

Womenia



Stock-up your pantry with hassle free snacks

“School Out!” a terrified client exclaimed through the phone. This pandemic, with online school at home, I’m sure like her, a lot of you mothers are at your wits end, with kids constantly craving for junk snacks. Before you give into these tantrums, remember that such food lowers immunity and puts your child at risk to a host of infections. Stock-up your pantry with hassle free snacks and safeguard your child’s health.



Naini Setalvad

Fruits

Chop up some seasonal fruits and keep aside for your little one to chomp on. These provide flavour as well as a heap of immune boosting mineral and vitamins. The mighty mango is my all-time favourite, but there are also Jamuns, lychees and Ice-apples to choose from.

Smoothies

Artificially flavoured drinks have become synonymous with summer and it’s time we change that trend. Opt for equally delicious and fibre rich smoothies. You can be creative and add on the fruits of your choice. My favourite is blending seasonal peach and banana, with water or ice. It’s just “Yum!”

Peanuts

My preferred nut is the humble peanut which also

makes for a great protein packed nibbling, it has gram to gram more protein than an egg. Armed with brain boosting healthy fats, these taste delicious-roasted or boiled.

Sandwich

Here is another easy snack that can be made in a jiffy. Construct your sandwich with fibre rich, satiating wholegrain bread. Ensure you load it up with coriander chutney and sliced vegetables of your choice. Add coconut to the chutney or butter your bread well to ensure your child has a wholesome snack.

Bhel

A salty, tangy puffed rice mix is the call of the season. Add on tomato, onions, coriander chutney and lemon to make a savoury delight. This dish is

both electrolyte and anti-oxidant boosting.

Aloo chaat

Here is another delicious yet healthy treat to soothe your child’s taste buds. All you require is boiled potato, onions, green chillies, crushed peanuts, salt and lemon. It provides a host mineral and will keep your child full for longer.

Coconut

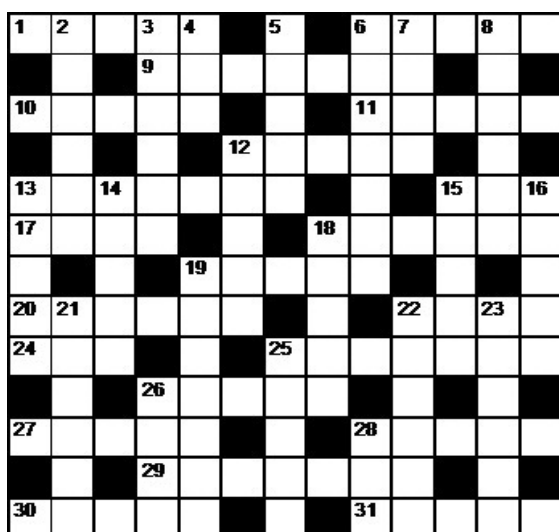
Have it tender, dry or toasted; it is nutritious in all forms. Let your children chew on a few pieces daily, to get in their quota of healthy fats.

Mixed seeds

Full of immune protective zinc and magnesium, seed mixes are a must-have. They also provide iron through flax seeds and calcium through sesame seeds.

Crudites

I loved snacking on cucumber crudites as a child. I would dress them with lemon juice and salt and enjoy this refreshing vegetable. Serve green chutney as a dipping sauce and your kids will love it too. Do not let poor snack choices which strip your child’s immunity. Smart choices made now, will build their foundation for the future.



SOLUTION TO JUNE 2

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Misbehave or become temperamental ? (3,2)
- 6 Destiny (5)
- 9 Ancient capital of Assyria (7)
- 10 Villain or rascal, an honour in the deck of cards ? (5)
- 11 Kinds (5)
- 12 Glazier's paste (5)
- 13 Computer screen (7)
- 15 Mafia boss (3)
- 17 Russian sea (4)
- 18 Harsh (6)
- 19 Tumble or splash (5)
- 20 Military rebellion (6)
- 22 Bankroll (4)
- 24 One or other (3)
- 25 Posy (7)
- 26 Brush away (5)
- 27 Composer Andrew ____ Webber (5)
- 28 Another time (5)
- 29 Censure (7)
- 30 ____ deadly sins ? (5)

Down

- 31 Employing (5)
- 2 Official examiner (6)
- 3 Reveal (6)
- 4 Dish with a crust (3)
- 5 The thigh bone (5)
- 6 Kind of falcon (7)
- 7 Sailor's shout (4)
- 8 A shooting star (6)
- 12 Opium flower (5)
- 13 Molten material (5)
- 14 Unpleasant (5)
- 15 Remove concealed listening devices from a room etc. ? (5)
- 16 Destitute (5)
- 18 Sailing-vessel (5)
- 19 Welsh mountain (7)
- 21 Remove adhesive (6)
- 22 Pretends or concocts (6)
- 23 Country (6)
- 25 Requirements (5)
- 26 Stable attendant (4)
- 28 Atomic mass unit, acronym (3)

SUDOKU



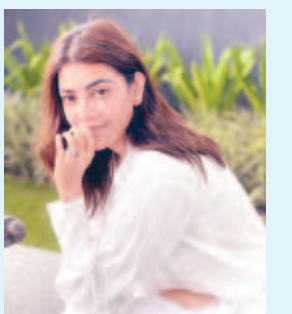
SOLUTION TO JUNE 2

TWEET PATROL



KAJAL AGGARWAL
@MSKAJALAGGARWAL

Sometimes all
you need to
do is breathe...



FASHIONISTA

Be careful while wearing a smart casual

Smart casual is one of the hardest dress codes for women. Not quite party wear and not exactly casual, a smart casual dress code can require a little thought. Picking out the perfect outfit won't be hard, you likely already own all the elements required but it can be daunting.

The first thing to consider with a smart casual dress code is the type of event. Is it during the day? Is it for work? Once you've sorted out the feel of the event then you can decide what sort of clothes best work. For something outside of work, a more casual dress will work, whereas a professional event is probably best supplemented with a blazer.

We've rounded up the do's and don'ts of choosing the perfect smart casual dress code outfit below because getting dressed

shouldn't have to be painful.

Things you should do

Smart casual outfits are all about finding the perfect balance between relaxed and still professional. Opt for smooth materials like silk and viscose and steer clear of off-duty or too-casual types of cotton or denim.

Add in a blazer. When in doubt, just add a smart blazer to dress up the outfit. Shoes don't have to be heels, but steer clear of sneakers or anything dirty. The aim is to look professional without being too overdressed.

Things you shouldn't do

Don't wear too many prints. Unless you're going to a creative event, a smart casual dress code usually means muted neutrals. Blacks, whites, creams and beiges are always a safe bet. Don't just wear business clothes. Smart casual doesn't always mean a pencil skirt and white shirt. If attending a wedding or other non-work event, opt for a polished knee-length dress or chic pair of trousers.



Natural cure for stinky feet

The most disgusting smell that you can ever smell is the odour when someone just takes off their shoes. Stinky feet are a common problem faced by most people and it is also the most embarrassing thing. It doesn't have anything to do with hygiene unless you don't wear socks. Most of us sweat a lot and when we wear closed shoes our feet sweat more due to the heat. Sweat mixed with bacteria causes our feet to stink and that can be a major source of embarrassment for us. Taking off your shoes in public becomes nearly impossible due to the odour. Another thing to remember is that our shoes are warm and damp due to the heat and sweat which is heaven for bacteria and fungi. They multiply rapidly in such a place and cause your feet to stink when you take your shoes off. We all want to avoid this embarrassment and in order to do that, we need some quick remedies to prevent our feet from stinking and get rid of the bacteria. Here are some tips to prevent and cure feet odour.

Vinegar: Soak your feet in half a cup of vinegar mixed with a bucket full of warm or cold water as per your choice. Vinegar is acidic and can kill the bacteria and keep the odour at bay.

Epsom salt: You can use a bucket full of water with some Epsom salt in it. Epsom salt soothes your feet and kills the bacteria. It also helps reduce sweating and prevents odour.

Baking powder or corn starch: Use some baking powder or cornstarch to prevent foot odour. Sprinkle some of it on your feet before you wear your socks. You can also sprinkle some in your shoes.

Cleaning shoes regularly: Irrespective of using the tips, the most important thing to do is to clean your shoes. Chances are that your shoes have loads of bacteria that make your feet stink. Wash your shoes and insoles and dry it in the sun to kill the bacteria. This also makes your shoes last longer.



BEAUTY FUNDA

Kangana Ranaut: 'Massive shift in how agitated and tired I felt through April, May'

Actress Kangana Ranaut took to Instagram on Wednesday to express that the onset of June has ushered happy feelings, sparkling thoughts and new ideas compared to the tired and agitated feeling she had throughout the last two months.

“Who all can feel a sudden gush of happy feelings, sparkling thoughts and new ideas with the beginning of June? There is a massive shift in how agitated and tired I felt through all of April and May. I am hopeful that this fizzy sparkling feeling will sustain,” Kangana posted on her Instagram Story. The actress, who recently said that she has recovered from Covid-19, took to social media a few days ago to share photographs where she can be seen spending time with her family. In the pictures recently posted by the actress on Instagram, Kangana is seen hugging her mother, relaxing with sister Rangoli and spending time with her nephew and other family members.

“Most challenging during Covid was the isolation, it was lovely meeting friends and relatives today in Manali, going to meet grandma tom in Mandi,” Kangana had captioned the photographs.



World Bicycle Day

The bicycle is one of the most important inventions in the history of the planet. It provides millions of people with a means of transport powered by nothing other than their bodies. It's practical, reliable, and helps one to stay fit. Many find that it's a fun and hassle-free way to get around and take care of daily tasks.

