

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | 30 JUNE 2021

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Vol. 84 No. 180 Established 1938 | 20 PAGES | ₹6.00

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WEATHER

Max: 34.2°C
Min: 23.8°C
RH: 97%
Rain: 14.8 mmForecast: Cloudy sky.
Moderate rain. Max/Min
temp. 33/23°C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttaraayan

Tithi: Jyeshta Bahula Shashthi

till 1.23 pm

Star: Purvabhadra till

2.05 am (Thursday)

Variyam: 7.44 am to 9.24 am

Durmuhurtam: 11.53 am to

12.45 pm

Rahukalam: 12 noon to 1.30 pm

HIJRI CALENDAR

Zeeqad 18,1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.35 am

Zohar: 12.29 pm

Asar: 4.56 pm

Maghrib: 7.00 pm

Isha: 8.17 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.54 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.45 AM

MOONRISE TODAY 11.42 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 11.00 AM

COUNTER POINT

Farmers' income will
be doubled? Where
is the income?

SHORT TAKES

RBI IMPOSES
₹1.1CR FINE ON
MAHESH BANKDC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.12 crore on Hyderabad-based Andhra Pradesh Mahesh Co-operative Urban Bank for non-compliance with its directions on deposit rates and 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) norms.

The RBI said that found Mahesh Bank had not complied with some of its directions issued when it had conducted a statutory inspection. It said the charges were proved after considering the bank's reply to its showcase notice, oral submissions made in the personal hearing.

The RBI said the action was based on deficiencies in compliance and was not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank.

Another report on Page 10

Property registration values to rise in state

Rates likely to increase by 30% to 400%DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

The stage is set for a steep hike in registration values of lands and properties across Telangana state very soon. Official sources said the registration value of houses, flats, vacant plots, agriculture lands and commercial properties would be increased in the range of 30 per cent to 400 per cent depending on the location.

The Cabinet sub-committee on resource mobilisation headed by finance minister T. Harish Rao and comprising ministers K.T. Rama Rao, Vemula Prashanth Reddy, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, stamps and registrations inspec-

ket value of lands and properties in the subsequent years following the real estate boom. The new rates are likely to come into force from August 1.

After bifurcation of the state in 2014, Andhra Pradesh had revised registration values seven times, sources said. The Cabinet committee which met at the Dr Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute (MCRHRDI) here on Tuesday to discuss the issue, pointed out that the registration value in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra was 7 per cent, and in Tamil Nadu 7.5 per cent.

Registration values were last revised in 2013 in undivided AP, leading to wide gap between government value and market

value.

■ Page 2: 51% deals done at more than govt value

RAHUL SAYS NO MEETING FIXED WITH SIDHU

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

Disgruntled Punjab Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu on Tuesday failed to meet former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi or general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, against a claim made by his team a day before.

Sources in the party said Sidhu may now meet the high-powered committee appointed by Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to sort out party issues in Punjab.

The suspense over Sidhu's meeting ended when the former Congress chief clarified that there was no meeting scheduled between him and Sidhu.

The sources said Rahul Gandhi meeting Sidhu would not be good optics as he had not met the Punjab Chief Minister either.

SC slams Centre on labour portal

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

The Supreme Court on Tuesday slammed the Union ministry of labour and employment for its unpardonable "apathy and lackadaisical attitude" towards the development of a portal for the registrations of unorganised or migrant workers to enable them to reap the benefits of welfare schemes.

Noting that it had directed the ministry on August 21, 2018, to develop and provide the states with a module of the portal for the registration of migrant workers, a bench comprising Justice Ashok Bhushan and Justice M.R. Shah said, "When the unorganised workers are waiting for registration and are waiting to reap the benefit of various

schemes.

The court also directed the Centre to make available additional food grains to states for providing food grains to migrants/unorganised workers.

Moderna vaccine gets nod

New Delhi, June 29: India's drug regulator DCGI has granted permission to Cipla to import Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine for restricted emergency use in the country as per the provisions of the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019 under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940," a source said.

In separate communications, Moderna on June 27 informed DCGI that the US government has

agreed to donate a certain number of doses of its Covid-19 vaccine through Covax to India for use here and sought an approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation for the vaccines.

On Monday, Cipla filed the application seeking permission for import of Moderna's vaccine referring to the drug controller's notices dated April 15 and June 1. — PTI

"Drugs Controller

General of India (DCGI) has granted permission to Cipla to import Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine for restricted emergency use in the country as per the provisions of the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019 under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940," a source said.

Moderna's vaccine will be the fourth Covid-19 jab to be available in India after Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik.

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On Monday

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE PROPERTY

AGRICULTURE

FARM LAND 17guntas (205sqds) @155 per sqd, Black top Road Facing at Kotahpet village, Shivampet Mandal, Close to Proposed R.R.R. Contact: 9082216797, 983378599. (HYMM/2122/C02161)

COMMERCIAL

COMMERCIAL RETAIL Space For Sale in Banjara Hills under Ground floor 2000sqft. Well Maintained Building with ample Car Parking. Contact: 7799222012. (HYCL/2122/C00624)

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3BHK APARTMENT For Sale in BanjaraHills, Well Maintained Building with Swimming Pool, Gym, Terrace Garden, Private Reception For Residents with 24hrs Back Up Generator and Security. Contact: 7799222012. (HYCL/2122/C00622)

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INDUSTRIAL LAND

INDUSTRIAL LAND about 10 Acres on National Highway Hyderabad to Mumbai 17 Kms from Zaheerabad Situated at Bhagoor, Bidar District Karnataka with all Licenses, Permissions& Consent from Govt Departments Suitable for Pharma& allied Industries is for Sale Contact: 9440955555. (HYCL/2122/C00626)

PLOTS

PREMIUM COMMERCIAL property at 150 sq yds huda layout at pillar no 165 attapur. Contact: 951584257 (HYMM/2122/C02159)

KAKATIYAHILLS NEAR Kavuri Hills-500sqds Plot For Sale/ Lease (Built to Suit -Commercial/ Residential Purpose for Corporate Customers). LRS Paid. Buyers Please Call: 9398310063/ 9652900405. (HYMM/2122/C02139)

OPEN PLOTS Meenakshi County @Shankarpally 101Acres Approved Layout, 300 Feet Mainroad Facing, 100% Layout Development Work Completed, Preempted, Landscaping, Drive In Financial District in Just 25 Mins, Bank Loan Facility Available. Contact: 8143206034/ 8143225378. (HYMM/2122/C02139)

OPEN PLOTS Near: Yacharam Main Road Samooha Golden Gate Phase-2, DTCP Venture Near Pharmacy, Low Price Ph:9059577211. (HYMM/2122/C01685)

REAL ESTATE

LAND REQUIRED

LAND REQUIRED On Development Basis, we have Established Construction Company. Residential Or Commercial Property in and Around Attepu, Sushira Circle, Kukatpally, Narsingi Clear Title And Free of Litigation. Contact: 7799222012. (HYCL/2122/C00622)

RENTALS

COMMERCIAL

HIMAYATHNAGAR MAIN Road, Ground C Shop 600 Sq ft for any Non-Veg & Veg. Ph:8712366000. (B/2122/C00216)

FULLY EQUIPPED AC Pure Veg Restaurant located in the pure business area on main road near Abids running since 16yrs available for rent. Area 5000sqft. Contact 9440372922 Between 2pm to 8pm. (HYMM/2122/C02020)

PLUG AND PLAY facility 11,000sqft Cellular Ground 3 independent building Banjara hills good interiors long lease contact: 9000092222 (HYMM/2122/C02157)

APPROX 110000SFT building in good location with full of greenery nearer to city is mostly suitable for international residential schools & colleges available. Ph:9799522481, 9012429277. (HYCL/2122/C02040)

DECENT OFFICE/ Shop 166 First floor, 381 Sft, Semi Furnished including Toilet, Babukhan Estate, Basheerbagh, Ph:9848042674, 7893530194. (B/2122/C00224)

COMMERCIAL SPACE available for rental at plot no: 114, 1st floor mital chambers M.G. Road, Secunderabad. Contact no: 9848012924, 8790700363. (S/2122/C00557)

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL space available for rent, ground floor 2000 sq.ft, 3rd floor 500 sq.ft. 4th floor 700- 800 sq.ft. at A.N.Complex, Hyderabad, Ranigunj, Secunderabad. Contact: 9848012924, 8790700363. (S/2122/C00558)

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HUMAYUNNAGAR MASATANK in Park Continental Hotel, 2BHK LuxuryFlat 2nd Floor,Lit,24x7 water, NoParking independent Building NewLightKitchen Flat25k Maintenance3k for Small Family NRI/Student/ Small Office. Ph:8008444007, 9963715452. (W/2122/AT00029)

THREE & MORE

RENTALS. THREE Bedroom Flat at Mayur Marg, 2200 Sqft near HPS and Gitanjali Schools, Begumpet. Contact Ph:9849091342. (HYCL/2122/C00629)

REQUIRED

WANTED 1500- 2000sft commercial space in Banjara Hills and Kukatpally on long lease for a reputed wellness clinic. Preferably first floor. Should have enough parking, lift, water, power Contact: 9701979760. (HYMM/2122/C02154)

LEASE

COMMERCIAL

8571 SFT & 3653 sft fully furnished with Fit-outs, Plus N Play Space available for Lease/ Rent for Software Companies in Cyber Pearl, Hitec-city, Hyderabad. Contact: +919848903443. (HYCL/2122/C00538)

WAREHOUSE SPACE Available at Medchal & Kalakal Main Road 25,000 to 2,00,000 sq ft Contact: Ph:9393634321 (HYMM/2122/C02151)

BANJARAHILLS, ROAD No:12, Prime location 2219 Sq.Ft commercial 3BHK Flat @ 4th Floor with Car Parking for Sale/ Lease. Contact: 9849016200. (A/2122/C00164)

SITUATION VACANT

ACADEMIC

REPUTED DEGREE and PG College requires Management faculty and language lecturers, English and softskills trainers for branches in sec'bad. Candidates with only relevant experience can apply to ph:7893463754 (HYMM/2122/C02156)

WANTED EXPERIENCED educational counsellors at Moosapet & Ameerpet candidates must have experience and proven track record call: 8143206612 (W/2122/C00299)

ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

REQUIRED A Candidate with Computer Knowledge and Experience in Tally & Filing TDS, GST and TCS Returns of Roller Flour Mills are Preferred. Venkateshwara Agro Foods, Balanagar. Ph:9908575051, Mail: venkaf@gmail.com (HYMM/2122/C02162)

WALK-IN TODAY for: CA/ CS Inter/ C/S Inter/ Audit Assistant/ Articles/ Paid assistant with experience in accounts, audit, taxation, Law Sunil & Sanjay, Chartered Accountants 2nd Floor, Emerald House, S.D.Road, Secunderabad. Tele: 091741010. (S/2122/C00502)

ADVT. SALES & MKTG.

LEADING CNC wirecut edm machine manufacturer from bangalore looking for Sales Enginee for A.P. and Telangana. Qualification: Diploma/ B.E (Mechanical) experience: 2 to 3 years in machines tool sales (preferred) location: Hyderabad send detailed resume to sales@concordunited.com (W/2122/AT00290)

GRACE PHARMA, Bangalore 20yrs old Multi crone company, requires Marketing Executive for Hyderabad. Interested Candidates send your resume @ plusindia2003@gmail.com & plusindia2003@yahoo.in (HYMM/2122/C02148)

IMMEDIATELY REQUIRE Business Development Managers/ Inside sales/ Counsellors and Sr.Telles for reputed group of colleges. Candidates with English and Telugu fluency with 1-6yrs experience can apply to ph:8008002150 (HYMM/2122/C02155)

REQUIRED FOR Marketing Professionals for Real Estate Company. Job:- Marketing Directors and Property Advisors. Salary+Incentives 50K Contact: 7675810212. (HYMM/2122/C02166)

WANTED MARKETING Agents in reputed Real estate company. General managers, sales executives in our projects. yadadri &Jangam more details. Ph:9182770925 (HYMM/2122/C02070)

CALL CENTER / BPO

URGENTLY REQUIRED-50 Sales (Voice+Non-Voice), for UK based international call center, Min 2years international experience. Fixed salaries from 6K to 20K plus incentives daily night shifts /WFH also available on/off Khan Latkar Khan building, Opp to LB Stadium, Basheer Bagh. Ph:9573746927 (HYMM/2122/C02149)

COMPUTERS

WANTED DIGITAL Marketing Executive and Graphic Designer (Photoshop, Illustrator, Premier Pro) at Mirrors Luxury Salons. Individuals with Good Work Ethics &Ability to Collaborate and Work with the Designing& Marketing Team. Submit Your Resumes Before 05-07-2021 at mirrorsluxurysalons@gmail.com. Hurry Up! Limited Vacancies Available. (HYMM/2122/C02163)

HOTEL

STAFF REQUIRED for restaurant at Habsiguda. Stewards, Waiters, Chefs. Applicant should have Relevant & suitable experience in their field. Ph:9177546488 (HYMM/2122/C02168)

LECTURERS

M.S.DEGREE COLLEGE for Women requires female Lecturers for Commerce/BBA, Computer Science/ Nutrition, Chemistry/ Zoology, English/ Psychology for its Tolichowki/ Asifnagar, Malakpet/ Shalibanda Branches. Excellent package for deserving candidates. Walk-in-interview on 28th, 29th & 30th June-21 between 11:am- 5:00pm at Corporate Office, 4th Floor, Above Reliance Trends, Masabtak. Email: careers@mssinstitutions.com Contact: 9032135522/ 040-67684422. (HYCL/2122/C00572)

MUMTAZ COLLEGE MALAKPET, Wanted qualified lecturers for Biology, Urdu, Hindi, Arabic, B.Sc: Botany, Zoology, Chemistry, Microbiology, Physics, Maths, Statistics, Data Science, Nutrition, B.Com (General), (Comp. Applications) subjects &Business Analytics, BBA Subjects &Librarian. B.A: Mass communication, Journalism. Minimum Qualification: PG with 55% Marks. Send CV before 10-07-2021. Email: mumtazcollege1122@gmail.com (HYMM/2122/C02165)

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DOUBLE BEDROOM

HUMAYUNNAGAR MASATANK in Park Continental Hotelane, 2BHK LuxuryFlat 2nd Floor,Lit,24x7 water, NoParking independent Building NewLightKitchen Flat25k Maintenance3k for Small Family NRI/Student/ Small Office. Ph:8008444007, 9963715452. (W/2122/AT00029)

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RENTALS. THREE Bedroom Flat at Mayur Marg, 2200 Sqft near HPS and Gitanjali Schools, Begumpet. Contact Ph:9849091342. (HYCL/2122/C00629)

WANTED EXPERIENCED

lecturers for INTER- Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Social Studies & Computers)& P.R.T, minimum Qualification Graduate in Specific subject- Ed. Application forms available at www.deccanchronicle.edu.in. Send Application form to Army Public School Golconda, Hyderabad, 500031 on or before 05th July 2021. Ph:040-29882249, 9052823270. (HYCL/2122/C00268)

MULTIPLE VACANCIES

REQUIRED MARKETING Executives/ PRO and Admission Incharge for a junior College in Banjara Hills. Contact: 8631039847, 8639511366. (HYMM/2122/C02169)

CHANGE OF NAME

I. ATHMAKURI Haritha Reddy, D/o Athmakuri Ramdev Reddy R/o-Flat, No 401, Shanmukha Residency, Hyderabagar have changed my name to I. Athra Reddy for all purposes. (HYMM/2122/C02158)

I. SMT MADHAVI D/o Bomanai Bona Narsiah (Late) D/o-30-05-1979-401, Warasiguda, Secunderabad, Telangana. I Changed My Name As Smt.Gandhi Madhavi D/o Bomanai Bona Narsiah. (HYMM/2122/C02164)

DISTRIBUTORS

WANTED CALL Center Executives/ Telecallers/ Team Leaders For An MNC Company -Hyderabad, Freshers/EXP (House Wife's) Canbe Applied, Qualification: Any Graduate, Salary: 10K-50K+Incentives, Ph:8895677777 (HYMM/2122/C02116)

COMPANY REQUIREMENTS

5-7years experience/female/ male/ back office For quotation billing order processing/ tendering & tally with good communication skills mail your profile to: synergyprojects@gmail.com phone: 8074765531 (HYMM/2122/C02147)

WANTED CABLE

to Internet, CCTV technicians, helpers, drivers for a reputed organization. Con: 040-24651234, 9848437615 (HYMM/2122/C02160)

WANTED MAINTENANCE

Manager with Minimum 5years Experience in Maintaining Villas at Kompalpally, Please Send Resumes Email: wahedik12@gmail.com (HYCL/2122/C00625)

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

@ Vibrant Nissan/Ford for sales Consultants, Corporate Sales Consultants/Used Car Evaluators for our Showrooms in MG.Road, Kukatpally, Gachibowli and Somajiguda. For Service Managers, Bodyshop Advisors, Customer Care Executives Location Gachibowli, Uppal, Balanagar, Sanathnagar. Freshers with Good Communication in English & Hindi can also apply. Venue: Vibrant Nissan, MG.Road, Phone:9666971000, hr.secunderabad@vibrantnissan.co.in (S/2122/C00541)

HOME FOR AGED

SAFE HOME Care Services & Oldage Home We Will Provide To Oldage, Children's, Bed Reddan Patient's For 24/7, 12 Hours, Caretakers, etc. Ph:703264215 (HYMM/2122/C02115)

POULTRY

ONLY FOR Educational Consultants/ Academies. No Advance Fee. Students please no call. Contact for Verifiable +Fast Track: Graduation: (15,000) B.Ed-M.Ed- M.Ed- NCTE-Recognised (30,000)/BBA- MBA-BCA-MCA (20,25,000) from Government University, ECA from WES/QAS/ ICAS Documentation & Attestation Support Available. 48-Educational Experience. Shiksha Bharti, Varanasi. Mobile: 9519759613, 9915103781. Email: shikshabharti18@yahoo.com (HYMM/2122/C02145)

ONE-SITTING /

IN BRIEF
TOSS: All SSC, Inter candidates pass

Hyderabad: The Telangana Open School Society (TOSS) declared all SSC and Intermediate candidates who were eligible to appear for the examinations in July this year as passed, with 35 per cent minimum qualifying marks in each subject. This was done as a one-time measure in view of Covid-19 pandemic spread. The decision will benefit 63,581 SSC and 47,392 intermediate candidates of the TOSS. Candidates who wish to improve their scores will be able to appear for immediate subsequent public exams only of TOSS, whenever conducted.

