

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | SUNDAY | 9 MAY 2021

WEATHER

Max: 36.9°C
Min: 26.8°C
RH: 44%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Rain very likely in evening. Max/min temp. 38/27°C



WORLD | 10

Israel braces for Jerusalem riots



SPORTS | 12

Hamilton grabs 100th pole at Spanish GP

TABLOID

A salute to mom!



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ASTROGUIDE

Plava; Uttarayana
Tithi: Chaitra Bahula Trayodashi till 7.32 pm
Star: Revati till 5.29 pm
Varjyam: Sesha Varjyam till 5.55 am (early hours)
Durmuhurtam: 4.53 pm to 5.44 pm
RahuKalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Ramzan 26, 1442 AH
PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.40 am
Zohar: 12.22 pm
Asar: 4.39 pm
Maghrib: 6.44 pm
Isha: 7.56 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.38 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.46 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 4.16 AM
MOONSET TODAY 4.46 PM

RAMZAN TIMINGS

IFTAR: 6.44 PM (TODAY)
SEHR: 4.18 AM (TOMORROW)



COUNTER POINT



2nd wave? I am more worried about my 2nd dose of vaccine!

SHORT TAKES

Total lockdown in Tamil Nadu

Chennai: With Tamil Nadu witnessing a sharp increase in Covid-19 cases, the government on Saturday announced clamping a two-week "total lockdown" across the state to curb the spread of the pandemic, starting May 10. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said the lockdown was being enforced due to "unavoidable reasons".

Report on Page 9

229 taxmen died due to Covid-19

New Delhi: Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur on Saturday condoled the death of 229 taxmen due to Covid-19, saying the nation will always remain grateful to them. The minister said that as many as 110 officials of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and 119 officials of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) have lost their lives.

Fire on board INS Vikramaditya

Mumbai: There was a minor fire on board India's aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya on Saturday morning, a Navy spokesperson said. The fire was doused and all personnel on board are safe, the spokesperson said. "The duty staff observed smoke emanating from the part of the warship having accommodation for sailors. "The ship's duty personnel acted promptly to fight the fire."

Imports, exports without bonds

New Delhi: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs allowed businesses to import and export goods without furnishing bonds to customs authorities until June-end, a move aimed at ensuring no delay or disruption in EXIM trade due to Covid-19. The CBIC said importers and exporters will have to furnish an undertaking in lieu of the bonds till June 30.

Facelift for Hawa Mahal



Labourers carry out the restoration work on the historical Hawa Mahal in Jaipur on Saturday. — PTI

Himanta believed to have backing of 40 Assam MLAs

MANOJ ANAND and YOJNA GUSAI
GUWAHATI/NEW DELHI, MAY 8

held separate and joint meetings with the two of them, Mr Sarma told the media, "The BJP legislature party meeting will be held tomorrow in Guwahati. Answers to all questions will come out of that meeting."

The state unit of the party is abuzz that around 40 MLAs, including alliance partners, are backing Mr Sarma, who was the first one to meet Mr Nadda. Later, the party top brass held a meeting with Mr Sonowal separately and then with both leaders. Later in the evening, Mr Shah and Mr Sonowal held another round of meeting with Mr Nadda at his residence.

While Mr Sonowal has a "clean image" and is given credit for "pro-incumbency" which helped the BJP to retain power in the state, Mr Sarma is considered an "influential

leader" and the BJP's "trouble shooter" in the North-East.

Both Mr Sonowal and Mr Sarma have considerable clout in the state organisation and their supporters had been lobbying for them.

It is significant that the party had not announced any chief ministerial candidate ahead of the March-April polls. The BJP had said that it would settle the issue after the elections were over. In 2016, the BJP had projected Mr Sonowal as its leader and won, forming its government in the Northeast.

For the 2021 election, however, the BJP, opted against a chief ministerial candidate but still recorded a comfortable win. The party won 60 seats in the 126-member Assembly, while alliance partners AGP won nine and UPPL six.

10 KILLED IN GELATIN BLAST AT MINE IN AP

DC CORRESPONDENT
KADAPA, MAY 8

At least 10 people were killed and many injured after gelatin sticks exploded at a white baryte mine near Tirumala Hill on the outskirts of Mamillapalle village in Kalasapadu mandal on Saturday.

The sticks were taken in a vehicle from Badvel to the mine for blasting to extract ore. A huge blast took place as the sticks were being unloaded from the vehicle. The impact was such that the vehicle was blown up and up to 10 workers were feared dead.

The bodies were completely dismembered and scattered in pieces.

■ Page 5: People nearby feared it was earthquake

After 8 yrs, India, EU to resume trade talks

SRIDHAR
KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

After a gap of eight years, India and the European Union (EU) on Saturday agreed to resume negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and a parallel investment protection agreement. Both sides also agreed on a Connectivity partnership

"covering digital, energy, transport and people-to-people connectivity" that will also include "sustainable joint projects in third countries, most notably in the Africa, Central Asia and Indo-Pacific region".

With a focus on expanding overall cooperation in areas of trade, investment and connectivity.

The connectivity pact will also "promote fast and effective roll-out of 5G on the basis of global standards" and enhance cooperation through "submarine cables and satellite networks".

In a veiled message to China, both sides also underlined their commitment to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific region and discussed action to combat climate change.

These decisions were taken during a virtual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the heads of state or government of all the 27-member states of the bloc

■ PRIME MINISTER
Narendra Modi welcomed the growing convergences between India and the EU on regional and global developments and briefed on developments in 'our own region'

with a focus on expanding overall cooperation in areas of trade, investment and connectivity.

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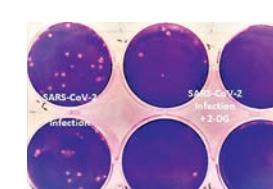
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■ PATHRI
RAJASEKHAR | DC
NELLORE, MAY 8

An oral drug developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been approved by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for emergency use as an adjunct therapy in moderate to severe Covid-19 patients, the defence ministry said on Saturday.

Clinical trial results



The 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) which was found effective against Covid-19

have shown that this molecule helps in faster recovery of hospitalised patients and reduces sup-

plemental oxygen dependence, it was stated.

The drug was developed by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a lab of the DRDO, in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad, based on a chemical chain known as 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG). According to the DRDO, higher proportion of patients treated with 2-DG showed RT-PCR negative conversion in Covid

patients. Being a generic molecule and analogue of glucose, it can be easily produced and made available in plenty in the country, the DRDO stated. It comes in powder form in a sachet, and is taken orally by dissolving it in water. It accumulates in the virus-infected cells and prevents virus growth by stopping viral synthesis and energy production.

■ Page 5: Lab experiments done with CCMB help

12-member team of medical experts to fix allocation methodology

SC's task force to streamline oxygen supply

New Delhi, May 8: The Supreme Court has constituted a 12-member National Task Force of top medical experts to formulate a methodology for allocation of oxygen to states and Union Territories for saving lives of Covid-19 patients and to facilitate a public health response to the pandemic.

A bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah said that the Union Cabinet Secretary will be the convener of the National Task Force and will nominate an officer chairperson and executive director, Narayana Healthcare, Bengaluru; Dr Gagandeep Kang, professor, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu; and J.V. Peter, director, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

The remaining five members are Dr Naresh Trehan, chairperson and MD, Medanta Hospital and Heart Institute, Gurugram; Rahul Pandit, director, critical care medicine and ICU, Fortis Hospital, Mulund (Mumbai) and Kalyan (Maharashtra); and Dr

Saumitra Rawat, chairman & head, department of surgical gastroenterology and liver transplant, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi; Shiv Kumar Sarin of Institute of Liver and Biliary Science (ILBS), Delhi; and Zarir F Udwadia of Hinduja Hospital, Breach Candy Hospital Mumbai.

The top court said, "We expect that leading experts in India shall associate with the force as members and resource persons as it will facilitate a meeting of minds and the formulation of scientific strategies to

deal with an unprecedented human crisis."

"The establishment of this force will enable the decision makers to have inputs that go beyond finding ad hoc solutions to the present problems. The likely future course of the pandemic must be taken into contemplation at the present time," the bench said. It added that this will ensure that projected future requirements can be scientifically mapped in the present and may be modulated in the light of experiences gained. — PTI

No need for +ve test for hosp. admission

VINEETA PANDEY | DC
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

The Union ministry of health and family welfare has revised the national policy for admission of Covid-19 patients to various categories of Covid facilities.

Under the new policy, a positive test report for Covid-19 virus is now not mandatory for admission to a Covid health facility and the government has directed that no patient will be refused services in any hospital on any count.

The directive to states and Union Territories comes following heavy criticism after serious patients were denied medical attention by hospitals owing to several reasons.

India on Saturday recorded over four lakh fresh cases and 4,187 deaths in the last 24 hours. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with the chief ministers of Maharashtra, Himachal, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu on the Covid situation in their states.

SHORT TAKES

YOUTH STABS GIRL,
TRIES TO END LIFE
BY SUICIDEDC CORRESPONDENT
JAGTIAL, MAY 8

A youth, 24, who stalked a girl, stabbed her for saying no to him and slit his throat in a bid to end his life by suicide. The condition of both of them are said to be serious. The incident took place in Jabitapur village of Jagtial rural mandal in Jagtial district on Saturday.

Raj Kumar of Mannegudem village of Medipally mandal, stalked the girl, a resident of Jabitapur. On a number of occasions, she rejected his proposals. On Saturday, when the girl was alone at home, Raj Kumar attacked the girl with a knife and later slit his throat.

Passersby and also locals did not respond or called police or an ambulance. A Blue Colts team passing by immediately shifted both of them to a nearby hospital. The doctors said that the condition of both of them were critical. Police have taken up investigation.

MAN FLEECES
YOUTH WITH JOB
PROMISEDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

West Zone Task Force on Saturday arrested a man for posing as a superintendent with the irrigation department and swindling money from youngsters promising them clerical jobs.

G. Rajendra Prasad alias Krishna Reddy of Ghanpur mandal in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district was a ration dealer addicted to drinking and gambling. He turned into a farmer and failed. He then introduced himself to job aspirants as a superintendent with irrigation department, currently posted in the Telangana Secretariat. He fleeced several lakhs from four aspirants hailing from Wanaparthi, Parakal, Begumpet and Uppal.

Following complaints Prasad was arrested in January. After his release from judicial custody, he allegedly collected ₹6.5 lakh from a youngster of SR Nagar, promising a job as junior assistant in irrigation department.

PANEL TO PROBE
CHARGES AGAINST
MALLA REDDYHARLEEN MINOCHA | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Saturday set up a three-member team to inspect the park at Annojiguda where a temple is being built in violation of Supreme Court rulings and High Court orders.

The team consisting Ravi Kumar, revenue divisional officer, A. Suresh, municipal commissioner and Vijay Laxmi, tahsildar of Ghatkesar, visited the site and measured the area of the park used for the temple. The committee will submit a report to the government, sources said.

A report 'Minister defies HC order to encroach public park' published in these columns on Saturday highlighted the support extended by labour minister Ch Malla Reddy to a section of colony residents to build a temple in the public park.

Reacting to the report, the minister said as the MLA of the area, he only tried to help people and settle the dispute between the two communities. "I always try to help the underprivileged in the school," he said and referred to his efforts to get the property tax of the school reduced.

Malla Reddy said he spoke to Anita Sen and Bishop Mathew of the school to request them to agree to a compromise and that he spoke to them in the presence of the district collector. "It has been 18 months since I visited the area," he said dismissing their allegations of intimidating the school staff.

However, Anita Sen, wife of former Director-General of Police Swaranji Sen, told this newspaper that contrary to the minister's claims, the GHMC had actually enhanced the property tax for Jesus Way High School from Rs 69,000 over the past several years to Rs 6 lakh.

Bishop Mathew said that the construction was still going on and the school premises got damaged due to the activity in the adjoining park. "The GHMC officials who do not allow us to repair boundary walls that are beginning to crack up do not stop the Minister's followers from constructing temple," he added.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

Age is just a number. Proving this, a group of senior citizens in Malkajgiri area is helping people of lesser Gods to get vaccinated while others of their ilk are trying to get help for themselves for inoculation.

When these people approached Asha, who runs a makeshift jowar roti counter, with an offer to get her vaccinated, she was not sure what all that meant. But, she, just as Bhagyamma, who works as a maid at some homes in the area, is among several underprivileged women who got vaccinated against the Coronavirus, thanks to the efforts of these senior citizens.

They have taken upon themselves the responsibility of getting the people without access to the vaccination process inoculated, by way of booking slots, and finding where they can get their vaccine shots. In the process, these good Samaritans are not only educating the less privileged about the vaccination process, but also about the disease. For those who do not have their own transport, this



Sai Priya, an interior designer, is busy helping underprivileged people with dry groceries and transportation.

group of volunteers has also been providing transport to vaccination centres and back. They also provide dry rations to a few, since they began these activities this April.

The Good Samaritans take up the responsibility to wipe out Coronavirus when others are

debating on the potency and side effects of the vaccine.

Geeta Dendukuri, a senior citizen of Kundanbagh, Begumpet, along with a few residents in the area, has taken up the task of helping maids in that locality and those who work in unorganised sectors.

"A thought occurred to me, how these people will be able to book online slots for vaccination. So, we wanted to help them out. We registered a few of them and made sure that they got the vaccine shot."

General secretary of a residential welfare committee at Malkajgiri, B T Srinivasan, said, "Some of us may be comfortably living in our apartments or houses but there are so many people out there who may not even know about Covid vaccine and whom to approach for getting vaccinated. As we are more privileged than them, we came forward to help them out."

He added, "Till now this helping group has been able to get close to 100 people vaccinated. However, for more than a week, the web site is not responding."

Srinivasan also requested the other citizens, to come forward and help such people around them to learn about Covid vaccination status and guide them to get vaccinated."

Sai Priya, an interior designer by profession, is also busy helping underprivileged people with dry groceries as well as arranging transportation for them to get the jab.

A life devoted to destitutes

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 7

The second wave of Covid-19 has literally shaken the country, with the virus causing more deaths, more miseries and more melancholies. While only a few privileged lots enjoy the comforts they need in times of pandemic, the larger section of society, particularly the poor and the down-trodden, do not have any takers.

Overwhelmed by the plight of over 20,000 slum-dwellers at Rasoolpura in Begumpet, a local resident Nayem Pasha has decided to do his mite by supplying them essentials and medicines to help them overcome the nemesis.

Pasha, who is the founder secretary of Kriya Sangh Society, started distributing these to those in need. Speaking to this newspaper, Pasha said, "We are going from house to house in the slum, and are supporting them by giving them the required material.

We have distributed food grains, medicines and other materials they require. We began this drive roughly a month ago."



Nayem Pasha supplies essentials and medicine to the needy in Rasoolpura.

