THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

VISAKHAPATNAM | THURSDAY | 17 JUNE 2021





Forecast: Drizzle. Max/Min temp. 32/28 ºC

### ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana Tithi: Jyeshta Shuddha Saptami till 9.55 pm Star: Purvaphalguni till 10.08 pm Varjyam: 6.10 am to 7.45; 5.10 am to 6.43 am (Friday) Durmuhurtam: 10.06 am to 10.58 am; 3.19 pm to 4.11 pm Rahukalam: 1.30 pm to 3 pm **HIJRI CALENDAR** 

**Zeegad** 5.1442 AH **PRAYERS** (ROYAL MOSQUE) Fajar: 5.05 am

**Zohar:** 1.30 pm Asar: 5.00 pm Maghrib: 6.19 pm **Isha:** 8.30 pm SUNSET TODAY 6.33 PM

**SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.22 AM** MOONSET TODAY --.-**MOONRISE** TOMORROW 11.12 AM



I want to wind up this business too ... I can't afford oil!

SHORT TAKES

### **FM invites views** on new I-T portal

New Delhi: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman invited written representations regarding the issues/glitches on the new Income-Tax portal on the email address fmo@nic.in latest by 7 pm on June 18 prior to the meeting between senior finance ministry officials and Infosys on June 22. Senior FM officials will hold an interactive meeting with Infosys on issues in the new IT e-Filing portal.

### **Covid drugs not** for kids: Centre

New Delhi: Drugs such as ivermectin, hydroxychloro quine, favipiravir and antibiotics like doxycycline and azithromycin prescribed for adult COVID-19 patients have not been recommended for treating children, according to a government guideline issued on Wednesday. The government has come out with guidelines for operationalising Covid-care services for children.

### **India to explore**

deep oceans

New Delhi: The Centre approved a proposal to roll out a "deep ocean mission' for resources and develop deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources. "The Union Cabinet decision will support the blue economy and take India into a new era, Union minister Prakash Javadekar said.



## WORLD 5

**PIO** nominated **Connecticut federal judge** 



## SPORTS 8

**Ronaldo smashes** record in Portugal win

### **TABLOID**

**Move your** body right

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#### Calm after the storm



Russian President Vladimir Putin shakes hands with US President Joe Biden prior to the US-Russia summit at the Villa La Grange, in Geneva on Wednesday. Putin said he and Biden agreed in a constructive summit to return ambassadors to their posts, lowering tensions and beginning consultations to replace the last remaining treaty between the two countries limiting nuclear weapons. Report on Page 5

## Modi pitches for global investments into India

KUMARASWAMI | DC

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday "invited the world to invest in India" based on its "five pillars of talent, market, capital, ecosystem, and culture of openness". Mr Modi also heaped

praises for the tech and start-up sectors of the

"India offers what inno-

Hailing France and

Europe as India's key partners and speaking in the context of the pan-demic, he also said "dis-ruption does not have to mean despair" and that 'instead, we must keep the focus on the twin foundation of repair and prepare". He made the remarks

sions of Section 93(4) of

AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, IOC or HPCL shall,

within six months from

the appointed day, exam-

ine the feasibility of estab-lishing a greenfield crude

oil refinery and petro-

chemical complex in the

successor state of Andhra

ditious decision thereon.

during his keynote address as a Guest of Honour via video conference at the fifth edition of VivaTech 2021, one of the

largest digital and startup events in Europe, held in Paris every year since

"India offers what innovators and investors need. I invite the world to invest in India, based on the five pillars of talent, market, capital, ecosystem, and culture of openness. Indian tech talent pool is famous across the world. Indian youth have given tech solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems,"

## ₹25,000 cr boost for petro project ENCOUNTER

**DC CORRESPONDENT** VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 16

The Union government has agreed to establish a petrochemical corridor with an outlay of ₹25,000 crore in Andhra Pradesh. The minister for indus-

tries, Mekapati Gowtham Reddy, called on the Union minister for petro-leum and natural gas, Dharmendra Pradhan, and took up the issue with him. Later, he said that they gave a presentation on the petrochemical corridor and explained the project in detail and that the Centre agreed to the

Gowtham Reddy said that in line with the provi-

Six members including three women of the banned CPI (Maoist) of the Galikonda area committee were gunned down by AP Greyhounds in an exchange of fire in the Visakhapatnam agency

Pradesh and take an expe-Visakhapatnam police identified the deceased Accordingly, feasibility for establishing 1 MMTPA million metric tonnes per annum) cracker complex at Kakinada with an investment of ₹32,900 crore by the consortium HPCL-GAIL has

■ Page 2: AP help sought for project funding

# 6 MAOISTS KILLED IN GREYHOUNDS

V. KAMALAKARA RAO | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 16

on Wednesday.

men as Ranadev alias Arjun, Sande Gangaiah alias Ashok and Santu Nachika. Two female bodies were identified as Lalitha and Pai-ke and the third body ide-ntity is yet to be ascertained.

■ Page 2: Weapons recovered from spot

## CM: TD blocks home for poor

been carried out.

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 16

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday expressed concern that as many as 3,70,201 families could not get their house sites due to the court litigations being pursued by the Telugu Desam and their

supporters. He directed Collectors and Joint Collectors to initiate measures for speedy resolution of the cases

Since the High Court

cials should focus on the cases. Similarly, focus should be laid on providing house sites within 90 days of receipt of applications from eligible benefi-

> Page 2: 1.72 lakh new beneficiaries identified

## **VIGILANCE | URGED | Jagan urges officials to brace for third wave**

## furfew with relaxations after June 20

**DC CORRESPONDENT** VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 16

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday stated that Covid-19 curfew would continue in AP after June 20 but the government would give fur-

ther relaxations. Taking note of the gradual decline in infections, the CM said it was a good sign and congratulated the entire staff involved in Covid management in the state. He stated that the partial curfew imposed from

THE CM said the gradual decline in infections was a good sign and congratulated the entire staff involved in Covid management in the state. He said the partial curfew from May 5 yielded good results

May 5 yielded good results, as the number of cases was dropping.

He informed that three modern children hospitals be set up Visakhapatnam, Guntur and Tirupati and asked

Collectors to identify lands for the hospitals. He was holding a review meeting with Collectors and SPs on the Covid situation and other issues during the

Spandana video conference. The Chief Minister directed the officials to brace for the third wave in the wake of studies children would be hit hard by it. He ordered all preparations and arrangements of facilities for specialised treatment to the children. He asked for an action plan to set up the

three major children's hos-

pitals. He asked the officials to check on the quality of ICU beds at teaching hospitals and provision of medical care to infants and ensure that oxygen beds at community health centres and area hospitals. Also, he stressed on providing training to the nurses in the treatment of children.

He told the officials not to think that Covid would ever reach zero and focus should be laid on vaccination.

■ Page 2: Long way to go in Covid fight, says CM

## cruise South China Sea Rajnath makes demand in China's presence at Asean meet DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

India seeks freedom to

With China listening, defence minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday called for freedom of navigation, overflights and unimpeded commerce in the South China Sea where the Chinese Navy is flexing its muscles.

Mr Singh called for an open and inclusive order in the Indo-Pacific based upon respect for sovereignty and the territorial integrity of nations while addressing the eighth Asean defence ministers meeting Plus.

