD

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

SANJEEVAN Nikhar assumed charge as Zonal Manager for Punjab National Bank's Hyderabad Zone (TS, AP and Karnataka) at the Zonal office. He was General Manager from bank's head office before taking the charge. Punjab National Bank is the second largest Public Sector Bank in the country with a branch network of more than 10,000. Post amalgamation with OBC and UBI, the bank enhanced the customer relationships and faster credit delivery time for retail, corporate and MSME sector at their 400 branches spread in AP, TS, and Karnataka.

Sanjeevan Nikhar is a seasoned banker with extensive working experience of over 25 years in all type of Credit category of large corporate, mid corporate, MSME, agriculture, retail and forex. He has also worked across regional/circle offices, head office holding important Divisions. Hyderabad Zone is all set to progress in Business parameters in AP, TS and Karnataka.



Sanjeevan Nikhar

Treda conducts blood donation camp

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

A blood donation camp was organised specially to help the Thalassemia patients jointly by Telangana Real Estate Developers Association (Treda), Seva Bharthi in association with Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC), Commissionerate of Police in Hyderabad re-

cently. The camp was set up, Cyberabad in Green Grace, gated residential community, located at Khajaguda area.

In spite of the prevailing lockdown, the blood donation camp received a phenomenal response with residents from the community, Treda members and Seva Bharthi volunteers coming in large numbers to donate their blood.

Little known Landomus vows \$500 bn

The US-based firm takes ad route to request PM to allow it to invest \$500 bn in India's infra projects

NEW DELHI

A relatively unknown US based company Landomus Group has announced a Build India programme under which it would like to invest \$500 Billion in Equity as the first phase of the \$2 Trillion investment. This would be into the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) and Non-NIP projects listed by the Government of India under the India Investment Grid for "Invest India" initiative.

Landomus announced this through a newspaper advertisement addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Eyebrows are being raised as to why ads are put out for investments into NIP addressed to PM Modi when there are well laid out channels for foreign and domestic investors.

Landomus said Government of India, under its Invest India initiative, has created India Investment Grid (IIG) which outlines the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) and Non-NIP projects, which it aims to complete by 2025, with a vision



to provide quality lifestyle to its citizens, make India a global destination and reach the target of \$ five trillion economy.

"Due to the Covid Pandemic and the resulting loss of lives and livelihood, it is the need of the hour to invest in NIP and Non-NIP projects to boost the economy and generate jobs", it said. Build India initiative

by Landomus Realty Ventures, aims to invest \$500 Billion in Equity as the first phase of investment out of \$two trillion and complete the NIP and Non-NIP projects through its group of investors and developers.

"Build India also aims to provide covid health care to the citizens of India to create a covid free and a healthy India", Landomus led by Pradeep Kumar Satyaprakash said. In the advertisement addressed to PM Modi, Landomus said it aims to assist the Government in its endeavour to rebuild India.

"Landomus Group requests you to provide us an opportunity to contribute towards your vision of a New India", the ad said. The website of Landomus Realty Ventures Inc lists a New Jersey address. The website has no other details of its businesses, network or financials. The Chairman and CEO is Pradeep Kumar Satyaprakash and directors are Mamatha H. N, Yashas Pradeep Kumar, Rakshit Gangadhar and Gunashree Pradeep Kumar.

The Indian entity is called Landomus Realty Ventures Private Limited incorporated on 17 July 2015. It is classified as Non-govt company and is registered at Registrar of Companies, Bangalore. Its authorized share capital is Rs 1,000,000 and its paid-up capital is Rs 100,000. It is involved in Real estate activities with own or leased property. This class includes buying, selling, renting and operating of self-owned or leased real estate such as apartment building and dwellings, non-residential buildings, developing and subdividing real estate into lots etc. Also included are development and sale of land and cemetery lots, operating of apartment hotels and residential mobile home sites. (Development on own account involving construction is classified in class 4520).

Landomus Realty Ventures Private Limited's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held last on September 30, 2018 and as per records from Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), its balance sheet was last filed on March 31, 2018.

Supply of 100 electric buses



Olectra -led consortium the lowest bidder

NEW DELHI

A consortium of Hyderabad-based electric bus manufacturer Olectra Greentech and its sister concern Evey Trans Pvt Ltd has emerged as the least quoted bidder for the supply of 100 electric buses.