The Sangh has a team of volunteers who go around the slum and identify those people affected with Covid-19 or are in the high-risk group. For stocks of grains and medicines, they have tied up with other organisations, which assist in mobilising resources for distribution. "There are 70-80 volunteers going out every day to deliver food and medicines to those who require them. Our volunteers go out and supply medicines and arrange for telephonic consultation with medical practitioners, so that the people do not face a dearth of medical attention," he said. There are people who have chronic diseases, some of them are suffering from unknown diseases in the slum. Pasha said, "Many people living in the slum are daily-wage earners, some of whom have lost their livelihoods due to the pandemic. In a bid to help them sustain their lives, we are helping them out."



Manya, with her sister and four friends, started a free food delivery service for Covid-19 patients.

Care in times of pandemic

NAVEEN KUMAR | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

Unlike others of her ilk, 22-year-old Manya Mitra is not worried about her own safety and well-being in times of pandemic. She, along with her sister and four other friends, is doing her best to provide food to the needy who are suffering from Covid-19, making her family members and neighbours proud.

A resident of Jubilee Hills, Manya, with her sister and four friends, started a free food delivery service for Covid-19 patients, specifically catering to daily-wage workers and those who cannot afford meals.

Manya Mitra and her friends, who are also students and dropouts, ran the service called 'free kitchen' in 2020 during the first wave of pandemic but only in and around Jubilee Hills area. "We stopped the service when cases declined but looking at the current situation, we decided to get back and deliver food across Hyderabad," Manya said. "My whole family was tested positive and my father is on a ventilator. Manya

Mitra's group has been providing them with meals twice a day for the last eight to nine days," said Anam, a student who stays with three others at a flat in Secunderabad. "The situation is very bad. We are unable to even get up from the bed, let alone prepare food. A common friend told me about Manya's group and I opted for two meals a day. We have been getting healthy food delivered to us every day for more than a week now," said Anam.

Speaking about how they make sure whether the person is one who cannot afford to cook or have access to food, Manya said they initially asked them to share the Covid positive details and then asked them about their occupation.

"We first get requests from our Instagram account and WhatsApp and then we verify their details by asking their details. This is because last year, we had a few IT professionals seeking help though they could afford it through other means. We want to cater to those who are in dire need. My sister, friends and I together cook, pack and deliver parcels," she said.

Ranjith, one of richest in LS poll fray

FROM PAGE 1

Ranjith Reddy, a near life-long partner of Rajendar, is a highly successful entrepreneur and was one of the richest candidates in the Lok Sabha fray in the 2019 elections. He claimed to have been close to the party since its inception but in the capacity of a backroom supporter. He beat the outsider tag to win a closely fought election in Chevella, one of the most diverse constituencies in the country, on debut.

The party knows the conflict for Ranjith, who must surely feel cornered and concerned

unwittingly be under gaze and several uncomfortable truths will spill out into the public domain," another senior TRS leader explained.

"Everyone knows he is an Etala loyalist, but he has to maintain a facade of putting the party ahead of that connection to continue as an MP for now."

Ranjith Reddy has not had a spectacular career since his win, having neither made a name for himself in Parliament with his interventions or questions for a debutant MP, and caused severe consternation when he put up a botched

defence of the Chief Minister and TRS supremo on national TV prime time.

Reacting to the report, the minister said as the MLA of the area, he only tried to help people and settle the dispute between the two communities. "I always try to help the underprivileged in the school," he said and referred to his efforts to get the property tax of the school reduced.

Ranjith Reddy said he spoke to Anita Sen and Bishop Mathew of the school to request them to agree to a compromise and that he spoke to them in the presence of the district collector. "It has been 18 months since I visited the area," he said dismissing their allegations of intimidating the school staff.

However, Anita Sen, wife of former Director-General of Police Swaranji Sen, told this newspaper that contrary to the minister's claims, the GHMC had actually enhanced the property tax for Jesus Way High School from Rs 69,000 over the past several years to Rs 6 lakh.

Bishop Mathew said that the construction was still going on and the school premises got damaged due to the activity in the adjoining park. "The GHMC officials who do not allow us to repair boundary walls that are beginning to crack up do not stop the Minister's followers from constructing temple," he added.

defence of the Chief Minister and TRS supremo on national TV prime time.

"Most people in the party suspect that sooner than later, Ranjith will covertly, if not overtly, support Etala. The party is currently keeping a tight watch. But, in the end, will he choose business, friendship and politics over the party or not will decide his eventual fate," the party source revealed.

Ranjith Reddy did not respond to questions and requests for his comment on the issue. That may be his strategy for now — silence and feigning ignorance.

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The arrest comes amid the sacking of minister Etala Rajendar from the Cabinet, following allegations of encroaching on government land. The arrest was made after a case was lodged by Gattu Vaman Rao's father Gattu Kishan Rao, suspecting Madhukar's role in the murder case. Reportedly receiving information that the government issued orders to probe his role in the murders case from a senior police official in Hyderabad,

Madhukar disappeared on April 30, just when Rajendar began facing allegations of encroaching of assigned land parcels in Achampet and Kadimpet in Medak district. The police suspect that Madhukar went through states like Maharashtra, Kerala and Chhattisgarh before landing up in Andhra Pradesh leaving his gunmen and hiring private vehicles. He changed four vehicles from the time he went missing and used a separate mobile phone, police said. After learning

that Madhukar was near Rajahmundry and Bhimavaram of the neighbouring state, the Task Force police of Ramagundam commissionate, rushed to West Godavari and nabbed Madhukar who was found in a lodge at Bhimavaram.

Meanwhile, for the past few days, there were reports on social media that ₹2 crore was given to a gang for killing the High Court advocate couple. It is said that the police found that the money was withdrawn from the bank account of Putta Lingamma Charitable Trust, he had gathered

crores of rupees. All activities of the trust has been taken care of by his nephew Bittu Srinu.

There are also other allegations about Madhukar's role in the lock-up death of Sheelam Rangaiah in Manthani which created a sensation in the region.

The police has started investigation on why Madhukar went missing, why he withdrew ₹2 crore and where he spent that money and his role in the advocate couple murder case.

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Madhukar before the murder, and handed over to the gang that murdered the couple. Apart from that, the car used by one of the prime accused, Bittu Srinu, a nephew of Madhukar, belongs to Madhukar. There are allegations that Madhukar, right from the time he was elected MLA from Manthani, had indulged in several illegal activities. It was learnt that in the name of Putta Lingamma Charitable Trust, he had gathered

INTERNATIONAL

NURSING DAY

Ladies with lamps...
and hearts of angelsSANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

As Swaroopa Rani, head nurse at Niloufer Hospital, breathed her last fighting Covid-19 on Friday night, the total number of nurses who died of the pandemic in Telangana state has reached nine. Swaroopa was due for her retirement at the end of the month. These incidents throw light to the plight of millions of nurses worldwide who run the risk of succumbing to the killer virus, yet work with utmost dedication.

Srinivasan also requested the other citizens, to come forward and help such people around them to learn about Covid vaccination status and guide them to get vaccinated."

He added, "Till now this helping group has been able to get close to 100 people vaccinated. However, for more than a week, the web site is not responding."

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IN BRIEF

6 wild animals adopted from zoo

Hyderabad: At least six animals at the Nehru Zoo Park were adopted on Saturday by five individuals. In an attempt to conserve wild animals, a giant tortoise, a tiger, two ostrich, a macaw and five small birds, and a nocturnal animal were adopted for one year each. The individuals also received ₹3 lakh from the zoo.

REACH OUT TO NEEDY: GOV. TO RED CROSS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Saturday said there was an urgent need to promote public education and ensure Covid-appropriate behaviour to contain the spread of the pandemic.

"Besides ensuring strict adherence to the preventive norms by the people for which we need to have collective resolve, we must also intensify our service activities to reach out to the needy," she said.

The Governor was virtually interacting with the functionaries of the Indian Red Cross Society's Telangana state unit and district units on the occasion of the World Red Cross Day.

She appreciated the IRCS activities in promoting blood donations, ensuring regular blood transfusion to Thalassemia patients and other services during natural calamities.

"You all have helped thousands of people during the first wave of the pandemic. It is high time that we intensify our activities to meet the growing demands during this deadly second wave of the pandemic," she added.

Dr Soundararajan also called for more volunteers for Red Cross, Youth Red Cross and Junior Red Cross to prepare the torchbearers of the future service.

The Governor took part in the virtual interaction programme from Raj Niwas, Puducherry, where she is holding an additional charge as the Lt. Governor.

100 COVID BEDS FOR GOLCONDA AREA HOSPITAL

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

The Golconda Area Hospital will get at least 100 Covid-19 beds with oxygen supply along with adequate number of beds for maternity and other emergency purposes. This will be possible because a new floor is being added where 120 beds will be made available within a month, work for which is already underway.

This was stated when Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar along with senior health and GHMC officials visited the hospital to take stock of the Covid vaccination drive for second dosage.

People at the hospital expressed satisfaction with the process. They said that it took 15 minutes, and with 30 minutes of observation time, the process was hassle-free.

The Chief Secretary also inspected the wards and various facilities, including oxygen supply at the hospital.

Those who have taken their first dose and have completed four weeks in the case of Covaxin, and six weeks for Covishield can go to any government vaccination centre from May 10 to 12 for their second dose.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

The first day of delivery of the second dose of Covid-19 vaccines in the state witnessed chaotic scenes at nearly all the vaccination centres with people lining up for spot registrations and getting the shots.

However, since many had also booked their slots previously for Saturday using the Cowin portal, before the health department's announcement of Friday restricting vaccination till May 12 only to those waiting to get their second dose, there was a lot of confusion at many centres with people who pre-booked their slots also turning up and demanding that they get the vaccination.

At most vaccination centres, all run by the govern-

After recovery, Covid patients need ICU time

Experts point to disease intensifying rapidly, causing death

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

The outlook for Covid-19 patients, needing treatment in Intensive Care Units (ICUs), does not appear bright with doctors reporting that more and more such patients are requiring continued ICU support even after recovering from Covid-19.

This could well mean that the longer turnaround times for recovery among Covid-19 patients, has not just filled up practically every Covid ICU bed in the state, but also non-Covid ICU beds – with recovered Covid patients.

Even more worrisome is an increasing, but unmet demand for such beds from those afflicted with Covid-19, and deteriorating conditions requiring treatment in the ICUs, according to several senior doctors that this news-paper spoke with.

As on Saturday at 9 pm, as per the live bed availability status posted by the state health department on its website, 28,121 Covid beds — in private and government hospitals — were occupied by patients. Of these total beds in use, patients using ICU/CPAP, and oxygen beds outstripped those occupying regular beds by four to one.

"Though only very few Covid patients required ICU and critical care during the first wave, this time round, we are seeing more patients needing such attention. They are taking longer to recover. Even after that we are having to find a place in the non-Covid ICUs for them as we are finding that the lungs of many of the patients are severely damaged," Dr K. Subba Reddy, chairperson of the Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine, said.

On an average, 5 per cent of Covid-19 patients who need serious attention in hospitals, end up in ICUs, according to health department officials. If their observations are right, of the 49,025 new Covid-19 cases discovered since May 1 in the state, around 2,450 would require ICU beds.

Typically, admission to hospitals for Covid-19 patients during the second wave is occurring a few days after they are found positive. "Some patients are appearing near normal but with low oxygen levels and in less than 24 hours, losing their lives. The virus this time is destroying the lungs much more," Dr Subba Reddy said.

As of Saturday evening, according to the health department, all the 619 ICU beds in Gandhi Hospital, 28 in Chest Hospital, 50 in King Koti Hospital, and 137 in Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences were full. Similar was the case with private hospitals with Covid wards.

Since patients in ICUs are taking longer to recover and since it is not possible to create additional ICU capacities overnight or turn every ICU bed into a Covid bed, the outlook for patients requiring this level of care may not be bright.

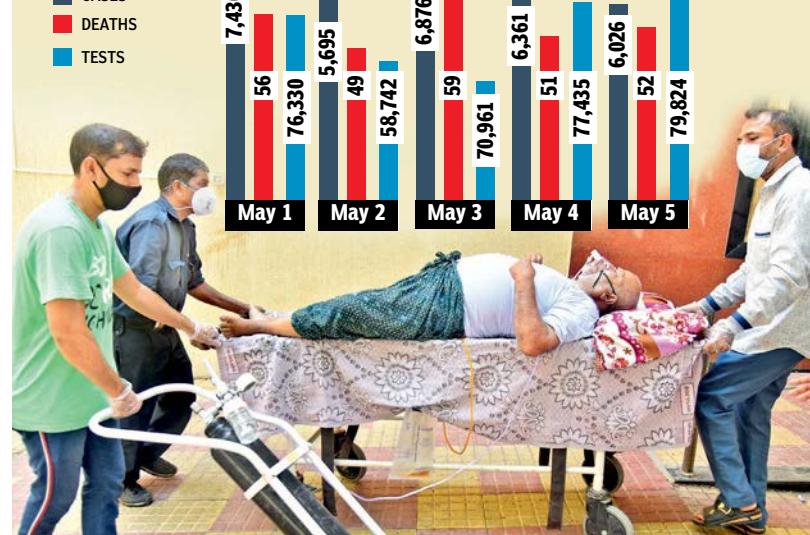


Covid-19 patients (top and below) arrive with oxygen support and wait for a long while before getting admission at the King Koti Hospital.
— S. SURENDER REDDY

DOWNTWARD TREND ON TRACK IN TS

CASES
DEATHS
TESTS

Day	Beds occupied	ICU/CPAP	Oxygen	Regular
May 8	28,121	8282	14,054	5,785
May 6	27,598	8161	13,623	5,814



TS is an 'island of calm' as neighbours struggle

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

Surrounded by states reporting continuing surges in Covid-19 cases, Telangana, defying odds, yet again reported one more day of a dip in cases on Saturday. The health department said the state recorded 5,186 new cases of Covid on Saturday. It also reported a dip in deaths from the disease, saying 38 people lost their lives to Covid the same day.

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number every day for some time now. During the same period, daily cases in Telangana state have been on a downward trend, something the government said it was expecting to happen.

The total deaths in the state on Saturday stood at 2,704, and total cases neared the five lakh mark with 4,92,385 reported so far.

The department said 7,994 people were deemed to have recovered from the disease taking their number so far to 42,21,219, while the number of active cases stood at 68,462.

The GHMC area reported the highest daily cases at 904, followed by 399 in Ranga Reddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri with 366, and Warangal Urban with 231 cases.



People ignore Covid-19 norms as they crowd the counter at a liquor store on Saturday night.

— DC

Chaos hits city Covid vax centres

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

The first day of delivery of the second dose of Covid-19 vaccines in the state witnessed chaotic scenes at nearly all the vaccination centres with people lining up for spot registrations and getting the shots.

However, since many had also booked their slots previously for Saturday using the Cowin portal, before the health department's announcement of Friday restricting vaccination till May 12 only to those waiting to get their second dose, there was a lot of confusion at many centres with people who pre-booked their slots also turning up and demanding that they get the vaccination.

At most vaccination centres, all run by the govern-



Senior citizens wait in a queue for the Covid-19 vaccination at Fever Hospital at Nallakunta, Hyderabad, on Saturday.

ment, there were no stocks of Covaxin and people looking to get their second Covaxin shot had to leave disappointed.