World Bicycle Day is the United Nation's attempt to recognise the vital importance of the bicycle across the globe. The bike has helped many families across the world to get access to cheap and reliable transportation. It's no wonder so many partake in the celebration and want to get the word out to others about this exciting and eventful day. Cycling is an environmentally sound, safe, and healthy way to travel from point A to B. It's something that we need to do more of if we want to protect the world against the ravages of unsustainable CO2 production. It can save lives, help improve the environment, and support poverty reduction, and for these reasons, it deserves far more attention than it currently receives.



Cancellation of exams will not have impact on JNU, Jamia admission process

NEW DELHI

THE cancellation of the board exams will not have much of an impact on JNU, Jamia Millia Islamia and the IP University here since they conduct entrance tests, while the Delhi University and the Ambedkar University will wait for the CBSE criteria to carry out merit-based admissions.

The government on Tuesday decided to cancel the CBSE Class 12 board exams in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that the decision was taken in the interest of students and that the anxiety among the

students, parents and teachers must be put to an end.

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) also decided to cancel the Class 12 board examinations this year in view of the COVID-19 situation, according to its secretary Gerry Arathoon. Delhi University's (DU) acting vice-chancellor PC Joshi said discussions will be held with the admission committee and the academic council of the university to finalise the process of admission to the undergraduate courses. Nearly 98 per cent of the applicants to the DU are Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) students.

"There will be some way to judge merit. These are extraordinary circumstances. The Central Universities Common Entrance Test (CUCET) can be a good method as it will be based on pan-India merit. DU will not compromise on merit. We will adjust to the new situation and see what method is to be developed. We will wait and see what are the criterion that the boards come up with for the evaluation of students," Joshi told PTI.

Joshi is a member of the CUCET committee, which had submitted its report to the education ministry. A decision on conducting a common entrance test for all central universities is



pending. The Ambedkar University, which also conducts admissions on the basis of cut-offs like DU, in a statement said it is a "timely and welcome decision by

the government".

"It will help the university to complete the admission process in time and begin the next academic session timely. The CBSE

will provide the results of Class 12. The process of admission in the undergraduate programmes will be merit-based, as has been done till the last academic session," it said. Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and IP University hold entrance tests and said the decision to cancel the board exams will not have much of an impact on their admission procedure.

JNU vice-chancellor Mami-dala Jagadesh Kumar said the decision taken with regard to the Class 12 exams is "pragmatic and rational" considering the fact that the Covid pandemic is a once-in-a-century occurrence.

The health and safety of the students are of paramount importance, he said. "In most Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) such as JNU, the admission to undergraduate programmes is through an entrance examination. We will conduct the entrance examination whenever it is safe for the students to write it," Kumar said.

If the entrance test is delayed due to the pandemic situation and if the admissions are done at a later date than usual, the university will surely adjust its academic calendar to take care of the lost time, without compromising the academic rigour, he added.

8 killed in gas cylinder explosion

GONDA

AS many as eight people were killed after a gas cylinder exploded in a house here, causing two other adjoining houses to collapse. The incident took place on Tuesday night in Wazirganj police circle. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed grief over the incident and directed the officials to ensure proper treatment of the injured persons. According to reports, a total of 15 persons were buried under the debris and eight of them were later rescued. They have been admitted to a local hospital. Eight bodies were taken out from the debris. The deceased include two women, two men and four children. Superintendent of Police (SP) Santosh Mishra said that the blast in the gas cylinder took place during cooking in the house of one Nurul Hasan. The impact of the explosion was so intense that even the adjoining house was damaged. A forensic team has also been called in to collect samples. All the bodies have been sent for post mortem and further investigations are underway.

Ex-village head shot dead in UP's Hathras



HATHRAS

THE former head of Kam-lapur village in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras was shot dead allegedly by two bike-borne unidentified men while he was returning home from Sikan-dararao area.

According to the police, Ram Khilari Yadav, 48, was riding pillion on a motorcycle being driven by his friend, Munesh, when he was shot dead.

The assailants shot him in the back and when he fell, they again shot him in the head and fled. They did not hurt Munesh.

The incident took place on Tuesday.

As news spread, locals gathered at the spot to protest against the killing and blocked the Sikan-dararao-Hathras road, causing a traffic jam for two hours. The blockade was lifted after police intervened.

Surendra Kumar, circle officer of Sikandarao, said an FIR has been registered and preliminary investigations indicate that Yadav had a long-standing dispute with some residents.

The deceased's body has been sent for post mortem. A team has been formed to investigate the matter and arrest the culprits.

Police force has been deployed in the village to avoid any untoward incident.

UP village heads asked to remove vaccine hesitancy

LUCKNOW

THE administrations of all 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh have been asked to involve the newly elected village pradhans to convince the rural population about the importance of vaccination and help them overcome the vaccine hesitancy.

The village pradhans are also being asked to dispel misinformation about the vaccine among people.

Vaccine hesitancy in villages is emerging as a major challenge for the state government and many departments have been mobilised to accelerate the vaccination campaign, particularly in villages. The vaccination in rural areas remains extremely sluggish, said health department officials, adding that people are refusing to get vaccinated.

In Barabanki, a group of people even jumped into a river when they saw a vaccination team approaching.

A senior health official said, "We are asking the health officials and district magistrates in dis-



trict to take the help of village pradhans and convince people to take the vaccine. We want the vaccination drive to cover maximum population before the third wave sets in." The administration

is also asking people who have taken the first dose of the vaccine to persuade others to get vaccinated.

People in the village are wary of getting vaccinated because

they believe that immunity becomes zero for 10 days after the vaccine and this period makes them vulnerable to catching Covid. They are also afraid of getting fever after the vaccine.

UP varsities to promote all first-year students

LUCKNOW

ALL first-year students in undergraduate and postgraduate classes in the Uttar Pradesh universities will be promoted to the second year.

Students in final year of various undergraduate and postgraduate courses in UP universities will be assessed through an examination before they receive their degrees.

These recommendations have been made by the three-member committee instituted to work out the modalities of promoting students. For universities where both UG and PG courses are run under the annual scheme, the committee has decided to promote all first-year students to second year. The first-year results of all such students will be prepared on their performance in second-year examinations when they take them.

Universities, which conducted exams for first-year students in 2020, will prepare second-year results of such students based on their performance in first year.

Subsequently, students will be promoted to third year. Students in second year who did not take exams last year will also take the



test. However, in universities which could not conduct exams for first year in 2020, students will have to appear for exams in second year through the OMR-based test. Based on their performance in the exam, they will be admitted in third year. Both, state and private universities, will have to conduct the OMR-based test which consists of multiple-choice questions, before August 13.

OMR is Optical mark recognition (also called optical mark reading) and is the process of capturing human-marked data from document forms such as surveys and tests. They are used to read questionnaires, multiple choice examination paper in the form of lines or shaded areas.

23 cr vax doses provided to States till date: Health Min

NEW DELHI

THE Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Wednesday that more than 23 crore vaccine doses have been provided to the states and Union Territories (UTs) till date, while 1.64 crore doses are still available them for administration. The government of India has so far provided 23,35,86,960 vaccine doses to the states/UTs, both through the free of cost category and the direct state procurement category. Of these,

the total consumption, including wastages, is 21,71,44,022 doses (as per the data available till 8 am on Wednesday), the ministry said. More than 1.64 crore vaccine doses (1,64,42,938) are still available with the states/UTs for administration to the beneficiaries. As part of the nationwide vaccination drive, the government of India has been supporting the states and UTs by providing them vaccines free of cost, the Health Ministry said. The government has also been facilitating direct procurement of vaccines by the states/UTs.

UP man kills wife for not serving salad with dinner

SHAMLI

IN a bizarre incident, a man, in a fit of rage, hacked his wife to death and injured his son after he was not being served salad with the dinner. The accused has since been absconding. The incident took place in Gogawan Jalapur area here on Monday night. The police spokesman said that Murlil had demanded salad along with the dinner but his wife was busy with other work and did not serve him

the salad with the food that led to an altercation between them and an angry Murlil, attacked her with a hoe. Their son tried to stop him and he was also injured by his father. The accused then fled the spot after the incident. The neighbours heard the screams and rushed to the house where the woman was found lying in a pool of blood. They took the wife and her son to the hospital for treatment, where the woman was declared dead. The son's condition remains critical.

'Missing' posters of Sidhu surface in Amritsar

CHANDIGARH

WITH former Punjab Cabinet minister Navjot Singh Sidhu putting up more at his ancestral house in Patiala of late, posters saying "Sidhu is missing" from his Assembly constituency in Amritsar (East) surfaced on Wednesday, promising Rs 50,000 reward for anyone who 'finds' the MLA.

An NGO, Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Sewa Society, has put up the posters titled 'Gumshuda Di Talaash' (Search for the Missing). Similar posters were seen in Amritsar earlier also.

State Congress leaders told IANS that for the past three-four months, Sidhu and his wife Navjot Kaur have been staying at the former's ancestral house in Patiala, the home constituency of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. Their daugh-



ter is reportedly staying alone in the Amritsar residence.

The residents of the Joda Phatak area in Sidhu's constituency, who lost their family members when a speeding train crushed them as they were watching Dusshera celebrations in 2018, are upset as the Congress leader, then a Cabinet minister, and his wife Navjot Kaur had promised to provide jobs to the eligible family members of those killed in the accident.

The railways had said that it was not responsible for the tragedy.

Exorbitant charges by pvt hospitals: Gurugram panel to deal with cases



GURUGRAM

GURUGRAM Deputy Commissioner Yash Garg has constituted a three-member committee to deal with cases of exorbitant charges by private hospitals from Covid patients.

"The District Level Committee will have District Magistrate Siddharth Dahiya as the representative of the Deputy Commissioner. Other members of the committee include Anuj Garg as representative of Civil Surgeon and M.P. Jain as representative of the district's Indian Medical Association (IMA)," Garg said in his order.