"Consortium of Evey Trans Pvt Ltd (EVEY) and Olectra Greentech Ltd has been declared as least quoted (L-1) bidder for another 100 electric buses (for Inter-City Operations) by one of the State Transport Corporation un-

der the FAME-II scheme of Government of India," Olectra Greentech said in a regulatory filing on Monday.

Olectra Greentech said once the letter of award is received for 100 electric buses, Evey will procure these electric buses from Olectra Greentech Ltd and deliver them over a period of 10 months. "Value of this tender is approximately Rs 250 crore to the company," Olectra Greentech said. Shares of Olectra Greentech were trading 4.97 per cent higher at Rs 187.85 apiece on BSE.

Sending Indian women's team to 2027 World Cup

AIFF's detailed plan gets Ministry, SAI endorsement

NEW DELHI

ENDEAVOURING to send the women's national team to the 2027 FIFA World Cup, the All India Football Federation has charted a detailed plan in this regard, which has been "endorsed and supported" by both the Sports Ministry and Sports Authority of India.

It is worth mentioning that AIFF president Praful Patel had said that the national women's side can qualify for the FIFA World Cup before the men's team does, despite the less attention given to it. For a while now, the federation has been working towards all-round development of women's football in the country.

"We have laid a detailed plan for the (current) U-18 girls in our attempt to qualify for the 2027 World Cup. The plan has been endorsed and supported by the Ministry of Sports and SAI, for which we stay eternally grateful," AIFF general secretary Kushal Das told PTL.

Last December, Patel had said the AIFF is hoping for the women's team to qualify for the 2027 World Cup. Supporting his view, the sports ministry had asked the AIFF to prepare a "concrete and actionable" roadmap to work towards the team's qualification in the 2027 edition of the world's biggest football event for women.

The U-17 women's World Cup will be held in India from October 11 to 30 next year, the FIFA Council said last Thursday. India were scheduled to host the U-17 World Cup last year but it was postponed to 2021 before being cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

India is also scheduled to host the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022. "We want to carry this message to all girls who aspire to play the sport, that the football federation stands by them and wants to see them compete at the highest level," Das said.

"We are confident that the legacy that the



U-17 World Cup in 2022 leaves behind, will allow and inspire girls in India to play more. That, in itself, will mark a major shift in the paradigm of sporting culture in India, and the society overall."

As the discussion turned to Indian football's talisman Sunil Chhetri, the federation's top official was asked whether he is worried if the men's team would be able to find a successor for the 36-year-old when he decides to retire. "Sunil is one of the greatest Indian footballers ever, and an inspiration to all generations. There are many talented youngsters in the Indian football set-up, some of whom even Sunil is extremely fond of."

"But talent alone doesn't lead you anywhere. The commitment and the sacrifices

of a Sunil Chhetri is the way forward for the Apuias, the Udantas, the Thapas, the Sahals, the Brandons, the Manvir's and all others," Das said.

International football's second highest scorer among active players, Chhetri is currently in Doha for the Indian team's remaining joint 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup Qualifiers. The team, bolstered by the return of Chhetri, plays its first match on June 3 against hosts Qatar. The other two matches are against Bangladesh (June 7) and Afghanistan (June 15).

The Indian team, fourth in Group E with three points, is already out of contention for a World Cup berth but is still in the reckoning for the 2023 Asian Cup in China. (PTI)



Vaishnavi Veeravamsam and Jhansipriya Laveti, sailors of Telangana, with their coach Suheim Sheikh

HYDERABAD

JHANSIPRIYA Laveti and Vaishnavi Veeravamsam both sailors from Hyderabad, Telangana have been selected for the World Championships at Lake Riva Del Garda, Italy. It is scheduled to begin from July 1 2021.

This is a first ever for the state of Telangana that two girls in the same year have been selected for the World Championships in the Sub Juniors, a release said here on Monday. The Under 16 Worlds will be attended by 264 sailors from across 60 countries making it the most competitive regatta for youth on the planet.