"We have no idea till we get the vaccine vials whether it is Covishield or Covaxin. And people too do not have any way of finding out which centre has which vaccine," a doctor, in charge of a vaccination centre in the city, said.

It may be recalled that the vaccination drive till May 12 will be restricted to only those seeking their second dose. But the health department did not say how such people can find out where they would get which brand of vaccine.

A person, who received one brand of vaccine, cannot take any other product as a second shot. It has to be the same one.



TRS MLC K. Kavitha inaugurates the Covid isolation centre set up by the Calvary Temple in association with Ankura Hospital and Theresa Hospital.

Calvary Temple opens up for Covid isolation centre

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

In view of the rising Covid-19 cases, the Calvary Temple, founded by Brother Satish, has opened its premises for the treatment of Covid patients who come from underprivileged backgrounds.

Addressing the media on the occasion, Kavitha, the former member of Parliament from Nizamabad congratulated and thanked Brother Satish, Ankura Hospital and Theresa Hospital.

The Calvary Temple Covid isolation centre has been developed in association with Ankura Hospital and Theresa Hospital. This 300-bed facility has 50 oxygen beds and 250 normal beds with a staff of over 100

to look after the patients.

The facility has been opened for the underprivileged section of society and offers free treatment, medicine and food to Covid positive patients from Monday.

Kavitha took to Twitter to congratulate Brother Satish, Calvary Temple, Ankura Hospital, and Theresa Hospital. She tweeted, "Congratulating Brother Satish of Calvary Temple who in association with Ankura Hospital and Theresa Hospital have opened 300 bed Covid Isolation Centre for needy people in the premises of Calvary Temple. #COVID19" (sic).

Covid isolation unit for police officers

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

A 46-year-old man was nabbed by the Central Zone Task Force for selling remdesivir injection vials in the black market at high prices on Saturday. Officials seized two vials from his possession.

The accused, Venu Madhavan, a private company employee, illegally procured the injections from his sources and were selling them in the black market for ₹35,000 per injection to customers without valid documents, police said.

The police, based on a tip-off, nabbed the accused on Sunday and handed him over to the Ramgopalpet police for further investigation.

Meanwhile, the Special Operations Teams of Rachakonda police nabbed K. Jashwanth Kumar, 29, a real estate agent, who was found in possession of three illegally procured remdesivir injection vials.

His associate, one Jessy, who works as a nurse at a hospital in Kondapur, was reportedly absconding. "Jashwanth was procuring the injection via Jessy, who has contacts with distributors and planned to sell it in the blackmarket. On Saturday evening, as they were waiting to meet buyers, the SOT police nabbed them and handed them over to the Saroor Nagar police for further investigation," said the police.

Several cases of illegal sale of the drug has come to light during the second wave of the pandemic.

time and shifted if required to a hospital," an official said adding that the facility will ensure that police officers suffering from Covid with mild symptoms are monitored 24x7.

Meanwhile, Hyderabad police commissioner Anjani Kumar inaugurated a dedicated Covid support services centre for police officers

"This centre will act as the single point of contact for police personnel affected by Covid-19. The services include access to tele consultation with doctors, transportation, emergency bed provisioning and other services," he said. Every officer who tests positive will get a special Covid care kit.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
ORDNANCE FACTORY HOSPITAL MEDAK
P.O: YEDDUMAILARAM
SANGAREDDY DISTRICT (T.S)
PIN CODE: 502 205**

HIRING OF MBBS PROFESSIONALS

Ordnance Factory Hospital Medak, Yeddumailaram intends to hire services of TWO Hired Medical Professionals on contractual basis for smooth running of Hospital for a term of 3 months. So a panel will be prepared from a walk-in-interview which will be valid for 6 months. The remuneration will be paid @ Rs. 75,000/- per month or part thereof basis on all working days. Doctors will be needed, required to stay in campus due to exigency of work and will be given suitable accommodation.

The basic qualification required for the above post is M.B.B.S. Degree from any M.C.I Recognized Medical College of India only and he/she should be Registered with any State/Central Medical Council. The terms and conditions of the contract may be enquired from Ordnance Factory Hospital, Yeddumailaram (Telephone No. 040-23283480).

Interested candidates may attend the walk-in-interview with all originals and a set of attested copies of the requisite documents (MBBS Degree, Registrations certificate, chancery certificate /marksheets and Xth, XIth certificates etc.,) to be handed over at Ordnance Factory Hospital Office, Yeddumailaram between 14:30 hrs to 17:00 hrs on 17-05-2021.

Sd/- Sr. Spcl. Medical Officer -I/C
For General Manager
OFMK Hospital, Yeddumailaram.

(CA-3606)

Indian Institute of Packaging
An autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India
Announces Admission Notice for

Post Graduate Diploma in Packaging (PGDP)
(Recognized by JNTUH, Kukatpally, Hyderabad)
37th Batch (2021 - 2023)

Job Prospects
Excellent Job Opportunities in FMCG Industries including Food & Pharma MNCs and Other Industries in India and Overseas. Over 3,500 Alumni already working in renowned Industries in India and Abroad.

Last date to Apply
11-06-2021

Application form can be obtained from IIP - Hyderabad on payment of Rs. 500/- through Cash/DD. Application can also be downloaded from www.jntuh.ac.in. Candidates Can also apply online through iip-in.com

Date of Entrance
Exam 18-06-2021

For further details please contact:
Lux-3, Industrial Estate, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad - 500018.
Ph: +91 40 23814321, Mobile: 8919743063. Website: www.iip-in.com
E-mail: iiphyd@iip-in.com, iiphydinfo@iip-in.com

Dr. Gaurav Madhu, Joint Director & Regional Head. Mob: 8146660572

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Etala likely to float new party if axed

Keeps everyone guessing about his next move

IREDDY SRINIVAS
REDDY / DC
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

Former minister Etala Rajendar is likely to take some more time before deciding on resigning from the Assembly. Indications are that he may float a new party if the TRS leadership sacks him from the party after receiving a report from the committee of IAS officers.

Meanwhile, several leaders including former MP Konda Vishweswar Reddy and former MLA Enugu Ravinder Reddy met Etala and expressed their support and sympathy.

Sources said that the two leaders who met Etala have no immediate plans for a political party. They will await the action that is likely to be

taken by party chief, K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Close aides of Etala stated that the two senior leaders tried to impress upon him not to take any hasty decision with regard to resigning from the party and Assembly. And they also informed him that both are trying to convince the Chief Minister for a re-think on action against Etala, who is keeping his cards close to his chest.

Rajendar is suspecting that some of the leaders who were expressing their support over phone or in person, could be informers planted by the party leadership to keep it posted about his future course of action. This reportedly is the reason Rajendar is not discussing his plans.

Sources said that if the party sacks him then he

can resign as MLA. In case he does not, then the party can appeal to the Speaker for action against Etala, on the grounds that he had 'flouted' the party constitution.

Some Congress leaders maintain good relations with Rajendar and they have urged him to Congress in case TRS sacks him. Party working president and MP, A. Revanth Reddy has already him. Rajender sent messages to several leaders, including Prof Kodanda Ram, Teemmar Mallama, Cheruku Sudhakar and others to support him if by-elections happen.

The party may field Planning Commission vice-chairman and former MP, B. Vinod Kumar for Huzurabad by-poll if it is necessitated.

TRS leaders shocked after former MLA meets Etala

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, MAY 8

TRS founder-member and former Yellareddy MLA, E. Ravinder Reddy met former minister Etala Rajendar in Hyderabad. This has shocked party leaders across the undivided Nizamabad district.

Ravinder Reddy is a three-time MLA from Yellareddy Assembly constituency and was sidelined after his defeat in the 2018 elections. Interestingly, Ravinder

Reddy is a close associate of finance minister T. Harish Rao. On his meeting with Rajendar, Ravinder Reddy said that they had fought together for Telangana statehood. The meeting was a cordial one, he clarified and that there was no political agenda. Ravinder Reddy joined TRS after its inception and was elected as MLA in 2004, 2009 and 2014 elections from Yellareddy Assembly constituency. Congress MLA J. Surender, who defeated

him, has since joined TRS. The ruling party is divided into two groups in the constituency as second rung leaders and cadre work separately with the two leaders. Reportedly, the TRS high command did not respond as rumours flared up that Ravinder Reddy may join BJP.

Against this background, his meeting with Rajendar and the possible political significance is a hot topic among ruling party circles in Nizamabad district.

They said that they should seek clarification from Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on how he intends to handle the precarious Covid situation after taking over the health portfolio.

They said that it was a good opportunity to attack the state government's failure in keeping track of land-grabbers in the garb of ministers. They said that the leadership feels that the Etala episode was purely a TRS issue. But two former ministers stated that the party unit needs to respond as it was not just a TRS internal subject.

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should seek clarification from Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on how he intends to handle the precarious Covid situation after taking over the health portfolio.

They said that it was a good opportunity to attack the state government's failure in keeping track of land-grabbers in the garb of ministers.

BJP old-timers believe that the party should not let go the advantage this time.

BJP's silence over Etala shocks cadre

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

The BJP's state unit has been maintaining a silence on the Etala Rajendar issue. Only once did state unit chief Bandi Sanjay react whereupon he made allegations against several ministers and their involvement in similar excesses. No other BJP leader has made any comment.

It was the Congress that raked up the Devarayamjal endowment land issue and held a protest at minister Ch. Malla Reddy's hospital, which allegedly has come up on lake lands.

The silence of the BJP leadership is being questioned by its own party leaders.

Sources said that the leadership feels that the Etala episode was purely a TRS issue. But two former ministers stated that the party unit needs to respond as it was not just a TRS internal subject.

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BJP old-timers believe that the party should not let go the advantage this time.

Uttam urges cadre to help patients

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 8

State Congress president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy told the party cadre to participate in programmes to help Covid-19 patients across the state. As per the directions of AICC president Sonia Gandhi and former president Rahul Gandhi, party workers should help Covid-19 patients in their respective areas.

The TPCC president also wrote a letter to leaders to take part in programmes aimed at helping Covid patients in their village, mandal, constituency and district.

He alleged that the holding of elections had increased the Covid cases leading to deaths in the country.

He objected to the Chief Secretary saying that Covid-19 cases were low, instead of admitting that more cases were being reported.

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All the Land measuring Ac. 10-20 gts, Comprising of Ac. 03-21 gts in Sy. No. 273/1 and Ac. 06-33 gts in Sy. No. 272/1, situated at Puppalguda Village, Gandipet Mandal (erstwhile Rajendernagar Mandal), Ranga Reddy District, Telangana State as shown and describe in the Schedule hereunder and herein after refer to as the "Schedule Property". With regard to the Schedule Property, one Writ Petition is also pending, vide WP No. 36396/2017, before the Hon'ble High Court of Telangana. Therefore, it is hereby informing to the General Public not to enter any transactions like Sale, Acquisition, GPA, etc with M/s. BMR Constructions Ltd., or M/s. Phoenix Global Spaces Pvt. Ltd. with regarding to the below mentioned Schedule Property.

If any transactions will take place, my Client is not responsible and such transaction will become null and void not binding on my Client. My Client also reserved in right to file all the Criminal & Civil Proceedings against the persons, who are parties to that illegal transactions.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the Land measuring Ac. 10-20 gts, Comprising of Ac. 03-21 gts in Sy. No. 273/1 and Ac. 06-33 gts in Sy. No. 272/1, situated at Puppalguda Village, Gandipet Mandal (erstwhile Rajendernagar Mandal), Ranga Reddy District, Telangana State detailed below: North: Part of Sy.No.272 & 273, South: Pipeline Road, East : Part of Sy. No.273/1 & 274, West: ORR Express Road and Part of Sy. No. 271.

Y. BALAJI,

B. RAJESHWAR, Advocates,

Office: 13-6-955, Banjewadi, Karwan,

Hyderabad, Cell: 9849311458

CS: ENSURE SPEEDY TRANSPORT OF O2

Hyderabad: Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar directed all the concerned officials to work with coordination to ensure uninterrupted and speedy Transportation of Medical Oxygen Tankers.

BHOG / ANTIM ARDAS

in the divine presence of Sri Satguru Uday Singh ji

SARDAR BUTA SINGH KANWAL
S/o Late BIBI SWARAN KAUR & S. JOGINDER SINGH KANWAL
Left for heavenly abode on 29th April 2021 at Hyd
Bhog / Antim Ardas shall be held Live from bangalore on 9th May 2021, 2 pm - 3 pm
www.sribainashib.com.youtube.com/sribainashib
Deeply Mourned by Namdhari Surat Singh Malhotra & Family
Namdhari Events N Promotions (P) Ltd.
Namdhari Tent House & Decorators (A2122/D00008)

10th DAY CEREMONY

PASULA MOHAN RAO
Coconut Merchant
DOB: 14.11.1945 DOD: 30.04.2021
WE MISS U
From: Sons - Son-in-laws
Grand Sons & Grand Daughters
All Pasula Family Members
10th Day ceremony on 09.05.2021 at our Residence, Kasturi Nilayam, Malkajgiri, Sec. Bad.

(B2122/D00020)

SAD DEMISE

SHAIK CHAND
(ex Ceat Tyres employee)
DOB: 01/06/1956 DOD: 07/05/2021
"Your life was love and labour, your love for your family true, you did your best for all of us, we will always remember you."
Inserted by : Family Members
Mobile Number: 8247377173

SHRADHANJALI

Smt.A. Durga Devi
W/o Late A.K. Menon
D.O.B:16-4-2021
Poohai will be held at my residence today.

A mother, an epitome of inspiration, she has left behind a rich treasure of memories to cherish and honor. Always on our mind, forever in our heart.
Inserted By:
Son's: Anil, Prem, Daughter-in-Law's: Priya, Bindu

(S/2122/D00154)

In Loving Memory of Mavayya

BVS AMATYA
DOB: 27-04-2021 Meteorologist (Rtd.) India Meteorological Department (IMD) Government of India, Hyderabad.
Inserted by : Niece : Damaru Lakshmi Lavanya Chiruvolu Rama Devi

SAD DEMISE

Mr. Mainak Parekh
Gone But Not Forgotten
Harish Gupta (IPS, Addl DGP) & Seema Gupta

10th DAY CEREMONY

GANDHAM SAROJINI (80 Yrs)
Passed away on 30.04.2021
MAY SHE REST IN PEACE.
10th Day ceremony at our residence, Kawediguda.
Fondly remembered by: Sons, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Daughters-in-law and Great Grand Children, Near & Dear

9348949317

MEMORIAL SERVICE

T. VIJAYA SHANTHA KUMARI (W/o Mr. T. SRINIVAS)
DOB: 24-02-1968 DOD: 01-05-2021
On 9th May 2021 at 4:00 pm (IST) ON ZOOM MEETING
Inserted by Family Members Ph: 9848271992

OBITUARY

BOYINI RAMAKRISHNA RAO (Advocate)
D.O.B: 30-4-2021
10th Day Karma at 16 Vahini Nagar, Secunderabad.
Mourned By: Near & Dear.
Ph: 9848204631

(S/2122/D00018)

BHOG / ANTIM ARDAS

in the divine presence of Sri Satguru Uday Singh ji

SARDAR BUTA SINGH KANWAL
S/o Late BIBI SWARAN KAUR & S. JOGINDER SINGH KANWAL
Left for heavenly abode on 29th April 2021 at Hyd
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www.sribainashib.com.youtube.com/sribainashib
Deeply Mourned by Nirmal Kumar (Wife) Son in Law Balwant & Sweety Daughters & Son in Law & Rohit Jasmeet & Simranpreet, Balwant & Maninder Grandsons & Grand Daughters

(A2122/D00009)

OBITUARY



Mr. SANJAY KAPOOR
The Past Presidents, Managing Committee, Members and Staff of Hyderabad Management Association, deeply regret to inform the demise of Mr. Sanjay Kapoor, President, HMA, on 8th May 2021 in Hyderabad.