"This three-member district level committee will hear the complaints of private hospitals for exorbitant collection of bills from the Covid patients and if

the complaint is found to be true, it will also help to return the excess amount to the complainant as per the instructions of the government," said the district administration spokesperson.

Gurugram District Magistrate Siddharth Dahiya said that the aggrieved person can give their complaint in the office of the Civil Surgeon in the Polyclinic located in Sector 31 or the District Magistrate's office located on the first floor of the Mini Secretariat.

Besides, the complaints can also be sent to the e-mail address of the district magistrate at ct-mrg@hry.nic.in.

"After receiving the complaint, action would be taken as per the instructions of the government and the rules laid down for the hospitals," Dahiya added.

8,700 people died on rly tracks in 2020, many of them migrants

ANANYA SENGUPTA

NEW DELHI

OVER 8,700 people were mowed down on railway tracks in 2020 even though passenger train services were severely curtailed due to the nationwide coronavirus lockdown, with officials saying many of the victims were migrant workers.

The Railway Board shared the data on such deaths for the period between January and December 2020 in its reply to a question by Madhya Pradesh-based activist Chandra Shekhar Gaur under the Right to Information Act. "Based on the information received from the State Police, 805 people suffered injuries and 8,733 people died on the railway track between January 2020 and December

2020," the Railway Board has said.

Officials separately said that many of those dead were migrant workers who chose to walk home along the tracks because train routes are considered shorter than roads or highways. They said these workers also chose the tracks as this way they could evade police for violating lockdown norms, and also had the belief they would not get lost midway. "They also assumed that no trains would be running because of the lockdown," one of the officials said. Railway Spokesperson DJ Narain said that such incidents happen on the tracks "not due to accidents but because of trespassing". "It's a civic issue of concern. The Railways has always made huge efforts in sensitising trespassers to avoid walking on



tracks. Around 70,000 kms of rail tracks are spread across the country with over 17,000 trains of all kinds running on a daily basis. Deaths on tracks of trespassers is unfortunate and sad. Our concern on Safety of passenger and citizens is second to none." He also appealed to people to avoid taking shortcuts to cross tracks.

"They must understand that

shortcuts can be dangerous and trespassing must be avoided. These kinds of accidents perhaps occur more on roads due to careless road-crossings," Narain said, adding that there have been no casualties due to any "train accident" in the last two years. While the fatalities during 2020 were fewer compared to four years immediately before that, the numbers are still significant

given the fact that the passenger services were restricted after the coronavirus lockdown was announced on March 25. Only freight trains were in operation during the lockdown, and before the railways started Shramik Special trains from May 1 to ferry migrant workers home.

The passenger services have been reopening in phases, and by December, around 1,100 special trains were in operation along with 110 regular passenger trains. The services have now been restored to 70 per cent of the pre-Covid period. While many fatalities on tracks last year could not be registered for some reason or the other, the deaths of 16 migrant workers after being run over by a freight train in Maharashtra's Aurangabad last

May rattled many as they were killed while resting on the tracks thinking no train would be coming due to the Covid suspension.

THE HANS CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAHUL GUPTA holder of Indian Passport No. T3233297 issued at DELHI on 29/04/2019 and Permanent Resident of H. No. 695 SAINI MOHALLA SHIV MANDIR MARG NANGLOI DELHI PIN 110041 DELHI INDIA and presently residing at FLAT 207 AL MANAZEL BUILDING AL GARHOUD DUBAI do hereby change the name of my daughter LAVANYA GUPTA holding Indian Passport No: S3463026 issued at DELHI on 12/09/2018 from LAVANYA GUPTA to MISHTI (GIVEN NAME) GUPTA (SURNAME) with immediate effect.

(TH-Chary)

The govt is shockingly indifferent

A new trend seems to be emerging where the political executive is turning a blind eye in regard to matters of administration even during pandemic situation. They seem to be more bothered about making tall claims of how they managed to steer the economy despite heavy losses suffered due to lockdown and how they are still going ahead with implementing welfare schemes. What seems to be more important for the ruling party and the opposition is to whom the credit of achieving Telangana State should go to?

On one hand spike in corona cases has led to lockdown which has disrupted both production and retail channels and consumers had to cut back spending. The manufacturing activity witnessed overall loss, job losses accelerated and on the other

hand people who got affected by Covid-19 and out of necessity or fear got admitted to private and corporate hospitals were fleeced in a manner that that would even put leeches which suck blood to shame.

The hospitals refused to accept health insurance. Patients were charged a minimum of Rs one lakh per day and in their anxiety to save their kin, people had to sell their property, land, gold etc and mobilise funds. There are many cases where the dead bodies were left unclaimed as the patient's family did not have money to clear the huge bills. Though the media has been highlighting these problems, the government here and across the country just blinked.

The Centre too maintained stoic silence on this issue. There was no system where the people

could register their grievances regarding excess billing. If one had some political billing, a semblance of justice was done to him by the hospitals and that too under pressure.

Only when the second wave started abating, the governments started issuing notices to private and corporate hospitals and asked them to submit the original bills within 48 hours. The outcome was some of them have been banned from treating Covid patients. But then how does it help the patients who have been fleeced? Well the government has no reply.

All that it says is that the government does not have powers to collect compensation for the victims from the hospitals unless there is legal intervention. Then what is the sanctity of issuing a GO prescribing rates for

each procedure. Once a GO is issued does it not become mandatory for all to follow it? Taking the stand that it has no powers sounds ridiculous.

Similar thoughts were expressed by the Chief Justice of High Court Hima Kohli and Justice B Vijaysen Reddy. They also felt that only cancelling licenses of erring hospitals will not result in reconciliation to persons who have already paid excess fees to these hospitals and directed the government to ensure refund of excess fees collected from Covid-19 patients. It also asked them to start with the hospitals whose permit to treat Covid patients has been withdrawn.

What one fails to understand is God forbid if there is third wave and spike in cases, what will the government do? Does it

have the capacity to provide medicare without private hospitals pitching in? What will happen if it gives fresh permissions to all those hospitals again? Will they also not go in for third wave of fleecing the patients?

The court rightly expressed concern over state government's failure to issue new GO for capping fee for Covid-19 treatment, tests etc. Unfortunately, it all happens because corporate hospitals, diagnostic and imaging centres, pharmaceutical and equipment suppliers play a key role in "the kickbacks and bribes that oil every part of the healthcare machinery".

It's really matter of shame that commercialisation gained importance over humanity even during the pandemic which no one knows how long it will continue. A drastic change in policies and strict implementation only can bring a turnaround in the situation.



Covid-induced lockdown improved air quality in India: Study

THE first Covid-19 lockdown in India led to an improvement in air quality and a reduction in land surface temperature in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, and Hyderabad, say researchers.

The study also found Land Surface Temperature over major cities in India substantially declined in contrast with the previous five-year average (2015-2019) with day temperatures being up to 1 degree Celsius cooler and those at night up to 2 degree Celsius cooler.

The study led by scientists from the Central University of Jharkhand and University of Southampton in the UK found that the significant environmental improvement was due to an abrupt reduction in industrial activities and a major decrease in the use of land and air transport.

"The lockdown provided a natural experiment to understand the coupling between urbanisation and local microclimate. We clearly observed that reduction in atmospheric pollutants (due to reduction in anthropogenic activity during lockdown) resulted in a decrease in local day and night-time temperature. This is an important finding to feed into the planning for sustainable urban development," said Professor Jadu Dash, from University of Southampton.

The team used data from a range of Earth Observation sensors, including those from the European Space Agency's Sentinel-5p and NASA's MODIS sensors, to measure changes in surface temperature and atmospheric pollutants and aerosols. They compared data from the 2020 March to May lockdown with pre-pandemic years in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, and Hyderabad.

Further, the atmospheric fluxes at the surface and top of the atmosphere also saw a significant decline over major parts of India. The reduction of greenhouse gas concentration, higher atmospheric water vapour content and meteorological conditions played a complex role in the land and near-surface temperature reduction.

Their findings, published in the journal Environmental Research, revealed a significant reduction in Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2), a greenhouse gas emitted from the combustion of fossil fuels, which equated to an average decrease of 12 per cent throughout India and 31.5 per cent over the six cities. There was a 40 per cent reduction over the national capital.

"The aerosol type sources, such as organic carbon (OC), black carbon (BC), mineral dust, and sea salt also reduced significantly," said Bikash Parida, from Central University of Jharkhand. (ANS)



Biden announces measures to narrow racial wealth gap

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday announced a series of measures aimed at narrowing the wealth gap among racial groups in a speech commemorating the 100th anniversary of Tulsa massacre, one of the most atrocious racial violence in US history.

ity-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs. The measures include using federal purchasing power to invest more money into minority-owned businesses and allocate \$10 billion in infrastructure funds to rebuild disadvantaged neighbourhoods across the country. The first President to come to Tulsa and commemorate the massacre, Biden also plans to enhance the Fair Housing Act in ways that the Department of Housing and Urban Development will "more vigorously enforce" the law, according to a senior administration official, who added that the goal is to increase Black homeownership.

In less than 24 hours between May 31 and June 1, 1921, a mob of white attackers killed over 300 Black Americans in the Greenwood neighbourhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and burned down 35 square blocks of that business district built by Black Americans -- so prosperous at the time that it was then referred to as Black Wall Street. Roughly 10,000 Greenwood residents were displaced and the community has never come close to recovering, the Xinhua news agency reported.

Missing in the Biden initiative, however, was a plan to cancel student debt, which disproportionately affects Black students. The rollout also failed to address the issue of reparations for relatives of massacre victims, who said the federal payments could restore what was erased during the attacks.