The ADMM Plus is an annual meeting of the defence ministers of 10 Asean countries and eight dialogue partner countries — Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States. Brunei is the ADDM Plus forum's chair this year. Mr Singh also stressed on "peaceful resolution of disputes through

"India calls for a free, open and inclusive order in the Indo-Pacific, based upon respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations, peaceful resolution of disputes through



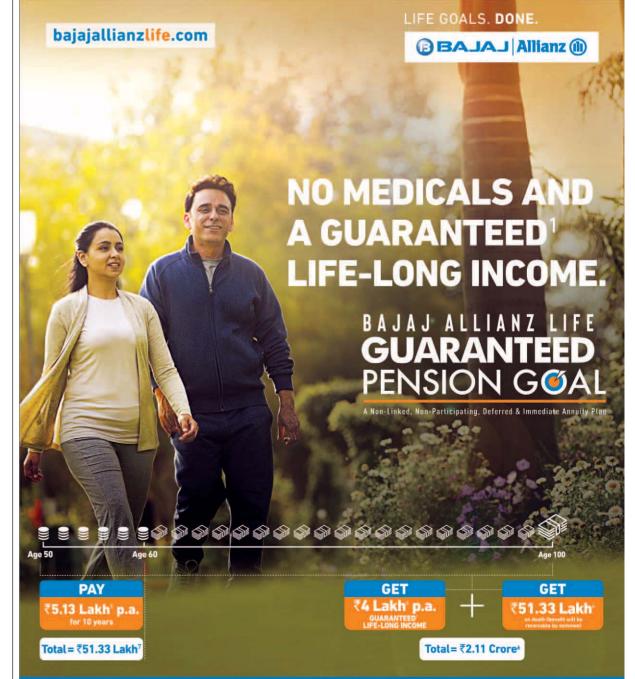
Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) via video conference, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

dialogue and adherence to international rules and laws," said Mr Singh in a video conference.

He said maritime security challenges are an area of concern for India, adding that sea lanes of communication are critical for peace, stability, prosperity and development of the Indo-Pacific region. "In this regard, developments

in the South China Sea have attracted attention in the region and beyond. India supports the freedom of navigation, overflights and unimpeded commerce in these international waterways," said the defence minister. He said that India hopes that the code of conduct negotia-tions will lead to outcomes that are in keeping with international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and do not prejudice the legitimate rights and interests of nations that are not party to these discussions.

Mr Singh said India has strengthened its cooperative engagements in the Indo-Pacific based on converging visions and values for the promotion of peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. "Premised on the centrality of Asean, India supports the utilisation of Asean-led mechanisms as important platforms for implementation of our shared vision for the Indo-Pacific," said Mr Singh. He added that India's engagement with the Southeast Asian region, of which Asean is a primary component, is based on its "Act East Policy announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2014. "Key elements of this policy are to promote economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop strategic relationships with countries in the Indo-Pacific region through engagement at the bilateral, regional and multilater-









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## SHORT TAKES

## **HC ORDERS 4-WK HALT TO GROUP-I INTERVIEWS**

**DC CORRESPONDENT** VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 16

The AP High Court on Wednesday ordered that the Group-1 interview process be suspended for four weeks. Notices to the effect were sent to secretaries of Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) and Administration General Department (GAD). The APPSC was scheduled to start the Group-1 interview process

from Thursday.
Counsel for petitioners, Yogesh Thandava said that judge D. V. S. S. Somayajulu issued the interim orders after hearing petitions challenging the digital evaluation of Group-1 Mains exam answer

Counsel for the petitioners argued that the examinations were not conducted as per the rules and the applicants were told about digital valuation at the last minute. They said that evaluation of English medium papers of Group-1 exams was held in other States and it had caused severe injustice to the aspirants

Government's counsel told the court that the Group-1 tests were conducted as per rules and there was no need to inform in advance about the evaluation. After hearing both sides of the arguments, the court on Tuesday reserved its judgment. On Wednesday, judge D. V. S. S. Somayajulu issued the interim orders, thereby putting the whole process in limbo for another four weeks.

Around 326 candidates have been short-listed for the interview based on the marks obtained by them in the main written exam which was held December 14 December 20, last year. A total of 169 vacancies in various departments are to be filled through this exam.

## **TD QUESTIONS INDIA CEMENTS LEASE EXTENSION**

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 16

The sitting MLA and state TD president K. Atchannaidu on Wednesday questioned the extending the lease period for the mines of India Cements by

50 years by the state govern-

ment in blatant misuse of

power and authority. Atchannaidu said that a similar arbitrary extension of lease was already given for Saraswati Cements immedi-Reddy came to power. Obviously, the AP Chief Reddy Minister was bent on giving permissions to the co-accused in his CBI and ED cases to loot the natural resources. The ongoing mining benefits were only aimed at influencing the

## **WEAPONS & KITS** RECOVERED FROM **ENCOUNTER SPOT**

witnesses in the illegal assets

From page 1

Weapons including AK-47, carbine, 303, tapancha and country-made weapons, recovered from the spot along with literature, kit bags belonging to the extremists.

According to sources, these extremists earlier escaped from the Greyhounds during the last combing operation at Pala Samudram in Koyyuru

mandal on May 20. The sources further said a group of 30 Maoists had been roaming in the area for the last few months due to health problems arising out of Covid-19 infections. They used to rely on locals for medicines and food. The police might have tracked them with the help of a few reds who surrendered before the East Godavari police recently.

Speaking Chronicle, Visakhapatnam district SP B. Krishna Rao said that Wednesday's encounter was a major one after the five deaths of Maoists in a gunwith the September 2019. Before that, a total of 24 Maoists including top leaders were killed in 2016,

he added. The SP called upon the Maoists to surrender and avail benefits as per the existing policy. Referring to a case, he said one female Maoist named Sake Kalavathi alias Bhavani was injured exchange of fire at Nallajarla a few years ago. She surrendered before the government. She was admitted in a hospital for better treatment and she recovered soon.

# Staff crunch ails food safety department

Under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, AP registers 402 cases

**DC CORRESPONDENT** TIRUPATI, JUNE 16

Staff crunch in the food safety department, cou-pled with lack of necessary infrastructure, seems the public health in the state as many unregulated erring food outlets are going undetected.

The recent raids in Chittoor and Prakasam districts by the food safety officials exposed the men-ace of adulterated food items like milk and ghee. Though the department is supposed to conduct regular raids to control such malpractices, manpower shortage is coming in the

There are only four food

1.72 LAKH NEW

**BENEFICIARIES** 

The Chief Minister was

interacting with Collectors and SPs on a

wide range of issues

including e-cropping,

housing, Spandana grievances, and other

noted that water and

were provided in 4,120

housing colonies and directed the officials to

provide them in the rest

of colonies by the end of

The officials informed that 1.72 lakh new bene-

ficiaries were identified,

of whom 38,000 were receiving house sites in

the current layouts, 9,794

would be accommodated

in new layouts. Around

11,740 applications are

yet to be processed. The

Chief Minister instruct-

ed the officials to com-

plete the construction of 15.6 lakh houses in the

The Chief Minister

also emphasised on e-

cropping and said that

Collectors, Joint Collectors should moni-

tor at least 10 per cent of

the e-cropping and fix responsibility on offi-

thus providing a physi-

cal receipt along with

The Chief Minister

said that quality seeds should be provided to

the farmers through

RBKs and directed the

authorities to keep a check on black market-

ing and spurious seeds

by conducting regular

He said that even dur-

ing the curfew, agricul-

tural and allied activi-

ties must be taken up.