Riva Del Garda is one of the largest lakes in Europe in the picturesque northern part of Italy, not far from Verona and provides challenging sailing conditions. Garda is host to all the largest Sailing Championships in the world and despite being a lake simulates huge waves and is backed by sky high cliffs. The kids await their time on the water at what can be considered the Mecca of Sailing Championships.

Given the second wave Covid lockdowns and quarantine issues, there are many challenges both for the sailors' travel and organisers to hold the games at Italy.

Jhansipriya's mother is a single parent and works as part of the housekeeping team at the Yashoda Hospital is all excited and happy about her daughter going for her fourth International after the 2019 Oman Asians and the Atlantic Week at Portugal and Spain.

Vaishnavi's mother works as domestic help at various houses in Marredpally and cannot believe

that her daughter is India No.2 and will be carrying the tricolour to Italy for a World Championship.

Both Jhansi and Vaishnavi, students of Udbhav School at Rasoolpura, joined sailing in 2018 and rapidly rose to the top of the Indian fleet.

"Jhansipriya is India No.1 and Vaishnavi India No. 2 and we are proud that she was selected and

"It's been a long journey to get to this stage and were it not for the immense support from the Telangana State Government's various departments this journey would never have reached this level especially institutions like the Metropolitan Commissioner HMDA, BPPA and the Sports Authority for having lent their support when most needed," added Suheim

Two Hyderabad girls selected for world sailing meet in Italy

we shall leave no stone unturned in their participation at the Worlds", said Lt.Gen KS Rao, President of the Telangana Sailing Association. Telangana now boasts of the largest fleet of boats and sailors across India in ironically land locked Hussain Sagar.

Both Jhansi and Vaishnavi have trained under Suheim Sheikh at the Yacht Club of Hyderabad. "Both girls are training hard and I do hope that Covid related visa issues and quarantine issues do not spoil the party. Fingers crossed," said Suheim Sheikh, an alumni of IIT Madras, their coach and also the president of the YCH Foundation, a charitable sports organisation at Hussain Sagar with the tagline "Dignity Through Sports" and works only with marginalised children taking them to International levels of sailing.

Sheikh also President of the YCH Foundation.

"We are both looking to move up the ladder to the Olympic and Asian Games in the Laser Class and participate in the forthcoming Asian Trials to be held in Hyderabad in August given that this is our last year in the under 16 category", said a confident and jubilant Vaishnavi who is eagerly looking to migrating to the Lasers and the 29er under the watchful eyes of her coach.

"Garda is a lake and is known for heavy weather and hopefully our experience with Hussain Sagar monsoons will help a great deal", Jhansi added confidently. The duo and their pacing teammates are moving into a bubble to ensure they are at the top of their fitness and to ensure intensive practice.



IPL's brand value can suffer if held in England, says Panesar

LONDON

INDIAN cricket board will be risking Indian Premier League's (IPL) brand value if it holds remainder of cash-rich tournament in September in England since rain can leave matches truncated, said former England spinner Monty Panesar.

India will end their five-match Test series in England on September 14 and there have been talks that month-long window between end of that series and T20 World Cup could be ideal to host the remaining 31 matches of IPL, which was postponed this month due to Covid-19 cases in four franchises.

"IPL shouldn't be held in England in September because it will rain a lot there. Too many intervals will spoil the fun," said the former left-arm spinner on Sports Yaari, a YouTube show.

"If India are not able to control the pandemic, it should be held in UAE because weather conditions play a huge factor," added the bowler who played a key role in England winning the Test series in India 2-1 in 2012-13.

"When it rains in England, it plays spoilsport. You will see a T20 match get reduced to 15 overs and then 10 overs. We don't want that to happen with IPL because the brand will take a hit," added Panesar.

"The biggest thing in favour of IPL is that there are completed games in it. There is a lot of excitement in IPL games between 15th and 20th overs as that phase is pretty high-scoring. Authorities should take weather into account while deciding fixtures. Weather in UAE is great," said Panesar.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has apparently made an informal request to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to advance the Test series by a week to provide a window. However, that is unlikely to happen. The BCCI has an option to hold the tournament in UAE in the month-long gap between India's series in England and the T20 World Cup. (IANS)

Azharuddin reunited with historic bat

NEW DELHI

FORMER India captain Mohammad Azharuddin was reunited with the bat he used to score record three consecutive tons in his first three Test matches. Azhar is the only player to score centuries in his first three Tests.