II-year Inter online classes from July 1

Hyderabad: The TS Intermediate Board of Education (TSIBE) announced the time table for Intermediate second year online classes, starting from July 1. The classes will be telecasted on TSAT network as well as on Doordarshan until July 15. The classes for second year intermediate general and vocational courses will be conducted in morning and evening sessions on TSAT and Doordarshan, as per the schedule. A detailed timetable for first year intermediate students will be released at a later date once the admission process is completed, it said

HYD STUDENTS DEVELOP OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

Students of Hyderabad-based Lords Institute of Engineering & Technology (Autonomous) have developed a cost-effective dual use oxygen concentrator from water purifier. The product, which will cost ₹20,000, can convert the purifier into a full-time oxygen concentrator.

Shaik Mohd Rayyan, Md Adil and Mohd Misbah Uddin, final year students of mechanical engineering, said, "The innovation belongs to the medical domain or where there is a need of pure oxygen for the patient for its survival. This need will be addressed by taking air from atmosphere and compressing it. The flow of oxygen is regulated through a regulator installed at the exit point of the concentrator."

GUV. ANNOUNCES CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

Raj Bhavan on Tuesday announced that Governor Dr Tamlisai Soundararajan has decided to present the Chancellor's Awards, for best teacher, best research, and best university in academic social responsibility.

The awards are aimed at promoting academic excellence, research and innovation in state universities. The Governor is the Chancellor of the State universities.

Raj Bhavan, in coordination with the TS Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) will launch the initiative for selecting nominees for the awards.

An independent jury of academicians, scientists and eminent personalities will select the nominees for the awards. Once the modalities and criteria are finalised, applications will be called for.

The Governor said, "Chancellor's Awards should be prestigious and be given to highly deserving candidates purely based on merit. Research awards must be given to those whose work has utility and benefited society. Locally applicable research must be encouraged, especially during the Covid pandemic. Research should have some relevance and applicability and utility value to society."

TSCHE Chairman Prof. T. Papi Reddy said the Council will extend financial grants to the awardees, adding that it will coordinate the Chancellor's Awards process with the Raj Bhavan and make it a reality soon.

● AN INDEPENDENT jury of academicians, scientists and eminent personalities will select the nominees for the awards. Once the modalities and criteria are finalised, applications will be called for.

GHMC presents ₹5,600 crore budget

Oppn members object to fund allocation as public grievances have not been addressed over the years

MADDY DEEKSHITI | DC
 HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

The GHMC on Tuesday approved a ₹5,600-crore budget for 2021-22, in its first-ever Council meeting held online due to the pandemic. Though the budget was approved by Mayor Gadwal R. Vijayalakshmi, the meeting drew dissent from Opposition corporators for not giving them time to speak on the budget.

Opposition members raised public grievances which were unaddressed over the years and objected to the allocation of funds and their expenditure. Corporators argued that the civic officials ignored key initiatives like improving the sanitation, allocation of funds for slum development, malaria and dengue eradication among several others. A corporator alleged that the GHMC spent only about ₹7 crore for dengue and malaria eradication of the ₹10 crore given by the state government.

After assuming charge on February 11, the first

GHMC council meeting was held virtually from 10.30 am followed by its first ordinary meeting. As many as 156 members including corporators and ex-officio members participated. It was not streamed live to mediapersons.

The meeting began with the swearing-in of Lingojiguda Congress corporator Darppali Rajashekhar Reddy, who took oath in the presence of the Mayor and new TPCC president A. Revanth Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, Revanth Reddy expressed displeasure over the works taken up on the catchment areas of the Musi and said they were ill-planned.

Describing Hyderabad as the heart of Telangana, Revanth Reddy said the state would do good only when the city did good. He lambasted the government for not taking steps to safeguard nadas, prevent and remove encroachments on them. These encroachments were the prime causes for the flash floods which occurred in October last year, he said.

why the corporation never took measures to improve the stormwater networks. "While the police have installed CCTV cameras in every nook and corner to curb crime, why is the GHMC not installing CCTV cameras at nadas and water bodies to save them from the encroachments," he added.

Gudimalkapur corporator Devvara Karunakar (BJP, Gudimalkapur) asked



Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi administering the oath to newly-elected Lingojiguda corporator Darppali Rajashekhar Reddy at GHMC head office on Tuesday. Newly-appointed president of the TS Congress Revanth Reddy is also seen

— P. SURENDRA
 rbage. Despite an increase in garbage generation, the GHMC cut down the provision for additional vehicles to ₹75 crore from ₹150 crore.

He said that the government had allocated about ₹10 crore to the entomology wing for dengue and malaria eradication programmes, but the GHMC had spent ₹2.78 crore for malaria and for dengue ₹4.46 crore. This works out to ₹2.78 per citizen for malaria eradication and ₹4.45 for dengue eradication. "This means the corporation has spent the cost of one anti-mosquito coil for a whole year," he added.

Uppal corporator M. Rajitha (Congress) said the party did not get time either to speak on the Budget or public related issues. Condemning the virtual meeting, she asked why there were Covid-19 protocols in place only for the GHMC corporators but not Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao and minister K.T. Rama Rao. "Why is the government running away when asked

to address the public grievances? We demand that the government hold a physical meeting but not virtual meetings for effective and accountable administration," she added.

Meanwhile, the size of the budget is marginally up by the revised estimate of ₹5,600 crore. The GHMC expects about ₹1,850 crore, which is about 32 per cent of the total budget, from property tax receipts. About 22 per cent (₹1,224 crore) will be mobilised through loans. And ₹1,022 crore is expected to come from user charges and other fees. It expects about ₹770 crore through grants.

The GHMC panel said it would get ₹190 crore from the fee collected from people for regularising their properties. Nearly 25 per cent of the GHMC's budget would be spent on development of roads and footpaths. It allocated ₹360 crore for the green budget. The civic body recently passed a resolution to spend at least 10 per cent of its budget for various greener initiatives.

Apollo to hold mega vax drive

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

son at Apollo Hospitals Group, said, "We believe that no one is safe, until everyone is vaccinated. Apollo Hospitals said it will carry out a mega-vaccination drive at 200 centres across 50 cities on June 30. It said state-of-the-art technology will be used for faster and easier slot booking on the Apollo 24/7 app.

The app provides real-time information to enable users to choose their preferred time slot to reduce wait time. Walk-ins at Apollo vaccination centres are also possible from 7 am to 7 pm.

There are 10,000 staff trained for safe vaccination protocols to ensure seamless experience at vaccination centres, Apollo Hospitals said.

Shobana Kamineni, executive vice chairper-



People gather at a Covid-19 vaccination camp organised at the Venkateshwara Colony, Narayanguda, in Hyderabad

— S. SURENDER REDDY

Covid cases spike in Khammam

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

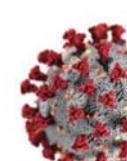
Khammam district saw a 50 per cent spike in Covid-19 cases in a day, from 50 on Monday to 102 on Wednesday. The single day spike is being attributed to social gatherings and crowding in the markets.

Experts state that these cases are being confirmed by testing now, but the symptom onset is five days earlier.

After the unlock, there has been a rush of marriages and other auspicious functions which has seen large gatherings.

Most of the people who have completed first dose of vaccine are attending these functions by assum-

DAILY COVID BULLETIN DATA



Update: Cases | Deaths

Fresh Cases	987
Deaths	7
Tests Done	1,21,236
Active Cases	13,487
Total Cases	6,22,593
Total Deaths	3,651

● **MOST OF** the people who have completed first dose of vaccine are attending functions by assuming that they are safe and are not following Covid protocols.

physician, said, "Those who are vaccinated and are following Covid-19 safety protocols are protected. Those who do not wear masks properly and are part of regular social gatherings are risking themselves. With the Delta strain of SARS-CoV-2 being around, it is risky for all."

Districts like Suryapet, Nalgonda, Bhadravathi, Karimnagar continued to show more than 50 new cases every day.

Most new cases

GHMC (Hyderabad)	130
Khammam	102
Nalgonda	69
Suryapet	64
Bhadradri Kothagudem	60

Fewest new cases

Adilabad	1
Narayanpet	2
Nizamabad	3
Komarambheem Asifabad	4
Medak	5

ing that they are safe and are not following Covid-19 protocols of wearing

masks properly and maintaining social distancing.

Dr Pavan Reddy, general

physician, said, "Those who are vaccinated and are following Covid-19 safety protocols are protected. Those who do not wear masks properly and are part of regular social gatherings are risking themselves. With the Delta strain of SARS-CoV-2 being around, it is risky for all."

Districts like Suryapet, Nalgonda, Bhadravathi, Karimnagar continued to show more than 50 new cases every day.

AMERICAN | INDEPENDENCE

US, India made progress on many fronts, says Reifman

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

Independence Day is a reminder to all those living in India and the United States of America, to celebrate the strong partnership between the two democratic nations, according to US Consul General, Joel Reifman. The Consul General was speaking at the 24th US Independence Day celebrations organised by Indo American Chamber of Commerce (IACC), virtually on July 16.

their colleges from August 23 to August 31, following which the first semester classwork will commence from September 1. This year more than four lakh college seats are expected to be on offer through Degree Online Services Telangana (DOST), for which there will be three admission phases.

Applicants will have to undergo orientation in

terrorism, peace keeping, climate change, science and technology, agriculture, space, trade and foreign education.

"Our people-to-people ties in both nations are very strong. Nearly four million Indian Americans call America their home. They contribute to the nation on many fronts. NASA's space mission commander has Telangana roots. Raja Chari, a man with Telugu roots, is gearing up for the SpaceX Crew-3 Mission to ISS scheduled in October this year. His father Sreenivas V. Chari hailed from Hyderabad and studied at Osmania University" he said.

He said the USA and India cooperated on many fronts such as defence, regional cooperation particularly in Indo Pacific,

● **JOEL REIFMAN** said despite the pandemic disrupting global trade, it had led to many collaborations in several critical sectors. TS played a significant role in the Indian healthcare sector by giving the nation the first indigenously developed vaccine by Bharath Biotech which again was done in collaboration with American universities, hospitals.

Reifman said despite the pandemic disrupting global trade, it had led to many collaborations in several critical sectors. Telangana state played a significant role in the Indian health-

care sector by giving the nation the first indigenously developed vaccine by Bharath Biotech which again was done in collaboration with American universities and hospitals.

"Hyderabad has emerged as the destination of choice for life sciences, pharma sectors, science and technology, IT and business-friendly policies, thanks to the commendable job of my friend K.T. Rama Rao and the state government," Reifman added. "India-US relationship is multidimensional. There is hardly any aspect of human endeavour where these two countries have not collaborated both on the positive side or fighting against climate change, terrorism and pandemic. The partnership between our two nations is very strong," the Consul General said.

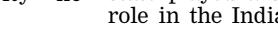
"In seven years of Modi's Prime Ministership, there were three changes in the US leadership — Obama, Trump and now Biden, the new President. Our friendship and partnership even during such changes in leadership was intact and has grown very strong on both bilateral and global issues. Both nations share common democratic values," said Dr Vijay Chauhan, in-charge, foreign affairs department, Bharatiya Janata Party.

Degree admissions open from July 1

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

Admissions for undergraduate degree courses are set to commence from July 1, whereas classes for the first year students will begin on September 1, an official release said. As per the schedule released on Tuesday registration for the first phase of admissions will start on July 1 and go on till July 15. Students can exercise their web-options from July 3 to July 16 following which the first phase of seat allotment will be made on July 22.

Applicants will have to undergo orientation in



SHORT TAKES

TURMERIC FARMERS WANT ARVIND TO RESIGN

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

The Telangana Turmeric Farmers Association demanded resignation of Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind for failing to keep his election promise of setting up a turmeric board. Arvind promised farmers on turmeric board on bond paper and also agreed to resign if failed to do so, the farmers said.

Farmers union leaders said Arvind cheated the farmers and he had no moral right to continue in the MP post. Only ₹1cr was sanctioned for the spices board in Nizamabad, but Arvind was misleading farmers by stating that ₹30 crore was sanctioned, they alleged.

BJP LEADER URGES GOV. TO PROTECT TRIBALS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

Former minister and senior BJP leader Ravindra Naik demanded that Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan stop injustice being done to tribals by the government led by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao.

Speaking to media, he alleged that CM has even misled Governor on the issue of tribal rights. He accused the state government of diverting the budget earmarked for tribals to other activities.

Ravindra Naik accused the Chief Minister of playing a drama before Huzurabad boply, promising ₹10 lakh per Dalit family. He said it is a poll gimmick.

The BJP leader recalled that CM had removed Dalit leaders Kadiam Srihari and Dr. Rajendra from his cabinet in a humiliating manner. But now Chandrasekhar Rao is trying to make amends before the poll eve.

MOTKUPALLI AT KCR'S MEET DRAWS BJP'SIRE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

The presence of former minister and BJP senior leader Motkupalli Narsimulu at the all-party meeting convened by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on the Dalit empowerment scheme after boycotting a BJP meet has stirred curiosity in political circles. The BJP had boycotted the CM's meeting.

According to BJP sources, Narsimulu told the party leadership that he had attended the all-party meeting as a Dalit leader and that he had informed state BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

BJP leaders are of the opinion that Narsimulu should not have attended the meeting and praised the Chief Minister as the party had decided not to attend the meeting. BJP leaders recalled that he was previously not interested in holding a press meet against the TRS government despite a party order.

Ever since he had recovered from Covid-19 recently, Narsimulu has been keeping himself away from party activities. Narsimulu, however, criticised former minister Eatala Rajendar, who has joined the BJP, on the land-grab issue.

CAUTION NOTICE

Our clients Smt. N. Shobha Rani and Smt. M. Annarpurna filed suit for partition and possession in suit O.S. No. 4 of 2016 on the file of Hon'ble Additional District Judge at Villarabad against their co-owners and purchasers claiming share land in sy No. 65 (AC 5.04 gts), sy No. 149 (AC 10.02 gts) and sy No. 215 (AC 7.30 gts) at Mokila village, Shankarpally mandal, RR dist. Our clients filed two IAs in suit one is to implead 1. Abhilash Sanghi, 2. Ritesh Sanghi, 3. Ventakata Rama Rao Kongara and 4. M/s. Sai Stepping Stone Projects as parties in relation with land in sy No. 215 (AC 7.30 gts) at Mokila. Due to covid-19 pandemic IAs are pending.

Now our clients reliably learnt said proposed implead parties suppressing true facts and litigation offering villas / Houses to intending buyers.

Therefore, intending buyers are hereby warned or cautioned not to be misled by above said persons. If anybody does they will be doing the same at their risk and consequences.

G.N.REDDY,
Advocates, H.No.3-4-663/13,
Narayanguda, Hyderabad-500029.
Cell: 9393004495, 040-27550486.

Paddy procurement hits record 92L MTs

Rabi season gains increase by whopping 594%

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

A record 92 lakh metric tonnes of paddy worth over ₹17,300 crore has been procured for MSP (minimum support price) from over 15 lakh farmers across the state, which is 28 lakh MTs higher than last year Rabi procurement.

Addressing media personnel here on Tuesday, Telangana Civil Supplies Corporation chairman Mareddy Srinivas Reddy said

Rabi procurement this year, which concluded on Tuesday, is an all-time high record. He pointed out that since formation of Telangana state in 2014, Rabi procurement has increased by a whopping 594 per cent.

"Earlier, paddy production used to be higher in Kharif than Rabi. This had been the trend all these years. But now, this trend has reversed in Telangana, with Rabi yield surpassing Kharif. Increased irri-

gation facilities, 24x7 free power supply to agriculture, and Rythu Bandhu schemes of TS government have contributed to higher yield," the civic supplies chairman underlined.

He said in all, the corporation has purchased 13.24 lakh metric tonnes of paddy. It has now increased by leaps and bounds to 92 lakh metric tonnes in Rabi 2021, amounting to 594 per cent increase; reflecting rapid growth of agriculture sector under the TRS regime.

Rabi procurement started in the first week of April with setting up of 6,968 purchase centres in all districts barring Hyderabad. The procurement went on for nearly three months.



Congress MLA Seethakka applies the tilak to new TPCC chief A. Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad on Tuesday. She brought the tilak in a huge convoy from the famous Sammakka-Saralamma temple in Medaram along with Congress leaders and activists.

— BY ARRANGEMENT

Sleepless nights started for KCR, says TPCC chief

KTR downgraded Hyd status: Revanth

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

New state Congress chief A. Revanth Reddy said that sleepless nights had begun for Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao with his appointment. "The doors of Pragathi Bhavan opened for Opposition leaders when the Congress high command named me PCC president," Revanth Reddy said.