Custom hiring centers

and hubs must be set up

as they could transform

the agriculture sector in

coming days, by provid-

ing machinery services

at affordable prices to

Committees at the dis-

trict level should be set

up by the farmers them-

selves, where they can

decide on the machinery

they could rent includ-

The Chief Minister

said that in the first phase, 3,000 custom hir-

ing centres would be

launched in the RBKs on

July 8, followed by the

second phase in October

and the third phase in January. He also direct-

ed the authorities to

make available banking

services at RBKs and

told the Collectors to

CM emphasised on e-

cropping and said that

Collectors should moni-

tor at least 10 per cent

of the e-cropping and fix

responsibility on officials

take it up the banks.

Collectors, Joint

for any failures.

ing the price fixation.

farmers.

inspections.

local

acknowledge-

cials for any failures.

first phase.

facilities

welfare schemes.

electricity

**IDENTIFIED** 

From page 1

• THERE IS a need for at least 24 FSOs for urban areas and over 30 FSOs in rural areas in the district, besides infrastructure and laboratories.

Chittoor district, which has a population of around 41.74 lakh – 12.31 lakh in urban and 29.42 lakh in rural areas (2011 census). As per the guide-lines of WHO (World Health Organisation), there should one FSO for every 50,000 urban population or one lakh rural population. As such, there is a need for at least 24 FSOs for urban areas and over 30 FSOs in rural areas in the district, besides infrastructure and laborato-

The department is woefully inadequate in respect

safety inspectors (FSO) in of staff and infrastructure, with the result that there are no tabs on thousands of licensed and unlicensed businesses across the district. It also suffers from acute shortage of vehicles, and depends on public transportation or own vehicles. There are more than 25,000-30,000 small and big hotels, shops, restaurants and stalls in the district, of which over 1000-1500 are

> Faced with such hurdles, issuing licence, checking safety norms etc has become a tedious job for the FSOs. "We are taking

in Tirupati city alone.

steps to recruit at least 30 FSOs and also steps are being taken to have full-time designated offi-

A proposal has already been sent to the government in this regard," a senior food safety inspector said on condition of anonymity.

However, despite skeletal

staff and inadequate infrastructure, as National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for 2019 shows, AP registered 402 cases under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. It comes third after UP and Maharashtra with 1027 and 497 cases respectively. Telangana managed to register only 222 cases



CPI leaders and activists stage a novel protest against the property tax notification based on the value of the property, at Besant Road in Vijayawada on Wednesday. -DC

## New tax hike limited to 15% of existing rate, says Botsa

**DC CORRESPONDENT** VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 16

Condemning the "false propaganda" of a section of media and Opposition parties on the new taxation system, Municipal Administration Minister Satyanarayana asserted on Wednesday that the hike would be limited to 15 per cent of the existing rate. This will be implemented in the

Speaking to the media, Farmers must be given the minister warned against "attempts" to crereceipts along with digiate panic among the peolisting out all e-crop details such as input ple with false propaganda and said the revised taxasubsidy and crop insurtion system is proposed on He stated that the the basis of central govfarmers should not be ernment recommenda-tions, and after studying facing any hassles because of the officials the taxation system in mistakes. In case of any other states and also doubts, farmers should reviewing the feedback have the right to ques-tion the authorities, from taxpayers.

The state would earn an additional revenue of only ₹186 crore by way of the new taxation. But the Opposition is portraying a scenario of the state extracting as high as ₹10,000 crore from the people, the minister said.

"Out of the 33 lakh tax assessments in the state, 4 lakh houses were of less than 375sqft area and the tax for each such house was just ₹50. Though the government will be getting less tax, the decision was taken for the good of the ordinary people, he claimed.

The minister flayed BJP leader G. V. L. Narasimha Rao for making "baseless" allegations against the government on tax hike and said everyone has seen how the central government was increasing the price of petrol despite the Covid-19 pandemic. The state government

would organise debates in cities like Visakhapa-Vijayawada and Tirupati on the new taxation system.

## **APCUF STAGES STIR, SEEKS ROLLBACK OF INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAX**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 16

Urban Citizens' Forum (APUCF) staged protests in front of ward secretariats and municipal offices in 13 districts of the state demanding rollback of increased property tax and cancellation of proposed garbage collection tax. The APUCF alleged that the BJP government elected by people was turning all citizen services into commercial servic-

APUCF convener Ch. Babu Rao said people in large numbers following Corona protocol joined the protests opposing property tax hike and submitted memorandums to the officials in secretariats and municipal offices.

would continue on Thursday also and APUCF was planning to further intensify the agitations by conducting a state-level meeting with all stake-Babu Rao said minister

for municipal administrawas claiming that the government was imposing only ₹186 crore through property tax hike, but ₹186 crore was not a meagre amount. It would put extra financial burden on public who were already facing severe problems due to the Corona crisis, he said.

## WITHDRAW MOVE ON PROPERTY TAX HIKE, DEMAND BJP AND RPS

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, JUNE 16

functionaries demanded the state government to withdraw the proposal to hike property and water taxes in municipalities and corporations besides introducing the garbage tax.

Strongly opposing the government's move, they held a demonstration at the premises of Municipal Corporation office here on Tuesday.

Addressing the protest-State Spokespersons Bhanuprakash Reddy and Samanchi Srinivas said that the taxes will be an additional burden on public, who are already suffering financially due to the Covid-19 pandemic. They said the state government,

which actually should extend a helping hand to the people who are in distress due to the pandemic. is putting a burden on people by increasing the taxes.

They alleged that the YSRC government is doing this to fund the free-

Meanwhile

Rayalaseema Porata Samithi Convener P. Naveen Kumar Reddy, speaking to media here on Ŵednesday, said it was deplorable that the government, which supposed to support the people of the state by giving tax exemption for one year during the Covid-19 crisis, is giving a return gift to them by increasing the taxes after winning the local body

The CM said the 9,899 buildings for BMCUs

Lella Appireddy (centre) thanked Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for nomi-

Speed up constructions of

BMCUs, AMCUs, says CM

nating him as MLC, at the CM's Camp Office in Tadepalli on Wednesday. CM pro-

gramme co-ordinator Talasila Raghuram is also seen.

**DC CORRESPONDENT** 

VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 16

Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said on Wednesday that 9,899 buildings will be con-structed for Bulk Milk Chilling Units (BMCU), for which administrative clearance is pending for only 352 units.

Nearly 38 per cent of the building construction has

not yet begun, he noted, fraud." The CM told officials to and asked officials to release the pending permissions and start the construction of those buildings immediately. ic situation.

'We have also set a target of constructing 2,633 buildings in the first phase for Auto Milk Collection Units (AMCU), but only 1,946 are under approval has already been

given for 2,583 building permits.

would provide reassurance to every dairy farmer on the quality of the milk they are supply-ing. Also, matters like how many litres of milk and how much money they get can be found on the spot by the issue of slip. This will prevent any

focus on NREGS works as they are very important especially in the pandem-Jagan asked officials to

constitute teams to monitor and review the construction process of various buildings and hold fortnight-long celebrations from June 17

food processing units, the directed authorities to complete the land identification process in each constituency by the monthend. The government is bringing digital libraries in every village panchayat. By December, the fiber grid services will be taken to 2824 villages.

He said there is a need to identify lands and focus building libraries, where NRGS tasks should be outsourced to JC Development.