"With this bat, I made a world record of three consecutive hundreds in my first three tests against England in [19]84-85. In a season, I scored more than 800 runs with this very bat, chosen by my grandfather," Azharuddin said in a tweet along with images of him holding the bat.

The former right-handed batsman played 99 Test matches and captained

India in 47 of those. The 58-year-old is also seen wearing his India jersey from the 1992 World Cup in the image.

Azharuddin had made his debut in the third Test between India and England in December, 1984 in Kolkata under Sunil Gavaskar's captaincy. He scored 110 in his first Test innings and followed that up with 48 in the first innings of the fourth Test in Chennai and then scored 105 in the second innings.

He then scored 122 in the fifth Test in Kanpur and then smashed an unbeaten 54 off 43 balls in second innings of the match. The third and fifth Tests were drawn while England won the fourth match. (IANS)



HI inducts 126 new umpires, technical officials

NEW DELHI: Hockey India has inducted 126 new umpires and technical officials into its panel, making them eligible to officiate in domestic tournaments in the sub-junior and junior categories. The umpires, and technical officials, including judges, were selected after two sets of on-line workshops conducted between September 2020 to March this year. A total of 60 Judges (21 female and 39 male) have been added to the list, besides 66 umpires (16 female and 50 male). The selected candidates in the Potential List have become eligible to be appointed for the upcoming Hockey India sanctioned Sub-Junior and Junior category tournaments. They will also be opportunities to attend the ongoing Asian Hockey Federation Online Education Workshops. The 126 candidates have been shortlisted from a list of 227 who were a part of the induction program (124 candidates in 2020 and 103 candidates in 2021). The 227 candidates were selected through the induction program as per HI's eligibility criteria after they were nominated by their respective state member unit. The induction program for both umpires and technical officials are divided into three levels. According to a HI statement, level 1 sessions are designed to provide the candidates basic knowledge of the latest FIH Rules and Regulations of the game.

Aguero close to Barca move, says Guardiola

LONDON: Sergio Aguero is close to agreeing a deal to move to Barcelona, according to Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola. Aguero signed off at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday with a brace in the Premier League champions' 5-0 thrashing of Everton. The 32-year-old Argentinian will bring an end to a record-breaking decade at the club after Saturday's Champions League final against Chelsea in Porto. City's all-time top goalscorer had been heavily linked with a free transfer to Barcelona once his contract expires this summer and his boss Guardiola -- a former manager of the La Liga giants -- confirmed it was his likely destination, DPA reports. "I'm pretty sure -- maybe I reveal a secret -- he is close to agreeing a deal for the club of my heart, for Barcelona," Guardiola told BBC's Match of the Day.

Anger in Japan over 'sacrifices' needed to host Olympics

TOKYO: International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach and vice-president John Coates were the target of social media anger in Japan on Monday over their insistence that the rearranged Tokyo Games should take place amid the coronavirus pandemic. Coates on Friday had said "absolutely yes" that the Games should go on from July 23 even if host city Tokyo remained in a state of emergency. And Bach's comments reportedly made to a meeting of the international hockey federation (FIH) that "some sacrifices" were needed were also not readily accepted by many in Japan, whose population is firmly against the Games taking place according to recent polls, reports DPA.

Will be wary of 'dangerous' Pant in WTC final: NZ bowling coach

LONDON

NEW Zealand will be wary of the danger that Rishabh Pant poses when they face India in the World Test Championship (WTC) final, said the team's bowling coach Shane Jurgensen.

India play New Zealand in the inaugural WTC title from June 18 to 22 at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton.

"Well, Pant is an extremely dangerous player who can change the game on its head. We saw how well he did it against

Australia and England. He's extremely positive-minded, but with that comes potentially the opportunity to take his wicket," Jurgensen told The Telegraph.

Pant shook off the bad form he went through in 2020 during India's tour of Australia, in which he played an integral role in his team recording a second Test series win in row Down Under, despite the absence of a number key players. He has scored 515 runs in six Tests at an average of 64.37 this year. Jurgensen also noted that India's bowling attack too poses a big threat. (IANS)

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