SAD DEMISE

Mr. Mainak Parekh
Gone But Not Forgotten
Rajan - Dr.Kiran Soni & Family

OBITUARY

Alhaj Syed Habeebuddin
S/o. Syed Basheeruddin Retd. Saudi Aramco Employee
D.O.B: 17-04-2021
The funeral services has been completed after Namaz-e-Asar at Qabristan Takiya Moghal Faqeer, Shamsher Gunj, Hyd. Cont: 6303579311

11th Day Ceremony

Mr. R.I. Patrick (Rtd Ry Officer)
D.O.B: 21.12.1940 D.O.D: 29.04.2021
Inserted by: Wife, Sons, Daughter-in-laws, Daughter, Son-in-law, Grand Children, Great Grand Children. Ph: 880104724, 8125040524, 9392510972, 9133425907

In Loving Memory

SRI G. SHANTHA BAI GHAWALKAR
DOB: 5th Oct 1946 DOD: 2nd May 2021
W/o Late Sh. Ashoka Ghawalkar and our beloved Mother has left us in her heavenly abode in Chennai last week

In grief:
Sanjay Kumar - Sanjitha Ghawalkar
Manjunath - Sanjitha Ghawalkar
Viswanath - Deepali - Abhishek
Sri Adithiyah - Shravishi Ghawalkar
(Grand Children) 7702534516, 8978667666

OBITUARY

Mr. K. SATO SWAMY MUDIRAJ (Babbanna)
Proprietor HOTEL PADMINI
Our beloved husband passed away on 09-05-2021
10th Day ceremony will be held at Hotel Padmini, Clock Tower @11.00am, Lunch Follows

OBITUARY

M. LAKSHMI REDDY
Rtd. Joint Director of Agriculture
DOB: 01.07.1924 DOD: 31.01.2017
M. LAKSHMI NARAYANAMMA
DOB: 22.02.1928 DOD: 08.05.2015
Your memories are always in our hearts forever

M

CLASSIFIEDS

THREE & MORE

WEST MARREDPALLY, Lepakshi Colony, Rukmini Building, 3 Bedroom Semi Furnished Flat, with attached Bath, Kitchen, Gated Compound, and Balcony. For rent with all amenities including water 24hours, 1 Car Parking. Contact: 9849066212 from 10.00am to pm. (HYCL/2122/C0035)

3 BHK Flat in 5th Floor, Meghana Ambuja Apartments West Hyderabad behing KFC, opposite Superstore. 2000 Sqft with all Amenities. Close to Metro Station. Only for Vegetarian Govt. Banks, IT, Families. Contact: 040-40138725, 9447013300. (S/2122/C0025)

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200 SOFT. brand new 4BHK flat semi furnished with 3 bathrooms, 2 halls, sitting area, dining room, 3 lifts and various indoor, outdoor amenities at Rajender Nagar ring road, Kenworth Apartments, for rent. Contact: 900087652. (HYCL/2122/C0029)

GACHIBOWLI JANARDHANAM Hills Opp. Cyberabad Police Commissionerate, Flora Essence Apartments, 503, BHK, 1674 sqft. Contact: 9989060606. (S/2122/C00275)

TOLET-3 BHK Flat- 1Ind Floor, Rukmini Dev Apartments, Gated Community, West Marredpally, Secunderabad. Contact: 9849582703, 8790808900. (S/2122/C00287)

MULTIPLE FLATS

POCHARAM, GHATKESAR In well developed Samkruuti Township, 2 BHK and 3 BHK Semi Furnished. Family preferred. Please call: 92465 05485 (S/2122/C00283)

INDEPENDENT HOUSE

SINGLE BEDROOM

1 BHK Independent house 900 sq ft (Cellar) 1 Bed, Dining, Drawing available for rent at road no.12, Banjara hills. Call: 9855359601, 9652699811. (B/2122/C00114)

DOUBLE BEDROOM

AVANTI NAGAR, Basheerbagh independent house/Complex, 1000 foot 2BHK, North East corner/ Extended on rent for residential use. Call: 8822666666 (HYMM/2122/C0119)

2BHK ATTACHED Big Hall Dinning, Puja, Kitchen, Independent Groundfloor with Ample parking for Families. 1200, 1400 sqft. West - Marredpally. Rent 17,000/- Ph:9441901256. (S/2122/C00242)

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DECCAN Chronicle

9 MAY 2021



Sanjeev Ahluwalia

Off the beaten track

The social media djinn: Excluding and unsocial

Social media — the use of online platforms, as substitutes for old style, high-touch, physical contact formats like newspapers and one-on-one meetings — is now near ubiquitous, boosted greatly by the pandemic.

The ebb and flow of advertising revenues best illustrates the media preferences of customers. Digital marketing accounted for more than half the \$50 billion global advertising spend in 2020, up from just under two per cent in 2000, growing faster than television ever did (*Financial Times*).

One driver for the dramatic switch in audience preferences could be that mainstream media — newspapers, radio and TV — tend to patronise the recipient, being top down and unidirectional. Social media, however, empowers the user by making them essential participants in media creation, in a manner, unmatched by the tamer mainstream options of writing letters to the editor or being in the audience of TV shows.

It is not very empowering to be a couch-potato, a passive recipient of TV or radio news and entertainment, with no room for "self-expression", except to change channels, much like dissatisfied voters do quinquennially.

Social media, in contrast, encourages you to create content and share it publicly, to be listened to, read, seen and appreciated. You can do your stuff on Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter or Koo — comedy, fashion, disseminate gyan, list your professional achievements, cook, sing, make music, teach and mentor like Khan, sir of Bihar, coach, share your art, your writings, your magic, comment on anything under the sun or support #Hashtagged global causes, followed by the expectant,



Nearly 4 billion out of the 7.7 billion global population is hooked onto the net and 54 per cent of the traffic is via mobile phones. This number can only grow.

Nearly 4 billion out of the 7.7 billion global population is hooked onto the net and 54 per cent of the traffic is via mobile phones. This number can only grow. Only infants and the 900 million poor — who earn less than the World Bank's PPP \$1.9 per person per day poverty line and whose numbers have increased during the pandemic, are likely to remain excluded.

Digital connectivity is the next "lifeline", after electricity, as digital interface becomes the norm, the opportunities for physical contact dwindle and digital lockers become the only safe storage for Aadhar, BPL cards, bank details, medical Insurance — proof of the new-age identities, necessary for accessing social services.

A story best illustrates the point. A nanny from three decades ago, recently turned up where we used to live. Her son was covid positive and needed medical assistance. She had a medical insurance cover. But the hospital wanted a deposit of ₹30,000 which she did not have. So, she went looking for help to her previous employers. We had moved long ago. But the new occupants were good enough to call and tell us. Another family, for whom she had worked, told us they helped her with some ready cash. But she had left no contact number. All we could do was to wait for her to call. But she never did. Maybe, with her son incapacitated, she lost her only digital connect with the world — her son's pre-paid phone. When every minute mattered, her only option was to walk about begging for money, oblivious of all the available crowd-sourced initiatives for help and the many charities providing covid relief.

Compare the frustratingly, isolated life of this mother, a poor, senior citizen, with the socially replete life of those with 24X7 connectivity even as the pandemic rages — sharing updates on the next available oxygen bed or oxygen concentrator, videos on the benefits of prone breathing, learned discourses on covid dos and don'ts, venting frustration by fingering hate objects or dispensing gyan via webinars, catching up on the prospects for peace in Myanmar or the impact of Presidents Biden's next public-spend splurge on the Indian stock market. The disconnect between the well-off and the poor is near complete.

And yet it is not just the poor who are left behind. Only half as many Indian women use the Internet as men. The gap is worse in the rural areas. Only 33 percent of Indian women use social media, versus 67 per cent of men. Women are 26 per cent less likely to access mobile Internet due to misogyny, harassment and revenge porn (ORF, May 2021).

Add to that, the use of social media for narrow political ends without regard for social harmony. The disproportionate market power digital commerce endows, on a few companies. The billions of tax dollars avoided by multinational e-commerce, whilst feeding off the commercial data generated by their customers, often without explicit permission and without compensation and we have a fishbowl of growing global inequity.

This was not where the Internet was headed, way back in 1974, when the first Internet Protocol Suite was written. Nor was a world splintered by digital privilege, the intention in 1997, when the first social media platform — Six degrees — launched. Back then, the idea was to shrink the world, lift people and institutions to their fullest potential. Like Alice, we stepped through the looking glass. It is time to look back.

The writer is adviser, Observer Research Foundation

Subhani



The architecture of hubris



Manish Tewari

State of the Union

Fascism has a strange fascination with architecture. The moment the Nazis rode to power in 1933 Herr Hitler started unveiling his plans for building a new capital for his thousand-year Reich.

To be named Germania it envisaged the grand redevelopment of Berlin.

From the mid-1920s itself much before power ever loomed over the horizon Hitler fantasised about his blueprint for Germany. It finds a prominent mention in his book called the *Mein Kampf*. Hitler had even prepared the drafts of the grandiose monuments that he proposed to erect. In his mind's eye Adolf Hitler in addition to being The Great Helmsman was also the immortal designer.

In the spring of 1936, Adolf Hitler commissioned his pet architect Albert Speer who later became his minister of armaments to execute his vision and construct "the" megapolis that would be the epicentre of his Reich.

Hitler was resolute that the centerpiece of his Nazi dystopia christened Welthauptstadt Germania — the greatest city of them all. However stripped of sophistry it was at best plagiarism on a malevolent scale. The only originality being cloning and super sizing of the landmark monuments that Europe had on offer then.

These monoliths were to be erected along a seven-kilometre (4.3 miles) Boulevard of Splendours to create an overarching persona of Nazi preeminence on citizens and travellers alike. At the south end of this avenue was to be located the Triumphal Arch six times more humongous than the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. At its north end the concourse was supposed to pan out into a parade ground containing a gigantic Palace for the Führer, the Reich Chancellery, and a gargantuan Grand Hall. Mark the Palace for the Führer.

Speer had been the defacto Nazi architectural director since 1934. He had created a distinct impression on Hitler with his exotic metamorphosis of classical architecture into mammoth but manifestly ascetic Nazi architecture that was both to intimidate and overwhelm.

This transfiguration was personified in one of Speer's initial but key undertakings the Nuremberg parades grounds laid out for the 1934 Nazi Party Congress.

The impact of the classicist architecture of that stadia is intimately captured in an array of propaganda films curated by the Nazi information czar Joseph Goebbels.

It was designed to provide a backdrop to the stunning imagery of militarised discipline of Nazi cadres forming

a geometrical aligned corporate congregation united in their allegiance to the Führer. The political ontology portrayed by the overpowering impact of this architectonic setting is of Being-a-Same. One nation and One Reich, which Hitler emphasized in his oration in that arena. He preached both "complete unity" and asked for blind the obedience of the German nation.

Isn't it eerily similar to the one leader one nation one election rhetoric that we hear these days with elections of course being dispensable even in the medium term?

Hitler's visualisation was to transform Berlin into Welthauptstadt Germania — the greatest city of them all. However stripped of sophistry it was at best plagiarism on a malevolent scale. The only originality being cloning and super sizing of the landmark monuments that Europe had on offer then.

These monoliths were to be erected along a seven-kilometre (4.3 miles) Boulevard of Splendours to create an overarching persona of Nazi preeminence on citizens and travellers alike. At the south end of this avenue was to be located the Triumphal Arch six times more humongous than the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. At its north end the concourse was supposed to pan out into a parade ground containing a gigantic Palace for the Führer, the Reich Chancellery, and a gargantuan Grand Hall. Mark the Palace for the Führer.

Hitler perceived monumental architecture as a means of creating a beguiling sense of shock and awe.

He was fervent in his conviction that colossal constructions were powerful weapons of projecting political supremacy. For him architecture was not simply the means of giving form to space. It was the virtuous of creating power through prodigious spatial imagery.

The budget for this vanity project was an estimated 4-6 million Reich Marks about 50 billion US Dollars at today's cost. Hitler dismissed all concerns with regard to the both timing and cost notwithstanding an on going war. For in his megalomaniac existence it was about perpetuating his legacy. The only way of leaving your indelible footprint on the sands of time was by erecting grandiose edifices.

Moreover the Nazi party was a pioneer in the use of propaganda both during its relentless quest and perpetuation of power. As the Reich minister of propaganda it was Joseph Goebbels' conviction that "propaganda becomes ineffective the moment we are aware of it". Inspired by this credo the Nazi Party consciously created a myth about opposing the status quo and presenting its Supreme leader as both, an outsider to the incestuous alchemy of the decadent elite and a radical messiah, ironically while being in bed with the very same set. Does it not contextualise the constant railing against Lutyens' Delhi and the fabled Khan Market Gang?

The Nazis were not alone in this endeavour. The Fascist Dictator of Italy Benito Mussolini also launched an ambitious building drive. However, it was the creation of the Casa del Fascio (House of the Fascist Party) that most caught Italian fancy. Primarily it was the headquarters of the Fascist Party that most caught Italian fancy. This is precisely what we are witnessing with the relentless and profoundly vulgar redevelopment of the central vista in New Delhi (in the middle of a crippling pandemic at an enormous financial cost).

All this bombast of masonry and unbridled arrogance, is one more eternal blunder by a government and a leader who have unleashed untold misery across the country for the last seven years with their terrible decisions. In the final count, in the story of our ancient civilisation, all the grandiloquence of the central vista project will not be worth a single page of the Indian Constitution.

The author is a lawyer, MP and former Union information and broadcasting minister. The views expressed are personal. Twitter handle @manishtewari.

LETTERS

COWIN ANTI-POOR

The Central government is insisting on pre-registration on the CoWin app to obtain the Covid vaccine at notified centres.

Though the concept is good, there is no consideration for the poor and marginalised sections who do not have computers, smartphones or internet. The government must enable Mee Seva centres to accept requests from everyone for registration.