Yet, Tulsa officials, in efforts to cover up the massacre, framed the atrocity as "riot," and the mass killings received scant mentions in media reports, school curriculum and civil and governmental conversations in the decades that followed. It wasn't until recent years that the horrendous events were eventually included in American history textbooks. "My fellow Americans, this was not a riot. This was a massacre. Among the worst in our history," Biden said in his speech as the audience rose to their feet. "Some injustices are so heinous, so horrific, so grievous they can't be buried no matter how hard people try," the president said earlier during the speech. Biden detailed a raft of policies intended to bolster homeownership and help minor-

Biden in his speech also announced that Vice President Kamala Harris will lead the administration's efforts on protecting Americans' voting rights. The White House has accused the restrictive voting laws recently enacted in several Republican-leaning states of making it harder for Americans to cast their ballots.

Biden on Monday proclaimed May 31, 2021, to be a "Day of Remembrance: 100 Years After The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre." He said in the proclamation that the "Federal Government must reckon with and acknowledge the role that it has played in stripping wealth and opportunity from Black communities." (ANS)

PART-II

The influence of Communism in India



IMPORTANT among the factors responsible for the rise of the Left in India was the exploitative character of colonial British rule, which impacted adversely upon the Indian economy and the various socio-economic sections of Society. The land-based system had led to unfair treatment of agricultural labour and resulted in the emergence of the Kisan Sabha movement. The rise of modern industries, based on capitalistic ideology, and exploitation of factory workers, only added fuel to the fire. The financial burden on account of the World War-I, rising prices, famine conditions, manipulative practices by businessmen, the romantic appeal of Marxist ideas, the formation of the new regime in the USSR and its success, showing the triumph of the power and struggle of the people, were the last straw.

Jawaharlal Nehru paid his first ever visit to Russia, the land of socialism in 1961. He studied the works of Marx and Lenin, and was greatly influenced by their ideologies. He then applied his knowledge to the ongoing struggle for achieving equitable growth and sustainable development, of India.

Around the second decade of the twentieth century, India began to be influenced by the Gandhian philosophy of peaceful confrontation as a means of securing freedom from the colonial rulers. The Marxist ideology of the working class overthrowing the prop-

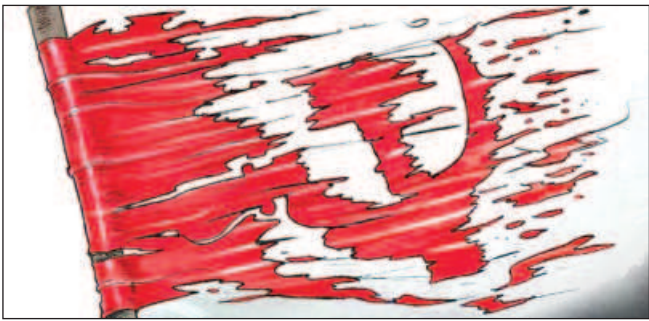
ertied exploiter by sheer force, struck a chord deep within the hearts of the agitators of nationalism. The Russian revolution, however, set in a new course in the trajectory of nationalist struggle. People began looking for an alternative idea to the Gandhian constructive programme which caused disillusionment.

Many leaders such as M N Roy, (the founder of the Communist Party of India - CPI), who was personally mentored by Lenin in Russia to prepare Indian soil for revolution against the foreign colonisers), S C Bose, Bipin Chandra Pal and Nehru developed Leftist persuasions.

Student and youth associations were organised all over the country from 1927 onwards. Hundreds of youth conferences were organised during 1928 and 1929, with speakers advocating radical solutions for the political, economic and social ills from which the country was suffering from. Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Bose toured the country, making speeches attacking imperialism, capitalism, and landlordism and preaching the ideology of socialism.

These developments also had a desirable impact on women's movements. Various legislations and decisions of those times can be credited to Socialist workers' agitations; such as the Unions Act, the Fundamental Rights and Economic Programme at Karachi Session, and the National Economic Policy in Faizapur session. Socialist ideas began to spread rapidly especially because many young persons who had participated actively in the non-cooperation movement were unhappy with its outcome.

There was also broad acceptance of socialist principles and adoption of the Socialist outlook by INC, post-independence; the reason why the (erstwhile) Planning Commission was often called a Soviet era hangover. Still, the Communists have always had a love-hate relationship with the Congress.



There was also broad acceptance of socialist principles and adoption of the Socialist outlook by INC, post-independence; the reason why the (erstwhile) Planning Commission was often called a Soviet era hangover. Still, the Communists have always had a love-hate relationship with the Congress. Bhagat Singh, the celebrated revolutionary, was noted to have studied in detail the life of Lenin and the Communist Manifesto during his time in jail. Periyar, who started the 'self-respect movement' and also the Dravida Kazhagam, is known to have drawn inspiration from the Russian Communist method of bringing social justice, which he thought was best applicable to the plight of the lower castes in India. The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) the oldest trade union federation in India, is associated with the CPI

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During its initial days, the CPI focused on mobilising peasants and workers towards a revolutionary cause, while at the same time influencing the Congress in developing a sturdy Left leaning ideology. Trouble arose when, in the 1940s, Gandhi launched the

Quit India movement against the British almost at the same time when the Soviet Union urged the CPI to back the British war efforts in the fight against Fascism. In their efforts to please the Russians, they alienated themselves from the nationalist struggle.

Post-Independence, the Party sprung back to form, leading armed struggles in several principalities where the princely rulers were reluctant to give up power. Most noteworthy among these was the rebellion against the Nizam of Hyderabad. In Manipur and Bihar too, the Party made its ideological impact felt strong. Having been successful in garnering enough support among some sections of the Indian population, it soon emerged as the first leading opposition Party that the Congress faced. The Party experienced its first-ever electoral success in the state of Kerala in the 1957 Legislative Assembly elections. Two decades later the Party gained a footing in West Bengal and soon after in

Tripura.

By the early 1960s, however, international conditions affecting Communism had altered again, the ripples of which were felt strongly in the Left politics of India. The Soviet Union and China (two most important Communist powers of the world) at that time, were at daggers drawn over ideological implications of Left politics. The Chinese, led by Mao Zedong, denounced the Russians for leaning towards the West as a diplomatic means of spreading Communism, rather than leading to an armed struggle. The ideological conflict between the two countries had its immediate effect on the CPI, drawing sturdy lines between those who leaned towards a Soviet philosophy and those who supported the Chinese. The Indo-China border war in 1962 affected the politics within the Party with one section backing Nehru, while the other radical section opposed what they believed was an unqualified aggression towards China.

Another drawback of the Party was that it mostly looked outside India for political guidance. The internal politics within the CPI soon manifested themselves in the famous split of 1964, when the radical section leaning towards China walked out of a meeting held in Delhi, calling themselves the 'real Communist Party'. Soon after they formed the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M), which eventually overshadowed the CPI.

Cultural tradition and ideological positioning of a certain community can never decide the fate of a party in electoral politics especially given the Indian ethos. This was why the Left suffered a drastic loss of power in West Bengal in 2011 to the All India Trinamool Congress led by Mamata Banerjee, an experience that was to repeat itself in succeeding elections.

(The writer is former Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

What next after cancelling CBSE exams?

THE Centre on Tuesday decided to cancel the CBSE Class 12 examinations due to the Covid-19 situation across the country, much to the relief of lakhs of anxious students and their parents and teachers. The Centre has rightly taken the decision to cancel the examination is welcome in the interest of safety and health of students which is of paramount importance. The government said that Class 12 results will be done through well-defined objective based on performances in previous classes and during the year leading to the board exams. The government had earlier in April cancelled the CBSE Class 10 exams. In case some students wish to appear for the exams, such an option would be provided to them by the board as and when the Covid situation improves to hold exams. Understandably students are anxious about future prospects in the absence of exams. It is indeed critical that fair internal assessment procedures be devised instead. And scores in Class 12 boards are not only the gateway to higher education. In a situation where these scores cannot help in rational comparative assessment, the onus falls on higher education institutions to reimagine admission processes. Some institutions have successfully conducted online entrance tests and interviews to select students. Such capabilities must be explored for the students.

K S Rao, Thane

thehansreader@gmail.com

LETTERS

S V Prasad mourned

HE was the most efficient and benign officer who was Principal Secretary to three Chief Ministers and Chief Secretary of undivided Andhra Pradesh. Ever smiling Prasad was the man behind all success and wise decisions of the then Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Senior Journalist C G Chandra Mohan who worked as PRO to four Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and who worked many years with S V Prasad paid glowing tributes to the late Chief Secretary. Soft-spoken Prasad was a role model officer who had a solution to every problem. He said he has learnt much from the most efficient and suave officer who treated all his colleagues including attenders with dignity. Chandra Mohan conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Wishlists for new V-Cs

THIS refers to "Herculean tasks await new VCs" (June 2). Universities have become destitute due to keeping them in back burners by the governments. This is a sad state of affairs. Regular Vice Chancellors are not posted to take decisions for developing to new heights academically, technically and scientifically on account of financial crunch. Newly appointed VCs should not fall prey to pressure groups. In the well-presented article it is highlighted that no university produced a Noble laureate till now. Issues are umpteen to mention. I cite one neg-

lected area in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad. This is not "open" but "limited" varsity as study material is in Telugu but students are allowed to write in English. Thereby seeking admission is low in number. Appeals made for study material in English also met with deaf ears. Last but not least plagiarism percentage in Ph.D., theses should be downsized as no creativity or innovative features are found in recent works. Finally government should not interfere in academic and administrative activities of varsities.

Dr NSR Murthy, Secunderabad

II

THE quality of education took a beating, to be exact from 1968, in Telangana, when the agitation for a separate began and was at its crescendo. It was a revolution of sorts on part of students to achieve the new goal of ending up in acquiring a new state - Telangana. They had absolutely no plans about its future, nor the leaders who took over the reigns of the state.