Jagan announced the implementation of welfare schemes for June and July. The Cheyutha scheme will be launched on June 22, the YSR Bima on July 1, and the Vidya Deevena and Nestam in July.

**AP HELP SOUGHT** 

It sought the support of

the Government of Andhra Pradesh in terms of viability gap

funding for the project.

on June 10, CM Y. S.

Jagan Mohan Reddy met

Dharmendra Pradhan and requested for the

support of GoI in taking

forward the strategic

project. He said that the

project will place the

state in a strong position

Minister's vision of \$5

trillion economy by 2024,

as being an anchor unit

to the Petroleum, Che-

mical and Petrochemi-

cal Investment Region

(PCPIR) proposed by the Centre to promote investments and indus-

tries in these sectors. He

said that the Union min-

ister responded positive-

ly and promised to extend all support in

taking forward the proj-

Gowtham Reddy said

that their team also had a detailed discussion

with the Union minister

on the establishment of

a petrochemical cracker

complex in Andhra Pradesh by HPCL-GAIL

consortium, given the

changes. He said that as

a result of the discussions, a working group has been constituted

under the chairmanship

of joint secretary (refineries), ministry of

petroleum and natural

gas, with the state gov-

Engineers India Limited

and SBI Caps are

regulatory

officials

The minister said that

**FOR PROJECT** 

**FUNDING** 

From page 1

# Long way to go in Covid fight: CM

From page 1

construction

Although 3.5 crore people have to be vaccinated, so far only 26,33,351 received two doses of vaccine, and 6,90,710 received a single dose of vaccine. There was a long way to go, he said. Masks, sanitisers, and social distance should continue to be a part of our lives, he said. In regard to testing, he instructed the authorities to conduct only RT-PCR Covid symptoms and get them treated immediately. He also stressed on conducting fever surveys every week in all villages for quick tracing and treating.

Jagan Mohan Reddy congratulated Collectors for successful implementation of YSR Aarogyasri as 89 per cent of the patients took treat-

ment under the scheme. As on date, over 16,000 people were undergoing Covid treatment in the state and of them more than 14,000 were being Officials Aarogyasri.

were asked to keep tabs on Aarogyasri implementation at private hospitals. They should not brook any violations. The Chief Minister

informed that it was decided to give lands as an incent private multi and super specialty hospitals in each district center and each corporation, if anyone is ready to invest ₹100 crore or more in the next three years. Speaking of the '104'

call center, the CM reiterated the need to ensure it serves as Covid one-stop

## **SRIKAKULAM & EAST GODAVARI SAND FOR** HOUSING, SAYS SRIRANGANADHARAJU

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 16

Housing minister Ch. Sriranganadharaju said they would take the help of Srikakulam and East Godavari district administrations for supply of sand for the Jagananna Colonies

Visakhapatnam, which do not have any proper sources for the sand required for construction of houses. All infrastructure facili-

ties like roads, drinking electricity, drainage apart from internet would be provided in the YSR Jagananna Colonies, the minister said, while reviewing the project's progress with district officials here on Wednesday.

In the first phase, nearly minister added.

DIRECT AND indirect employment would be provided on a large-scale during the implementation of the mega housing project, said the minister.

5,019 houses would be built by September as against the target of 5,000 houses set by the government. Officials and staff should be available to the beneficiaries and provide them full assistance in the construction of houses, he insisted.

The government would around ₹30,000 crore for all the houses in the state, he said. Direct and indirect employment would be provided on a large-scale during the implementation of the mega housing project, the

#### advised to re-work the financials in view of the recent regulatory changes in corporate tax and interest rates to take forward the strategic Pradesh without any viability gap funding. Gowtham Reddy said this project would pro-

ernment

lakh persons and invest-

ments to the tune of ₹25,000-30,000 crore would flow into the petrochemical sector in the coming two or three years. He said that recently the Union government increased use of ethanol to 20 per cent in petrol which would attract more investments in the coming days. He informed that provided 45,000 employment opportunities amidst the pandemic Corona crisis.

vide employment to 50

#### TS red flags RDS canal construction **DC CORRESPONDENT** three months, said superlakh acres by constructing Further, one hundred the anicut is in the limits four lifts at the RDS. TS

KURNOOL, JUNE 16

With Andhra Pradesh

going ahead with construction of canal works at Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) at a cost of ₹1985 crore, Telangana farmers are worried that their share of water will not be available to them. AP has stepped up canal works in the last

engineer Murthy.

Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal (KWDT) has allocated 4 tmc for AP to be drawn from RDS and the works are going on, he said.

However, the Telangana government argues that AP was trying to draw more water to irrigate five engineers claim that AP was going ahead without the concurrence and permission of Central Water Commission (CWC), committee Apex Telangana, Karnataka, and AP, and the Centre. With this illegal construction, TS is likely to lose irrigation facilities

to 87000 acres of land.

villages may lose drinking water sources, they claim. Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme is an inter-state project consisting of an anicut Tungabhadra River, the left bank of anicut together with headworks in the limits of

Manvi Taluk of Raichur

Raiolibanda

of Kandukur village in Adoni taluk. This scheme was conceived for diverting 17.1 across

village,

TMC of water into 143 km., long left flank canal for the benefit of fifteen villages of Manvi taluka of Raichur district; eight villages of Gadwal taluka; 67 villages of Alampur taluka and four villages district. The right bank of

#### TAKES SHORT

### **WOMAN SET ON FIRE BY PARENTS OVER LOVE AFFAIR**

DC CORRESPONDENT KADAPA, JUNE 16

The family members attempted to murder a young woman in Rayachoti. Police arrested three accused involved in the

The family members were looking for marriage proposals to the girl, but she was refusing all the alliances which were fixed by them. They came to know that she fell in love with someone and asked her to stop the relation-ship. As she did not relent, father, mother and brother decided to kill her and set her on fire. She was rescued by her elder sister and shifted to Kadapa RIMS for treatment.

According to Sub Divisional officer, Rayachoti, Reddyvari Vasudevan, Patan Tahseen (20), a resident of Rahiman Masjid Street at Kothapalli in Rayachoty fell in love with a close relative Imaran. But the parents of Tahseen opposed it and started looking for alliances. As she kept refusing the proposals, Munvar Jahan (mother), Mahammad Shareef (father) and her younger brother Tajuddin poured petrol on and set fire to her on Tuesday evening. But she was rescued and shifted to hospital by her elder sister.

Based on the statement of

the victim, a case was registered at Rayachoty urban PS. On Wednesday morning, a team led by Raju, Inspector, arrested the accused and produced them before court. They were sent in judicial remand.

## **SHARP SPIKE IN CORONAVIRUS CASES IN AP**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 16

The daily number of Covid-19 infections slightly increased in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday with the registra-tion of 6,617 new cases, compared to 5,741 cases the previ-

As many as 1,01,544 samples were tested in the past 24 hours in which 6,617 were found C-positive. A total 2,07,36,435 Coronavirus tests were done in the 13 districts so far. The total Covid-19 infections in the 13 districts was1,82,6751, of which the total recoveries were of 17,43,176. Some 57 new deaths were registered on the daily chart on Wednesday, increasing the state's Covid death toll so far to 12.109.

The East Godavari district was on top in the daily chart, with 1,397 new infections.