Dr Prasad Chitra
Secunderabad

THIRD WAVE

It is a worry that the third wave of Covid-19 is expected when the Modi government is clueless and is struggling to deal with the second wave (*Apex court asks Centre to prepare for 3rd wave, DC, May 7*). The Centre has clearly not taken the right direction to deal with the pandemic. It must accept its failure gracefully and involve all parties and save the health sector before it is too late.

K. Manasa Saanvi
Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad

SECOND CHANCE

I feel the healthcare staff deserves a second chance (*TS to focus on 2nd Covid dose, DC, May 8*). When the vaccination was administered to frontliners, many of the healthcare staff did not take due to doubts. They need a second chance as their services are priceless.

S. Shoban
Hyderabad

CRUELTY TO DOG

I thank DC for giving prominence to the murder of a sleeping dog in Punjab (*John outraged at cruelty to dog, DC, May 8*). I hope it serves as a deterrent to those indulging in similar misadventures. Police punish such offenders, it will instill fear in anti-socials.

Raseel Ahluwalia
Hyderabad

TRS INFIGHTING

It is now clear that no one must oppose K.T. Rama Rao as the next CM. Otherwise, all those named earlier for encroachments will face the same treatment as Etala Rajendar. The future will tell us the two groups are clearly splitting and taking a stand.

Venkateswarlu Nerella
Hyderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Probe begins into rare gold coins

HYDERABAD, MAY 8. The City Crime Branch officials probing Yelliah, the waddar (stone-cutter), who found 200 rare gold coins suspected him to have committed some robbery. They interrogated him. The waddar denied of any knowledge of crime and maintained that he had struck the gold in a field while digging the earth.

The City Crime Branch officials decided to verify and waddar's story. Mr. Jaipal Rao, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crims II) with a team of Inspectors proceeded to the village late last night along with the waddar to the Vijayanagar empire at Mubarakpur village, about 35 miles from here in Vikarabad taluk, where he had found the gold coins of the 14th century A.D. belonging to the Vijayanagar empire.

Jay



How the West can help India fight Covid war

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Hospitals in Delhi are openly pleading for supplies of medical oxygen, a commodity so scarce that it is now being sold on the black market for almost ten times the normal cost. Makeshift crematoria are being set up around the city to cope with the surge in the number of deaths. Richer countries are asking why India, with 20 million Covid cases, is so reluctant to lock down again. It's a good question. The answer lies in the disastrous effects of lockdown for so much of India's population.

Closing any society has serious consequences, but the results were always going to be worse in the developing world. I have been watching the pandemic unfold in India from Stanford University, where I'm a professor of medicine. But for me, it is not just an abstract problem in a faraway country. I was born in Kolkata and still have many family members in India. Some have contracted Covid, while others have suffered from the terrible effects of lockdown.

As soon as the pandemic started, India followed the familiar litany of Covid lockdown policy: masks, a test-and-trace system, school closures and border closures. India was one of the

first emerging economies to announce a lockdown and adopted one of the world's most stringent approaches.

Stay-at-home advice is easier to follow if you have a proper home. But in India's slums, where millions live, quarantine is almost impossible — as is the concept of "working from home" or home-schooling.

Then there are migrant labourers, ten million of whom were living in India's cities before the pandemic. Lockdown meant many of them immediately lost their jobs, livelihoods and homes. Millions started on the long journey back to their villages on foot, not knowing whether they would ever make it home.

Lockdown meant precipitating India's largest human displacement since Partition in 1947. The forced resettlement of massive numbers of Bengalis, including my grandparents, is within the ancestral memory of my older family members, who recall the story with horror.

One way to understand the trajectory of cases in India is to see that the lockdowns at first protected the professional Zoom class from infection, while exposing the poor. But it was never a guarantee that more affluent popula-

tions would not end up affected by the disease as well. India's experience is consistent with the track record of lockdowns around the world. Official Indian government estimates suggest that between 37,000 and 80,000 lives were saved by lockdown. Even if this is correct, the numbers are surpassed by the death and suffering lockdowns also caused.

What could have been done differently? A better strategy of vaccination, for a start. When the jab first became available in India, I argued for focused protection of the elderly population. There is a thousand-fold difference in the risk of mortality from Covid between the young and old, so protecting elderly Indians from infection would yield substantially lower Covid mortality and hospitalisation, as well as reduce pressure on healthcare systems.

So, vaccines have been delivered to roughly 10 per cent of India's population — which would have been more effective if jabs had been targeted at those most at risk. Instead, perhaps half these jabs have gone to those who had the virus and will therefore have natural immunity. Worse, nearly 60 per cent of these doses have gone to people under 60, leaving a vast number of the

older population vulnerable during the recent surge in cases. Rather than focus on those most at risk of dying, India has made the vaccine available to anyone over 18, which has diverted even more doses from the poor high-risk elderly to the more affluent low-risk young.

But before we in the West shake our heads at India's misplaced priorities, we ought to ask: is Britain not also guilty? The UK's vaccination success has now covered the at-risk groups who constitute 99 per cent of Covid deaths. The plan is to keep vaccinating the British population right the way down to teenagers and children. Why not donate these vaccines to India instead?

If Britain and America are sitting on millions of doses of vaccine that could save the lives of India's elderly, what should we do? Share the vaccine? Or give it to those for whom it would make little or (in the case of those who have recovered from the disease) almost no difference? It is hard to find a moral justification for not doing more to help. India makes lots of vaccines. Yet Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, has complained that India is not exporting enough of its supplies to Europe. Discussion should instead focus on how to save as many lives as possible — and how it is more important to vaccinate older, high-risk Indians than young Americans and Europeans with minimal mortality risk. President Joe Biden is sending raw materials to help make AstraZen

IN BRIEF
Man held on rape charge in U.P.

Shahjahanpur : Police here arrested a 45-year-old man in connection with the rape of a mentally-challenged woman. Tilhar police station SHO Harpal Singh Baliyan said on Friday, a 50-year-old mentally-challenged woman was sleeping in her hut when the accused from the same locality raped her. Citing contents of the complaint registered against the accused, the SHO said another person made a video of the rape. Police arrested the accused on Saturday while the woman was sent for a medical examination. The case was registered on the complaint of a resident of the same locality, police said.

TIGER FOUND DEAD IN CANAL IN MP'S BALAGHAT DIST.

Bhopal: A carcass of a tiger was found floating in a canal of an inter-state water project in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, neighbouring Maharashtra, an official said on Saturday.

The carcass was found floating in a canal of Rajiv Sagar project at Khadagpur village of Balaghat district's Waraseoni tehsil on Friday, the official said.

Photographs of the stripes of the sub-adult big cat will be sent to forest officials in Maharashtra for identification. Madhya Pradesh additional principal chief conservator of forest (Wildlife) J. S. Chauhan said.

"We are going to send a picture of the stripes of the sub-adult (18 to 24 months) tiger to our Maharashtra counterparts to identify if he belonged to that state, as Navegaon-Nagzaria Tiger Reserve in Bhandara and Gondia districts was not far from the spot," Chauhan said.

Officials will also study the stripes of the tiger to ascertain if he belonged to MP, as parts of the Kanha Tiger Reserve fall in Balaghat district, he added.

It is easy to identify tigers, as their stripes are recorded in cameras, which are installed to photograph them during tiger census in the state, the official said.

MP CM SLAMS SOREN FOR HIS REMARKS ON PM

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivaraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday condemned his Jharkhand counterpart Hemant Soren's recent remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and said that he has lowered the dignity of the post he holds through his comments.

Soren, in a tweet on Thursday night following a telephonic conversation with Modi over the Covid-19 situation in Jharkhand, had taken a dig at the prime minister, saying that he only spoke "Mann ki Baat" and that it would have been better if he had discussed business.

Taking to Twitter, Chouhan said, "Hemant Soren ji has lowered the dignity of the chief minister's post by making comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. No chief minister has ever used such lowest level of language against the PM."

Chouhan said that Soren tweeted about his telephonic discussion with the PM not only for his political gains, but his language also lacked sobriety and dignity.

"I strongly condemn it," he said.

Sena blames Modi for virus crisis, lauds Nehru, Gandhi

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC
MUMBAI, MAY 8

Holding the Narendra Modi Government responsible for the prevailing Covid situation in the country, Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena has said the country is running because of the institutions created by the Nehru-Gandhi family. It has also slammed the Union Government for continuing with the work of the Central Vista project amidst the pandemic.

"The corona crisis has badly affected India's economy. Despite this, the country has survived because of the system created in the past 70 years by previous prime min-

Over 9 lakh on O2 support: Health min

Oxygen production now 9,400 MT a day; Vardhan says 1.34% Covid cases in ICU, 0.39% on ventilators

Black fungus claims eyesight of some Covid-19 survivors in Guj.

Ahmedabad, May 8: Cases of Mucormycosis, a fungal infection, affecting some Covid-19 survivors are on the rise in Gujarat which has left many patients blind, doctors and officials claimed on Saturday. Mathur Savani, chairman of Surat-based Kiran Super multi-specialty hospital, said mucormycosis was detected in a patient who had recovered from Covid-19

disease around three weeks back.

"This number has gone up to around 50 now while 60 more such patients are awaiting treatment," Savani said.

The hospital, which is managed by a trust, has been receiving several patients diagnosed with Mucormycosis who are being referred from various areas in Surat and other parts of Gujarat, he said.

"As of now, 50 mucormycosis patients are getting treated at Kiran Hospital and 60 others are awaiting treatment. They all came to our hospital in the last three weeks. All the patients who are suffering from mucormycosis had recovered from Covid-19 recently," said Savani. According to Savani, seven such patients have lost their eyesight so far.

— PTI

Shipping and Waterways and Chemical and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs Nityanand Rai. Ashwini Kumar Choubey,

Minister of State, Health and Family Welfare and Dr Vinod K Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog were present virtually.

Paul gave a detailed report on the work of the

Empowered Group-1 and highlighted the various efforts made towards ramping up hospital infrastructure for effective clinical management of hospitalised patients.

— PTI

Over 84L doses available with states, UTs: Govt

New Delhi, May 8: More than 84 lakh Covid-19 vaccine doses are still available with states and union territories and over 53 lakh doses will be distributed to them in the next three days, the Centre said on Saturday.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said that so far over 17.49 crore vaccine doses have been provided to states/UTs, out of which around 16.7 crore doses have been consumed.

"Of the vaccine doses provided, the total consumption, including wastages, is 16,65,49,533 doses (as per data available at 8 am on Saturday). More than 84 lakh Covid vaccine doses (84,08,187) are still available with states/UTs to be administered," the ministry said.

It said that states with a negative balance are showing more consumption (including wastage) than vaccine supplied as

they have "not reconciled the vaccine they have supplied to the armed forces". "Furthermore, more than 53 lakh (53,25,000) vaccine doses will be received in addition by states/UTs within the next three days," the ministry announced.

It said that Delhi received 40.22 lakh vaccine doses, out of which it consumed 36.09 lakh doses. The ministry said that the national capital still has a balance of 4.12 lakh doses available and within the next three days, it is likely to receive one lakh doses more. The projected population of Delhi was taken at 2.04 crore as on October 1, 2020. Out of the 53.25 lakh doses, which is the maximum number of doses any state or UT will receive.

— PTI

The notification said the latest provision is being made for a period between April 1-May 31 "on obtaining the PAN or Aadhaar of the patient and the payee and the relationship between the patient and the payee" by such hospitals or Covidicare centres.

Officials said the move was aimed to remove the hardship being faced by relatives and caregivers of Covid-19 patients who visit hospitals for treatment.

— PTI

Govt allows cash payment of ₹2L

New Delhi, May 8: The Income Tax Department has issued a notification allowing hospitals and nursing homes to accept cash payments of ₹2 lakh and more for the treatment of Covid-19 patients. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), which frames policy for the department, issued the notification on Friday.

It said hospitals, dispensaries, nursing homes, Covid care centres or similar other medical facilities providing Covid-19 treatment to patients are being "specified for the purpose of section 269ST of the Income Tax Act".

This section restricts any person from receiving an amount of ₹2 lakh or more in cash, from a

person in a day, in respect of a single transaction or in respect of transactions relating to one event or occasion from a person.

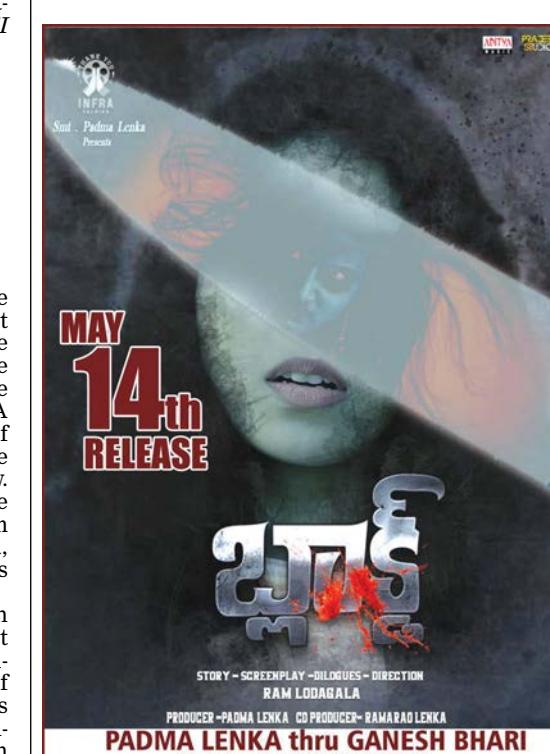
It was introduced by the Union government in 2017 as a measure to curb black money.

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Officials said the move was aimed to remove the hardship being faced by relatives and caregivers of Covid-19 patients who visit hospitals for treatment.

— PTI

ENJOY COFFEE-BREAK
EVERYDAY IN HYDERABAD CHRONICLE



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TN announces 'total lockdown'

Chennai, May 8:

With Tamil Nadu witnessing a sharp increase in the Covid-19 cases, the government on Saturday announced clamping a two-week "total lockdown" across the state to curb the spread of the pandemic, starting May 10.