The educational standard in the new formed state started to crumble as copying in the examination became the trend, and the students imagined that passing out a course in vital, rather than acquiring knowledge and talent, to get meaningfully employed. The Osmania University campus became an 'adda' for anti-socials and Naxal elements, and no meaningful teaching and education was possible. Some hard-working and talented ones did not allow this to stand in the way of completing the course, and decided to join

better and recognised institutions for their further studies. The situation was akin to one prevailed in Assam, a few decades ago, when the students union thought of entering politics to correct the ills of the society.

The state of Telangana cannot hope to thrive this way in terms of the educational quality in the Osmania University. Students studying in the campus never behaved like earnest students wanting to acquire knowledge, skills and talent. They behaved like thugs, to take things into their own hands. The teaching staff too lost interest to teach, when students showed no interest in learning and imbibing education. As aptly pointed out in the write up, the quota and reservation in education did great damage to intelligent ones, not belonging to these categories, which too is the national trend - the forward and unreserved category.

They however had their own means to overcome these shortcomings by extreme dedication and hard work in completing the academics, by seeking admission in better colleges in the country and abroad, availing heavily bank loans to finance their academics. The success story of the ilk, failed to motivate the majority of students of Telangana, to aspire to improve and reach for stars, in realising their dreams.

Colleges in Telangana, requiring qualified teachers, and strict enforcement of discipline in the campus, is a must, so that other students, who are interested in the academics, can at least pursue their goal meaningfully, in order to realise their parental dreams and expectations.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Digital Land Survey to start from KCR's Assembly segment

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THREE villages of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's Gajwel Assembly Constituency will be part of 27 villages from where the government will kickstart the pilot Digital Land Survey from June 11. The land survey would be conducted covering all agriculture lands in the dispute-free villages first, followed by government and forest lands.

The CM instructed Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar to select 27 villages all over the State and of which, three villages should be from Gajwel Assembly Constituency. The rest 24 should be from the 24 districts in the State. He held a review meeting on Wednesday at Pragathi Bhavan

- Three villages from Gajwel assembly constituency to be part of the pilot survey
- A total of 27 villages to be included in the survey
- Survey will cover all agriculture lands, government and forest lands
- Survey to be first carried out in villages sans any land disputes, followed by those that are tangled in disputes

on digital survey issue with representatives from the survey agencies.

The pilot survey would be done in the villages where there are no land disputes. Later, in the villages where there are government lands and forest department lands. In other words, the survey should be conducted in a mixed bunch of villages where there are no disputes and where there are disputes and get the

field level experience on the matter.

After this, the Chief Minister wanted total guidelines on the land survey should be prepared for the total survey in the State. He wanted the survey of the agriculture lands should be taken up first and later the urban lands.

"We have brought in Dharani Portal only to protect the land rights of the poor. With an aim to make Telangana state a land dis-

putes-free State, the State government is conducting the digital survey of the agriculture lands. The government's aim is to conduct digital survey of agriculture lands in the State, fix the coordinates and there by provide total security and protection to the pattadars on a permanent basis," the Chief Minister said, instructing the survey agencies to conduct the digital survey efficiently as it was part of the government's aim to provide protection to people's right on land, and also understand the good intention of the government behind it.

He said with agriculture land disputes in the villages have cleared with the Dharani Portal as on date, the proposed digital survey would be cent per cent successful.



Edu Minister takes part in State Formation Day event

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RANGA REDDY

THE Telangana State Formation Day was celebrated across Ranga Reddy district on Wednesday. The State Education Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy along with District Collector Amoy Kumar, MLC Surabhi Devi and Rachakonda CP Mahesh Bhagwat hoisted the national flag at the Ranga Reddy District Collectorate on the occasion of Telangana formation Day. Later, the Education Minister paid tributes at the Martyrs Stupa in Sarooranagar Indoor Stadium. Various political parties and other organisations also celebrated the Telangana Formation Day in the district.

Speaking on the occasion,



the Education Minister said that the Telangana State is rapidly moving forward under the leadership of the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. It is the good fortune of people to get a Telangana movement leader as the Chief Minister and the sacrifices of Telangana

martyrs will be remembered forever, the Minister added. Congress MP Revanth Reddy, Additional Collector Pratik Jain, Chevella MLA Kale Yadaiah, Egge Mallesam, Dayanand, ZP chairperson Anita Reddy, DCP and others were also present.

Telangana Formation Day celebrated



HANS NEWS SERVICE
SHADNAGAR

ASSISTANT Commissioner of Police Kushalkar along with local RDO Rajeshwari participated in Telangana Formation Day celebrations held on behalf of the police department in Shadnagar constituency on Wednesday. Later, the Senior Civil Judge hoisted the national flag at Shadnagar Court.

Speaking on the occasion, the ACP and RDO wished the people

of all sections of the constituency a happy State formation Day. Later they instructed people to celebrate the day in a low key manner keeping in view Covid-19 safety norms and lockdown rules.

Judges Asharani Shyam Prasad, Bar Association President Nadikuda Satyanarayana Yadav, Advocates Mahender Reddy, Anjaiah, Venugopal Gantala Nagraj, TNGO's Taluka president M Venkat Reddy and other office staff were present.

CM Jagan owes explanation on Polavaram completion: TDP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

FORMER Minister and TDP leader Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao on Wednesday accused the ruling YSRCP leaders of making baseless allegations against former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu only to cover up their failures to complete the Polavaram project works.

Uma Maheswara Rao recalled how Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy and his ministers spoke about completing Polavaram by June this year. Whereas, there was no progress in the works at the project site for which the Chief Minister owed an explanation to the people of the state, he said.

Addressing a press conference here, the TDP leader said that since coming to power, the YSRCP regime was playing a selfish drama in the name of reverse tendering. Now, when the opposition was demanding it to show the progress of works, the YSRCP

- Former Irrigation Minister Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao says the YSRCP govt and its Ministers are attacking Naidu only to cover up thier failure to complete the mega project
- Alleges that the Jagan govt enacted dramas in the name of reverse tendering

leaders started making diversionary statements.

Uma Maheswara Rao said that Jagan had failed to do anything for the irrigation projects in order to improve the lot of the farmers.

The Chief Minister was not in a position to tell how many project works were completed in the past two years of his rule.

Finance minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy gave wrong figures in the budget saying that over 14 projects were completed. At

the same time, he could not dare list out the projects that were completed.

The TDP leader criticised that the lies and falsehoods of the ruling YSRCP even in the budget and official statistics would cause a greater harm to the state than expected.

In 2018-19, the Chandrababu government spent Rs 14,500 crore for the irrigation sector. Whereas, the present government had not lifted a pail of soil nor laid a pail of concrete in any project. They were not able to say how much percentage of works were completed in the Handri-Neeva, Galeru-Nagari, Polavaram Lift Canal and Telugu Ganga projects.

Uma Maheswara Rao told the Chief Minister that the irrigation projects would not be completed just by suppressing the voice of the TDP leaders with false cases and false arrests. Instead of boasting of being a young Chief Minister, Jagan Reddy should come out of his Tadepalli residence to solve the people's problems, he said.

6 arrested for playing cards



HANS NEWS SERVICE
MOINABAD

SPECIAL Operation Team (SOT) Shamshabad police raided a farm house and arrested six rummy players and recovered a total of Rs 72,710 lakhs in Tolkatta village under Moinabad police station limits of Ranga Reddy district on Wednesday. According to the Shamshabad SOT police inspector Venkatreddy, with reliable information from the team of SOT Shamshabad zone, police conducted raids on a farm house situated at Tholkatta village under Moinabad police station limits. The arrested were identified as Mohd Nizamuddin Ahmed (Owner of farm house and Organiser), Syed Ameer Hussein, Md Ghouse, Afzal Ahmed Khan, Gaffar khan and Jahangir. Moinabad police registered a case and investigation is underway



Blood donation camp organised

HANS NEWS SERVICE
IBRAHIMPATNAM

POLICE conducted blood donation camp in association with Red Cross Society at Shastri gardens on Wednesday in Ibrahimpatnam. LB Nagar DCP Sanpreet Singh inaugurated the blood donation camp

conducted by Ibrahimpatnam police for Thalassemia patients. Nearly 100 units of blood were collected from the donors.

Speaking on this occasion, DCP Sanpreet Singh said that the blood donation camp is organised to help the people who are in need of blood like Tha-

lassemia patients and many Covid-19 patients. He later appreciated the members who came forward to donate their blood.

ACP Yadagiri Reddy, Madugula inspector Krishna Mohan, other police personnel, leaders and volunteers were also present.

Arrangements on to prepare Anandaiah's medicine

- District officials to start call centre, web app and to receive indents from districts for the concoction
- Priority will be given to patients in hospitals, care centres and people in home isolation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

AMID huge excitement and expectations from people, district administration is making arrangements for preparation and distribution of herbal medicine of B Anandaiah of Krishnapatnam in the district. The medicine will be prepared at CVR complex in Krishnapatnam and the officials are planning to start a call centre, developing an app for online booking and also collecting indents from various districts for the preparation. Teams deployed for preparing the medicine are busy collecting huge quantities of raw material like honey, spices, herbs and other ingredients.

Hereafter, there will be no distribution of medicine in Krishnapatnam village for public. Covid positive people can get it from the district administrations giving priority for Covid hospitals, care cen-



CPI leader K Narayana felicitating Anandaiah at his residence in Krishnapatnam on Wednesday

tres, people in home isolation through the revenue and volunteer network. Initially, there are plans for distributing around 10,000-15,000 packets to each district in Andhra Pradesh. In case the volume is not sufficient, officials will consider additional allotment based on indent from the districts. The concoction will also be sent by post basis on booking by people on web apps and the district administration is coordinating with department of posts in this regard. A call centre is being set up to receive requests from the people for the medication.