Corruption has reached peak level, police officers have been transferred frequently by paying bribes to the TRS leaders, he alleged.

Revanth Reddy was speaking at a function at the Malkajgiri MP's office, where Congress MLA Seethakka reached on Tuesday in a huge convoy from the Medaram Sammakka-Saralamma temple to greet him. She put the holy "tilakam" to Revanth Reddy and tied a rakhi that she had brought from the temple.

The TPCC chief was speaking to the media after the swearing-in ceremony of the Congress Lingojiguda corporator Dharppally Rajasekhar Reddy at the GHMC Council meeting on Tuesday in the presence of Mayor G. Vijayalakshmi.

Revanth Reddy said that Rama Rao, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, municipal administration principal secretary Arvind Kumar and GHMC commissioner Lokesh Kumar were responsible for the deteriora-

ting conditions in Hyderabad.

The TPCC chief alleged that TRS leaders are land-grabbers and had encroached on nalas and lakes, causing a flood threat to the people. "TRS leaders proudly speak about CCTV cameras and command control room for preventing thefts, why did not they install CCTV cameras to prevent land encroachments," he asked. He said this was done to help TRS men in land-grabbing.

Revanth Reddy said that Rama Rao should visit the Musi banks to understand the problems of the people. Revanth Reddy said that Congress will raise the issue of civic problems of Hyderabad and support the people.

Criticising the BJP, the TPCC chief said it had 47 corporators but had failed to question the lapses of the government. BJP state president Bandi Sanjay and Nizamabad BJP MP D. Arvind promised a lot during the GHMC election campaign but were now silent.

Accepting the offering, Revanth Reddy said he would be strengthened to fight against the TRS government by the spirit of Samakka-Saralamma, who fought against the Kakatiya rulers.

During the Telugu Desam and Congress regimes, elected representatives in local bodies got due respect but now they have been made silent spectators, he said. Congress chief Sonia Gandhi had granted Telangana state, but power went into the hands of "political dacoits," he alleged. For the safety of future generations of Telangana state, TRS should be thrown out, he said.

Revanth Reddy said that Congress high command had appointed Revanth Reddy based on cadre interest. Party activists strongly believed in the leadership of Revanth Reddy and he has an action plan to bring the Congress into power in 2023, she said.

The CM had started a "new drama" on Dalit empowerment, but the TRS government has failed to give three acres to Dalits and has forcibly taken back assignment lands allotted to them, she pointed out.

command had persuaded the party seniors in Telangana state and made him TPCC president to fight for the people. "To end the misrule of TRS and liberate Telangana state is the need of the hour," he said. MLA Seethakka said that Congress high command had appointed Revanth Reddy based on cadre interest. Party activists strongly believed in the leadership of Revanth Reddy and he has an action plan to bring the Congress into power in 2023, she said.

Dr Nagireddy then found sculptures of Bhairavi, Bhairava, Veerabhadra, Surya and a few mutilated idols carved out of black basalt and granite stone lying uncared along the local tank bund.

The archaeologist then sensitised the local community on

MIM CALLS ON DGP FOR ACTION ON COW VIGILANTE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

The MIM on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to DGP M. Mahendar Reddy on behalf of party president Asaduddin Owaisi who complained about the harassment of livestock traders and transporters and the arbitrary seizure of animals ahead of Bakrid.

Owaisi, in his letter, drew the attention of the DGP towards the transportation of cattle and activities of cow vigilantes. He said traditionally Muslims sacrificed goats, sheep and bulls for three days ahead Bakrid. Thousands of cattle were brought to Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana state. Cow vigilantes were trying to harass the persons trading in or transporting oxen and buffaloes. Anti-social elements in Hyderabad, Cyberabad, Rachakonda and other places were creating a nuisance, he said.

Owaisi requested the DGP to instruct police officials not to insist on certificates from veterinary doctors about the age and fitness of animals for slaughter, not to book cases for so-called overcrowding of animals in vehicles and not to seize a large number of oxen by claiming that they were calves.

OBITUARY

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" 2 Timothy 4:7



ALFRED JOSEPH MATHEWS

D.O.B: 29.01.1968 D.O.D: 29.06.2021

Funeral Mass will be held Today (Wednesday) at St. John Maria Vianney Church, New Market, at 11:00 AM.

Burial at Brigandine Cemetery, Secunderabad

Inserted by: Son - 9908224513

Daughter - +918247225373

Mobile: 9000110297, +91-993687587

MAN WITH 50 THEFT CASES HELD AGAIN

Hyderabad: A man with a record of 50 thefts was arrested by the Humayunnagar police on Tuesday, and ₹1,45 lakh worth stolen goods were recovered from him.

Police said Mohammed Ibrahim alias Khalil, 44, had taken to robbery in 2010. Ibrahim was also an accused in a murder case in Chandrayangutta. He

had also been detained under the Preventive Detention Act in 2016 and 2019, police said. In the latest case, Ibrahim was arrested on a complaint by Shahjahan Begum, who stated that when she returned home she found that her main door lock was broken, and ₹1 lakh cash, three tolas of gold and other ornaments were missing.

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY



KURA SATHYARAYANA REDDY

Left us on 30-6-2020

Thank you for the good times, the days you filled with pleasure. Thank you for memories, and for feelings we'll always treasure.

Inserted by:
Mrs. Chandrakala Reddy (Wife) & Family Members

(S/212/D0039)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7
Smt. K. NEELAVENI
(Retd. Head Mistress) M.A. B.Ed.

"Your memories will always remain in our hearts and thoughts"

5th Anniversary on 3.7.2021 at 7 pm through Zoom

Inserted by: Loving Husband KR.V. Yesudas IAS (Retd.)
Children: Dr. Leela - Dr. Joel Pallapati, Manjula - Anil Gundogolu, Nirmala - Dr. Samuel C Raj, Sunil Emmanuel IPS - Dr. Sunita Grand Children - Near & Dear

SHRADHANJALI



JINENDRARAJI RANKA

D.O.D. - 30.06.2020

Your memory & love treasures us. You are in our hearts always.

Ashok, Kishore, Rajender Jain

M. Shermal Jain

group Jewellers

POT MARKET - SECUNDERABAD

2nd Anniversary



Mrs. D.L.SUVARTHA

(W/o Late Sunanda Rao Dundoo)

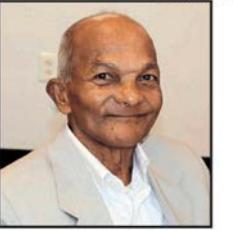
April 8, 1932 - June 30, 2019

Mother, Remembering you is Easy We do it Every Day. Missing You is Heartache that never Goes away

Inserted by:

CHILDREN, GRAND CHILDREN GREAT GRAND CHILDREN

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY



SRI CHALLAPUDI RATNA RAJU

D.O.B: 15.11.1939 D.O.D.: 30.06.2020

Your life was a blessing Your memory a treasure

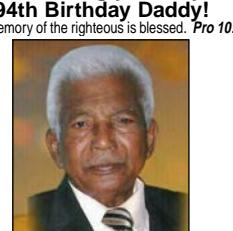
You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure

- Family Members Ph: 8099193332

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Remembering you on your 94th Birthday Daddy!

The memory of the righteous is blessed Proverbs 10:7



Apostle V.M. John

Founder: Gospel Churches, B.H.E.L., R.C. Puram

Date of Birth: 30th June 1927

Called into Glory: 29th October 2011

Elizabeth A. Solomon (Daughter)

A.J. Solomon Raj (Son-in-law)

Grand Children: Isaac & Michelle,

John, Stephen, Shiney & Sam

(S/212/D00393)

10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

Rev. 14:13



Late O. THOMAS

Retd Guard "A" sp1 S.C. Rly

(M

IN BRIEF

Vehicle with 132 challans caught

Hyderabad: A two-wheeler with 132 unpaid challans amounting to ₹36,185 was caught by the Hyderabad police at Jubilee Hills during a routine check.

According to the Jubilee Hills traffic police, one Vijay, who works at a software firm in Madhapur, was stopped during a routine check at the Jubilee Hills checkpost. On checking the details of the vehicle (TRIO ER 7069), the police found it had 132 challans. The vehicle was registered to one Tadaparthi Shiva. The challans had been given since 2018 for speed driving, wrong parking and driving without helmet, among other violations. The traffic police seized the vehicle after Vijay refused to pay the fine.

Man arrested for ₹1.96 crore fraud

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Central Crime Station (CCS) police arrested a man cheating a group of people of ₹1.96 crore after promising them high returns on their investment. Police said the accused, Mohd Aleem Pasha, 32, of Siramnagar in Habsiguda, had lured the people to invest in the scrap business. Police said the victims were residents of the same area, Siramnagar.

"Initially, he repaid them with good profits to gain their confidence. Later he collected ₹1,96,30,000 from more than 10 persons and absconded three months ago," said the police. Following a complaint from the investors, he was arrested by the CCS police on Monday night.

Youth pushes friend into well

Hyderabad: A 19-year-old auto trolley driver, Mohammed Irfan, was arrested by the Golconda police for pushing his colleague, Md Ajju 21, to his death in a well.

Ajju had gone with a group of friends to the well at Attarasidi, situated at Qutubshahi masjid in Resimbagh, where he was allegedly pushed inside by Irfan. Police said Irfan had requested Ajju to help him in getting a passenger autorickshaw by standing surely. Ajju refused as Irfan didn't have a driving licence.

Besides Irfan wanted to spend time with Ajju's lady friend which he had refused, police said. Police began investigating the case on a complaint by Ajju's father who suspected foul play.

WOMEN COPS CAMPAIGN FOR SAFE NET FOR KIDS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

The Women Safety Wing (WSW) police launched an initiative aimed at making cyberspace safe for adolescent children on Tuesday. It involves 50 schools in each district, and aims to empower 1,650 teachers and 3,300 children.

Speaking online at the inaugural, DGP M. Mahendar Reddy said that Cyber-Heritage/Cyber Congress will run for 10 months and will comprise training sessions and practical activities conducted in urban and rural settings. In attendance were Additional DGP Swati Lakra, Deputy IGP B. Sumathi, A. Sri Devasena, director of school education, Sandeep Kumar Sultania, secretary, education, and other officials. "Students will be selected from each school with a teacher and the team will promote the positive uses of the internet," the top police officer said. The programme will get connected to experts online through a learning management system (LMS) for regular sessions which in turn is shared with the students by the local cyber ambassadors.



Motorists drive on a waterlogged street near Habsiguda crossroads following heavy rainfall on Tuesday. — GANDHI

Rain floods city roads

Afternoon downpour throws traffic completely out of gear

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL I DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

Heavy rains that lashed parts of Hyderabad on Tuesday afternoon threw traffic out of gear, turned roads into rivulets and put the citizens to a lot of inconvenience.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department, there was 1.5 cm rainfall. Rain that started around 3.30 in the evening, drenched most

parts of the city. Mughalpura, Purani Haveli, Padmaraonagar, Narayanguda, Himayatnagar, Ashoknagar, Basheerbagh, Gunfoundry and a few other places witnessed heavy rainfall. Roads were clogged and water overflowed at Domalguda, Ashoknagar, Padmaraonagar, Hyderabad and Basheerbagh.

The road opposite to the Hyderabad Police commissionate that leads to King Koti, was totally inundated with rainwater. The traffic had to be redirected, shops were flooded and the Law College premises were in a total mess.

Rama Rao, who owns a photo studio on the road, said, "This is the usual problem we face for many years. GHMC officials came out with a plan, and the road had been remade with special techniques of water let-outs, but for no use. Again, the same problem."

Public money is being wasted, without proper planning"

Prashant Reddy, a resident of Padmaraonagar said, "We live beside HDFC Bank, the drainage was overflowing because of the rain. Though the rains were not heavy, still we residents face this problem every time. We submitted many representations to the GHMC regarding this, but there is no help."

Minorities fin corp in limbo

Govt starves body of funds; staff not paid, face termination

ATHER MOIN I DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

The TS Minorities Finance Corporation became dysfunctional due to insufficient funds. Execution of financial aid schemes has been halted for two years. About 92 outsourced employees working in the districts are facing termination threat, while 177 employees of computer centres are not getting their salaries.

In the current year, ₹28.31 crore was allocated for bank-linked income generation scheme in the Budget and no amount was released. In 2018-19, ₹160 crore was allocated which was

reduced to ₹54.25 crore in 2019-20 and ₹28.31 crore in 2020-21.

It is learnt that the salaries of 177 employees of Urdu computer training centres have not been disbursed since its administration was transferred from the Urdu Academy to the Finance Corporation.

Likewise, 92 employees are under threat of termination. The officials were asked not to continue their services further.

The minorities welfare department had issued Government Order (GO) RT. No. 230 on 30-12-2015 providing guidelines for implementation of self-employment/economic support scheme and fixed

₹70 crore was released since 2015.

The corporation neither cleared the loan applications submitted in 2015 nor invited fresh applications under a bankable financial aid scheme. In 2015, when the corporation invited applications from unemployed youth for financial aid to start self-employment units, more than 1,53 lakh youth applied and not more than 10,000 got loans during the last five years.

Under the bank-linked subsidy programme since 2014-15, the government has released ₹204.30 crore against the budgetary allocation of ₹586.80 crore in five years.

To clear them, the corporation needed ₹2,659.95 crore, but not more than

SC notices to discoms over division of staff

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

The Supreme Court on Tuesday served contempt notices on the power utilities in Telangana state, namely, TS Transco, TS Genco and TS Northern Power Distribution Company Limited, for failing to implement its orders on bifurcation of power employees between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The Supreme Court in December 2020 had issued orders to implement the recommendations of one-man committee headed by retired Justice DM Dharmadhikari to bifurcate employees between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

With this, these 84 employees filed a contempt case against TS power utilities in the Supreme Court. The court which heard the petition on Tuesday served contempt notices on the TS power utilities.

The SC had appointed the Justice Dharmadhikari Committee

on November 28, 2018, to find a solution to the bifurcation of employees issue between the states since 2014. The controversy over bifurcation of employees started after the TS power utilities had relieved 1,157 employees, who are natives of AP, on June 11, 2015. Some employees approached the High Court against the action of the TS power utilities, which have been paying salaries of about 15 crore a month to them without giving work.

Later, the Supreme Court appointed Justice Dharmadhikari to finalise the allocation. The committee had initially allotted 655 employees to AP and 584 to Telangana state in December 2019. Later, another 71 staff were added in the supplementary list, completing allocation in June, 2020.

The SC had appointed the Justice Dharmadhikari Committee

₹20 LAKH GUTKA, TOBACCO SEIZED

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force seized ₹20 lakh worth gutka and tobacco materials from two different raids in the city on Tuesday. Police raided the house of one Mohd Arif at Kummariwadi at Edi Bazaar and Bhoma Ram Kumawat of Pooja Agency at SR Nagar.

The Appare Export Promotion Council (AEP) invites e-quotations from reputed civil contractors towards construction of store room and canteen, staff quarter and cycling track next to its existing building at Plot No 118/19 Survey No. 64, Madhapur, Serilingampally, Hyderabad. For site visit contact Mr. Md Rehmat (9133446494).

E-quotes to be submitted on tender@aepcindia.com. Last day of submission of e-quote 07.07.2021. For more details visit www.aepcindia.com

APPAREL EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL													
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Sl. No	Premises No.	Type of Title	Type of Land	Area under acquisition in Sq. Yards	Name						Boundaries	Trees	Structures
					1	2	3	4	5	6			
1	18-12-418/10/1/B2	-	-	115.55	Syed Yousufuddin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	18-12-418/10/1/B12	-	-	115.55	Syed Arif	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	18-12-418/10/1/B172	-	-	45.01	Naseer Saleh Abdullah	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	18-12-418/418/H37/1	-	-	589.66	Owner/Occupier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	18-12-418/418/H37/2	-	-	296.44	Abdullah Yafai	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	18-12-418/418/H37/3	-	-	33.64	Ghousia Begum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	18-12-418/H37/	-	-	275.00	Ismail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	18-12-418/H37/1	-	-	45.62	Safia Sultan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	18-12-418/H	-	-	132.88	Nayeem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	18-12-418/H37/8/A	-	-	151.20	Abdul Hafeez	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	18-12-418/H37/2/A	-	-	51.11	Owner/Occupier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	18-12-418/H35/36/1	-	-	77.00	Saleem Khan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	18-12-418/H35	-	-	56.00	Ali Bin Saleh Bawazeer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	18-12-418/H35/36	-	-	32.37	Mohd Ghousuddin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	18-12-418/A74	-	-	215.46	Owner/Occupier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	18-12-418/A74	-	-	357.56	Abdul Gafoor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	18-12-418/A74	-	-	349.88	Salam Bin Gareen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	18-12-418/H45/2	-	-	202.50	Mohd Lateefuddin Fareeduddin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	18-12-418/H51/1/B	-	-	102.50	Viquarunnisa Begum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	18-12-418/H52/A	-	-	20.20	As per Sketch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	18-12-418/H71/B	-	-	395.13	Owner/Occupier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	18-12-418/H71	-	-	197.84	Syed Imran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	18-12-418/471	-	-	154.83	Hafiz Syed Mazher Hashmi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	18-12-418/H73/1	-	-	200.00	Owner/Occupier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	18-12-418/H73	-											

DECCAN Chronicle

30 JUNE 2021

FM's stimulus timely, but poor need immediate aid

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced eight measures to support certain sectors, including small businesses and micro-lenders, which were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The stimulus is estimated to be worth ₹6.3 lakh crore, but most of it will be provided through credit guarantees to stressed sectors.