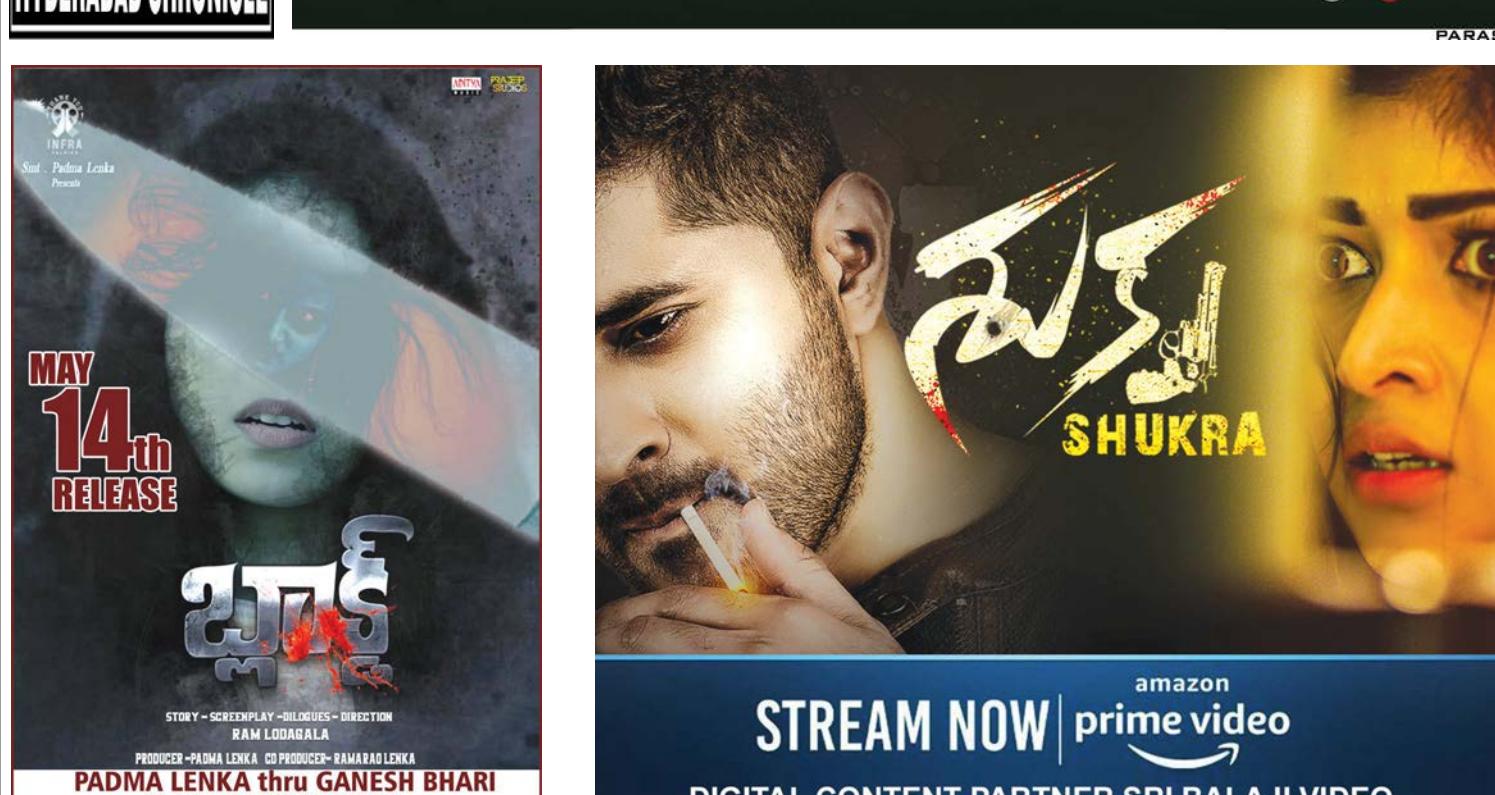
Chief Minister M. K. Stalin said in a statement that the lockdown was being enforced due to "unavoidable reasons" and pointed out that the decision was taken based on inputs received at a review meeting he had with district collectors on Friday, besides consultations with medical experts.

The recommendations made by the Union Home and Health ministries had also been factored in.

"The total lockdown will be enforced from 4 am on May 10 to 4 am on May 24 to further intensify the efforts to curb the spread of the disease," he said.

Stalin announced relaxing existing restrictions on business hours for shops on Saturday and Sunday, when a full day-long lockdown is supposed to be in effect, allowing them to remain open till 9 pm to aid people since stricter curbs would kick in from May 10.

— PTI



SHORT TAKES

TWO ARRESTED IN MALDIVES BOMB ATTACK

Mal, Maldives: Maldives police have arrested two people over an assassination attempt on former president Mohamed Nasheed who has been taken off life support, officials and relatives said on Saturday.

The Indian Ocean island has called in international help to investigate Thursday's bomb attack that left the democracy pioneer and climate activist needing 16 hours of surgery to remove shrapnel from his lungs, liver, chest, abdomen and limbs.

Police said two people had been arrested but did not give details.

They were looking for four suspects seen in the vicinity of the attack on Thursday night just as Nasheed was about to get in his car.

Australian Federal Police officers and two experts from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime were expected to join the investigation on Saturday.

LIBYAN MILITIAS TAKE OVER TRIPOLI GOVT HEAD OFFICE

Cairo: In a show of force, armed militiamen briefly took over a hotel in the Libyan capital of Tripoli that serves as headquarters for the interim government, officials said on Saturday.

Friday's development came after the three-member presidential council earlier this week appointed a new chief of the intelligence agency, Libya's version of the CIA. The militias, which control Tripoli, were apparently unhappy with the choice of Hussein Khalifa as the new spy chief. Presidential council spokeswoman Nawa Wheba said no one was hurt in the takeover of Hotel Corinthia, in the heart of Tripoli.

The hotel was mostly empty on Friday, the Muslim weekend. After a while, the militias left the hotel, according to an official at the Interior Ministry who spoke on condition of anonymity under regulations. Khalifa and the militia leaders were not immediately available for comment on Saturday.

ROYAL SCANDAL: NEW ZULU KING'S CLAIM DISPUTED

Cape Town: A new Zulu king in South Africa was named amid scenes of chaos on Friday night as other members of the royal family questioned Prince Misuzulu Zulu's claim to the title and bodyguards suddenly whisked him away from the public announcement at a palace.

The controversy over the next king, a largely ceremonial role but one with great significance for South Africa and its 12 million Zulu people, has arisen after the death in March of King Goodwill Zwelithini, who had reigned since 1968.

Zwelithini apparently named one of his six wives, Queen Mantfombi Shiyiwe Dlamini Zulu, as the "regent of the Zulu kingdom" in his will, but her death just over a week ago after holding the title for only a month has thrown the royal succession into turmoil. The commotion broke out at the reading of Queen Mantfombi's will and hours after a memorial service for her.

NASA'S NEW CHIEF HEDGES ON 2024 MOON LANDING

Cape Canaveral: NASA's new administrator is big on tackling climate and diversifying the agency's workforce, but hedging on whether the US can put astronauts on the moon by 2024. In his first interview since becoming NASA's top official this week, former Sen. Bill Nelson said on Friday that tracking climate change is a top issue. He also wants to diversify the space agency's workforce so it reflects America.

As for landing astronauts on the moon, Nelson said the goal remains 2024, a deadline set by the Trump administration. But he cautions space is hard and he needs more time to review the matter, especially with a contract protest over the lunar lander for astronauts.

"We all know that space is hard," he said, noting there are often delays developing new technologies. "But the goal is 2024." His underlying vision for NASA "to explore the heavens with humans and machines," Nelson said he did not seek the NASA administrator job and had recommended three women to lead the space agency.



Masked Palestinian followers of the Hamas movement near Beit Lahia in the Gaza Strip, prepare to fly incendiary balloons across the northern border toward Israel, on Saturday.

—AFP

Israel braces for Jerusalem riots, over 160 injured

Jerusalem, May 8: More than 160 people were wounded after Israeli riot police clashed with Palestinians at Jerusalem's flashpoint Al-Aqsa mosque compound late Friday, capping a week of violence in the Holy City and the occupied West Bank.

Stones, bottles and fireworks were hurled at officers who fired rubber bullets and stun grenades at the crowds at Islam's third-holiest site, also revered by Jews as the location of two biblical-era temples.

At least 163 Palestinians and six Israeli officers were reported wounded at Al-Aqsa and elsewhere in east Jerusalem, as the Palestinian Red Crescent said it had opened a field hospital because emergency rooms were full.

Police said officers had restored order because of the "rioting of thousands of worshippers" after evening prayers.

Tensions in Jerusalem have soared in recent weeks as Palestinians have protested against Israel's restrictions on access to parts of the Old City during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, and after authorities

ordered several Palestinian families to leave their homes to make way for Israeli settlers.

The United States called for "de-escalation" and said the threatened evictions could worsen the situation in east Jerusalem, as the United Nations warned the forced evictions could amount to "war crimes".

Friday's unrest came on Al-Quds (the Arabic name for Jerusalem) Day, an annual day of pro-Palestinian rallies held by Iran, the arch-enemy of Israel, which also saw many thousands march in majority-Muslim countries across the region and as far as Pakistan.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas said that he held the Israeli government "responsible" for the unrest and voiced "full support for our heroes in Aqsa".

International observers urged calm, with UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland tweeting his concern, and urged all parties to "respect the status quo of holy sites in Jerusalem's Old City in the interest of peace & stability." —AFP

Boris Johnson welcomes wins in local elections

London, May 8: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson was enjoying an election bounce on Saturday as many of the local and by-election results went in favour of his ruling Conservative Party.

In what is seen as a result in support of the government's coronavirus vaccination programme as well as the handling of Brexit, the Opposition Labour Party faced a crushing by-election defeat in a traditional stronghold of Hartlepool in north-east England, which the party had held for many decades.

The Johnson-led Conservatives secured key victories over Labour as they took control of a number of councils in the West Midlands. The Tories have hailed it as a continuation of the crushing Labour defeats in the 2019 general election.

"What happened in 2019 was that people mandated us to get Brexit done and to begin the process of uniting and levelling up. I think what's happened now is they can see we did get Brexit done and to a

certain extent they can see we delivered on that," said Johnson, on a visit to Hartlepool to congratulate the new Conservative parliamentarian Jill Mortimer.

"I think what people want us to do now is get on with delivering on everything else. And so, number one is continuing the vaccine rollout – making sure we go from jabs, jabs, to jobs, jobs, jobs. Make sure we have a strong economic recovery.

But then get on with a massive project for this country – and it is a very ambitious thing," he said.

"Every government has tried it to some extent but I don't think any government

has tried it as wholeheartedly as this government is trying.

And that is uniting and levelling up," he added.

The Hartlepool vote and this week's local elections, for which the results are continuing to be counted, were Labour

leader Keir Starmer's first major electoral test after just over a year as Labour leader. The general picture has been dismal, focussing scrutiny on his performance over the last 12 months. —AP

SPACE ALERT

Chances of debris landing on an inhabited zone are tiny, probably 1 in a million

Chinese rocket set to re-enter atmosphere

Beijing, May 8: A large segment of a Chinese rocket is expected to make an uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere on the weekend, but Beijing has downplayed fears and said there is a very low risk of any damage.

A Long March-5B rocket launched the first module of China's new space station into Earth's orbit on April 29. Its 18-tonne main segment is now in freefall and experts have said it is difficult to say precisely

where and when it will re-enter the atmosphere.

Re-entry is expected to be around 2300 GMT on Saturday, according to the Pentagon, with a window of nine hours either side.

Chinese authorities have said most of the rocket components would likely be destroyed on re-entry.

fevered speculation over exactly where the rocket – or parts of it – will land, there is a good chance any debris that does not burn up will just splash down into the ocean, given that the planet is 70 percent water.

"We're hopeful that it will land in a place where

EU seals deal for up to 1.8 bn extra BioNTech/Pfizer doses

27-nation bloc is on track to have 70% of adults vaccinated by late July



Friends toast each other as they drink a beer on a terrace in Brussels, on Saturday, as the Belgium government eased the restrictions put in place to curb the spread of Covid-19. — AFP

EU invites 'concrete' US plan on lifting vax patents

Porto, Portugal, May 8:

Europe on Saturday passed the ball back to Washington in a debate over Covid vaccine patents, pushing the US for a concrete proposal and a commitment to export much needed jabs.

European Council chief Charles Michel, attending an EU summit in Portugal, said the bloc was ready to discuss a US offer to suspend patent protection on vaccines — once the details are clear.

"We are ready to engage

on this topic, as soon as a

similarly sceptical approach -- with President Emmanuel Macron

saying Saturday that

"patents are not the priority"

— while Germany is openly hostile to the idea.

Influential voices have

risen to back the push to

wave patents, not least

Pope Francis, who on

Saturday criticised putting

"the laws of the market

or intellectual property

above the laws of love

and the health of humanity". — AFP

NYC STILL STORES COVID BODIES IN REFRIGERATORS

New York, May 8: New York City is still using refrigerated trucks to store bodies of Coronavirus victims, more than a year after they were first set up as temporary morgues as deaths surged at the height of the pandemic.

The city's medical examiner's office said on Friday that 750 bodies are being kept in long-term storage in refrigerated trailers at a Brooklyn pier while family members sort out plans for their final resting places.

Dina Maniotis, a deputy commissioner with the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, told a city council committee on Wednesday that many of the bodies held at the 39th Street Pier could end up buried in the city's potter's field on Hart Island.

In April 2020, the city shortened the amount of time it would hold unclaimed remains to 14 days before burying them on Hart Island. At the time, officials said, they were exploring the option of interring unclaimed remains on the island temporarily. Mark Desire, a spokesperson for the medical examiner's office, said permanent burial on Hart Island is an option for the next-of-kin of COVID-19 victims whose bodies remain in refrigerated trucks. — AP

Britain finalises post Covid travel system

London, May 8: The UK

government has set out 12 so-called "green list" countries under its traffic light system where people from England will be able to travel quarantine-free when the country's next level of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions are lifted on May 17.

Non-essential travel will

no longer be classed as

illegal from May 17, but

strict border control

measures will be in place

for those entering the UK

in order to keep a check

on Coronavirus variants.

— PTI

Blast near Afghan school kills 25

Kabul, May 8: A

blast outside a school in the Afghan capital on Saturday killed at least 25 people and wounded another 52 including students, the interior ministry said.

Residents were out for shopping ahead of Eid-al-Fitr next week that marks the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting, when the blast took place.

"Fifty-five wounded people have been taken to hospitals," interior ministry

spokesman Tariq Arian told reporters.

Arian's deputy Hamid Roshan said that an investigation had begun into what he said was a "terrorist attack", adding that casualties included students.

Health ministry spokesman Dastagir Nazari said several ambulances had been rushed to the site and were evacuating the wounded.

"People in the area are angry and have beaten a number of ambulance

workers," he told reporters.

The blast comes as the US military continues to pull out its last remaining 2,500 troops from the country despite faltering peace efforts between the Taliban and Afghan government to end a decades-long war in Afghanistan.

The Dasht-e-Barchi

neighbourhood is populated largely by the Shiites

Hazaras and is often a target for Sunni Islamist militants.

In May last year a group

of gunmen attacked a hospital in the area in a brazen daylight raid that left 25 people killed, including 16 mothers of newborn babies.

No group claimed that attack, but Afghan President Ashraf Ghani blamed the Taliban and the Islamic State group.

On October 24, a suicide

bomber blew himself up at a tuition centre in the same district killing 18 people including students in an attack that also went unclaimed.

— AFP

SAUDI-PAK SIGN PACT TO IMPROVE TIES

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, May 8: Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed agreements on Saturday to improve ties, after months of strained relations between the close allies over the disputed region of Kashmir.

Although the kingdom was the first foreign country Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan visited after his 2018 election, Riyadh appeared frustrated with Islamabad last year.

And while the wealthy nation has supported Pakistan with billions of dollars in aid and loans in recent years, observers say the kingdom is also keen not to upset India, a key business partner and importer of Saudi oil.