#### AND DATE OF BIRTH

I. Ex. No. 15322676N, NAIK SURESH BENDI father of MANIKANTHAI residat Bharanigam Village Venugopalapuram post, Nandigam Mandal, Srikakulam District (A.P.), Pin 532201, have change my son's name form MANIKANTHAI to BENDI MANIKANTHA and date of birth from 25-10-2007 to 19-10-2007 vide affidavit dated 20-04-2021 before notary, Sirkakulam - 532001



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## Protesting govt apathy



Contract nursing staff donning PPE kits hold aloft placards during a protest against the government apathy in regularising their services, at CSR ward at King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday.

## Only certified gold sales in 19 districts in AP & TS

#### Jewellers can buy old jewellery without hallmarking

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 16

The mandatory hall-marking of gold came into force in seven districts in Telangana and 12 districts in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. The Centre earlier announced that the mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts would implemented in phases from June 16. Initially, it is being implemented in 256 districts across the country, which have assaying marking centres.

The seven districts in Telangana include Mancherial, Peddapalli, Warangal (Rural). Warangal( Ùrban), Rangareddy, Hyderabad and Khammam. The 12 districts in AP are S r i k a k u l a m , Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Krishna, Godavari, Prakasham, Kadapa, Guntur, Nellore.

Kurnool and Anantapur. In November 2019, the Central government had announced that the hallmarking of gold jew-ellery and artefacts would be made mandatory across the country from January 15, 2021. But the deadline was extended for four months

In November 2019, the Central government had announced that the hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts

would be made mandatory across the country from January 15, 2021. But the deadline was extended for four months till June 1 and later till June 15 after the jewellers sought more time in view of the pan-

June 15 after the jew-

ellers sought more time

in view of the pandemic. Gold hallmarking is a purity certification of the precious metal and has been voluntary in nature SO "Continuing our government's endeavour for better protection & satisfaction of customers, mandatory hallmarking in 256 districts will be implemented from June 16, 2021. No penalty will be imposed August 2021. till Affairs Consumer Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted

the meeting. After extensive consultation with stakeholders, the government relaxed mandatory hallmarking of gold for certain players in the jewellery sector. For instance, the govtill June 1 and later till ernment exempted jew-

turnover of up to ₹40 lakh from mandatory hallmarking, said an official statement issued

after the meeting. It has also been exempt ed on those who export and re-import jewellery as per the government's trade policy, jewellery meant for international exhibitions as well as for government-approved B2B domestic exhibitions.

From June 16, jewellers in 256 districts will be allowed to sell only 14, 18 and 22 carats of gold jewellery. Gold of additional 20, 23 and 24 carats will also be allowed for hallmarking, it added.

That apart, the government said it has exempted mandatory hallmarking gold on watches, fountain pens and special types of jewellery like Kundan, Polki and Jadau. "Jewellers can continue to buy back old gold jewellery without a hallmark from con-sumers," it said, adding that old jewellery can be hallmarked, if feasible by the jeweller after melting and making new

jewellery. India has around 4 lakh iewellers, of whom only 35,879 are BIS certified According to the World Gold Council, India imports 700-800 tonnes of gold annually.

## ENT specialists volunteer to treat Mucor

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM,

The services of three city-based ENT specialists were utilised by the East Godavari medical and health department to treat black fungus cases at the government general hospital at Kakinada.

One of the doctors, Dr S.K.E Apparao who was also former president of Indian Society of Otology, said that the services of ENT surgeons were urgently

DC CORRESPONDENT

ANANTAPUR, JUNE 16

Hampi, Lepakshi

and Hemavathi te-

mples re-opened on Wednesday. A large

number of devotees

and tourists started

visiting the his-

toric temples and the tourist spots of

Archaeological Survey of India

(ASI) after a two-

Executive officer

Narasimha Murthy

of Lepakshi temple

said the devotees

were allowed after

the ASI announced relaxation for visi-

tors to visit monu-

ments and temples

across the country.

Lepakshi Nandi is

the world's biggest

Nandi, while Lord

Siddeswara Swamy

(Lord Shiva in hu

man form) at Hem-

avathi in Anantapur district is the on-

ly temple of its ki-

nd in South India

month lockdown.

required at Kakinada government hospital. which received nearly 150 black fungus cases. They are also mobilising other ENT surgeons who are keen to voluntarily extend their service for early treatment of black fungus cases, which require surgery within 24 hours. Dr Apparao said the black fungus is not a new disease. They have been treating it in and HIV

Now, due to sudden collapse of the immunity in the Covid19 patients, the fungus cases are mush rooming, he added. Vizag-based Andhra

Medical College principal Dr P.V. Sudhakar said that they received a total of 203 black fungus cases in the city hospitals, both private and government, as on June 16. Of them, 17 succumbed and 19 were successfully discharged. "The patients must

take proper medication after surgery. The patient's self-control and care are very much needed for a speedy recovery,

#### GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION HISTORIC SITES, **INVITATION FOR QUOTATION AND TEMPLES** Rc.01/EE/PD/SE-P3/CE/GVMC/2021-22, Dt:14-06-2021 **RE-OPENED**

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Date: 15.06.2021

dvertisement numbers

General Manager

## Covid continues to hit towns, villages in AP

**DC CORRESPONDENT** TIRUPATI, JUNE 16

The second wave of Covid-19 is receding. It is showing a declining trend in urban areas over the past few weeks, but a worrisome shift is evident — the virus spreading to semi-urban and rural areas.

District-level data shows that the pandemic continues to spread at a faster pace in small villages and small towns than in big cities of Andhra Pradesh.

This is particularly so in the Chittoor district. The urban areas have borne the brunt of the first wave last year, but they now account for only a quarter of the new cases.

The surge in the number of positive cases in rural areas is reflected in the pandemic statistics from the district administration. urban areas Chittoor district have contributed a little over 26.5 per cent of new infections from June 10-16, as against

73.5 per cent by the rural and semi-urban areas.
In total, the district has reported nearly 7,075 new cases during the past seven

days, of which 5,198 cases were recorded in rural and semi-urban areas and 1,877 in urban areas. Epidemiologists and health experts are concerned

over the fact that around 73.5 per cent of the Covid cases was registered between June 10 and 16 were fromrural areas.

The data shows that the

rural areas in the district contributed 804 cases out of the total 1,042 cases on June 10, followed by 988 of the 1396 cases on June 11; 840 of the 1,199 cases on June 12; some 713 of the 968 cases on June 13; 684 of the 860 cases on the 14th, 606 of the 830 cases on the 15th and 563 of the 780 cases on the 16th.

The urban areas recorded 238, 408, 359, 255, 176, 224 and 217 cases between June

## FORM NO-VI (A)

[under Section 11 (1) of the Act, 30 of 2013 Read with Sub Rule (1) of Rule 19]"

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATIOIN

Rc.No.1430/2021/SA(LA) Dated.08.06.2021

Collectors office, Vizianagaram

Whereas it appears to the District Collector ,Vizianagaram that the lands specified in the schedule below are needed for a public purpose, to wit for fo excavation of 27 L Minor of Gajapathinagaram Branch Canalir under Thotapalli Barrage Project, notice to that effect is hereby given to all to whom it may concern accordance with the provisions of Section -11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 (Central Act No.30 of 2013).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was taken up by the I&CAD Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh in the year 2005 and Environment clearance granted by MOEF vide letter No.J-12011/10/2002 A /dt.29.8.2005. There are no displaced families due to this Land Acquisition

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section-12 of the Act, the District Collector, Vizianagaram hereby, designates the Specia Deputy Collector, T.B.P.Unit-III, Parvathipuram, his staff and workmen to exercise the powers conferred under the above said section

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e., sale / purchase etc. or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of this notification without the prior approval of the Collector/Land Acquisition Officer.