Meanwhile, CPI national secretary K Narayana visited Krishnapatnam on Wednesday and expressed his support and cooperation to Anandaiah for dis-

tributing the traditional herbal concoction. He said the people are now believing his medication and the state government has also given its nod for distribution. He appealed to the political parties not to politicise the issue and keep this as a public service activity. He said that there were many traditional medicines in vogue for jaundice, asthma and many other ailments. He also said Anandaiah's concoction is also such a kind of preparation that helps to treat many Covid-induced ailments.

The CPI leader visited Anandaiah's house and felicitated him with a shawl and appreciated his efforts for serving the poor and middle class without expecting any profits. Narayana said his noble ideals should be respected. Local leaders were present.

Telangana is proud structure of India: MLA Anjaiah

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SHADNAGAR

THE Telangana State Formation Day was celebrated in Shadnagar constituency on Wednesday. Various government offices, municipal, library and zonal councils celebrated Telangana Formation Day on a grand note. Shadnagar MLA Anjaiah Yadav attended the celebrations as the chief guest and laid wreaths at the statue of Professor Jayashankar in the premises of the Mandala Parishad office. Later, MLA praised Professor Jayashankar for his services during



the Telangana movement.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that the Telangana government is implementing the slogans of the movement one by one. Telangana government is complet-

ing infrastructure like irrigation, drinking water, electricity, education, medicine, roads and many more with short-term and long-term goals, he said. MLA hailed KCR as the only person who had

intensified the movement with fewer people and awakened millions.

MPP Khaza Ahmed Idris, ZPTC P Venkatarami Reddy, MPDO Sarath Chandra Babu, CEO Shankar Rathod, Municipal Chairman Narendar, Vice-Chairman Natarajan, Women and Child Welfare Director Rajalakshmi, MPTC's Bhargav Kumar Reddy, Lavanya, Srisailam, TRS leaders Pilli Shekhar, Jupally Shankar, Pratap Reddy, Bachali Narasimulu, Nandakishore, Yadagiri Yadav, Jangari Ravi, Romeo Ramesh and others were present.

WATER RELEASE BY 2022 KHARIF

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

MINISTER for Irrigation P Anil Kumar Yadav said water will be released from Polavaram project by 2022 kharif season as per the promise made by Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy.

The minister inspected the progress of Polavaram project works on Wednesday. Later, speaking to media persons at the project site, the minister said that the state government was initiating measures to continue the works despite Covid pandemic. He said 80 staff members of irrigation department, including five officials at the project site died of Covid. A large number of workers re-



Minister for Irrigation P Anil Kumar Yadav and other officials inspecting Polavaram project construction works on Wednesday

turned to their native places due to Covid and the officials are facing shortage of workers. Condemning the allegations of TDP leaders, including N Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh against the state government, the minister said that both of them are not venturing out fearing Covid

and conducting Zoom meetings by sitting in their houses. He said one has to appreciate the officials and workers for continuing the project works despite of Covid crisis. Anil Kumar said the diaphragm wall got damaged due to lack of planning in the construction of cofferdam during Chandrababu regime. Forgetting their failure, now the TDP leaders are criticising the government, he said. Referring to rehabilitation and resettlement packages, the minister said that though the government had tried to complete the construction of 17,000 houses by April, it could not finish the housing works due to Covid. Now the construction of houses will be completed during this season, he assured.

Class 12 exams cancelled in Gujarat and MP due to pandemic

‘Any delay on new grading criteria will lead to more confusion’

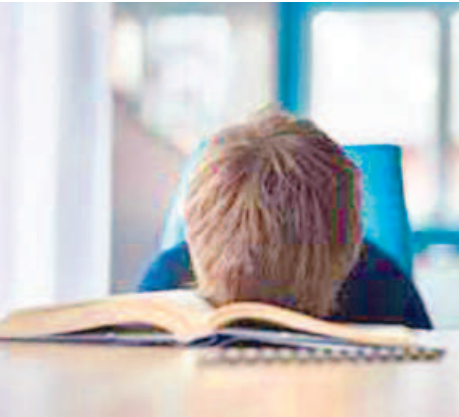
NEW DELHI

EDUCATION experts and stakeholders believe the bigger challenge before the CBSE now is coming up with a fair evaluation criteria for class 12 students whose exams have been cancelled and demanded that the policy is notified soon. The experts hailed the decision to cancel the board exams which were earlier postponed in view of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic.

Given the current situation, it is the right decision to cancel the CBSE Board exams. There is no way we could have held exams without compromising the safety of children. While we welcome the decision, we hope the modalities would be worked out quickly in consultation with stakeholders, they said. "Since class marks are im-

portant factor that affects students' career, we expect CBSE to ensure students don't get affected with the methodology of awarding marks," said Praveen Raju, Co-Chair, FICCI ARISE, a collegium of stakeholders aimed at promoting quality education.

The next step is equally critical and crucial in terms of deciding the process and criteria based on which the children's performance will be gauged. This should be done keeping in mind that many of them make that extra effort during the last mile and hence, should be given due advantage," said Charu Wahi, Principal, Nir-mal Bhartia School. According to Vishnu Karthik, CEO, The Heritage Schools, the decision on cancellation of board exams has provided some clarity and assuaged stress levels among students and parents but the challenge now is for the CBSE to arrive at an alternative cri-



teria to determine grade 12 marks.

"Any delay or any confusion on the new grading criteria will lead to more confusion and stress among students. Clear directions should also be provided to Indian universities to modify their admissions criteria so meritocracy and fairness are not compromised," he said. Shishir Jaipuria, Chairman of Seth Anandram Jaipuria Group of Educational Institutions believes de-serving students must be allocated grades or marks corresponding to their yearly performance. "It's a challenge that will require a great deal of meticulous thinking for arriving at a just criterion for academic assessment. I'm sure the schools and boards will rise to the challenge and deliver what's best for the students," he said. Rajiv Bansal, Director-Operations - Global Indian International School (GIIS), said admission in under-

graduate courses, across India and internationally, are dependent on class 12 results, therefore, the sooner these details are announced, the better it would be for the students, their parents, and the entire academic community. Pallavi Upadhyaya, Principal, DPS-RNE Ghaziabad said schools further await the mode of result tabulation and assessment guidelines by the CBSE for fair scores as Class 12th remains a crucial exam in a student's lifetime.

The Gujarat government announced that the Board examinations for the class 12 have been cancelled in view of the prevailing situation of coronavirus outbreak, following the central government's decision to cancel the CBSE Board examinations for class 12.

The Madhya Pradesh government also announced the cancellation of the class 12 board exams.

WINDOWS
Pak breaches ceasefire

SRINAGAR: Pakistani Rangers fired at an earth-mover machine engaged in cleaning bushes along the International Border (IB) here on Wednesday in what could be the second ceasefire violation in nearly four months, official sources said.

The BSF, which is guarding the IB, neither confirmed nor denied the incident. Sources said Pakistani Rangers fired a few rounds upon noticing the bullet-proof JCB machine clearing the bushes in Arnia sector's Vikram post area in the outskirts of Jammu around 8.15 am.

The BSF also fired a few rounds in retaliation, they said, adding the situation has returned to normal and there is calm along the IB. On May 2, Pakistani Rangers violated the ceasefire by opening fire along the IB in Ramgarh sector of Samba district which was the first ceasefire violation by Pakistan after the two countries signed a fresh agreement to maintain calm along the border on February 25 this year.

‘Covid-free Village’ meet

MUMBAI: After five small villages in the state independently attained Covid-free status in May, the Maharashtra government has now come up with a unique proposal to inspire more such rural settlements to "chase away the virus". Rural Development Minister Hasan Mushrif on Wednesday announced a Covid-Free Village Competition with fat cash prizes to be implemented across the state soon. "If the villages become free from the coronavirus, then the talukas, districts, regions, and the entire state will be rid of the scourge as soon as possible, with the participation of the common people," he said.

The competition comes close on the heels of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray last week lavishing praises on villages that had virtually "barred the gates" on the coronavirus by taking strict initiatives at the local level and setting a national example. The villages include: Hivare Bazaar where the initiative was inspired by Padma Shri awardee Popatrao Pawar, and Bhoyare Khurd (both in Ahmednagar district), Bhoosi in Nanded which earned the Centre's laurels.

Case against 5G in HC
Man sings Juhi’s songs, interrupts proceedings

NEW DELHI: Some of the hit songs of actress Juhi Chawla's movies made their way in the proceedings before the Delhi High Court on Wednesday when a man started singing them during the virtual hearing relating to the Bollywood star's plea against the 5G wireless network.

The action of the man resulted in the periodic interruption of hearing and on the judge's directions, the person was repeatedly removed from the hearing, but he kept on joining and started singing till the time the proceed-

ings were locked. Chawla also joined the virtual proceedings from South Africa. The man, who was logging in the virtual hearing with different names first started singing 'Ghoonghat ki aad mein dilbar ka didaar adhura' from her block buster movie 'Hum hai rahi pyar ke' and he was then removed. He again joined the proceedings and started singing from her another hit film Naajayaz 'Lal lal hoton pe gori kiska naam hai... Juhi Chawla' and was again removed from the hearing.

24 held for assaulting doctor

GUWAHATI: At least 24 people, including a woman were arrested by the police after a doctor at a government hospital in Assam's Hojai district, was brutally beaten up. Seuj Kumar Senapati, posted in Udali Covid Care Centre in Hojai, around 140 km from Guwahati, was kicked and pounded with metal trash and bricks by relatives of a Covid patient who had died, allegedly due to oxygen shortage, police said on Wednesday.