As manufacturing companies have more or less come out of the deadly second wave successfully, the current stimulus package focuses on supporting contact-intensive sectors, especially tourism. Tourism is one of badly affected sectors as people have drastically curtailed their travel plans.

Though there have been demands — including from captains of the Indian industry — for direct cash transfers to the poor and the middle classes to sustain demand, the government does not appear to be keen on this idea. In his speech to delegates in Hyderabad, chief economic advisor Krishnamurthy V. Subramanian gave out the government's line of thought. Referring to some studies, he claimed that a rupee spent on capital expenditure would add ₹4.50 to the economy, while the same amount spent on freebies would add just ₹97.

Though the second wave of Covid has been devastating for people's health, Mr Subra-manian argued that its impact on the economy has been milder than the first wave of infections last year. This interpretation appears to have led to the government's belief that the economy does not need a massive stimulus through direct cash transfers, and the demand would return in the due course.

While the government's assessment of the macroeconomic situation is accurate, it should not rely too much on GST collection numbers.

Sometimes, higher consumption by the rich could offset the low demand from the poor and may result in robust GST collections. The government should, therefore, not lose sight of the Covid pandemic's impact at the micro level. The infection has forced lakhs of Covid-infected people from the unorganised sector to lose out on their income. Similarly, lakhs of people from the lower middle class, who were hospitalised for the treatment, had accumulated debt, which they can't repay for the next few years. Months-long lockdowns since last March have pushed many families into poverty.

The government, therefore, cannot behave as if everything is normal just because macroeconomic indicators appear healthy. Though the government's preference of capital expenditure cannot be faulted, the finance minister should not forget that the worst-affected, as the chief economic advisor had admitted, are the poor and she cannot expect them to wait for the fruits of economic reforms trickle down.

Though the spending on the infrastructure projects and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme have been immensely helpful in providing jobs to unskilled labour, the government needs to further increase capital expenditure and ensure the benefits of these initiatives reach the targeted people as fast as possible. Otherwise, it would be too late for many people.

Doctors, too, need protection

The advisory of the Union home ministry to state governments to invoke stringent sections of the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Act, 2020, against those who indulge in assault on doctors and healthcare professionals is welcome. As per the Act, a person proved to have assaulted doctors or healthcare professionals can be jailed for up to seven years and fined up to ₹5 lakh. The advisory becomes all the more relevant in the backdrop of the series of attacks on healthcare professionals during the pandemic; the latest being reported from Assam.

The Centre advisory becomes all the more relevant in the backdrop of the series of attacks on healthcare professionals during the pandemic; the latest being reported from Assam.

It must, however, be remembered that there is no lack of deterrent penal provisions against attacks on hospitals and people employed there; as many as 19 states have enacted special laws for their protection. But the real issue is the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the law enforcers to use the legal tools. The latest is the police inaction against a constable who assaulted a surgeon in a government hospital in Alappuzha district in Kerala alleging that medical negligence led to his mother's death, though a police investigation report said the patient had died before reaching the hospital. The police advanced one reason or

the other not to arrest the assailant until he was granted anticipatory bail by the high court. The danger of the state apathy towards the medical fraternity is that it could turn to defensive practice, which would impact the poorest sections of society. The government must design a two-pronged strategy to address the issue as a whole. First, it must ensure that healthcare professionals are given adequate security and violators of the law must be brought to book without fail. Two, it must put in place a fair, transparent, fast and credible mechanism to process complaints of medical negligence. The issue demands urgent government attention and action, not just advisories.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

K. SUDHAKAR
Printer & Publisher

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

A long with the Central and state governments, the Supreme Court has been playing an important role in monitoring the management of the situation arising out of the six-week-long Covid-19 second wave between the middle of April and the end of May. Through its order of April 30, the Supreme Court bench of Justices Dhananjay Y. Chandrachud, L. Nageswara Rao and S. Ravindra Bhat had been actively directing the Central and state governments on the supply of liquid medical oxygen in the last week of April and the first week of May, and the availability of beds for critically ill patients in hospitals, as well as the availability of vaccines and their proper distribution across the country.

Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government have claimed credit for its decision on procuring vaccines directly and then allocating them to the states, announced by the PM in a televised address on June 7, the suggestion actually came from the highest court after scrutinising the Centre's policy of acquiring 50 per cent of the vaccines at a set price and leaving the remaining 50 per cent to be negotiated by the state governments and private hospitals with the manufacturers.

The Supreme Court in its April 30 order had said: "Prima facie, there are several aspects of the vaccine pricing policy adopted by the Central government which require that policy to be revisited." The court went on to add: "Prima facie, the rational method of proceeding in a manner consistent with the right to life (which

includes the right to health) under Article 21 would be for the Central government to procure all vaccines and to negotiate the price with the vaccine manufacturers."

It concluded with a judicious note of warning:

"While we are not passing a conclusive determination on the constitutionality of the current policy, the manner in which the current policy has been framed would prima facie result in a detriment to right to public health, which is an integral element of Article 21 of the Constitution."

The court also noted that individuals and communities had turned to the social media for help and that through the online networks people had tried to help those in distress either by finding the medicines or hospital beds needed. And here comes the acerbic observation:

"However, it is with deep distress that we note that individuals seeking help on such platforms have been targeted by alleging that the information posted by them is false and has

only been posted on the social media to create panic, defame the administration or damage the nation's image."

It went on to say: "We do not hesitate in saying that such targeting shall not be condoned, and the Central government and state governments should ensure that they immediately cease any direct or indirect threats of prosecution and arrest to citizens who air grievances or those who are attempting to help fellow citizens to receive medical aid."

It is indeed a matter of shame that during a time of extreme distress, the Central and state governments had taken adversarial positions against the people, and the

Supreme Court was forced to tick off the authorities and warn them against intimidating people. This is a judgment that should become an integral part of any account of Covid-19 in India, and political leaders in positions of power should hang their heads in shame.

It was after this chastening tone by the Supreme Court that the Central government, through the solicitor-general and its other law officers, has been filing affidavits informing the court about the availability of vaccines, a crucial part of the fight against the pandemic. Most of the vital information on the availability of the vaccines has not been shared by the government with the people. The daily press conference that the health ministry officials hold are used as a propaganda forum to trumpet the number of vaccinations that had been administered that day, and the total figure of those vaccinated. The other key figures like the number of new infections, the total number of those who have been infected since January 2020, and the Covid-19 death toll are relegated to the background. There is a vague promise that there will be enough vaccines available and that by December 2021 the entire adult population of the country, which amounts to 93-94 crore people, would be vaccinated. On May 16, the Union health ministry told the court that 216 crore Covid-19 vaccines would be available, but in its affidavit filed on June 27, the government revised the figure to 135 crores, and details were given of the

The info about the availability of vaccines keeps changing simply because the government is still negotiating with foreign makers like Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson...

The writer is a Delhi-based commentator and analyst

share of each of the vaccines available or to be made available in the market.

The information about the availability of vaccines keeps changing simply because the government is still negotiating with foreign vaccine makers like Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson, and there is no clarity as yet on the outcome. It is understandable that the foreign manufacturers are bargaining hard, which is a shameful thing, and the government is in a helpless situation. That is why it wants to do make do with the vaccines available in the country, which have been developed and manufactured in India like Covishield and Sputnik V and are manufactured in India. But transparency

has not been a virtue of the Modi government. There has been a continuous attempt to paint a picture of normality in an abnormally stressful and distressful times.

The Prime Minister might be under the illusion that he is keeping panic under control, but he is only adding to uncertainty and anxiety among the people. He

should have used his monthly radio talk "Mann ki Baat" to share information about the Covid-19 situation in the country and the difficulties that the government and people are facing.

Unfortunately, even democratically elected leaders in India have the bad habit of hiding the truth from the people. It

is in this kind of dubious situation that the Supreme Court is performing the yeoman service of compelling the government to share facts, to share information, something that the government should be doing on its own. The Supreme Court is thus ensuring the flow of crucial information to the people in this time of crisis.

The writer is a Delhi-based commentator and analyst

Narendra Modi. He was riled because Mufti Sayeed thanked Pakistan for allowing elections to be held in Kashmir. This revealed a lot more than he intended.

The question is: what result can an open conference of 14 parties possibly yield? The Centre has consistently kept its stooges in Kashmir well supplied with funds. Among the invitees to the New Delhi conference were at least two who are notorious as New Delhi's paid agents.

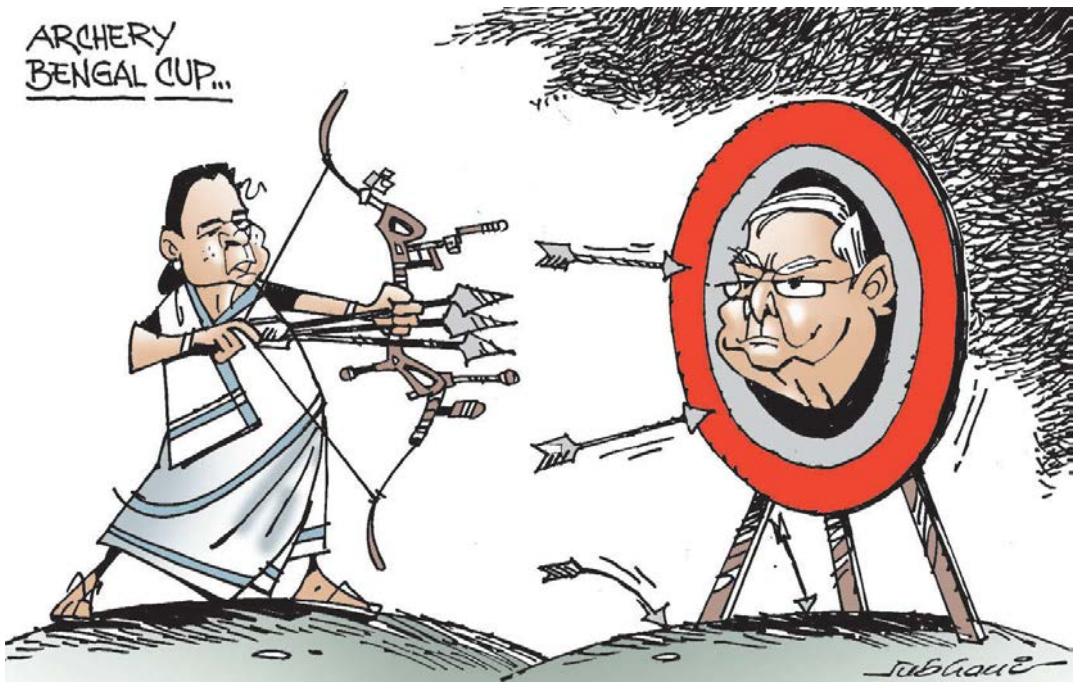
It may be recalled that the cruel blow which New Delhi inflicted on Kashmir had three dimensions — abrogation of Article 370, wipe out of Kashmir's identity and delimitation of Assembly constituencies.

It is the last which lies at the core of New Delhi's foul deed. On June 22, Mehbooba Mufti, president of the People's Democratic Party, said:

"Delimitation is part of the same process used to break the state. This wasn't reorganisation, it was disorganisation. That way it is illegal and done with a certain purpose."

By arrangement with Dawn

Subhani



In Covid crisis, SC forces Centre to share vital info

Parsa Venkateshwar Rao Jr

A long with the Central and state governments, the Supreme Court has been playing an important role in monitoring the management of the situation arising out of the six-week-long Covid-19 second wave between the middle of April and the end of May. Through its order of April 30, the Supreme Court bench of Justices Dhananjay Y. Chandrachud, L. Nageswara Rao and S. Ravindra Bhat had been actively directing the Central and state governments on the supply of liquid medical oxygen in the last week of April and the first week of May, and the availability of beds for critically ill patients in hospitals, as well as the availability of vaccines and their proper distribution across the country.

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The writer is a Delhi-based commentator and analyst

LETTERS

ONLINE CLASSES

The decision taken by the Telangana government to opt for online classes is a big relief for both parents and students. In a situation where scientists are claiming that the country is on the verge of experiencing the third wave it is not advisable to reopen educational institutions. Even if the government decides to reopen the schools it must be done in a phased manner.

**Uday Kiran Kankipati
Secunderabad**

JAMMU SIGNALS

It's intriguing and also a failure on the part of the Indian government and security agencies that the drone attack couldn't be prevented despite caution from the Intelligence wing (*Jammu drone attacks carry ominous signals, DC, June 29*). Like Pulwama, it's always action after the damage occurred proving the old adage 'Shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted'!

**Vishwanath Pandit
Hyderabad**

SALE OF LAND

All successive governments including the one headed by the TRS are resorting to sale of state-owned land. There are court rulings in Tamil Nadu and Kerala on the matter according to which governments have no power to sell such land parcels. It is requested that the Telangana High Court take the case suo motu and do justice.

**Vishwanath Pandit
Hyderabad**

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

No hasty step on Bangla Desh : P.M.

NEW DELHI, June 29. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said here today that "the Government will not embark upon any adventurous policies in regard to Bangla Desh".

Addressing meeting of the Congress (R) Parliamentary Party, Mrs Gandhi said no Government could afford to take any precipitate steps on such a delicate problem.

Reacting sharply to the tone of some of the speeches made earlier, Mrs Gandhi regretted that too gloomy a picture was being drawn about India's diplomatic effort on Bangla Desh.

A.G. Noorani

Modi's Kashmir plan: Present Pak with fait accompli post-delimitation

Those who criticise Sheikh sahib for the 1975 accord with Indira Gandhi should remember that the ground had been cut under his feet by the Shimla Pact of 1972. It con-

cluded the status quo but also provided for talks on Kashmir to which she never agreed.

SHORT TAKES

DESMUKH SKIPS ED SUMMONS CITING PANDEMIC

BHAGWAN PARAB | DC MUMBAI, JUNE 29

Former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh has once again evaded the Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe as he did not appear before the central agency in connection with a money laundering case on Tuesday citing Covid and his old age.

He has requested for a virtual interaction on a day suitable for the ED.

The ED had asked the senior NCP leader to appear before it at 11 am. However, he submitted a letter to the agency through his lawyer Inderpal Singh as authorised representative, in compliance with the summons. In the letter, he cited Covid-19 pandemic and the fear of exposure to the infection due to his age and comorbidities and sent his lawyer as the authorised representative.

"I am a septuagenarian, about 72 years of age, and suffering from various co-morbidities, including hypertension and cardiac problems," he mentioned in the letter.

He said that he will furnish all information and any document that the ED may require once he is aware of the content and details of the ECIR (Enforcement Case Information Report).

"I am at your disposal through any audio-visual mode of interaction at any time convenient to your good self, today or any other day, any time so convenient," Deshmukh said in the letter.

WHITE TIGER, ELEPHANTS TEST -VE FOR COVID

Chennai, June 29: The Arignar Anna Zoological Park (AAZP) at Vandular here which taken up measures to prevent the spread of Coronavirus among the animals at the zoo, said on Tuesday that a 16-year-old male white tiger and two elephants have tested negative for SARS-CoV2 virus.

The AAZP had faced a setback when it lost nine-year-old lioness Neela and an Asiatic male lion named Pathbanathan, aged 12 years, to Coronavirus on June 3 and 16 respectively.

"The samples of two female elephants—Prakruti and Rohini—both aged five years, housed in the elephant enclosure area, have tested negative for SARS-CoV2," AAZPs deputy director said in a statement here.

The trunk and rectal swabs of both the elephants and the swab samples of the male white tiger named Bishma, were sent to ICAR—National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal, on June 18.

"As per the test results communicated by the NIHSAD on June 25, all the samples have tested negative for SARS-CoV2 virus," he added.

SIKH GIRLS DENY FORCIBLE CONVERSION

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, JUNE 29

One of the two Sikh girls who, as per the allegations levelled by the community leaders were forcibly converted to Islam and married to Kashmiri Muslim youth came up with a video on social media late Monday night to deny it.

She said she was 19 years old when she embraced Islam way back in 2012 and solemnized Nikah with her college batchmate in 2014 and lives with him happily in Srinagar since despite facing threats from some Sikh community members of Punjab.

"It is being said that one of the two Sikh girls Manmeet and Dhanmeet went missing and that while Manmeet has been recovered, Dhanmeet is still untraceable. Some Sikh leaders can be heard saying in a video that is currently in circulation that the statements attributed to both these girls were recorded at gunpoint which is untrue," she said.

Another Sikh woman 26-year-old Viran Pal Kaur, a former resident of Awantipora area of Pulwama district, who adopted Arabic Islamic name Khadeja, has released to media documents—duly verified by authorities concerned—of her conversion and marriage with a Muslim youth from the Valley's central district of Budgam Manzoor Ahmed Butt that took place recently.



Locals look at bullet marks inside a house which was partially damaged during a gun battle between security forces and militants at Maloora on the outskirts of Srinagar on Tuesday. — PTI

Hours after his arrest, LeT militant killed in 'encounter'

LeT commander's family has termed killing as 'extrajudicial murder'

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, JUNE 29

Nadeem Abrar, a commander of Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, whose arrest from a car he was travelling in along with another suspected militant through Parimpura, a Srinagar suburb, on Monday was described by the Jammu and Kashmir police as "a big success for us" was killed in an 'encounter' in a neighbouring area overnight, the police said on Tuesday.

The incident has raised eyebrows in the Valley's political circles whereas many residents, some human rights activists and Abrar's family have termed his killing as 'extrajudicial murder'.

But Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range), Vijay Kumar, sought to dispel the contention. He said Abrar was killed in a gunfight that broke out on Monday evening in Maloora area of Srinagar.