Objections to the acquisitions, if any, may be filed by the person(s) interested within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this Notification as provided under Section -15 of the Act before the Collector/Land Acquisition Officer

<u>SCHEDULE</u>											
Mai	ndal : Ga	ijapathina I	Ť		Ī		Ī		ge : Logisa ndaries		
SI.	Survey No.	Total Extent	Extent under Acquis	Classif	Name & address of the person intereste	d	North	South	East	West	Details of Trees Structures etc., i
NO.	140.	Ac.Cts	ition Ac.Cts	loation			North	South	East	vvest	any.
1	2	3	4	5	6	- ingr			7		8
1	2-1B	3.20	0.22	R.Dry	Dhannana Kistamma s/o Appala Naidu Maddineni Sai Anudeep Maddineni Sridevi w/o Venkata Ramana	Pattadar Enjoyer Enjoyer	Zinnam	2-6B	2-1C	2-1A	Mango-29
2	2-5A	0.13	0.01	R.Dry	Adhapaka Achhiyya s/o Chittayya Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Siviarama	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-1C	2-7B	2-5B	2-6B	Mango-1
3	2-6B	0.36	0.06	R.Dry	Krishna Vara Prasad Rao Adhapaka Mutyalu s/o Kothayya Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Siviarama	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-1B	2-7B	2-5A	2-6A	Mango-7
4	2-7B	0.51	0.08	R.Dry	Krishna Vara Prasad Rao Adhapaka Appayya s/o Ramayya Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Siviarama	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-6B,5A	2-13B	2-7C	2-7A	Mango-10
5	2-13B	0.56	0.14	R.Dry	Krishna Vara Prasad Rao Bochha Appala Swamy s/o Appadu	Pattadar	2-7B	2-15B	2-13C	2-13A	(7.1
6	2-15B	0.42	0.03	R.Dry	Maddineni Sai Abhishek s/o Venkata Ramana Logisa Ram Murthy Naidu s/o Seethayya	Enjoyer Pattadar	2-13B	2-18B	2-15C	2-15A	Mango-18
7	2-18B	0.60	0.04	R.Dry	Maddineni Sai Abhishek s/o Venkata Ramana Adhapaka Appayya s/o Ramayya	Enjoyer Pattadar	2-15B	2-19B	2-18C	2-18A	Mango-3 Mango-5
8	2-19B	0.35	0.05	R.Dry	Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Siviarama Krishna Vara Prasad Rao Samanthula Ramulu s/o Gangaraju	Enjoyer	2-18B	2-21B	2-19C	2-19A	Mango-5
0	0.04B	0.00	0.00	D.D.	Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Siviarama Krishna Vara Prasad Rao	Enjoyer	2.400	E EA AD	2.240	2 214	Mango-6
9	2-21B	0.60	0.06	R.Dry	Gavara Sri Ramulu Naidu s/o Papi Naidu Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Siviarama Krishna Vara Prasad Rao	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-19B	5-5A,4B	2-21C	2-21A	Mango-7
10	5-4B	0.09	0.01	R.Dry	Yagati Sanyasi s/o Papayya Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Siviarama	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-21B	5-9A	5-5A	5-4A	Mango-1
11	5-5A	0.09	0.04	R.Dry	Krishna Vara Prasad Rao Polipalli Sanyasi s/o Appanna Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Siviarama	Pattadar Enjoyer	2-21B	5-9B	5-5B	5-4B	Mango-5
12	5-9B	0.32	0.08	R.Dry	Krishna Vara Prasad Rao Samanthula Somi s/o Sanyasi	Pattadar	5-5A	5-13B	5-9C	5-9A	M 10
13	5-13B	0.18	0.09	R.Dry	Maddineni Venkata Ramana s/o Siviarama Krishna Vara Prasad Rao Polipalli Sanyasi s/o Appanna	Enjoyer	5-9B	5-18B	5-13C	5-13A	Mango-10
	E 40D		0.00		Polipalli Sanyasappadu s/o Sanyasi Polipalli Appala Paidi s/o China Sanyasi	Enjoyer Enjoyer	5-13B	5-23B	5-18C	5-18A	Mango-11 Teak-12
14	5-18B	0.06	0.03	R.Dry	Logisa Dibbayya s/o Pedappadu Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao	Pattadar Enjoyer			1.000.000		Guva-5,Neem-6
15	5-23B	0.26	0.06	R.Dry	Logisa Atchodu s/o Asiralu Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao	Pattadar Enjoyer	5-18B	6-4B	5-23C	5-23A	Guva-7
16	5-24A	0.19	0.02	R.Dry	Logisa Ramana s/o Seethanna Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao	Pattadar Enjoyer	5-23B	6-4B,7-1A	5-24B,6-4B	5-23B,6-4B	Guva-2
17	6-4B	0.10	0.03	R.Dry	Logisa Ramana s/o Seethanna Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao	Pattadar Enjoyer	5-23B	6-5B,7-1A	5-24A,7-1A	6-5A	Guva-8
18	6-5B	0.12	0.01	R.Dry	Sunkara Ramaswami S/o Gurayya Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao	Pattadar Enjoyer	6-4B	6-8B	7-1A,15B	6-5A	Guva-1
19	6-8B	0.17	0.01	R.Dry	Tarapu Appala Naidu s/o Paidithalli	Pattadar	6-5B	7-15A	7-1A,15B	6-8A	Guva-1
20	7-1A	0.18	0.05	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Logisa Appanna s/o Buddadu	Enjoyer Pattadar	5-24A,	7-15B	7-1B	6-5B,8B	55
21	7-15B	0.40	0.09	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Reddy Papayya s/o Kurmayya	Enjoyer Pattadar	6-8B,5A 7-1A	7-16B	7-15C	7-15A	Guva-14 Guva-25,
22	7-16B	0.34	0.10	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Tholapu Appala Naidu s/o Pydithalli	Enjoyer Pattadar	7-15B	8-1B	7-16C	7-16A	Bamboo Bushes-2 Guva-28,
23	8-1B	0.46	0.09	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Tholapu Appala Naidu s/o Pydithalli	Enjoyer Pattadar	7-16B	8-5B	8-1C	8-1A	Bamboo Bushes-2 Guva-25,
24	8-5B	0.71	0.05	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Thamarana Krishnamma	Enjoyer Pattadar	8-1B	8-6B	8-5C	8-5A	Bamboo Bushes-4 Guva-14,
	27 100	100	700000		Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao	Enjoyer	(2.55)	1200120	1000		Bamboo Bushes-
25	8-6B	0.10	0.05	R.Dry	Relli Appala Naidu s/o Guru Naidu Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Pattadar Enjoyer	8-5B	8-13B	8-6C	8-6A	Guva-13, Bamboo Bushes-
26	8-13B	1.13	0.10	R.Dry	Relli Sangu Naidu s/o Gaddivadu Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Pattadar Enjoyer	8-6B	9-2B	8-13C	8-13A	Guva-27, Bamboo Bushes-6
27	9-2B	1.04	0.10	R.Dry	Logisa Rammurthy Naidu s/o Seethayya Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Pattadar Enjoyer	8-13B	9-4B	9-2C	9-2A	Guva-27, Bamboo Bushes-
28	9-4B	0.41	0.09	R.Dry	Samathula Pydi Raju s/o Adinarayana Gavara Venkanna s/o Kamu Naidu	Enjoyer Pattadar	9-2B	9-5B	9-4C	9-4A	
29	9-5B	1.60	0.09	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Gavara Sri Ramulu Naidu s/o Papi Naidu	Enjoyer Pattadar	9-4B	9-8B	9-5C	9-5A	Guva-21
30	9-8B	0.32	0.07	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Aadurthi Parayya s/o Thippadu	Enjoyer Pattadar	9-5B	9-14B	9-8C	9-8A	Guva-20
31	9-14B	0.48	0.08	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Gavara Ramulu s/o Bodiyya	Enjoyer Pattadar	9-8B	9-17B	9-14C	9-14A	Guva-18
					Gavara Surappadu s/o Ramu Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Enjoyer Enjoyer					Guva-19
32	9-17B	1.34	0.06	R.Dry	Gavara Pentayya s/o Chandrappa Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Pattadar Enjoyer	9-14B	9-20B	9-17C	9-17B	Guva-16
33	9-19B	0.24	0.01	R.Dry	Budi Chinappadu s/o Appadu Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Pattadar Enjoyer	9-17B	9-20A	9-20B	9-19A	Guva-4
34	9-20B	0.32	0.05	R.Dry	Budi Pedhappadu s/o Appadu	Pattadar	9-17B	9-22B	9-20C	9-20A	0.000.000.000.000
35	9-22B	0.76	0.03	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Gavara Jogi Naidu s/o Papi Naidu	Enjoyer Pattadar	9-20B	10-21B	9-22C	9-22A	Guva-13
36	10-21B	0.29	0.06	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Nadupuri Appayya s/o Sanyasi	Enjoyer Pattadar	9-22B	10-22B	10-21C	10-21A	Guva-7
37	10-22B	0.24	0.06	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Gavara Erramma w/o Atchamma Naidu	Enjoyer Pattadar	10-21B	10-24B,23B	10-22C	10-22A	Guva-8
38	10-23B	0.42	0.01	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Aadurthi Parayya s/o Appadu	Enjoyer Pattadar	10-22B	10-24A	10-24B	10-23A	Guva-8
39	10-24B	0.51	0.19	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Aadurthi Sanyasi s/o Appadu	Enjoyer Pattadar	10-22B	13-10B,11B	10-24C	10-23B,24A	Guva-1
40	13-10B	0.25	0.01	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Gavara Sri Ramulu Naidu s/o Papi Naidu	Enjoyer Pattadar	10-24B	13-11A	13-11B	13-10A	Guva-27
41	13-11B	0.15	0.13	R.Dry	Pediredla Ooha w/o Srinivasarao Gavara Venkanna s/o Kami Naidu	Enjoyer Pattadar	10-24B	13-12A	13-11C,12A	13-11A	Guva-1
42	13-12A	0.16	0.01	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Gavara Jogi Naidu s/o Papi Naidu	Enjoyer Pattadar	13-11C	13-13B	13-12B	13-11B	Guva-9
43	13-13B	1.40	0.18	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Sanapathi Rammurthy s/o Soora Naidu	Enjoyer Pattadar	13-11B,12A	13-14B	13-13C	13-13A	Guva-1
44	13-13B	0.73	0.10	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Sanapathi Suramma w/o Somi Naidu	Enjoyer Pattadar	13-13B	13-21B	13-14C	13-14A	Guva-12
	1023 01.23	0.73	0.10		Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Enjoyer	anata en	13-21B	13-14C	198 HOE	Guva-7
45	13-21B			R.Dry	Boodi Appanna s/o Sanyasi Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda	Pattadar Enjoyer	13-14B			13-21A	Guva-6
46	13-22B	0.54	0.05	R.Dry	Bora Sanganna s/o Sanyasi Boodi Ramu Naidu s/o Suri Naidu  Bodiradla Siriyasa Bos a/o Appelakanda	Pattadar Enjoyer	13-21B	13-24	13-22C	13-22A	Tatached Shed-1
47	14-1B	1.58	0.09	R.Dry	Pediredla Srinivasa Rao s/o Appalakonda Gavara Jogi Naidu s/o Papi Naidu	Enjoyer Pattadar	13-24	14-12A	14-1C	14-1A	Casuarina Garden
48	14-12A	0.49	0.03	R.Dry	Pappu Rajeswari w/o Upadyula Nagesh Reddy Papayya s/o Kuramayya	Enjoyer Pattadar	14-1B	14-12B	14-12B	14-12B	Casuarina Garder
	Total:		3.19		Pappu Rajeswari w/o Upadyula Nagesh	Enjoyer					