Saudi Crown Mohammed Bin Salman and Khan, who arrived Friday for a three-day visit, held talks in which they stressed the importance of expanding and intensifying the horizons of cooperation.

Officials from both countries signed two agreements in the western city of Jeddah addressing the treatment of criminals, and crime. — AFP

INDIAN TOP 10
BESTSELLERS

NON-FICTION

1 INDIA AND ASIAN GEOPOLITICS: THE PAST, PRESENT
Shiv Shankar Menon
Penguin, ₹699

2 KARMA: A YOGI'S GUIDE TO CRAFTING YOUR DESTINY
Sadhguru
Penguin, ₹299

3 INDIA'S POWER ELITE
Sanjaya Baru
Penguin, ₹699

4 BORN A MUSLIM: SOME TRUTHS ABOUT ISLAM IN INDIA
Ghazala Wahab Aleph, ₹999

5 GHALIB: A WILDERNESS AT MY DOORSTEP: A CRITICAL BIOGRAPHY
Mehr Afshan Farooqi
Allen Lane, ₹799

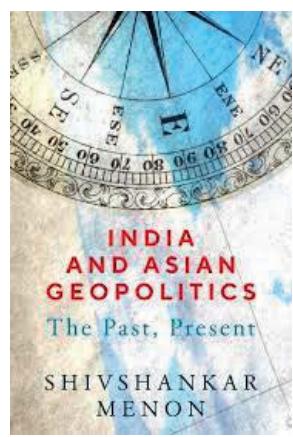
6 REPUBLIC OF HINDUTVA
Badri Narayan
Penguin Viking, ₹499

7 ALL ROADS LEAD NORTH — NEPAL'S TURN TO CHINA
Amish Raj Mulmi
Context Westland, ₹799

8 REMNANTS OF A SEPARATION
Aanchal Malhotra
HarperCollins, ₹599

9 THE MYSTERY OF THE PARSEE LAWYER
Shrabani Basu
Bloomsbury, ₹699

10 INDUS BASIN UNINTERRUPTED
Uttam Kumar Sinha
Penguin Vintage, ₹799



FICTION

1 TURN A BLIND EYE
Jeffrey Archer
Pan Macmillan, ₹450

2 WHEREABOUTS
Jhumpa Lahiri
Penguin, ₹499

3 THE LAST QUEEN
Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
HarperCollins, ₹599

4 SHUGGIE BAIN
Douglas Stuart
Picador, ₹499

5 TAKEDOWN
Brad Thor
Emily Bestler Books—Atria, ₹599

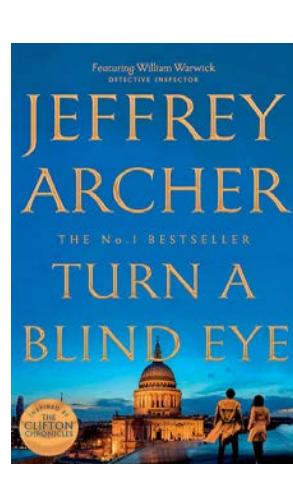
6 THE BEGUM AND THE DASTAN
Tarana Husain Khan
Tranquebar, ₹499

7 KLARA AND THE SUN
Kazuo Ishiguro
Faber & Faber, ₹699

8 MURDER AT THE MUSHAIRA
Raza Mir
Aleph, ₹799

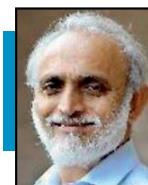
9 CLUB YOU TO DEATH
Anuja Chauhan
Picador
₹499

10 A TIME FOR MERCY
John Grisham
Hodder & Stoughton
₹699



Bahrisons, New Delhi

The exit of Delhi durbar, elite media's unmasking



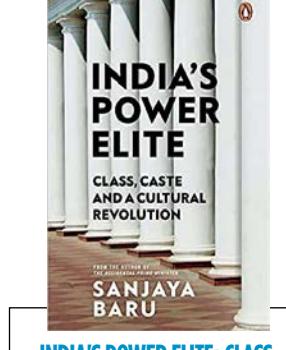
Parsa Venkateshwar
Rao Jr
review

When academician-turned-journalist and former media advisor to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh wrote without a twinge in his facial muscles about how Prime Minister Narendra Modi has effortlessly dislodged the power elite with its St Stephen's College-Oxford background, many mistook it for a dirge for the defeated lot with good manners and right accents. What was attractive about *India's Power Elite Class, Caste And A Cultural Revolution* (Penguin, 2021) was its anecdotal style with a gossipy tinge to it. Baru places himself as an outsider/insider in Delhi's dress circle and with tongue-firmly-in-cheek pronounces the rather unlamented exit of Delhi's elite from the corridors of power. And to soothe the wracked nerves of this elite, he compared the Modi invasion to that of decade-long Mao's macabre bacchanalia Cultural Revolution with frenzied Red Guards chomping and stomping and destroying a whole generation of sensible middle rung communists. He was careful enough to point out that the fanatical Hindu vigilante were relatively less hysterical than the raging Red Guards in terms of intensity and range.

What attracted attention, obviously, was his taking note of the upheaval caused

by Mr Modi's arrival in Delhi as Prime Minister, dealt with much panache in the first two chapters of the book under the attention-grabbing headings of "Bombard The Headquarters" and "Modi's Metaphors". But Baru digs deeper and looks at the changes that have come about among the elites — there is not a single group calling the shots — across the country and in different spheres. And he follows the example of his acknowledged inspiration for the book, American outlier sociologist C. Wright Mills' 1956 classic *The Power Elite*.

That there have emerged new elites from time to time in Independent India is rather an unattractive if factual proposition. What Baru outlines as he goes along is the emergence of new elite groups in different spheres, in politics, in business, in agriculture, in bureaucracy and military. He describes the ascent of Mr Modi as the conquest of the backward castes of an upper caste-based Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This will remain a debatable thesis because the OBC revolution in RSS-BJP was carefully engineered and it was the reason behind the emergence of Mr Modi. Baru indirectly raises the moot question whether the success of Mr Modi in national politics is due to the fact that as an OBC representative he



By SANJAYA BARU
Penguin Viking, ₹699

wins the approval of the numerical OBC majority in the country. But it remains an untested proposition because this presumes that all the designated OBCs form a single class or that they have shared class interest in the same manner that it is assumed that Hindus form a monolith.

He also narrates the shift in power from the feudal lords, zamindars and landlords to that of the rich peasants, who are mostly from the backward classes, and the rich peasants became the new rural elite. The transmutation continues as the rural landowning castes who have acquired political power are able to obtain urban land and become super-rich." And he draws the conclusion, "Every major urban conglomeration across the subcontinent is now fertile ground for the enrichment of the provincial rich." The story of the elites in Baru's telling is a complex

The more interesting aspect of Baru's analysis of the changing elites is that of business interests in the country and their connection to the political elite. He traces the founding of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) inspired by Mahatma Gandhi as evidence of the alignment of the national bourgeoisie with the political class. He points out the compulsion of the political class, which has to perform champion the cause of the poor, and it should appear to be distant from business magnates, and shows how Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Mr Modi take an anti-elitist stance.

He argues the case of the Bombay Club, comprising top industrialists, who prepared an economic manifesto of sorts in 1944, advocating a mixed economy with an assigned role for the state in developing economic assets which are later to be transferred to the private sector. And controversially Baru argues that the First and the Second Five Year Plans, and especially the Second, which is attributed to P.C. Mahalanobis, was really a reflection of the ideas of the Bombay Club.

The chapter on "Business and the State" shows once again the change or displacement of old elites with the new. He traces the new business players with close links to the top political leadership, from that of the Tata and Birlas of the 1950s and the 1960s to that of the Ambanis, Nandas and Hindujas of the 1980s. He implies that that the much derided crony capitalism has been a part of modern India from the days before Independence.

Baru maintains the neutrality of a social scientist while describing the changes that had happened with the political and economic elites, but he offers for the first time an indirect moral critique of the elite groups when he writes about the policy intellectuals and public intellectuals, the media and the celebrity class. While pointing out that in the time of Nehru and Indira could become part of the power elite "because of their access to the PM", he cites the example of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's "first introduction to Nehru was made by Singh's Amritsar neighbour Mulk Raj Anand, a Cambridge scholar who became famous as a novelist..." he marks out the "corrupt" journalist category along with the "professional".

While dealing with the intellectual and celebrity class, he returns to the theme of how Mr Modi has bypassed the experts and the media, he seems to hold himself back from commenting on the consequences of doing away with intellectual inputs or a watchful media. It is indeed the right thing to do because there are enough number of people lamenting the anti-intellectual stance of the Prime Minister. Baru's book is a teaser where it seems to offer good gossip but it abandons the temptation and doles out serious stuff in an easy-to-read style. It promises to be the 1991 bestseller, *You Will Not Eat Lunch Again In This Town* of Julia Phillips, the Hollywood outsider/insider, but settles into a sober social analysis tract.

The writer is a Delhi-based commentator and analyst

PATRIARCHY AND THE PANGOLIN: A FIELD GUIDE TO INDIAN MEN AND OTHER SPECIES

By ADITI PATIL
Hachette India, ₹399

Laugh and also ponder what patriarchy might do next



Kushalrani Gulab
review

When judging a book by its cover, ask these questions: Is the cover so attractive that you would consider buying the book whatever the story might be like? Or is the cover only worth the price of the book because of what lies beneath it?

I jugged these questions in my head before I started reading Aditi Patil's *Patriarchy and the Pangolin: A Field Guide to Indian Men and Other Species*. Because the fact is, I did buy this book for its cover — a painting by Sheela Roy that gives me little thrills of happiness whenever I look at it. But I also bought it in the hope that the story would be as charming as the cover.

Fortunately, I judged the cover correctly. *Patriarchy and the Pangolin* is a delightful account by a beleaguered conservation researcher of field trips in Gujarat to investigate the impact of the government's agro-forestry policy on farmers. As she gamely gets to work, she encounters more men with moustaches, bureaucrats and lawmakers than actual wild creatures along the way.

The book

has no plot of course. It's the diary of a field researcher, funny, eye-opening and cynical in turns, written in the style of a person who often laughs to stop herself from crying.

Patil is an idealist, a person who quit a well-paying information technology job to help save the world. But her ideas of the things that constitute field research and conservation are similar to the ideas of bureaucrats and men with moustaches only in the most superficial way. The bureaucrats just want to know that their policies work (please note: not if the policies work). The mustachioed men cannot bring themselves to communicate with women and in any case have no intention of causing trouble for themselves, courtesy bureaucrats, law enforcers and lawmakers, by discussing any sort of truth. In the face of all this resistance, Patil grits her teeth and gets on with her job, even fighting past her own occasional belief that her work will accomplish nothing.

Her observations, therefore, are often hilarious, especially on those occasions when she tries to escape reality by focusing on something completely unrelated to the issue at hand. This is her way of coping, she explains. "I've looked away from problems all my life," she says in the book. "Not facing them is a skill I've developed over the years and it has taken a lot of practice."

In spite of this self-deprecation, Patil has no choice but to face the problems and in presenting them in this book, she shoves them in our faces. What kind of lives do we lead, her book makes us ask, that we're so casual about destroying the very things that support our lives on this planet? What kind of lives do we expect to lead that we don't ensure our governments and their machinery actually work to conserve our only home?

Humour is a fabulous way to get harsh points across. Patil does this brilliantly. As for the cover that got me to buy the book, I'm tearing it off and framing it.

Kushalrani Gulab is a freelance editor and writer who dreams of being a sanyasi by the sea

THE GRANDEUR AND MYRIAD HORRORS OF A BEGUM'S DASTAAN



Aditi
Sriram
review

Books are defined, at their most basic, as stories with a beginning, a middle, and an end. But classics like the *Mahabharata* and *The Thousand and One Nights* are enjoyed for how frequently these three sections are interrupted. Structuring a book to consist of stories within stories allows author to escort the reader through some portions of the story, and later force the reader to plunge, unassisted, into a new section. The result is dizzying, but unforgettable. Characters blend into one another, time and space collapse, and dreamworlds feel real.

Readers like me delight in these narrative rabbit holes; we become Alice, eager to explore Wonderland with the book as our guide.

Tarana Husain Khan's *The Begum and the Dastan* is one such nested story about a Muslim family and the fate of its women, generation after generation. Feroza is forced to become Begum to

story can draw from any of these or from all of these," (p.31).

Indeed, Khan's novel does. Having acquainted her readers with Feroza Begum and Ameera, she introduces a third narrator, Kallan Mirza, who is a professional storyteller, or dastan. Appearing every few chapters, he recites scenes from the famous *Tilism-e-Hoshuba*, an Indo-Islamic fantasy epic? contemporaneous with Feroza's story. It is not a coincidence that the protagonist of this story is another royal woman, Princess Lalarukh, and the calamities written into her fate.

This braid of stories weaves between Feroza Begum, Ameera, and Princess Lalarukh. But the writing style becomes hectic at times. Sections begin with quotations from varied sources, including Urdu couplets which Khan has herself translated. Words are inconsistently in brackets or italics, creating unnecessary hierarchies between Urdu and English. Occasionally, one narrator's direct address to another character clashes with the exposition that follows. Structurally, too,

Such novels rely as much on author's mastery as on the reader's commitment, and Khan's attempt is deeply researched. But for a novel which can manipulate time and space, whose characters are consummate storytellers, it doesn't land as powerfully as one of its colleagues, *The Hakawati* by Rabih Alamedine published in 2009, which opens thus: "isten. Allow me to be your God. Let me take you on a journey beyond imagining. Let me tell you a story."

Aditi Sriram teaches writing at Ashoka University and has authored *Beyond the Boulevards: A Short Biography of Pondicherry* (2019)

FAST FACT: Poet and critic Shankha Ghosh (1932-2021) is one of the latest Covid-19 victims from the world of letters. His *Babarer Prarthana* (Bengali) won him the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1977. He received the Padma Bhushan in 2011 and the Jnanpith Award in 2016. Seldom strident or flamboyant like the 'Hungry Poets', his poems are marked with a quality of proportion. They convey message, but are free of polemics.

Loneliness, aging and what it means to be a 'woman at midpoint'



Chloë Ashby
review

After falling in love with Italy as a young woman, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jhumpa Lahiri broke with English and began writing in Italian. Her new novel — a slim and bewitching tale of a woman at her midpoint — she wrote first in Italian and has since translated. The story is told in a series of vignettes, the lengthiest six or so pages. Each is titled with the setting — in

the office, at the register, on the street — and paints an exquisite picture of a single soul moving thoughtfully about her city.

"I don't share my life with anyone," says that soul early on. She lives alone in a spartan apartment, and with only herself to worry about she never fills the fridge. She teaches, though, as she reminds us: 'I'm here to earn a living, my heart's not in it'. Twice a week she

goes for a swim, and twice a month she gets her nails done — 'my one indulgence'. Slight variations in her routine include tasting various dishes at the local trattoria and always choosing a different seat at the theatre. Her 'daily meanderings' are broken up by small pleasures, from a simple sandwich to a fleeting embrace.