● INSPECTOR GENERAL of Police (Kashmir range), said Abrar was killed in a gunfight that broke out on Monday evening in Maloora area of Srinagar district.

district. Another LeT militant from Pakistan was also killed and two CRPF officers and a jawan were injured in the clash, he said. He claimed that the slain militants were planning "two big attacks" along the Srinagar-Baramula Road, often used by the Army for carrying men and supplies to the Kashmir frontier.

He confirmed Abrar, a resident of Narbal area in central Kashmir's Budgam district, was arrested by the police after intercepting the car he was travelling in at a makeshift checkpoint laid at the Parimpura intersection of the road earlier during the day on Monday. The police said that the

naka was laid jointly by it and the CRPF following specific input about militants planning an attack on the highway.

Kumar told reporters that after arresting Abrar and seizing a pistol and a grenade from the car, he was booked under section 27 of the Indian Evidence Act and taken to a nearby police station for a joint interrogation by the J&K police, Army and CRPF.

"During interrogation, Abrar made a disclosure that he has dumped more weapons in a house at Maloora but did not reveal that his associate by the name of Muslim, a Pakistani terrorist, was also hiding in the house". He said that soon after the security forces launched an operation in the area to recover the weapons, the hiding militant opened indiscriminate fire, triggering an encounter in which Abrar was also killed. He added that two AK 47 rifles were recovered from the encounter site besides the pistol and grenade seized from Abrar's possession earlier.

He said that Abrar and Muslim had travelled to Srinagar from north Kashmir on Monday to carry out "two big attacks at two places". He said that the duo was part of a LeT module—that included Khurshid who was killed in a fire fight in Sopore area earlier—responsible for carrying out two separate attacks on security forces in Parimpura and neighbouring Khushipora in which three CRPF and two Army jawans were killed, respectively.

A statement issued by the police said that when the security personnel after stopping the car at Parimpura asked the occupants to disclose their identities, one of them sitting at the back seat "tried to open his bag and took out a grenade but the naka party swung into action and grabbed the person".

DELHI POLICE TEAM IN JAMMU TO STUDY ATTACK

New Delhi, June 29: A team of Delhi Police's Special Cell was sent to Jammu on Tuesday to study and analyse the terror attack at IAF station in Jammu airport as part of a routine procedure, officials said.

"They have gone to study the incident, not as part of any investigation. This is routine procedure. We send our teams whenever there is a major incident which might have lessons for us," a senior police officer said.

A statement issued by the team was sent to study and analyse the incident, the officials said, adding that they would be interacting with the investigating agencies to analyse the threats.

— PTI

Cong on drone attacks: Act on experts' advice

Rawat reviews LAC situation

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

New Delhi, June 29: The Congress on Tuesday said a credible and comprehensive policy and measures are the need of the hour to tackle drone attacks by Pakistan-based terror outfit.

Congress general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the Modi government needs to act on the strategic advice of experts instead of focusing on mere headlines management.

The reaction came after a series of drones were found in Jammu following two drone attacks on the Air Force station there. "Armed drone attacks are a real threat to security forces and government establishments."

This visit comes, when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday completed his three days tour to Ladakh sector where he discussed situation at the LAC with China top army commanders.

On arrival at the forward most post in Sumdo sub-sector, the CDS was briefed on the operational preparedness of forces towards safeguarding the territorial integrity of the nation. The CDS interacted extensively with the Indian Army, ITBP

and GREF personnel deployed in the remote areas and appreciated their state of high morale.

He encouraged all ranks to keep up the high state of alertness and professionalism displayed by them.

Later in the day, General Bipin Rawat visited the Headquarters of Western Command of Indian Army at Chandimandir where he reviewed the operational situation along the Western borders.

The CDS commended the formation for their efforts to ensure force preservation and at the same time stepping forward to provide support in terms of establishing Covid hospitals at Chandigarh, Patiala, Faridabad, providing paramedical staff in aid of civil hospitals, assistance in vaccination of common citizens and revitalising oxygen plants.

attacks through Parliamentary Question on July 9, 2019, March 5, 2020 and on September 20, 2020. "The entire nation stands as one with our security forces and government to repulse such attacks."

"But the Modi government should realise that it needs to act on strategic advice of defence experts with experience

of modern warfare rather than rely upon mere headlines management," he said.

Congress spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill said the central government must focus on procuring equipment to counter drones as Pakistan establishment follows the policy of cloak & dagger and cannot be trusted.

— PTI

Terrorists kicked toddler before attacking cop, kin

Srinagar, June 29:

Heart-wrenching details have emerged out of the gruesome killing of a special police officer (SPO) and his family by Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists who did not even spare an 18-month-old girl and kicked her as well as her mother, officials said here on Tuesday.

However, the terrorists, devoid of any humanity, kicked the infant away and committed their gruesome act, said a senior security officer.

"Which culture teaches such barbarity—kicking an 18-month-old baby and spraying 20-25 bullets on an innocent family," a senior officer probing the case said, adding that Pakistani-based terror groups have no love for the people of Kashmir Valley.

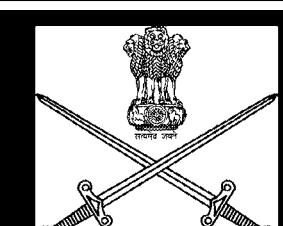
A senior official conveyed to Ahmed's neighbours that "Souls when soiled in guilt are the heaviest, and not voicing against brutality is a guilt many of us bear. Let's stand together for whom we care". — PTI

Nadda says WB win is 'long jump'

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, JUNE 29

within a very short span of time. In 2014 Lok Sabha polls we won two seats which accounted for around 18% votes. In the 2016 Assembly Election, we won three seats with a vote share of 10.16%. In 2019, we bagged 18 seats, achieving 40.25% votes. In this Assembly polls, we got 38.10% votes and made a jump in seats from three to 77. It is a long jump."

He elaborated, "No one else is left in the field except the TMC which is ahead of us. Both the CPI(M) and Congress, which existed for three decades and two and a half decades respectively, vanished. It is only the BJP which has become the opposition and is fighting the TMC. I am sure this battle is long. But when we could fight such a long battle in a short time, I believe BJP can make another long jump in its battle over five years and become the party in power."



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अधिकारी प्रविष्टि

तिवारी कमीशन

(गैर तकनीकी) एन.सी.सी. विशेष भर्ती योजना 50वां पाठ्यक्रम पुरुष एवं महिला के लिए (युद्ध में हताहत सेना कार्मिकों के आश्रितों सहित) (अक्टूबर 2021 में निर्धारित) ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

आवेदन 16 जून 2021 से 15 जुलाई 2021 तक खुले हैं।

OFFICER ENTRY

Online applications are invited for Short Service Commission (NT) NCC Special Entry Scheme 50th Course for Men & Women (including Wards of Battle Casualties of Army personnel) (scheduled in October 2021).

Applications are open from 16 Jun 2021 to 15 Jul 2021.

नोट :

1. सेना में भर्ती पूर्णतया पारदर्शी और मुफ्त है। दलालों से साक्षात् रहें।
2. विस्तृत नोटिफिकेशन के लिए, कृपया www.joinindianarmy.nic.in पर जाएं।

Note :

1. Recruitment in the Army is totally transparent and free. Beware of touts.
2. For detailed Notification, please visit www.joinindianarmy.nic.in

SHORT TAKES

CORBETT TO HAVE ROUND-THE-YEAR TOURISM

Rishikesh, June 29: The Corbett Tiger Reserve was opened on Tuesday for round-the-year tourism. Five ranges of the reserve including Garjia, Bijrani, Dhara-Jhirna, Dhela and Pakhron were opened on Tuesday afternoon for day visits for the whole year, Corbett's Director Rahul said.

Corbett's opening generated great enthusiasm among wildlife lovers with around 50 bookings made for the day safaris on the inaugural day, he said. Opening the reserve for round-the-year tourism will help people whose livelihoods are connected with it, Rahul said.

Corbett's revenues have been hit hard by the Covid pandemic and a measure like this will help offset the impact, he said. Uttarakhand's forest and environment minister Harak Singh Rawat had recently announced that Corbett and Rajaji tiger reserves will be opened for tourists for the whole year. Wildlife experts have been opposed to the move saying it will not be good for animals inhabiting the reserves.

MP MINISTER LISTS BENEFITS OF CYCLING

Indore, June 29: As the prices of petrol and diesel touch record highs, Madhya Pradesh energy minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar has highlighted the advantages of cycling and said the government was spending tax revenue earned from petroleum fuels for the benefit of the poor.

The minister was responding to a query by reporters on the skyrocketing prices of petroleum fuels. "I have been criticised for this earlier also. But, I am saying it again today, do we ever go to the vegetable market on bicycle? Cycling will keep us physically fit and also free from pollution," he said.

The minister was on a personal visit to Indore. "What is important for us — petrol and diesel or are the country's health services?" the BJP leader asked.

Tomar said the habit of cycling applies equally to him as well as common citizens. "If you look at my diary for the last 30 days, you will come to know how much I travel in car, how much I cycle and how much I walk," he said.

Asked about the impact of diesel price hike on the transport industry, Tomar said, "Is the money (tax revenue) generated from petrol-diesel going to the house of any particular person or leader? This money is being used for the poor people who are in need of treatment, education and ration."

TN: WORK ON 2 MORE NUCLEAR REACTORS BEGINS

M. ARULOLI | DC
KUDANKULAM, JUNE 29

The nation's largest nuclear power park in the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP), which stands as a symbol of Indo-Russian partnership in the field of civil nuclear energy, entered its third phase on Tuesday with the commencement of the construction of two more reactors (units 5 and 6) at an estimated cost of ₹49,631 crore. These are to come up in addition to two reactors of the first phase which are operational and another two of the second phase which are still under construction.

Chairman of Indian Atomic Energy Commission and DAE secretary, Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas, ceremoniously unveiled the e-plaque through video conferencing along with the Director General of Rosatom, Dr. Alexey Likhachev and flagged off the first pour of the concrete for units 5 and 6 of KKNPP. He said this is a milestone event in the Indian nuclear power programme for providing clean and environmentally benign power.

The atomic energy commission chairman said that when units 5 and 6 are operational as expected in 2026, KKNPP would be producing 6,000 MW from its six reactors to significantly provide for the growth of Tamil Nadu, the home state of the power park and to the nation as a whole by supplying stable, clean and green power.

The commencement of the construction work of units 5 and 6 of KKNPP, according to Vyas, was another step towards realising the dream of Dr. Homi Baba, the father of atomic energy in India and Vikram Sarabhai, who placed India among the front running nuclear energy producing countries of the world.

SC REFUSES TO POSTPONE CA EXAMS, SEEKS OPT-OUT SCHEME

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to pass any direction to postpone the Chartered Accountant (CA) exams slated in July but favoured the "opting out" scheme asking the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), to spell out the scheme by Wednesday.

The court also sought the details of the Covid protocols to be followed in the examination halls.

A bench of Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, Justice Dinesh Maheshwari and Justice Aniruddha Bose said, "We are not stopping the exam. We are going to consider how opting out can be granted. In the midst of exams, out of five papers, if a student appears for three papers, he should be appearing in two papers only next time."

It posted for June 30 (Wednesday) the hearing on the candidates who want to opt out before and during the exam.

The ICAI offered the "opting out" scheme for the candidates unable to appear in the exam on account of the Covid restrictions. Senior advocate Ramji Srinivasan told the Court, "We have given in this cycle an opt out scheme. We have suggestions which we will put to the institute. The opt out facility will be available to people who are affected by Covid in one form or the other."

In a note filed on Monday, ICAI submitted that it is in best interest of students that exams are held as scheduled in July instead of postponing them as they were originally scheduled in May, but they were postponed to July due to increase in the Covid cases.

ICAI also submitted that since the Covid third wave is expected to peak in September-October, it has this narrow window of July 2021 to conduct the CA examinations.

Pending before the court are three petitions. One is to give extra chance/extension and allow opt out to those appearing for intermediate and final exams of CA under the old syllabus.

It also sought more exam centres to ensure one in every district of the country and not more than 50 students allotted to one centre.

'Power'ful approach**MAHA ASKS PEOPLE TO KEEP GANESH FESTIVAL LOW-KEY AFFAIR**

SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

The Maharashtra government on Tuesday asked the devotees to keep Ganeshotsav celebration low-key affair. The height of the Ganesh idols in public celebrations across the state is restricted to four feet. Idols in homes will be limited to only two feet this year in view of the Covid pandemic. The home department issued a circular in this connection on Tuesday. This is the second consecutive year, when the celebration of Ganeshotsav would be low key.

The 10-day festival will start from September 10. The circular was issued following the demands by the idol makers in Maharashtra as two months are left for the festival.

According to the circular, Ganesh Mandals would need to get proper permission from the local administration. The public organisers have been requested to make all the arrangements possible to provide online Ganesh Darshan via cable network, website, Facebook among others.

A senior official said that the state government has asked the devotees to make idols of metal, which is available at home, and marble instead of the traditional Ganesh idol. An appeal has been made to devotees to go for eco-friendly idols. And immersion should be done at home. If immersion is not possible at home, it should be done in an artificial pond. For public Ganeshotsav, Ganesh Mandals will have to take prior permission as per the policies of BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and local administration.

This comes days after the NCPCR, the country's apex child rights body, asked Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Cell) Anyesh Roy to explain why no action had been taken. In its letter, the NCPCR had asked the Delhi Police to book Twitter in the wake of the findings of its recent inquiry in which it had found that child sexual abuse material (CSAM) was easily available on the platform.

"Acting on a complaint received from the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights regarding the availability of child sexual abuse and child pornographic material on Twitter in the form of various accounts and links, an FIR under relevant sections of IPC, IT Act and POCSO Act has been registered by the Cyber Crime Unit, and investigation has been taken up," Delhi Police Public Relations Officer Chinmoy Biswas said.

— PTI

Twitter faces more heat over depicting distorted India map

Delhi cops register case for alleged access to child pornography on its platform

Parl. panel seeks Twitter's reply

New Delhi/Lucknow, June 29:

In more trouble for Twitter, an FIR was lodged in Uttar Pradesh against two senior officials of its India office over the social media platform putting up a distorted map of the country, while the Madhya Pradesh government on Tuesday said it will also initiate legal action against the microblogging giant over the issue.

The Delhi Police said it has registered a case against Twitter on a complaint by the National Commission

for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) for allegedly giving access to child sexual abuse material on the social media platform. It is the latest in the run-ins between Twitter and the central government over various issues,

including new IT rules. The panel was instructed by Tharoor to seek reply from Twitter on the blocking of access to accounts of Prasad and others on its platform, the sources said.

Last week, Twitter had blocked Union information and technology minister Prasad from accessing his account which ratcheted up tensions with the government as it came under renewed attack for not following local laws. — PTI

ues, including new IT rules. The panel was instructed by Tharoor to seek reply from Twitter on the blocking of access to accounts of Prasad and others on its platform, the sources said.

Tharoor had on Monday removed the wrong map that showed the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir outside India, following an uproar. "The world map

has now moved the

Supreme Court against an order of the Karnataka High Court restraining it from taking coercive action against Maheshwari. The FIR in the wrong map issue was lodged at the Khurja Nagar police station in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh on Monday evening against Maheshwari and News

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SHORT TAKES

XI HANDS OUT MEDALS AMID CELEBRATIONS

Beijing, June 29: Amid celebrations over the centenary of the ruling Communist Party, Chinese President Xi Jinping has awarded loyal party members with medals and called for adherence to Marxism.

Xi's speech at a ceremony Tuesday follows a lavish celebration at Beijing's Olympic stadium on Monday night emphasising China's rise to economic and political prominence following reforms enacted more than 40 years ago.

While unleashing private industry, the ruling party has maintained an iron grip on political power, along with preferential policies toward state-run companies.

RUSSIA TARGETS INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS

Moscow, June 29: Russian authorities on Tuesday morning raided the apartments of several investigative journalists and their family members, a move that comes amid mounting pressure on Russia's independent media outlets.

Police searched the apartments of Roman Badanin, chief editor of the *Proekt* investigative online outlet, and Maria Zhlobova, one of its journalists.

Officers also raided the home of the parents of Badanin's deputy, Mikhail Rubin. Rubin was detained near Zhlobova's residential building and brought to his parents' apartment.

Proekt said in its account in the Telegram messaging app that the raids occurred after the outlet promised to release an investigation into Russia's interior minister, Vladimir Kolokoltsev, and his alleged wealth.

BUSAN FORMER MAYOR JAILED FOR SEX ABUSE

Seoul, June 29: The former mayor of South Korea's second-largest city was jailed Tuesday on a three-year sentence for sexually abusing two city employees during his tenure. The lawyers of Oh Keo-don didn't immediately return calls and text messages asking whether they plan to appeal.

Busan's district court also ordered Oh to receive counseling and banned him from jobs at child welfare organisations and disability facilities for five years following the end of his jail term. Oh, who was seen as a key ally of Busan-raised President Moon Jae-in, stepped down as the city's mayor in April 2020 after admitting he had "unnecessary physical contact" with a female public servant who accused him of groping her in his office.

SUU KYI BID TO DISQUALIFY TESTIMONY DENIED

Bangkok, June 29: Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi suffered a legal setback Tuesday when a judge denied her lawyers' motion to disqualify prosecution testimony against her on a sedition charge, her defense team said.

The court, however, said it would allow the issue to be referred to the High Court and would suspend testimony until a ruling is issued. Ousted President Win Myint and the former mayor of Naypyitaw, Myo Aung, her close political allies, are co-defendants in the charge. The court will continue to hear prosecution testimony on other charges Suu Kyi faces: That she illegally imported wakie-talkies for her bodyguards' use and used those radios without a licence, and violated Covid-19 curbs twice during the 2020 election campaign.