Sd/- Dr.M.Harijawahar Lal, I.A.S **District Collector** Vizianagaram"

SHORT TAKES

## PM LAUDS MOTHER **FOR ISOLATING** FROM CHILD

New Delhi, June 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed a mother of a six-year-old boy for her courage and positive thinking as she isolated herself from her son after contracting Covid-19.

Pooja Verma, who lives in Sector-6 of Ghaziabad, tested positive for the Coronavirus along with her husband, Gagan Kaushik. Verma, her husband and their six-year-old son live in a three-bedroom apartment and after contracting Covid-19 in April, the couple made a tough decision and decided that all three would be isolated in separate rooms.

This was not easy for the sixyear-old who longed for his parent's love while unable to understand what the Coronavirus was or what Covid-related norms meant and what was the need for this

isolation, Verma said. He kept on wondering what wrong had he done that he had to stay in a room separate from his parents, she said. In a letter to the Prime Minister, she narrated her ordeal as a mother who had to stay away from her child, through a poem she had penned.

The Prime Minister wrote back to her and while asking about the wellbeing of her family, said, "I am happy that even in difficult circumstances, you and your family have es, you and your lamily have fought this disease by adopting Covid-compliant behaviour with courage." Lauding the woman's poem, the PM said it expressed the worry and anxi-ety of a mother when she is away from her child.

## **ODISHA GOES FOR** 'PARTIAL UNLOCK' FROM TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT **BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 16** 

With the state reporting a steady dip in Covid-19 cases, the Odisha government on Wednesday announced partial unlock plans to relax the restrictions imposed on May 1 this year. The partial lock-down will come into effect from June 17 morning and will continue till July 1 morning. Addressing a press confer-ence, chief secretary Suresh

Mohapatra said the Covid-19 infection rate has drastically declined and the test positivity rate (TPR) dropped to six per cent this week. He attributed the drop in the infection rate to people's adherence to lockdown restrictions.
"The peak period in the state

is already over and I hope if people continue to coordinate vitn the state government, the situation can be completely brought under control in a few days," Mohapatra added.

Under the new unlocking measures, the lockdown restrictions will be eased in 17 districts (Category A) out of the 30 in the state from tomorrow. Shops will remain open between 6 am and 5 pm in these 17 districts. The Category-A districts are in the southern and western parts of the state where test positivity rate is five per cent or less. However, in the remaining 13 districts (Category B), shops will remain open between 6 am and 1 pm.

## **MAOISTS INJURED IN ODISHA ENCOUNTER**

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC

BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 16

A fierce gunbattle took place between a group of Maoists rebels and security forces in a forest near Kulabedha in Odisha's Malkangiri district on Wednesday morning. Some of the rebels reportedly sustained injuries encounter.

According to Malkangiri superintendent of police Hrushikesh Khilari, the exchange of fire occurred during a search operation carried out by the joint team of Special Operation Group and District Voluntary Force in the forest.