Police and health officials said that the young injured doctor was being treated at another hospital in Nagaon and his condition is stated to be stable after the Tuesday evening incident.

Injured doctor Senapati told the media that around 40 people beat him up.

The mob also ransacked the hospital and tried to assault other doctors, nurses and health staffs.

"I entered into a room and tried to hide, but they found me and assaulted me. They snatched my gold chain, my ring and mobile phone," the doctor said.



UN officials accuse NIA of PDP leader’s torture

SRINAGAR: The United Nations' working groups on human rights and special rapporteurs have written to the Centre alleging that an aide of Mehbooba Mufti was brutally tortured in the National Investigation Agency custody for speaking against atrocities in Kashmir before UN representatives.

The NIA has denied the allegation of torture on PDP leader Waheed Para. The central agency had earlier said that Para had been arrested on the charge of having links with militants. Para was believed to have been in the good books of the Centre when the BJP was running a coalition gov-

ernment with Mehbooba's PDP but fell from grace when the alliance unravelled in 2018.

The UN report has coincided with Jammu and Kashmir police filing a chargesheet against Para on Tuesday in another militancy-related case. Para is now in police custody. In their letter to the Union external affairs ministry, the UN officials have written that Para had on July 20 last year engaged with current and future members of the UN Security Council during a virtual meeting and raised alarm over the government's actions in Jammu and Kashmir and its treatment of Muslim minorities.

Was abducted by Indian agents, given shock, claims Choksi

NEW DELHI

FUGITIVE diamantaire Mehul Choksi, who went missing on May 23 from Antigua and Barbuda and was captured in Dominica few days later, has said that he was abducted by Indian agents and was given shock with a Taser gun whenever he resisted, according to a media report.

He also alleged that he was beaten up by the officials.

In a statement to Business Standard newspaper, Choksi said that he was abducted from the Caribbean Island of Antigua on the night of May 23 from where he was forcibly taken on a boat to the island of Dominica.

In a statement to Business Standard, Choksi, who is wanted in India in the Rs 13,500 crore Punjab and

National Bank (PNB) loan fraud case, said that a friend of his in Antigua named Barbara Jabarika had invited him to her house.

"So I went into the house... In three minutes there were about 8 to 10 people... and they said that we knew who you are and you have to go for investigation just now with us... they just grabbed me and I tried to fight against them, but it was very, very hard... they came at me from all sides, they tied my hands, my legs and everything," Choksi, who has been staying in Antigua and Barbuda since 2018 after taking citizenship in 2017 under the Citizenship by Investment programme, said in the statement.

"Then they brought one wheelchair... they tried to make a story that even the police of Antigua were involved in this... half of them were India, very, very strong like army people... And they put me on the



wheel chair and whenever I was fighting, they would shock me with a taser... They tied me from behind, my legs and my body, my hands, everything. And they put a gag, very big plastic gag in my face," he said.

"Then they got a mask and covered my head... And they put me in a boat, the whole entire wheelchair, then they put me on a big boat, a very big boat... then they took off the mask... There were two Indians. They said they were agents from India... The two gentlemen who were with me, they were Gurjit Singh and there was another name," Business Standard quoted Choksi as saying.

"At the last hour in the boat, I got a call from an Indian authority. He said his name is Narendra Singh. He is on my case. And he said that when you are asked, when your interrogation happens in Do-

minica, say that this whole matter happened with your consent... They beat me, bruised me, used the Taser. And after coming to Dominica, it was an unbelievable experience. What I went through for the next few days. It was so non-cooperation and so bad experience that I can't put in words (sic)," he added.

Choksi had gone missing from Antigua on May 23, sparking a massive manhunt. He was captured in Dominica on May 26.

A Dominican court has restrained the extradition of Choksi till further orders by hearing the haebus corpus plea filed by his lawyers. The court is all set to further hear the matter later in the day.

On Thursday, first pictures of Choksi emerged online, showing several signs of bruises on his arms and a swollen eye.



TODAY'S QUOTE

RIL's strong balance sheet will support growth

“We now have a strong balance sheet with high liquidity that will support growth plans for our three hyper-growth engines - Jio, Retail and Q2C. Strong operating cash flow and largest ever capital raise further strengthened our balance sheet, enabling us to deleverage and meet our net-debt zero commitment


— Mukesh Ambani, CMD, Reliance



CRUDE OIL

Rising prices may impact oil cos

The surge in international crude oil price could have a mixed impact on oil public sector companies, and an improvement in the refining margins is expected due to increasing demand, but marketing margins may be compressed, ICRA said. Oil prices have hit a two-year-high level with Brent breaching the \$70 per barrel mark.

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)			
US Dollar	73.8	South	
Euro	89.88	African Rand	6.11
UAE Dirham	20.49	Hong Kong Dollar	10.83
Thai Baht	2.58	Japanese Yen	0.77
British Pound	104.36	New Zealand Dollar	53.29
Australian Dollar	57	Saudi Riyal	21.42
Canadian Dollar	61.11	Swedish Krona	10.15
Swiss Franc	81.91	Singapore Dollar	56.28

DELHI THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2021

BIZ BRIEFS

OwnBackup buys Nimmetry

OwnBackup has announced the acquisition of Nimmetry, based in Santa Clara, CA, with a significant presence in Hyderabad. Nimmetry provides a unified platform for seamless integration of big and small SaaS-based data using a microservices architecture. The company recently secured a Series D investment of \$167.5 million co-led by Insight Partners, Salesforce Ventures, and Sapphire Ventures, with existing investors Innovation Endeavors, Vertex Ventures, and Oryzn Capital. “This acquisition accelerates OwnBackup’s multi-cloud strategy. The entrance into the Indian market and the access to the talented professionals that are now part of the OwnBackup family marks the continuance of a long-term commitment on OwnBackup’s part to providing industry-leading products and services,” said Sam Gutmann, CEO, OwnBackup.

CII donates 02 devices

On the occasion of the Telangana formation day, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry-Telangana has donated sixty oxygen concentrators to the government hospitals and charity organizations. VC Sajjanar, IPS, Commissioner, Cyberabad Police gave away oxygen concentrators meant for government Hospitals located at Warangal, Nizamabad, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Sangareddy and Hyderabad districts. V Rajanna, Past Chairman, CII Telangana, Regional Head, TCS, said: “CII is working continuously with the Government for the State to come out of the pandemic situation and to restart business operations towards ensuring growth and livelihoods of people.”

Aragen's rebranding

Aragen Life Sciences, formerly known as GVK Biosciences, has officially marked its transition to a new brand identity. With a legacy of over 20 years of partnering with innovator life sciences companies around the world, the company is poised for growth in the outsourced discovery, development, and manufacturing services sector across both large and small molecule platforms. The global pharmaceutical CDMO market, valued \$ 160.12 billion in 2020, is expected to reach \$ 236.61 billion by 2026. Coinciding with its history and an incoming global investor, Goldman Sachs, Aragen unfolded the new brand. Manni Kantipudi, CEO, Aragen, said: “With an aspiration to be a partner of choice to the life sciences industry, we started humbly 20 years ago. We are ready to take the next leap.”

Vestige marks 17th yr

Vestige Marketing Pvt Ltd has marked its 17th year of operations since its inception in 2004. The company has grown strategically in business, markets and products and is now ranked 36, making it the only Indian-origin company to be featured in the reputed DSN Global 100 list. It has also been certified as the great place to work for the third time in a row. The company has presence in six countries including India and will soon start operations in countries like Thailand, Ghana and Philippines. Gautam Bali, Managing Director, said: “I feel humbled when I look back on our journey and at the same time take great pride in the fact that we have been able to fulfil our vision”.

COVID 2.0

Retail, wholesale trade loses ₹15L cr

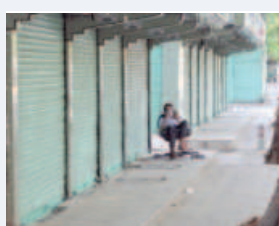
NEW DELHI

THE second wave of Covid-19, subsequently followed lockdowns in various States, has caused a mammoth business loss of around Rs 15 lakh crore to India's domestic trade over the last 60 days, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said on Wednesday.

CAIT, which represents traders across India, said this is prompting small businesses to consider job cuts and cut back on other overheads. It estimated that traders could look at an estimated 30 per cent job cuts if restrictions continue and no financial assistance is provided to them.

“For the first time, traders across the country are contemplating to reduce the number of employees as they have been forced to cut down establishment expenses and overheads due to non-affordability of the recurring monthly expenses. If it happens, it will increase the unemployment figures, particularly when the retail trade in India has been described as the only source of disguised employment and the only sector which provides exponential streams for self-employment in India,” a CAIT statement said.

There are an estimated 8 crore small businesses engaged in trading activities in India, as per estimates by CAIT, provid-



Traders' Travails

- Traders contemplating to reduce the number of employees
- Maharashtra reported the highest loss in business
- Support policies from government, temporary relaxations in statutory compliances
- 8 crore small businesses engaged in trading activities in India

ing direct employment to nearly 40 crore people.

India's second and more severe wave has once again led to a prolonged closure of busy markets, malls and wholesale markets. Trade, barring that of essential goods, has come to a standstill.

Exports zoom 67% to \$32bn in May

Trade deficit rises to \$6.32bn on account of increased imports

NEW DELHI

INDIA's exports grew by 67.39 per cent to \$32.21 billion in May driven by healthy growth in sectors such as engineering, petroleum products and gems and jewellery, even as trade deficit widened to \$6.32 billion, according to government data released on Wednesday. Exports in May last year stood at \$19.24 billion and in May 2019 the figure was at \$29.85 billion, the commerce ministry's preliminary data showed.