JAIL TO ZUMA FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT

Johannesburg, June 29: The apex court in South Africa on Tuesday sentenced the country's former president Jacob Zuma to 15 months' imprisonment for contempt of court after he walked out of hearings of the Commission of Enquiry into State Capture in November last year and refused to return to it.

The court also said that the sentence could not be suspended. The Commission, which is investigating allegations of corruption and bribery at state and parastatal institutions, had asked that Zuma be sent to prison for two years.

Zuma has repeatedly said that he would rather go to jail than cooperate with the Commission.

Justice Sisi Khampepe of the Constitutional Court described Zuma's statements as "outrageous" and "intolerable".

US to spend big to counter China

\$250 bn to boost American competitiveness

Washington, June 29: The US plans a large spending plan to counter China. According to the senate, China is America's biggest geopolitical and geo-economic problem and handed the United States Innovation and Competition Act 2021 to spend greater than \$250 billion to be certain that the US stays on prime in phrases of technological analysis and manufacturing.

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The invoice is a unicommon level of settlement between the Republicans and the Democrats. In a vote, 68 of the 100-member senate supported the measure, with 32 in opposition to. The senate is evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats and consultants say that the vote exhibits how the two political events are united on the necessity to counter Beijing's financial and army ambitions.

Supporters say the bundle is one of the biggest industrial payments in US historical past and the largest funding in scientific analysis that the nation has seen in many years.

The invoice geared toward bolstering American competitiveness with China with a spread of meas-

ures. The key thought is that this, from part 3005, which reads: "The United States must ensure that all federal departments and agencies are organised to reflect the fact that strategic competition with the PRC is the United States' greatest geopolitical and geo-economic challenge."

To meet that problem, the senate licenced within the finances \$190 billion geared toward massively growing R&D at universi-

ties and different establishments and boosting improvements in synthetic intelligence, drones and different rising applied sciences. To create an American model of China's 'Special Economic Zones', \$10 billion are to be invested in "regional technology hubs". For the growth of home semiconductor manufacturing, \$52 billion has been provisioned. More than \$23 billion for area exploration and the event of area industries has been earmarked as effectively.

The invoice contains a number of China-specific provisions, together with the prohibition of the social media app "Tik Tok" from being downloaded on authorities units. The buy of drones manufactured and offered by Chinese state enterprises would even be blocked beneath the laws. Chinese organisations engaged in US cyber-attacks or theft of US mental property from US corporations would face sanctions too.

The invoice additionally requires sanctions over human rights abuses in Xinjiang province and abuses in opposition to Uighurs. —ANI

Urge Pak to act against ultras, India tells UN

United Nations, June 29: India has told the UN General Assembly that it is high time the international community called on Pakistan to take "effective and irreversible" actions against terror outfits operating on its soil, asserting that Islamabad should not take the "high road of morality" which is only laden with mines of falsehood.

Hitting out at Pakistan for its "vitriolic diatribe" against India, Special Secretary (Internal Security), Ministry of Home Affairs in the Government of India V.S.K. Katmudi said: "As expected, the delegation of Pakistan has again resorted to peddling false narratives and making baseless allegations against India."

He was speaking at the 2nd High Level Conference of the Head of Counter Terrorism Agencies of the Member States in the

General Assembly on Monday. "For a nation that engages in sectarian violence against its own minorities and harbours a deep sense of insecurity and orchestrated hatred for India, there is nothing new that we could have expected from this delegation," he said at the session 'Global scourge of terrorism: Assessment of current threats and emerging trends for the new decade'. He noted that the 7th review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) is over and Pakistan's false narrative was summarily negated by the UN membership.

"It's high time that the international community called upon Pakistan to take effective, verifiable and irreversible actions against terror outfits operating on the territory under its control and not take the high road of morality," he said.

He was speaking at the 2nd High Level Conference of the Head of Counter Terrorism Agencies of the Member States in the



Medical personnel tend to Covid-19 patients in a tent set up outside a hospital in Bogor on Tuesday, as infections soar in Indonesia. — AFP

Red Cross warns Indonesia faces Covid-19 catastrophe

AZ to Oz adults for rapid rollout

VIRUS OUTBREAK IN FIJI TESTS HEALTH SYSTEM

Jakarta, June 29: Indonesia needs to urgently increase medical care, testing and vaccinations as the number of new infections in the country has rapidly increased and left it on the edge of a Covid-19 catastrophe, the Red Cross said Tuesday.

The group said its Coronavirous hospital in Bogor, outside of Jakarta, was overflowing and emergency tents had been set up to be able to house more patients. It was a similar scene at other hospitals near the capital, including in at the Bekasi city hospital that had 90% of its beds filled.

"We are seeing record numbers of infections, but every statistic is a person who is suffering, grieving or struggling to support the people they love," Sudirman Said, secretary general of Indonesian Red Cross, said in a statement.

The government late Monday agreed to indemnify doctors who administer the AstraZeneca vaccine that has been blamed for at least two fatalities from a rare blood clot complication in Australia since April.

That exceeds the single death from Covid-19 in Australia this year, and vaccine hesitancy has increased with only 5% of the population fully inoculated. Pfizer has been the recommended vaccine for people younger than 60 since a 52-year-old woman died in May of blood clots in the brain blamed on AstraZeneca.

The surge in Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation, is being blamed in part on the Delta variant of the virus, which was first spotted in India and is thought to be more contagious. Indonesia reported more than 20,600 new cases on Monday and more than 400 deaths.

Indonesia has seen more than 2.1 million cases since the pandemic began and more than 57,500 deaths, both the most in Southeast Asia. Less than 5% of adults in the nation of 270 million people have been fully vaccinated. The Red Cross called for global action so countries like Indonesia can get the vaccines they need.

Health authorities in Thailand on Monday announced 5,406 new Covid-19 cases, as the country struggles with how to cope with new Coronavirus variants and contain its rapid spread around the capital Bangkok and in southern provinces.

Nine of the new cases were in prisoners, while the others among the general public marked a record high for that category of patients.

Thailand has had 249,853 confirmed Covid cases since the pandemic began last year, more than 88% occurring in the third wave of the coronavirus that started this April. —AP

Zeneca, cannot keep up with demand.

There's a preference for Pfizer until the age of 60. That's a preference, Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly said on Tuesday.

It's a discussion for doctors to have with their own patients and work through their own risk and benefit in relation to that, Kelly added.

The Queensland state capital Brisbane and surrounding cities will be in lockdown for three days from late Tuesday after the government reported two new Covid-19 infections. Sydney reported 19 new infections in that east coast city. Perth reported two new cases on the west coast and Darwin reported two new cases on the north coast. Those three cities and their surrounds are already in lockdown.

Australia has been relatively successful in containing clusters throughout the pandemic. —AP

Russia daily toll hits 652

Moscow, June 29: Russian authorities have reported 652 new Coronavirus deaths every day since last Thursday. On Tuesday, 20,616 new contagions were recorded.

Russian officials have blamed the surge, which started in early June, on Russians' lax attitude toward taking necessary precautions, growing prevalence of more infectious variants and laggard vaccination rates.

Although Russia was among the first countries to announce and deploy a Coronavirus vaccine, only about 14% of the population has received at least one shot.

Russia's Coronavirus task force has reported nearly 5.5 million confirmed Coronavirus cases in the pandemic and 134,545 deaths. —AP

CHINESE VAX EFFECTIVE IN CHILDREN, SAYS STUDY

Beijing, June 29: Two doses of the China-made Covid-19 vaccine, CoronaVac, are safe and produce a strong antibody response among children and adolescents aged 3-17 years, according to a study published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* journal.

The phase 1/2 trial on 550 young people found that over 96 per cent of children and adolescents who received two doses of the vaccine, manufactured by Sinovac, developed antibodies against SARS-CoV-2. Most adverse reactions were mild or moderate, with pain at the injection site the most commonly reported symptom. —PTI

EU ASYLUM APPLICATIONS DROP DUE TO COVID-19

Brussels, June 29: The European Union's asylum agency said Tuesday that the number of people seeking international protection in Europe hit its lowest level last year since 2013, but that the drop was due to Covid travel curbs.

EASO said in a new report that 485,000 asylum applications were made in the 27 EU countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland in 2020. That's a 32% decrease over the previous year. It said that "reduced applications were primarily due to restricted mobility and travel, rather than a decrease in the number of people in need of international protection." —AP

Fans mark Diana's 60th birthday

London, June 29: Most people wouldn't volunteer to walk through a minefield. Princess Diana did it twice. On January 15, 1997, Diana walked gingerly down a narrow path cleared through an Angolan minefield, wearing a protective visor and flak jacket emblazoned with the name of The HALO Trust, a group devoted to removing mines from former war zones. When she realised some of the photographers accompanying her didn't get the shot, she turned around and

did it again. Later, she met with a group of landmine victims. The images of that day appeared in newspapers and on TV sets around the globe.

Today, a treaty banning landmines has 164 signatories. Those touched by the life of the preschool teacher turned princess remembered her ahead of what would have been her 60th birthday on Thursday, recalling the complicated royal rebel who left an enduring imprint on the House of Windsor. —AP

Two Americans apologise for role in Ghosn escape

Tokyo, June 29: Two Americans charged in Japan with helping Nissan's former chairman, Carlos Ghosn, jump bail and escape Japan for Lebanon apologised Tuesday in a Tokyo court.

"I deeply regret my actions and sincerely apologise for causing difficulties for the judicial process and for the Japanese people. I'm sorry," Michael Taylor, a former Green Beret said, bowing and holding back sobs.

Taylor, on trial in Tokyo District Court with his

son Peter, said in response to questioning by his lawyer and by prosecutors that he had been misinformed by Ghosn and his wife, Carole Ghosn.

Carole Ghosn told Taylor her husband was tortured and grilled in solitary confinement, he said.

Ghosn also said he was being mistreated, Taylor said. Taylor said he has been well treated in Japan. "I didn't know much about Japan. All I know is that the Japanese are the friendliest people I've ever bumped into," he said.

—AP

The Soviet Union had built the airfield back in the 1950s

After nearly 20 yrs US to leave Bagram

Bagram, June 29: For nearly 20 years, Bagram Airfield was the heart of American military power in Afghanistan, a sprawling mini-city behind fences and blast walls just an hour's drive north of Kabul. Initially, it was a symbol of the US drive to avenge the 9/11 attacks, then of its struggle for a way through the ensuing war with the Taliban.

In just a matter of days, the last US soldiers will depart Bagram. They are leaving what probably everyone connected to the

base, whether American or Afghan, considers a mixed legacy. "Bagram grew into such a massive military installation that, as few other bases in Afghanistan and even Iraq, it came to symbolise and epitomise the phrase mission creep," said Andrew Watkins, Afghanistan senior analyst for the Brussels-based International Crisis Group.

US Central Command said last week that it's well past 50% done packing up Bagram, and the rest is going fast. American officials

have said the entire pullout of US troops will most likely be completely finished by July 4.

The Afghan military will then take over Bagram as part of its continuing fight against the Taliban — and against what many in the country fear will be a new eruption of chaos. The departure is rife with symbolism. Not least, it's the second time that an invader of Afghanistan has come and gone through Bagram.

The Soviet Union built the airfield in the 1950s. When it invaded Afghani-

stan in 1979 to back a communist government, it turned it into its main base from which it would defend its occupation of the country. For 10 years, the Soviets fought the US-backed mujahideen, dubbed freedom fighters by President Ronald Reagan, who saw them as a front-line force in one of the last Cold War battles.

The Soviet Union negotiated its withdrawal in 1989. Three years later, the pro-Moscow government collapsed, and the mujahideen warlords fleeing to their northern enclaves. —AP

turn their weapons on each other and kill thousands of civilians. That turmoil brought to power the Taliban who overran Kabul in 1996.

When the US and Nato

inherited Bagram in 2001,

they found it in ruins, a collection of crumbling buildings, gouged by rockets and shells, most of its perimeter fence wrecked.

It had been abandoned after being battered in the battles between the Taliban and rival mujahideen warlords fleeing to their northern enclaves. —AP



quick BITES

INDICATORS %

Sensex	52549.66	-0.35
Nifty 50	15748.50	-0.42
S&P 500*	4,295.83	0.12
Dollar (₹)	74.22	-0.02
Pound Sterling (₹)	102.82	0.40
Euro (₹)	88.39	0.19
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,167.89	0.19
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	75.11	0.58
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.036	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.507	0.029

* As of 8:30 PM IST

RIL signs pact to join Abu Dhabi petchem hub

Reliance Industries has signed a pact to invest an undisclosed amount in a giant petrochemical hub being built in the UAE. The conglomerate will join the recently formed Ta'ziz joint venture of Abu Dhabi state energy giant Adnoc and state holding company ADQ for developing the Ruwais Derivatives Park in western Abu Dhabi. Unconfirmed reports put the investment at about \$1.5 billion.

New Range Rover Sport SVR comes at ₹2.19 crore



Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover introduced the most powerful Range Rover yet, the Range Rover Sport SVR, at a starting price of Rs 2.19 crore. The imported Sport SVR is powered by 5.0-litre supercharged V8 petrol engine. It can accelerate from 0-100 kph in 4.5 seconds. The Land Rover range in India includes the Range Rover Evoque starting at Rs 59.04 lakh and Range Rover at Rs 2.10 crore.

Electricity Bill may be tabled in monsoon session

The Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2021, which enables power consumer to choose from multiple service providers as in the case of telecom services, is likely to be introduced and pushed for passage in the monsoon session of Parliament beginning in July. At a Bloomberg virtual event, power and renewable energy minister R. K. Singh said the bill seeks to delicense distribution of electricity.

Standard Life sells ₹6,783-crore HDFC Life stake

HDFC Life Insurance Company's promoter Standard Life (Mauritius Holdings) offloaded shares worth over Rs 6,783 crore in the firm, through open market transactions. Standard Life (Mauritius Holdings) 2006 Ltd held 8.88 per cent stake in the firm. As per BSE data, the promoter sold 10 crore shares. The total deal value stood at Rs 6,783.59 crore. HDFC Life stock ended 1.39 per cent lower on the BSE, at Rs 686.35.

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₹10,000 for Reits and ₹15,000 for InvITs. Lot starts at 1 Minimum investment in Reits, InvITs relaxed

'ACCREDITED INVESTORS' TO GET MORE INVESTMENT FREEDOM

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

In an attempt to deepen the market for new instruments Reits and InvITs, markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday decided to reduce the minimum subscription amount and trading lot size for such publicly listed investment trusts.

The minimum application value for Real Estate Investment Trusts (Reits) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) will be in the range of Rs 10,000-Rs 15,000 and the trading lot will be of one unit, the Sebi said. Currently the threshold investment is Rs 50,000-Rs 100,000 range.

For unlisted InvITs, the regulator has introduced the concept of minimum unit-holders requirement. "The minimum number of unit holders, other than sponsor, its related parties and its associates shall be five, together holding not less than 25 per cent of the total unit capital of the InvIT," the Sebi said in a release after its board meeting.

Real estate players hailed the Sebi's decision to reduce the minimum subscription amount and trading lot size for Reits, saying it will encourage retail investors to participate in the publicly traded instrument.

The Sebi board has approved amendments to Reits and InvITs' Regulations on Tuesday.

"The revised minimum application value shall be within the range of INR 10,000-15,000 and the

accreditation agencies for these accredited investors," the Sebi said. These agencies will grant accreditation status and issue accreditation certificate to the investors.

"Accredited Investors shall have flexibility to participate in investment products with an investment amount lesser than the minimum amount mandated in the Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) Regulations and Portfolio Managers Regulations," the Sebi said.

"Accredited investors who are clients of investment advisers will have the flexibility to determine the limits and modes of fees payable to the investment adviser through bilaterally negotiated contractual terms."

Investors welcomed the move. "The flexibility in investment decisions would allow AMCs & AIFs to work closely with the well-informed investors like family offices to create bespoke proposals," said Prateek Pant, chief business officer, White Oak Capital Management.

revised trading lot shall be of one unit," the release said.

Under the current rules, while making an initial public offering and follow-on offer, the minimum sub-

scription should not be less than Rs 50,000 for Reits and Rs 1 lakh for InvITs.

Allotment to any investor is required to be made in the multiples of a lot. At present, for initial listing, a

trading lot should be of 100 units and during follow-on offer, each lot should consist of such number of units in its trading lot as it had at the time of initial offer.

TIGHTER NORMS ON INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

New Delhi, June 29: In efforts to bolster corporate governance, the Sebi on Tuesday approved various amendments to rules governing the appointment, re-appointment and removal of independent directors, including the requirement to disclose resignation letters of such individuals.

There will be a one-year cooling period for an independent director transitioning to a whole-time director in the same company/ associate company belonging to the promoter group.

Appointment, re-appointment and removal of independent directors should be done only through a special resolution passed by shareholders. Further, the process to be followed by the Nomination and Remuneration Committee while selecting candidates for appointment as independent directors has been made more transparent.

— PTI

Stockholders like millers, traders and importers may be directed by the states/ UTs to declare the stocks of pulses and that may be verified by states/UTs. States/UTs are also

States asked to monitor pulses stocks as prices go up

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JUNE 29, 2021

The Centre has directed states and union territories to ask millers, traders and importers to declare their stocks of pulses. They will also have to monitor pulses prices on a weekly basis.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs says it has noticed a sudden spurt in prices of pulses, which may be due to hoarding by stockholders. Hoarding could lead to a situation of artificial scarcity and price rise. According to the trade, pulses have become dearer by about 10 per cent on an annual basis.