The novel is tinged with melancholy; death stalks each vignette. Pedestrians on a bridge look like "skittish ghosts advancing in a row, obedient souls passing from one realm to another". The narrator's office feels 'a bit sepulchral' while the pool is a 'container of clear water lacking life'. Her father, buried in a crypt at the heart of the city, died

when she was 15 and her mother is in precarious health — "she's nearing her end". Since turning 45, the narrator too has

become acquainted with odd afflictions and mysterious pains. In her own words, she is "a middle-aged woman, slightly on edge".

Also, on the edge. A modern-day flâneuse, she strolls through the city and scopes the crowd from which she remains separate. She's peripheral, privy to tender conversations and bitter fights, familiar with faces but not the people they belong to. Each of the carefully observed characters tells us something about her, from the friend who has everything she doesn't — "a husband, kids, constant plans, a country house" — to the kind philosopher whose watchful gaze seems to say: "Signora, I know you're having a hard

time." There's the married friend "for whom I reprimand... what, exactly?" A road not taken, a hypothetical affair?" *Whereabouts* might be called a quiet book, but it isn't without bite: "I've had my share of married men."

Lahiri has spun a delicately layered story of a woman reflecting on her past, present and future. It lends itself to being read in a single sitting, during which time you'll feel your own life standing still, suspended. The author has a talent for capturing the everyday, a talent the narrator acknowledges when she and her friend's husband go their separate ways after a chance encounter: "Then we, too, become two shadows projected on to the wall: a round-



Lahiri — THE SPECTATOR
time spectacle, impossible to capture." Impossible for some, perhaps, but not for Jhumpa Lahiri.

By arrangement with the Spectator

SHORT TAKES

Abid hits double ton for Pakistan

Harare: Pakistan took total control on the second day of the second Test against Zimbabwe on Saturday, outclassing the home side with both bat and ball to take a big step towards sealing a 2-0 series victory. Zimbabwe were 52 for four at the close in reply to Pakistan's 510 for eight declared, 458 runs behind.

Opening batsman Abid Ali made 215 not out and Nauman Ali slammed 97 before being stumped off a wide.

The Zimbabwe innings got off to a bad start when 36-year-old debutant Tabish Khan struck in his first over before a run had been scored.

Three more wickets fell before the close and Zimbabwe looked in desperate trouble. — AFP

Brief scores: Pakistan 510/8 decl. (Abid 215*, Nauman 97, Muzarabani 3-82) vs Zimbabwe 52/4 (Chakabva 28*, Sajid 1/0, Hasan 1/7).

Bopanna out of Madrid Open

Madrid: India's Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov of Canada fought hard before losing in three sets to German duo of Alexander Zverev and Tim Puetz in the men's doubles quarterfinals of the Madrid Open here.

Bopanna and Shapovalov went down 6-4, 3-6, 10-5 against their German opponents to crash out of the ATP Masters 1000 tournament.

The Indo-Candian pair hit five aces as against their opponent's three, but they committed more double faults, which hampered their prospects.

Bopanna and Shapovalov had committed five double faults as against two by the German pair.

Earlier in the tournament, the unseeded pair of Bopanna and Shapovalov had stunned top seeds Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah in straight sets. — PTI

9th straight title for biggie Bayern

Dortmund, Germany: Bayern Munich were confirmed as Bundesliga champions for the ninth straight season on Saturday after Borussia Dortmund beat second-placed RB Leipzig 3-2.

Leipzig's defeat meant it can no longer overhaul Bayern, who held a seven-point lead — 71 to 64 — before hosting Borussia Monchengladbach in the late game.

Two rounds remain after this weekend's games. England winger Jadon Sancho netted twice in Dortmund's home win, a result that meant Bayern became champions without kicking a ball before their home game. — AFP

Short-handed Jazz outshine Nuggets

Los Angeles: Bojan Bogdanovic torched Denver for a career-high 48 points as the Utah Jazz remained in top spot in the Western Conference with a 127-120 victory over the Nuggets on Friday night.

The under-manned Jazz were without their dynamic guard duo of Donovan Mitchell and Mike Conley, but throughout their injury absences other Utah players have been stepping up and Friday it was Bogdanovic's turn.

"I'm playing better. I'm shooting the ball better," Bogdanovic said. "So I'm getting in the right shape in the right moment right before the playoffs."

Mitchell has missed the last 11 games with a right ankle sprain and Conley has missed six straight games with a hamstring injury. — AFP

Live on TV

FOOTBALL

English Premier League: Wolves vs Brighton from 4.30 pm; Aston Villa vs Manchester United from 6.35 pm; West Ham United vs Everton from 9 pm; Arsenal vs West Brom from 11.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1, 1HD

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Genoa vs Sassuolo from 4 pm; Parma vs Atalanta 6.30 pm; Roma vs Crotone from 9.30 pm; Juventus vs Milan from 12.15 am (Monday) on Sony Ten 2, 2HD

FORMULA ONE

Spanish GP: Main Race from 6.25 pm Star Sports Select 2, 2HD

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ENGLISH SUMMER

Pietersen pitches for postponed IPL to be held in England

London, May 8: Former England captain Kevin Pietersen wants the remaining matches of this year's postponed Indian Premier League to be shifted to the United Kingdom in September, instead of the UAE.

Pietersen feels moving the IPL to UK would be the best decision as there is a window in September just after England host India in a five-match Test series that concludes on September 14.

"I have seen people talking about the UAE as a possible destination to finish the IPL in September, but I actually think the IPL should move to the UK."

"There is a window in September after the England vs India Test series has finished. All the best Indian players would already be there, and all of the best English players would be available as well," Pietersen wrote in a column for *Betway*.

The 40-year-old right-hander, who also served as England captain for a brief period, said the weather in September would be ideal to host cricket matches in England.

"Mid-to-late September is the most beautiful time in the UK. They could use Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and the two London grounds. There is also a good chance that crowds will be allowed in the grounds, and there will be great atmospheres."

"The IPL has been to the UAE; it's been to South Africa, and I think England would now be the perfect place to house the remaining fixtures," Pietersen said.

HAMILTON TAKES 100TH POLE IN SPAIN

Barcelona, May 8: World champion Lewis Hamilton celebrated his 100th pole on Saturday after setting the fastest time in qualifying for the Spanish Grand Prix and declared "It's like my first!"

The Mercedes driver's latest milestone puts him 32 clear of Michael Schumacher in the all-time pole chart and leaves him in prime position to secure a record-extending 98th win in Sunday's race.

"I'll always remember that one," a beaming Hamilton said after reaching triple figures.

"I can't believe we are at 100 and it's down to the men and women back at the factory who are continuously raising the bar."

The support I have, it's a dream to work with these guys. Who would have thought at the end of 2012 when we made the decision to partner, we'd be qualifying at 100. I feel humble and grateful — it's like my first!"

Alongside the Briton in the front row in Barcelona will be his Red Bull title rival Max Verstappen. Hamilton reached his century 14 years after securing his maiden pole in the Canadian GP in 2007, which he went on to win to take the first step on the road to becoming Formula One's most successful driver. — AFP

Kevin Pietersen poses in Maldives. — Twitter



● Pietersen made the statement after four English counties — Middlesex, Surrey, Warwickshire and Lancashire — have expressed interest in hosting the remaining 31 games of the IPL.

Pietersen made the statement after four English counties — Middlesex, Surrey, Warwickshire and Lancashire — have expressed interest in hosting the remaining 31 games of the IPL. — PTI

IOC says nothing can stop Games from going ahead

Sydney, May 8: International Olympic Committee vice-president John Coates was adamant Saturday that nothing could stop the Tokyo Olympics from going ahead, despite ongoing risks from Covid-19.

Asked if there was any scenario in which the Games, which are due to start in July, could be cancelled or postponed again at this late stage, he replied: "No, there's not."

The prime minister of Japan said that to the president of the United States two or three weeks ago, he continues to say that to the IOC.

"We're working with him (Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga) on all of the safety measures. It's going ahead."

Suga held talks with US leader Joe Biden in April and stressed the Asian nation was doing everything possible to contain Covid-19 infections and hold a "safe and secure" Olympics.

But questions continue to be raised about the viability of the Games, given the ongoing pandemic and a virus state of emergency in Tokyo and other parts of Japan being extended on Friday.

Coates, who heads the IOC's Coordination

Commission for the Tokyo Games, said a huge amount of work had been done to ensure the safety of athletes and the Japanese public.

"We spent the first half of last year identifying all the worst-case scenarios," he said in Sydney on the sidelines of the Australian Olympic Committee's annual general meeting.

"We spent the next six months looking at the countermeasures that are necessary. We're implementing those countermeasures, predicated on there being no vaccine, so that situation has improved. The Games will go ahead."

— AP



A Japanese rhythmic gymnast performs during a test event in Tokyo on Saturday to prepare for the Olympic Games.

US drugs giant Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech on Thursday announced a deal with the IOC to provide vaccines to competitors and staff at the Games, which Coates said it was a major step.

"All of the precautions that we have been taking are aimed at the health of the athletes and the health of the people of Japan," he said.

"We've put an amazing amount of work into the procedures that ensure the safety of the athletes through testing ... Boosted now by all athletes around the world now having access to the vaccine." — AFP

"Prasidh like all India players left bubble on May 3 after getting two negative results. However on reaching Bengaluru he tested positive," the source said.

The BCCI is hoping that by the time the UK-bound players enter the bio-bubble in India on May 25, Krishna will test negative.

Seifert is also in isolation in Ahmedabad from where he will go to Chennai for treatment at a private hospital.

— PTI

BIG 3 DEFEND SUPER LEAGUE, DENOUNCE UEFA

Rome, May 8: Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus on Saturday defended the aborted Super League project in the face of "threats" from UEFA.

The three clubs are the only ones from the original 12 yet to renounce the proposed competition that would guarantee its founding members involvement every season, instead of having to qualify.

The nine clubs who have dropped out

Tottenham, Arsenal, Manchester City, Manchester United, Chelsea, Liverpool, Atletico Madrid, Inter Milan and AC Milan — were on Friday given a financial penalty by UEFA for their involvement.

UEFA also said it would take "appropriate action" against the three clubs who still support the Super League project.

In response, Real, Barca and Juventus said in a joint statement "the founding clubs have suffered, and continue to suffer, unacceptable third-party pressures (and) threats. This is intolerable under the rule of law."

They said the Super League had been launched "with the aim of providing solutions to the current unsustainable situation in the football industry". — AFP

● M. K. Kaushik and Ravinder Pal Singh, members of the 1980 Moscow Olympics gold-medal winning Indian hockey team, lost their battle to Covid on a sombre Saturday for sport.

the Dronacharya award in 2002.

Singh was admitted at the Vivekananda Hospital on April 24 after contracting the deadly virus.

According to family sources, Singh had recovered from the virus and was shifted to non-Covid ward on Thursday after testing negative. But his condition suddenly deteriorated on Friday and he was put on a ventilator.

Singh, who also played at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, did not get married and is survived by a niece, Pragya Yadav.

Singh also played in the 1979 Junior World Cup and took voluntary retirement from State Bank of India after quitting hockey.

Born in Sitapur on September 6, 1960, Singh excelled as a centre-half from 1979 to 1984. — PTI

Hockey stalwarts succumb to Covid

New Delhi, May 8: Former India hockey player and coach M. K. Kaushik on Saturday died after battling Covid-19 for the past three weeks. He was 66 and survived by his son and wife.

Kaushik, a member of the 1980 Moscow Olympics gold-medal winning Indian hockey team, lost their battle to Covid on a sombre Saturday for sport.

the Dronacharya award in 2002.

Singh was admitted at the Vivekananda Hospital on April 24 after contracting the deadly virus.

Another former India hockey player and a member of the 1980 Moscow Olympics-winning Indian team, had tested positive for Covid-19 on April 17 and was admitted to a nursing home in New Delhi.

"He was shifted to ventilator this morning but passed away just now," Kaushik's son Ehsan said.

Kaushik, a member of the 1980 Moscow Olympics gold-medal winning Indian team, had tested positive for Covid-19 on April 17 and was admitted to a nursing home in New Delhi.

"He was shifted to ventilator this morning but passed away just now," Kaushik's son Ehsan said.

Kaushik had coached both the senior men and women's teams. Under his coaching, India's men's team won a gold medal at the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok.

Singh, who also played at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, did not get married and is survived by a niece, Pragya Yadav.

Singh also played in the 1979 Junior World Cup and took voluntary retirement from State Bank of India after quitting hockey.

Born in Sitapur on September 6, 1960, Singh excelled as a centre-half from 1979 to 1984. — PTI

WOMEN HOCKEY PLAYERS RECOVER FROM COVID-19

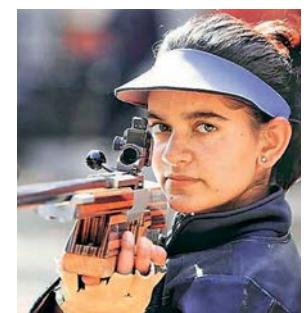
New Delhi, May 8: Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, her six team-mates and two support staff members have recovered from Covid-19 infection after spending two weeks in quarantine at the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Centre in Bengaluru.

The six other India players are Savita Punia, Sharmila Devi, Rajani, Navjot Kaur and Sushila while the two support staff are video analyst Amruthaprasak and scientific advisor Wayne Lombard.

All seven tested positive following the Indian women's hockey core group's return to the national camp in Bengaluru on April 24 after a 10-day break. All of them were asymptomatic.

"Thank you everyone for the love and mental support through messages/calls during the last two weeks. Me and my teammates and support staff are fully recovered from the Covid now," Rani said in a statement on her Twitter handle.

Croatia is safer to train for Moudgil



Anjum Moudgil

Tokyo on July 17.

"SAI has arranged a chartered flight for us to train here in India. I don't have a private training range for 50m rifle three positions. I have to either travel to Delhi or Pune which is not safe under this pandemic conditions," she said at a virtual press conference arranged by the Sports Authority of India.

"I think Croatia must be better than India currently (in terms of Covid-19 situation) and being with the team also gives you confidence. I don't see any problem from being away from home for three months."

She said the Indian team will undergo a seven-day quarantine after reaching Croatia. They will fly to

"I respect the decision of NRAI. I still have two events in the Olympics. I am ready for the 50m 3 positions."

— PTI

2021 IPL season is now subject to several imponderables



Ayaz Memon
Over The Top

The most important office bearers of the BCCI — President Sourav Ganguly, secretary Jay Shah and treasurer Arun Dhimal — have shrugged off responsibility for the IPL fiasco by claiming that nobody could have known the intensity of the second wave of the Covid pandemic that hit the country from the first week of April. I'm afraid, this does not wash.

While cricket administrators are not experts in virology and epidemics, the Corona virus tsunami was being widely discussed by experts from January onwards. Only it was obfuscated by a gloat-

ing government, and a cricket administration that preferred to toe the populist line rather assess the looming threat independently.