Imports in May rose by 68.54 per cent to \$38.53 billion, from \$22.86 billion in May 2020. In May 2019, imports stood at \$46.68 billion. “India is thus a net importer in May 2021 with a trade deficit of \$6.32 billion, an increase of 74.69 per cent over trade deficit \$3.62 billion in May 2020 and reduction by 62.49 per cent over trade deficit \$16.84 billion in May 2019,” the ministry said.

The country's merchandise exports in April had jumped nearly three-fold to \$30.63 billion, even as the trade deficit widened to \$15.1 billion. Oil imports during May this year rose to \$945 billion, as compared to \$3.57 billion in May 2020. In May 2019, it stood at \$12.59 billion. Exports during Apr-May this year have jumped to \$62.84 billion, as against \$29.6



billion in the same period last year. It was \$55.88 billion in Apr-May 2019, the data showed.

Imports during Apr-May 2021 were \$84.25 billion, up from \$39.98 billion in Apr-May 2020. In Apr-May 2019 the figure stood at \$89.07 billion. In Apr-May 2021, oil imports aggregated at \$20.32 billion, up from \$8.24 billion in Apr-May 2020. In Apr-May 2019 it was \$24.16 billion. Exports of engineering, petroleum products and gems and jewellery in May stood at \$3 billion, \$3.51 billion and \$1.9 billion respectively.

Commenting on the data, Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) Founder Chairman Mohit Singla said that the fall

EXIM FIGURES

- Imports in May rose by 68.54 per cent to \$38.53 billion
- The country's merchandise exports in April jumped nearly three-fold
- Exports of engineering, petroleum products and gems and jewellery in May increased

in the import of newsprint, transport equipment and iron and steel is a welcome trend towards self-reliance, as it shows that the government's import substitution strategy has strongly worked for these sectors. The Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) said that shipments in the sector saw a substantial year-on-year rise in May primarily on account of low-base due to strict lockdown in the same month last year. “We expect the order book of exporters to remain strong in the current financial year given the demand trend from key markets such as US, China and Europe,” it said in a statement.

FICCI for gradual unlocking of economic activities



NEW DELHI: With the number of coronavirus infections declining in the country, industry chamber FICCI has suggested the government to follow a graded approach in unlocking economic activities.

It said any unit that is able to create an isolation bubble should be allowed to operate at all times even if it does not qualify as essential.

The chamber said the ferocity of the second wave highlighted that waiting too long to impose restrictions can result in a surge of cases thus putting immense strain on medical infrastructure. Learning from the first and second coronavirus waves, “FICCI suggests a graded approach to permissible economic activity which balances lives and livelihoods”, it said in a letter to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

It said that there should be surveillance testing on a continuous basis, even if number of cases come down sharply. For example, at points of entry (airport, railway station), people should be randomly tested, FICCI added.

It added that units which have vaccinated at least 60 per cent of the workforce with a single dose can be exempted from restrictions.

Malabar to provide 1 lakh free vaccines

HANS BUSINESS

HYDERABAD: Jewellery retailer Malabar Gold and Diamonds on Wednesday said it has earmarked Rs 8 crore towards providing 1 lakh free Covid-19 vaccines, in association with charitable organisations and hospitals.

“As the country is battling a resurgent wave of Covid-19 cases, vaccination has become extremely important to prevent the pandemic spread. This initiative is the first step in our contribution to the nationwide vaccination drive,” Malabar Group Chairman M P Ahamed said.

He added that the company will use its services and infrastructure to reach out to and vaccinate those who are most vulnerable to the disease.

“We have earmarked Rs 8 crore for the vaccination drive.” The drive will be held at both the company premises and through tie-ups with leading hospitals.

Markets recover from intra-day low to end flat

Sensex falls 85 pts, Nifty up 1 pts; ITC skids post results

MUMBAI

EQUITY indices staged a smart recovery from intra-day lows to close flat for the second straight session on Wednesday as a spurt in market heavyweight RIL offset profit-booking in FMCG, finance and IT counters.

A continuously declining rupee also weighed on investor sentiment, traders said. After dropping to a low of 51,450.58 in late afternoon trade, the BSE Sensex clawed back lost ground to finish 85.40 points or 0.16 per cent down at 51,849.48. The broader NSE Nifty inched up 1.35 points or 0.01 per cent to close at 15,576.20. ITC was the biggest laggard among the Sensex constituents, tumbling 2.88 per cent, a day after the company reported a net profit of Rs 13,389.80 crore for FY21, as against Rs 15,584.56 crore in the previous fiscal. Tech Mahindra,

Axis Bank, Asian Paints, Kotak Bank, TCS, HCL Tech, HDFC and Bharti Airtel were among the other losers, shedding up to 1.20 per cent. On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, PowerGrid, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Auto and Maruti climbed as much as 1.81 per cent. “Ahead of the MPC policy, domestic market continued its volatility with a mixed bias. Selling was witnessed in financials, IT and FMCG stocks but it reduced towards the close of trading,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Weakness across US and Asian markets also added to the negative trend, he noted.

“PSU banks attracted buyers in hopes that the government will soon finalise the list for privatisation. In the policy, RBI is expected to focus on economic growth by maintaining the status quo on policy rates and ensuring liquidity while keeping an eye on the inflationary pressure due to rising commodity prices,” Nair said.



RBI's MPC begins monetary policy meet

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel, Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), began its three-day deliberations on Wednesday amid expectations of a status quo on benchmark rate mainly on account of uncertainty over the impact of the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic.

Moreover, the fears of firming inflation may also refrain the MPC from tinkering with the interest rate in its bi-monthly monetary policy outcome to be announced on Friday. The RBI had kept key interest rates unchanged at the last MPC meeting held in April. The key lending rate, the repo rate, was kept at 4 per cent and the reverse repo rate or the central bank's borrowing rate at 3.35 per cent.

M Govinda Rao, Chief Economic Advisor, Brickwork Ratings said the better-than-expected GDP numbers provide the much-needed comfort to the MPC on the growth outlook. However, with the imposition of partial lockdown-like restrictions to contain the virus spread in several parts of the country, the downside risk on growth recovery has intensified, he said.

Boys & Machines outlet now in Hyd

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

BOYS & Machines, a premier dealership specialising in pre-owned luxury cars, is all set to open a new showroom in Hyderabad. Located in the Banjara Hills, the showroom will be the company's fourth in India and marks its first foray in the lucrative South Indian market.

The showroom spread across 3,500 square feet, will primarily focus on high-end sports luxury cars. Employing 15 trained staff, it will offer customers the whole gamut of services from purchase and sale, financing options, insurance coverage and after-sales support to hassle-free RTO transfers, vehicle customisation and vehicle service assistance.

Founded in 2020, Boys and Machines already has a presence in Delhi NCR, Mumbai and Kolkata, covering North, East and Western regions of India. With demand for pre-owned sports cars only growing, the company is focused on growing its presence across India and beyond the traditional sports car markets of



Mumbai and New Delhi. Its aim is to expand its network to eight cities by the end of 2021.

“I am very proud of how far we have come in such a short time. The new dealership in Hyderabad marks yet another milestone for our young company on its journey of growth. There is a huge and growing appetite for pre-owned luxury sports cars across India and with our presence, we aim to offer a superior experience for customers trading in pre-owned cars. Our brand stands for customer service, quality, credibility and respectability. With the opening of our latest outlet customers in South India will now have a reliable high-end pre-owned sports car dealership they can rely on,” Akash Chaturvedi, CEO, Boys and Machines said.

Global IoT mkt to cross \$1 trn mark by 2024

The data expects this segment to still occupy 73% of the overall IoT market

NEW DELHI

THE global internet of things (IoT) market by revenue will be worth \$1.1 trillion by 2024, with much of the growth coming from wearables, a new report said on Wednesday.

The global IoT market was worth \$622 billion in 2020, up from \$586 billion in 2019, and will grow to reach \$1,077 billion by 2024, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 13 per cent over the period, according to data and analytics company GlobalData. The dominance of

Byju's, Google team up for a free learning platform

NEW DELHI

Education technology firm Byju's on Wednesday announced a partnership with tech giant Google to offer a 'learning solution' for schools. With this, the simplicity,



the enterprise IoT will continue for the foreseeable future. The enterprise IoT dominates the overall IoT market, generating 76 per cent of total revenue in 2020. GlobalData expects

this segment to still occupy 73 per cent of the overall IoT market in 2024. “The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the crucial role the IoT has come to play in our lives. Several

flexibility and security of Google Workspace for Education and Byju's content pedagogy come together on the 'Vidyaartha' platform to aid effective learning at school, according to a statement. This integration of Google

Workspace for Education with Byju's would offer a collaborative and personalised digital platform for classroom organisation, available for free to participating educational institutions, the statement added.

els,” said Jasaswini Biswal, Associate Project Manager for Thematic Research at GlobalData. The Covid-19 driven new digital transformation wave will fuel higher growth across all IoT

markets. “The demand for technologies that can help the workforce get safely back to work is rising and will likely continue to grow. IoT applications such as contact tracing devices and health-monitoring wearables provide critical data to help fight the pandemic,” Biswal added.

According to a GlobalData survey, 48 per cent of respondents showed a positive sentiment towards IoT, and 45 per cent believed IoT would play a critical role in the new business generation over the next three years.

Medical stores see 32% upswing in sales

NEW DELHI: In a new report that shows the pulse of small and micro business across India, OkCredit has revealed that the latest surge in infections has not been as catastrophic for SMBs as last year. The primary reason for this moderate impact has been absence of a national lockdown this year as compared to a harsh lockdown in March 2020 which forced several businesses to shut down.

This year however, States have taken a more relaxed approach towards lockdowns keeping the economy in mind.

According to the study, medical stores witnessed a sharp 32 per cent transaction growth this year in comparison to an 18 per cent decline in the corresponding period of last year.