As per the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the government can issue orders for collecting information and statistics to persons engaged in the production, supply or distribution or trade of any essential commodity, the letter issued by the ministry said.

Through the Essential Commodities Act, 2020, notified in September last year, stipulates that the supply of certain food articles, including cereals, pulses and oils, can only be regulated in extraordinary circumstances such as war, famine and natural calamity. The Act has not come into force yet due to a stay order by the Supreme Court.

"Stockholders like millers, traders and importers may be directed by the states/ UTs to declare the stocks of pulses and that may be verified by states/UTs. States/UTs are also



requested to monitor the prices of pulses on a weekly basis," the ministry said. The ministry has also created an online portal and provided the list of millers as per the Nafed data.

After a gap of three years, India, the largest pulses producer and consumer, had moved import of tur moong and urad from restricted to open category in May this year till November-end.

This is an assurance given to the farmers of these countries by India as very few countries produce pulses like tur and India is the largest consumer. Though India's production has been rising, the consumption is increasing faster. Apart from Myanmar and Malawi, we have also extended a similar agreement with Mozambique for next five years.

For decades, India has been producing 14-18 million tonnes of pulses. However, from 2016-17, the production crossed 23.13 million tonnes, 25.42 million tonnes in 2017-18 and 23.22 million tonnes in 2018-19. The total consumption of pulses is estimated at around 25 million tonnes.

RBI slaps penalties on Mahesh Co-op, 3 others

FC BANKING BUREAU
MUMBAI, JUNE 29

The Reserve Bank on Tuesday said it has imposed penalties on four co-operative banks, including a Rs 112.50 lakh fine on Hyderabad-based Andhra Pradesh Mahesh Co-operative Urban Bank, for contravention of certain regulatory directions. A penalty of Rs 62.50 lakh has been imposed on The Ahmedabad Mercantile

Co-operative Bank, Ahmedabad; Rs 37.50 lakh on SVC Co-operative Bank, Mumbai; and Rs 25 lakh on Saraswat Cooperative Bank, Mumbai.

The penalty on Andhra Pradesh Mahesh Co-operative Urban Bank was for non-compliance with directions issued by the RBI contained in Master Directions on 'Interest Rate on Deposits' and 'Frauds Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism'.

The Ahmedabad Mercantile Co-operative Bank has been penalised for violation of norms contained in Master Directions on 'Interest Rate on Deposits' and 'Maintenance of Deposit Accounts'.

The penalties, the RBI said, have been imposed for based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and are not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their customers.

Govt for new rating system for MSMEs

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JUNE 29

The government has suggested creation of a new ratings system for micro small and medium enterprises and a dashboard for effective monitoring of MSMEs schemes.

A simple and transparent methodology should be evolved to give ratings to MSMEs having good turnover and GST records to enable them to get finances from the banks and institutions, Minister for MSME Nitin Gadkari said. According to him, the

whole world now wants to invest in Indian industry and with an effective rating system MSMEs can get good investment from abroad.

The RBI already has a BLR rating for MSMEs with a loan exposure of Rs 5 crore and above.

However, the MSMEs have not been happy with the rating as it applies the same model applicable to large companies. The MSMEs have been complaining about this rating system. "If the minister has now announced a rating system, I presume that

vent delays in decision making. The ministry already has such a dashboard, so it is not clear if the minister is looking for a real-time dashboard.

Gadkari asked Sidi to take decisions within three months and provide support. It is time to make the system transparent, time-bound, result oriented and performance oriented and help appropriate entrepreneurs with a good track record, he said. Industry presumes the new dashboard might have details of newer schemes like the ECLGS.

FM tells ministries to take pvt sector along

F C BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

A day after offering booster shot for Covid-hit sectors to bring the economy on track, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on Tuesday, said all ministries need to explore public-private partnership (PPP) mode for viable projects.

She also asked the ministries and their CPSEs to ensure clearance of micro, small & medium enterprises (MSME) dues by July 31.

The finance minister was reviewing the capital expenditure performance of the ministries and their CPSEs and she emphasised that enhanced capex will play a critical role in revitalising the economy post-pan-

demic and encouraged the ministries to front-load their capital expenditure.

Besides, she said all the ministries need to aim to achieve more than their Capex targets.

Sitharaman also said that the budget for financial year 2021-22 provided a capital outlay of Rs 5.54 lakh crore, a sharp increase of 34.5 per cent over the budget estimate of 2020-21. "However, the efforts from the budgetary side to increase the capital expenditure have to be complemented by the public sector enterprises."

She said the infrastructure expenditure is not just central government's budgetary expenditure alone, but includes spending by state governments and private sector.

Shrinkflation is a monster worth watching

STEPHEN MIHM
JUNE 29

How will we know if inflation is making a comeback? Most economists are focused on the price of commodities, wages, and other basic goods and services. But history suggests they might want to keep an eye on a related phenomenon that often escapes notice: so-called "shrinkflation."

This practice became increasingly common in the 1960s and 1970s, when manufacturers confronting runaway inflation tweaked packaging rather than hike prices. At first, the practice attracted relatively little notice: It's difficult to discern changes in unit prices when they're camouflaged in different-looking boxes and bags.



At its back-to-school sale for 99 cents—same price as the previous year. But as a sharp-eyed reporter at *The New York Times* observed, the packages only contained 24 pencils, six fewer than the previous year. The same strategy affected packets of construction paper (24 sheets, not 30). The grocery store offered numerous opportunities for downsizers. At the

beginning of the decade, that staple of postwar cuisine, Rice-A-Roni, sold boxes containing 8 ounces of the product. Soon, though, it shrank to 6.9 ounces, but the packaging and price remained the same.

This kind of sleight-of-hand became ubiquitous. Everything from cans of tuna fish to jars of spaghetti sauce contained less and less. Advocacy groups like the Consumer Union (now Consumer Reports) inveighed against downsizing, but the practice remained widespread.

Gumball makers may have pulled off the most brazen act of shrinkflation. As the price of sugar climbed in the 1970s, they

Column

couldn't easily raise prices—gumballs machines were set up to accept a specific coin. And they couldn't make the gumballs smaller—the dispensers couldn't reliably handle any other size. So they created a hollow in the formerly solid gumball. Instead of sugar, kids got some air.

Many of these unit-pricing systems survive in 2021. But so, too, does shrinkflation. In the past year, there have been increasing reports crafty manufacturers whittling away everything from sheets of toilet paper to servings of cat food. These have intensified in recent weeks.

If the trend continues,

beware: This may signal that inflation, long dormant, may finally be resurgent.

—Bloomberg



SHORT TAKES
Ankita, Prajnesh named for Arjuna

New Delhi: Asian Games bronze medallists Ankita Raina and Prajnesh Gunnswaran have been nominated for the prestigious Arjuna award by the national tennis federation, which has also sent names of Balram Singh and Enrico Piperno for the Dhyanchand honour.

Ankita and Prajnesh both won singles bronze medals at the 2018 Asian Games held in Jakarta and Palembang. Ankita is now country's best-ranked singles (182) and doubles (95) player and is set to make his Olympic debut at the Tokyo Games next month. Ankita was nominated for the 'Arjuna' last year also but Asian Games gold medalist Divij Sharan succeeded in bagging the award. — PTI

Ex India football captain in hospital

Kolkata: Former India goalkeeper Bhaskar Ganguly, who also captained the country at the 1982 Asian Games, was hospitalized with high fever and low oxygen saturation level.

However his Covid-19 test report has turned negative and the 64-year-old is put under observation at a private hospital on EM Bypass, said his former teammate Mihir Basu. "He became seriously ill on Monday evening and had more than 100 degree fever. His oxygen saturation level also dropped to 91. We rushed him to hospital and was put under observation in the ICU. His condition is now stable and if all goes well, he will be discharged within four-five days," Basu, a former India striker said. The former East Bengal legend has also been suffering from Parkinson's disease. — PTI

BAI plans to start domestic season

New Delhi: The Badminton Association of India (BAI) on Tuesday said it has asked its state units to get their players and officials vaccinated for the resumption of the domestic season under strict Covid-19 guidelines.

According to the guidelines of the BAI, players above the age of 18, coaches, technical officials, organising team and staff need to be fully vaccinated and are required to carry their certificates with valid barcodes. For the shuttlers below 18 years of age, it will be made mandatory to carry a negative RT-PCR report with a barcode, 96 hours prior to departure from their respective stations.

The 2021-22 season will kick-start with senior Ranking Tournaments. "We want to ensure that when the season begins, we start with full participation," BAI General Secretary Ajay Singhania said. — PTI

Mithali back in top 5 of ODI rankings

Dubai: India captain Mithali Raj has returned to the top five of the latest ICC Women's ODI Rankings for batswomen after top-scoring for India with 72 in the series opener against England in Bristol.

The 38-year-old, who has completed 22 years in international cricket, rescued her side from a precarious 27 for two but India's total of 201 for eight was not challenging enough for England, who will be defending their World Cup title in New Zealand next year.

Mithali, who had led India to the final of the last World Cup played at Lord's in 2017, has gained three slots to reach fifth position after the Bristol knock.

The former top-ranked batter returns to the top five for the first time since October 2019. — PTI

India women aim to level series

Taunton: India will have to shed their outdated batting approach and play more freely to bounce back against formidable hosts England in the second women's ODI here on Wednesday. India consumed as many as 181 dot balls on way to posting a below par 201 which England chased down rather comfortably to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series on Sunday. Ahead of the World Cup in New Zealand early next year, India have got work to do in all departments as pointed out by skipper Mithali Raj herself. The game could see India making multiple changes in the playing eleven. Former India captain Diana Edulji said the middle-order has too many "anchors" which means Punam Raut can make way for Jemimah Rodrigues at number three. — PTI

ADRIANALINE RUSH

Federer overcomes Mannarino in thrilling first round

London, June 29: Roger Federer survived a huge scare to reach the Wimbledon second round on Tuesday when French opponent Adrian Mannarino was forced to retire injured at the start of the fifth set.

Eight-time champion Federer was level at 6-4, 6-7 (3/7), 3-6, 6-2 when Mannarino called it quits after just one point in the decider.

The Frenchman, celebrating his 33rd birthday, suffered a bad fall in the seventh game of the fourth set.

Despite taking treatment from the trainer, he was hardly able to move and grimacing in pain had to retire.

Just five weeks shy of his 40th birthday, Federer faces either Richard Gasquet or Yuichi Sugita for a place in the last 32.

BARTY THROUGH

Australia's Ashleigh Barty overcame a mid-match wobble to reach the second round at Wimbledon as rain once again halted play on the outside courts on Tuesday.

Barty came through 6-1, 6-7 (1/7), 6-1 against Carla Suarez Navarro in a match filled with emotion on Centre Court, whose roof ensured the match could be finished.

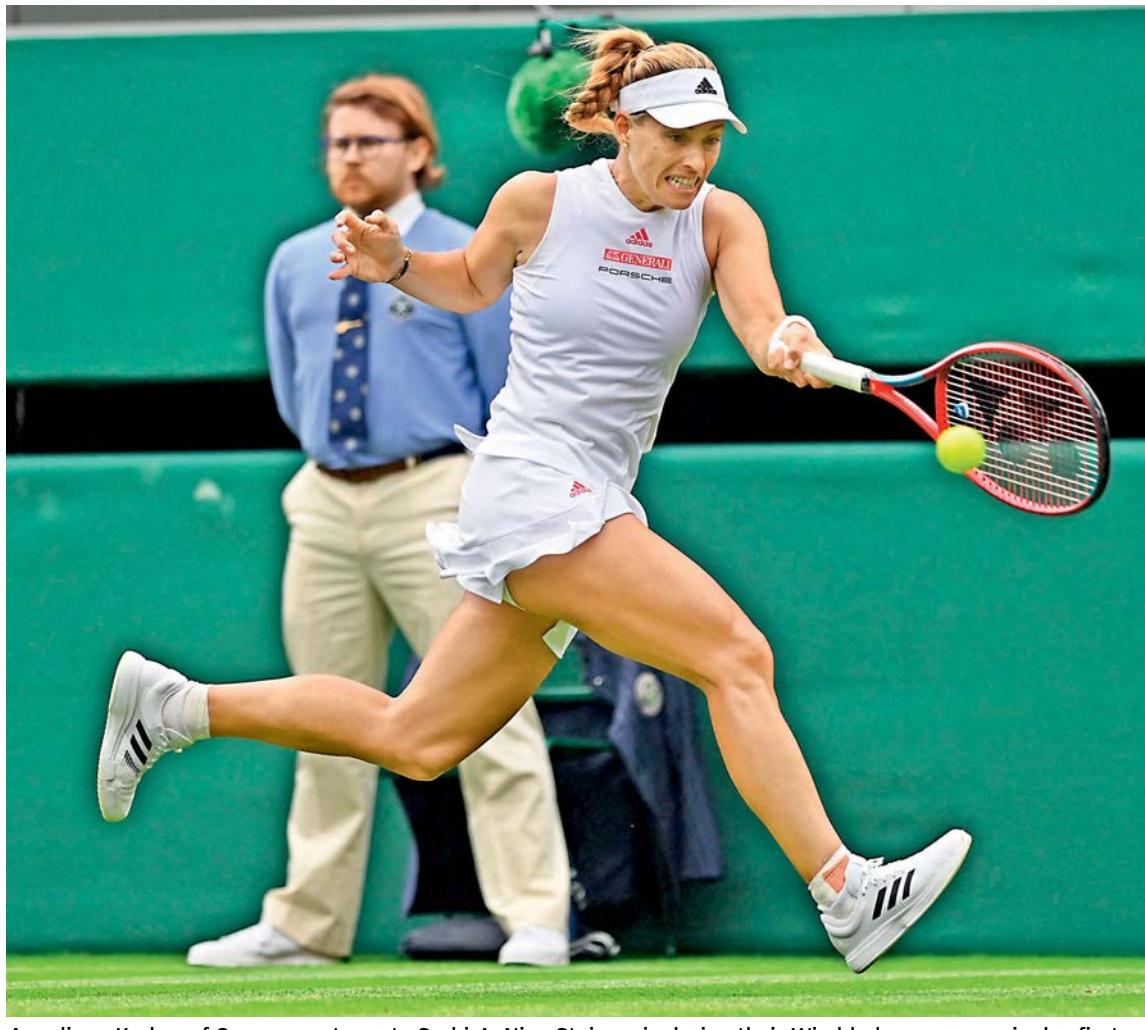
Play was due to get underway again at 5:00pm local time (1600GMT) the same time as kick-off in the Euro 2020 last 16 tie between England and old foes Germany at Wembley.

However, 18 first round matches were pushed back to Wednesday with men's doubles matches cut to best-of-three sets in the first two rounds in an effort to make up the backlog.

Barty's Spanish opponent made sure her 11th and final appearance at The Championships went the distance just months after returning from a winning fight against cancer.

Barty is bidding to add the senior singles Wimbledon title to her 2011 junior crown on the 50th anniversary of her fellow indigenous Australian's Evonne Goolagong Cawley's first title.

— AFP



Angelique Kerber of Germany returns to Serbia's Nina Stojanovic during their Wimbledon women's singles first round match at The All England Tennis Club in London on Tuesday. Kerber won 6-4, 6-3. — AFP

Murray wins singles match at Wimbledon after 3 years

London, June 29: Two-time champion Andy Murray won his first Wimbledon singles match since 2017 on Monday with a four-set triumph over Nikoloz Basilashvili and hailed the Centre Court crowd which carried him to victory. Murray, the champion in 2013 and 2016 but who has fought a long battle with hip and groin injuries in recent years, triumphed 6-4, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 over the 24th seeded Basilashvili.

"It has been extremely tough, even in the last few months," said 34-year-old Murray.

"It was not the most serious of injuries but it



Andy Murray celebrates his first round win on Monday. — AFP

was frustrating not to be able to get on the court.

"I have had so little momentum over the last few years but kept on going to the gym and trying to get back to do it

again."

Now ranked a lowly 118 in the world, former number one Murray will face either Oscar Otte of Germany or France's Arthur Rinderknech for a place in the last 32.

His last appearance in the singles tournament at Wimbledon four years ago ended in a five-set loss to Sam Querrey in the quarter-finals.

A long-standing hip problem, which required surgery, then pushed him tearfully to the brink of retirement.

It was a roller-coaster evening for Murray who let slip a 5-0 lead and two match points in the third set.

— AFP

THE RESULTS

Men's singles first round: Alexander Zverev (GER x4) bt Tallon Griekspoor (NED) 6-3, 6-4, 6-1; Sebastian Korda (USA) bt Alex De Minaur (AUS x1) 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/5); Diego Schwartzman (ARG x9) bt Benoit Paire (FRA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-0; Fabio Fognini (ITA x26) bt Albert Ramos Vinolas (ESP) 7-6 (7/4), 6-2, 6-4; Dan Evans (GBR x22) bt Feliciano Lopez (ESP) 7-6 (7/4), 6-2, 7-5.
Women's singles first round: Angelique Kerber (GER x25) bt Nina Stojanovic (SRB) 6-4, 6-3; Ashleigh Barty (AUS x1) bt Carla Suarez Navarro (ESP) 6-1, 6-7 (1/7), 6-1; Venus Williams (USA) bt Mihaela Buzarnescu (ROM) 7-5, 4-6, 6-3; Liudmila Samsonova (RUS) bt Kaja Kanepi (EST) 6-4, 6-2; Madison Brengle (USA) bt Christina McHale (USA) 3-6, 7-5, 10-8; Karolina Pliskova (CZE x8) bt Tamara Zidansek (SLO) 7-5, 6-4; Tereza Martincova (CZE) bt Alison Riske (USA x28) 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; Lin Zhu (CHN) bt Mona Barthel (GER) 6-7 (2/7), 6-3, 6-3; Vera Zvonareva (RUS) bt Marie Bouzkova (CZE) 7-5, 6-4; Elise Mertens (BEL x13) bt Harriet Dart (GBR) 6-1, 6-3.

World T20 from Oct. 17 to Nov. 14

● The upcoming edition will be the first men's T20 World Cup played since 2016, when West Indies beat England in the final in India.

Lanka, Ireland, Netherlands, Scotland, Namibia, Oman and Papua New Guinea, before the play-off stage and the Final on November 14.

The ICC statement came a day after BCCI intimated the governing body that the event can be moved out of India.

"The BCCI will remain the hosts of the event, which will now be held in Dubai International Stadium, the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, the Sharjah Stadium, and the Oman Cricket Academy Ground, from 17 October to 14 November 2021," the ICC stated.

The first round of the tournament, comprising the eight qualifying teams, will now be split between Oman and UAE.

Four of these teams will then progress to the Super 12s round where they'll join the eight automatic qualifiers.

The upcoming edition will be the first men's T20 World Cup played since 2016, when West Indies beat England in the final in India.

The eight teams competing in the preliminary stage are Bangladesh, Sri

— PTI

SOUTHEE AUCTIONS WTC FINAL SHIRT FOR A CAUSE

Auckland, June 29: New Zealand pace spearhead Tim Southee is auctioning a shirt he wore during the inaugural World Test Championship final to raise funds for the treatment of an eight-year-old diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.

"Hey guys, I am auctioning off one of my shirts from the ICC World Test Championship Final to support @hopeforhollie. All proceeds from the auction will go to the Beattie family," Southee wrote on his Instagram.

"I am hopeful that this shirt can help contribute in some way to the Beattie family's ongoing medical needs as Hollie continues to fight. As a parent my heart goes out to them as they battle on. Any bid big or small is greatly appreciated!" — PTI



Tense Jamieson hid inside washroom

London, June 29: The tension and nervousness caused during New Zealand's run chase on the final day of the Word Test Championship title clash against India forced their star pacer Kyle Jamieson to hide inside the bathroom.

Jamieson, who was the Man of the Match for his seven wickets in the final, felt nervous while watching the action from the dressing room.

"It was probably the toughest period of cricket I've been a part of, in terms of watching," Jamieson told Country Sport Breakfast on Gold AM.

"We were sitting inside and actually watching on TV. There was a bit of a delay but it seemed like every ball the Indian crowd was up and about and I was like 'jeez it's a wicket' or something like that, but it turned out it was just a block or a single."

Eventually, captain Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor got the team home rather comfortably while chasing 139 for a win.

"It was pretty tough to watch. I actually tried to at

times to go to the bathroom where there was no noise to just get away from it for a while because it was quite nerve-racking."

"But it was nice to have Kane and Ross out there, two of our greatest ever batters really to calm the nerves and finish the job the way they did," said the lanky pacer.

Jamieson did not get enough time to celebrate as he was back in the field with 48 hours of the final, this time for his county side Surrey.

"It was a quick turnaround. I think within 48 hours I was back on the park playing T20 for Surrey. It's kind of the life we live a little bit. But it's nice to stay on and to experience county cricket for the next few weeks."

"It was certainly tough to say goodbye to those guys (NZ teammates). Coming off a high of what we just experienced and that moment we all enjoyed together, to go and say

goodbye was quite tough."

— PTI

Bronze girls on track



Telangana's J. Deepthi (from left), Nithya Gadhe, Harika Devi and A. Nandini pose with their bronze medals from the 4x100 metres women's event at the 60th National Inter State Senior Athletics Championships held at the National Institute of Sports in Patiala, Punjab. The State girls clocked 45.91 seconds to finish behind Sri Lanka (44.55) and a team representing India (44.15). Harika also won bronze in the women's 200 metres with a time of 24.64 seconds, behind Sri Lanka's BIM Jayam (24.08) and Kerala's Anjali P D (24.01). The quartet are flanked by Assistant coach Korra Laxman (left) and Telangana Athletics Association president Stanley Jones (right).

India women aim to level series

Taunton: India will have to shed their outdated batting approach and play more freely to bounce back against formidable hosts England in the second women's ODI here on Wednesday. India consumed as many as 181 dot balls on way to posting a below par 201 which England chased down rather comfortably to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series on Sunday. Ahead of the World Cup in New Zealand early next year, India have got work to do in all departments as pointed out by skipper Mithali Raj herself. The game could see India making multiple changes in the playing eleven. Former India captain Diana Edulji said the middle-order has too many "anchors" which means Punam Raut can make way for Jemimah Rodrigues at number three. — PTI

Mary trains in Italy to avoid travel restrictions for Tokyo

New Delhi, June 29: Six-time world champion M.C. Mary Kom has decided to join the rest of India's Olympic-bound boxing team in Italy for training to avoid the added restrictions on those travelling to Tokyo from here amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mary Kom will take off for Assisi in a day or two to join the eight other Olympic-bound boxers, who are set to leave for Tokyo from there itself.

The London Olympics bronze-medallist was training at Pune's Army Sports Institute so far for

the Games starting July 23.

"I have changed my plans. I have returned to Delhi and will leave for Italy may be tomorrow or day after. There are stricter quarantine restrictions on those who are travelling from India. I want to avoid them," the 38-year-old Mary Kom said.

"After training so hard for so long, no point in taking such a risk as a hard quarantine can break the rhythm," she said.

She would be accompanied by her personal

WAWRINKA JOINS LIST OF OLYMPIC PULLOUTS

Paris (France), June 29: Former Olympic Games gold medallist Stan Wawrinka on Tuesday joined the growing list of players withdrawing from the Tokyo Olympics.

Three-time Grand Slam title winner Wawrinka, who won an Olympic title in men's doubles alongside Roger Federer at Beijing in 2008, has undergone surgery on his left foot.

The 36-year-old hasn't played on the tour since Doha in March.

"He is very disappointed not to be able to play in the Games and represent



Stan Wawrinka

Switzerland in Tokyo,"

said a statement by his management team.

"But he is working hard

on his recovery and towards his goal of getting back on court as soon as possible." — AFP

Quick passes

De Bruyne, Hazard in race to get fit

Medical tests for Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard ruled out any serious injuries, and Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said there is a "50-50" chance they will play in Friday's Euro quarterfinal match against Italy.

There had been concern about the extent of the injuries after both players had to be replaced in the second half of Belgium's 1-0 victory over Portugal on Sunday in the Round of 16.

"I can communicate that the initial information that we have from the medical department is quite positive for both. Eden and Kevin will remain with the squad," Martinez said.

He said neither player sustained "structural damage" but cautioned there may not be enough time for them to recover in time to face Italy in Munich. He initially said it would be "very difficult to see them fully fit" though their progress would be evaluated daily. "We hope that over the next few days we will recover them pretty quickly. Now, the game is on Friday, so that could be probably too close," Martinez said. —AP



Switzerland captain Granit Xhaka celebrates after defeating France in the Euro Round of 16 at the National Arena in Bucharest on Monday. — AFP

Game in Baku is a bother for Czechs

The Czech Republic expect a tough Euro 2020 quarter-final against Denmark this weekend, but they are more concerned about the trip to Baku that will likely discourage many fans from attending the game. The Czechs got a taste of what post-Covid football may be like when they beat the Netherlands 2-0 in Budapest on Sunday in a packed stadium including 7,000 Czech fans.

But it will be far more difficult for supporters to travel to the Azerbaijani capital for Saturday's tie. "I don't understand this and I haven't got over it yet. We won't be able to get our fans and our families there," midfielder Antonin Barak said.

The Czech foreign ministry has slapped the dark red Covid label of a very high-risk country on Azerbaijan.

Czechs entering Azerbaijan will need a visa and have to present a negative PCR test together with proof of complete vaccination or immunity upon arrival. —AFP

Neymar complains about pitch again

Brazil star Neymar complained about a Copa America pitch again. Brazil's quarterfinal on Friday against Uruguay or Chile will be in Rio de Janeiro at Nilton Santos Stadium, of which the field has been heavily criticised since the start of the tournament.

In a post on Instagram, Neymar pondered: "Where will the next Brazil match be played" beneath photos of a dirt pitch and Wembley Stadium's impeccable-looking pitch during the 2012 Olympics.

Neymar also criticised the Rio pitch on June 17 after Brazil beat Peru 4-0.

Celebrating yesterday's goal in the beautiful pitch of the Engenhao, the striker said, using the name Brazilians use to call the stadium.

"Please, fix the pitch." Lionel Messi and his Argentina coach, Lionel Scaloni, have also criticised the pitch of Nilton Santos.

Brazilian media reported at the weekend that Brazil wanted to play their quarterfinal at Arena Pantanal in Cuiaba because of the pitch at the Rio stadium. If Brazil advances, it will also play the semifinal at Nilton Santos. —AP



Switzerland's goalkeeper Yann Sommer (in the foreground) is jubilant after saving the decisive kick by France forward Kylian Mbappe in the penalty shootout of their Euro Round of 16 match at the National Arena in Bucharest, Romania, on Monday night. — AFP

IT'S SWISS TIME!

Steely Switzerland shunt world champions France

Bucharest (Romania), June 28: Switzerland defeated world champions France 5-4 on penalties in the Last 16 of Euro on Monday as Kylian Mbappe missed the decisive spot-kick in the shootout following a thrilling 3-3 draw.

Mario Gavranovic equalised in the 90th minute as Switzerland came from two goals down before Yann Sommer saved Mbappe's penalty to book Switzerland a quarterfinal clash against Spain.

"It was an incredible evening. I am so proud of the team," said goalkeeper Sommer, adding, "At 3-1 nobody believed in us anymore, but before the match we said we'll fight until the end."

Haris Seferovic had given Vladimir Petkovic's Switzerland a shock lead on 15 minutes but Ricardo Rodriguez's spot-kick was brilliantly saved by Hugo Lloris early in the second half.

Karim Benzema, recalled to the France squad for the tournament after a five-and-a-half-year international exile, then struck a quickfire double to put the Euro 2016 finalists back on track.



Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer saves a penalty by France's star forward Kylian Mbappe to win the Euro Round of 16 match for his side in Bucharest. — AFP

Paul Pogba's sensational curling effort made it 3-1, but Switzerland forced extra time as Seferovic grabbed his second of the game before Gavranovic levelled in the final minute.

Switzerland converted all five of their penalties before Sommer dived to his right to turn away Mbappe's kick, as the Swiss won a major tournament knockout tie for first time in 83 years.

France coach Didier Deschamps controversially switched to a 3-4-1-2 formation designed to extract the best from his attacking

trio of Benzema, Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann, but it was instead Seferovic who gave the Swiss a surprise lead.

Steven Zuber used the space afforded by Rodriguez's overlapping run, clipping in a left-wing cross that Seferovic headed past Lloris after rising all too easily above Clement Lenglet.

After a dismal first half, Deschamps ditched the experiment of three at the back, hauling off Lenglet and introducing Kingsley Coman while reverting to a more familiar 4-4-2.

But France were indebted

to Lloris for sparing them from further trouble after a lung-busting run from Zuber eventually resulted in a penalty for the Swiss when he was brought down by Benjamin Pavard. Lloris flung himself to his right to claw away Rodriguez's attempt — the seventh missed penalty of 15 taken at the tournament.

The momentum soon swung sharply in France's favour as Benzema superbly dragged a pass from Mbappe into his stride, lifting over Sommer to level.

The Real Madrid striker

Switzerland 3

(Haris Seferovic 15, 81, Mario Gavranovic 90)

France 3

(Karim Benzema 57, 59, Paul Pogba 75)

Switzerland win 5-4 in penalty shootout

headed France in front two minutes later when Griezmann's dinked effort was turned away by Sommer but only to a waiting Benzema who headed in from point-blank range.

Pogba's magnificent 25-yard strike had France on the cusp of the last eight, but Seferovic powered in a terrific delivery from substitute Kevin Mbabu with nine minutes left to give the Swiss hope.

Gavranovic then had a goal ruled out for offside, but there was no doubt his last-minute equaliser as he skipped past Presnel Kimpembe and drove low beyond Lloris.

Remarkably, Coman nearly won the game with the final kick, rattling the crossbar right at the end of injury time.

— AFP

English exorcise German ghosts

London, June 29: Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane fired England into the Euro quarterfinals as they sealed a 2-0 win against Germany that ended decades of hurt at the hands of their bitter rivals on Tuesday.

Sterling struck with 15 minutes left in a tense Last 16 tie at Wembley before Kane clinched England's first knockout stage victory over Germany since 1966.

In the 55 years since England beat the Germans in the World Cup final, the Three Lions had endured a painful litany of defeats against Die Mannschaft when the stakes were highest. England were eliminated from the 1970, 1990 and 2010 World Cups by Germany, who also beat them in the Euro '96 semifinals at Wembley.

But Gareth Southgate's side have finally exorcised the ghosts of Paul Gascoigne's tears and their own manager's penalty miss 25 years ago.

England produced a gritty display capped by clinical finishes from Sterling, who now has three goals in the tournament, and Kane — who finally bagged his first of the competition.

With the vast majority of the 40,000 crowd supporting England, the players walked out to a wall of sound that included a hostile reception for the German national anthem.

— AFP



Argentina captain Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring a goal against Bolivia in their Copa America group stage match at the Arena Pantanal Stadium in Cuiaba, Brazil, on Monday night. — AFP

Messi sets record in Argentina win

Argentina 4

(Alejandro Gomez 6, Lionel Messi 33-pen, 42, Lautaro Martinez 65)

Bolivia 1

(Erwin Saavedra 60)

URUGUAY PIP PARAGUAY TO AVOID BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro, June 29: Uruguay beat Paraguay 1-0 to finish second in Group A and move into a Copa America quarterfinal against Colombia. The result also left Chile to face defending champion and host Brazil in the next stage.

Edinson Cavani scored from the penalty spot in the 21st minute for the only goal of the match at the Nilton Santos Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Monday.

Uruguay 1

(Edinson Cavani 21-pen)

Paraguay 0

Uruguay would have had to face Brazil if they had lost to Paraguay, who had already secured their place in the knockout phase.

In the quarterfinals on Friday, Brazil and Chile will meet at the Nilton Santos stadium and Paraguay will take on Peru at the Olímpico Stadium in Goiânia. The winners of those matches will meet in the semifinals.

On Saturday, Argentina will meet Ecuador in Goiânia and Uruguay and Colombia will face off at the Mane Garrincha Stadium in Brasília. — AP

French fries turn soggy



Above: France forward Kylian Mbappe reacts after missing the decisive penalty against Switzerland. — AFP
Below: France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris (left) reacts as he speaks with teammate Luca Digne after the Euro Round of 16 defeat to Switzerland in Bucharest. — AFP



The pre-tournament favourites at Euro 2020 can claim they were still unbeaten, barring penalties, and their World Cup title defence is just 17 months away.

Mbappe burst onto the international scene in Russia in 2018, scoring four goals and becoming the first teenager to net in the World Cup final since

"It will be difficult to find sleep tonight but unfortunately those are the risks of this sport that I love so much," Mbappe added.

WASTEFUL MBAPPE

Despite going four games without a goal, Mbappe was a threat throughout the tournament, only to be let down by his finishing, usually so deadly.

A failure to stay outside denied him a brilliant individual goal in the opening 1-0 group phase win over Germany, before he missed two big chances in extra time against the Swiss.

Still hobbling after pulling up following a poor left-footed shot wide, the Paris Saint-Germain star then saw his spot-kick saved.

But Deschamps, whose contract runs until the end of the World Cup, was quick to defend his young striker. "A lot was expected of Kylian. Even though he didn't score, he often played a decisive role. He took the responsibility to take the last penalty and no one is angry at him," he said.

"If we were less solid, it is due to many things. There were a lot of injuries at the end of the season. With such hot temperatures, the body is put under more strain," Deschamps said.

It will not be much cooler in the Gulf next year, though.

"I'm sorry for the penalty. I wanted to help the team but I failed," said the 22-year-old.

DEFEAT HURTS, SAYS FRANCE CAPTAIN HUGO

Bucharest, June 29: France captain Hugo Lloris admitted the world champions were punished for their failure to hold on to a two-goal lead as they lost 4-5 on penalties to Switzerland in the last 16 at Euro 2020.

"It's painful, even more so after a penalty shootout where it becomes a lottery," said Lloris.

"The only regret we can have is that at 3-1 we need to manage the match better. We've been able to close it out in the past few years," he added.

"The Swiss got back into it at 3-2 and the goal in the last minute of normal time really hurt us," Lloris said.

"As France and reigning world champions, to be knocked out in the Last 16 is not a good result. Everyone was expecting more, starting with us."

France had not lost a competitive match since a qualifier against Turkey in June 2019, but finished on the losing side in their first shootout since the 2006 World Cup final against Italy.

"We need time to get over this disappointment," said Lloris, adding, "In the second half we came back and turned the game round. The two goals in the final quarter-hour really hurt us. We went through all the emotions. That's part of the game, that's football. That's why we love it. When it doesn't go your way it hurts."

COPA QUARTERFINALS		
July 3	Peru vs Paraguay	2.30 am
July 4	Brazil vs Chile	5.30 am
	Uruguay vs Colombia	3.30 am
	Argentina vs Ecuador	6.30 am

Regd. No. HO/SD/509/2021-23
Printed and Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Plot No. 9 Alwal Village, Vallabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3.
RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Kaushik Mitter