The SOG and DVF of Odisha police had launched a search operation during which the Maoists cadres opened fire indiscriminately at the security forces. The jawan also retaliated in which some rebels sinjuries," the SP said. sustained

However, the injured ultras managed to flee into the dense

forest, he added. During subsequent search, the security forces recovered an INSAS rifle along with 34 rounds of bullets and magazines. A kit bag, digital camera, live magazines and other Maoist articles were also found during the search, the

## **FURTHER PROGRESS OF MONSOON STOPS**

New Delhi, June 16: Atmospheric conditions are still not favourable for further advance of monsoon into Rajasthan, remaining parts of Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on

Wednesday.
It said a cyclonic circulation lies over east Uttar Pradesh and neighbourhood and there is also a western disturbance.

These conditions are not favourable for the advance of monsoon, IMD director general M. Mohapatra said.

"Large-scale atmosphe-ric conditions are not fa-vourable for further advance of monsoon into Rajasthan, remaining parts of Gujarat, Punj-ab, Haryana and Delhi," the IMD said. However, there could

be a slow progress of monsoon into some more parts of UP during the next five days in associa-tion with the existing cyclonic circulation over east Uttar Pradesh, the



A man takes a selfie with his family at Taj Mahal that reopened after authorities eased some restrictions in the ongoing Covid-19 lockdown, in

# Gap between jabs stirs row again

## Centre says decision to increase gap was 'transparent and backed by scientific data'

VINEETA PANDEY DC NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

India on Wednesday reported 62,224 new cases of Covid-19 and 2,542 deaths. Country's active caseload for the first time in 70 days came down below 9 lakh. The Recovery Rate has increased to 95.80 per cent while daily positivity rate stands at 3.22%. The positivity rate has been less than 5% for nine consecutive days. With the pace of vaccination picking up, the Centre hopes to check the daily cases and blunt the possible third wave.

However, a controversy has re-erupted over the gap between two doses of Covishield vaccine. The Centre had increased the gap between the two doses for Covishield from 8-12 weeks to 12-14 weeks in

May raising questions if that was done based on scientific evidence or due to shortage of the vaccines. The doses of the vaccines remain unchanged now even after the United Kingdom, which was quoted by Central government officials as an example, has decided to reduce the gap.

Union health minister

Dr Harsh Vardhan on Wednesday clarified that

the decision to increase the gap between the two was 'transparent and backed by scientific data'. The clarification came after some members of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) said they had recommended only 8-12 weeks but the government on its own came out with a 12 to 16 weeks gap. It was initially • THE CLARIFICATION came after some members of the NTAGI said they had recommended only 8-12 weeks but the government on its own came out with 12 to 16 weeks gap.

ON ANY fresh proposal to reduce Covishield dosage gap, Dr Arora said decision will be taken scientifically. giving paramount importance to the health.

4-6 weeks.

Chairman of NTAGI Dr N.K. Arora explained that the decision to increase the gap between two Covishield doses from 4-6 weeks to 12-16 weeks lay in the fundamental scientific reason regarding behaviour of adenovector vac-

"In the last week of April 2021 the data released by Public Health England, United Kingdom's executive agency of the Department of Health, showed that vaccine effica-cy varied between 65%

and 88% when interval is 12 weeks. This was the basis on which they overcame their epidemic outbreak due to the Alpha variant. The UK was able to come out of it because the interval they kept was 12 weeks. We also thought that this is a good idea, since there are fundamental scientific reasons to show that when interval is increased, adenovector vaccines give response. Hence, the decision was taken on May 13, to increase the interval to 12-16 weeks. This also

gives flexibility to the community, since everyone cannot come at precisely 12 weeks or so," said Dr Dr Arora said that the

earlier decision of four weeks was based upon the bridging trial data available then. He referred to studies by PGI Chandigarh and CMC Vellore which compared effectiveness of partial versus full immunisation. "A PGI Chandigarh study very clearly shows that vaccine effectiveness was 75% for both partially immunised and fully immunised. So at least in the short run, effectiveness was similar whether you are partially or fully vaccinated. This was in relation to the Alpha vari-

ant which had swept Punjab, Northern India

and came to Delhi. This also meant that even if you received only one dose, still you are protected." Results from the CMC Vellore study were similar.

On any fresh proposal to reduce Covishield dosage gap, Dr Arora said the decision will be taken scientifically, giving paramount importance to the health and protection of the community. "Covid-19 and the vaccination are very dynamic. Tomorrow, if the vaccine platform tells us that a narrower interval is better for our people, even if the benefit is 5% - 10%, the Committee will take the decision on the basis of merit and its wisdom. On the other hand, if it turns out that the current decision is fine, we will continue with

government had decided

to reopen bars and liquor

outlets in the state from

Meanwhile, the police

Kerala reports 13,270

The active cases have

come down to 1.09,794. During the last 24 hours,

1,21,521 samples were test-

ed and the Test Positivity

Rate was 11.79 per cent.

new cases of Covid 19 on

Wednesday.

and excise officials con-

ducted a search at the hos-

## **HOLDING EXAMS** MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, JUNE 16

**ASSAM EDU. DEPT** 

**TO TAKE CALL ON** 

The Assam cabinet on Wednesday observed that the Covid situation in the state has not improved to conduct class 10 and 12 board examinations but the final deci-sion will be taken by the education department in consultation with the stakeholders.

Informing that in zero-18 years group about 25,000 children were infected by Covid in the state, Assam health minister Keshab Mahanta told reporters that state health department gave a detailed presentation before the state cabinet about the prevailing rate of positivity besides the possible congregation of people in case of holding

the board examinations.
After seeing the presentation, the cabinet concluded that it would not be wise to hold the board examinations, he said adding that the decision on whether the exam will be conducted or not will be taken on June 18 by the education department.

Pointing out that Covid situation has not yet improved in districts like Golaghat, Morigaon, Kamrup (M) etc, the minister said that the cabinet was of the view that all necessary steps should be taken to ensure that the spread of pandemic is brought under control. "We have decided not to allow home isolation to persons who don't have separate isolation facilities at home," he said adding that home isolation was responsible for the spread of the virus in many cases.

## MAHA TOLD TO PROBE CONG. **MLA, SONU SOOD**

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC MUMBAI. JUNE 16

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday asked the Maharashtra gove-rnment to "seriously examine" the role of MLA Zeeshan Siddiqui and actor Sonu Sood regarding the alleged illegal distribution of crucial anti-viral drug Remdesivir, through social media, noting that it seemed like a case of parallel unauthorised

The bench comprising Justices S.P. Deshmukh and G.S. Kulkarni issued this direction while hearing a public interest litigation filed by Nilesh Navalakha through advocate Rajesh Inamdar on manage ment of distribution of Remdesivir to all states by Centre.

On the last date of hearing, advocate Inamdar had pointed out to the court how Remdesivir was supplied to people following requests made on social media to Siddique and Sood within hours, while the state com-plained of a shortage and several people were dying.

On Wednesday, the court observed that the two seemed to have played a crucial role in facilitating the distribution of Remdesivir.

# show cause notice fr

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JUNE 16

young IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh has been served show cause notice by the state government following his posts in a private social media group of bureaucrats leveling corruption charges against some babus.

The posts later got leaked. In the leaked posts, the 2014 batch IAS officer of MP cadre, Lokesh Jangid, said he was frequently transferred because of his "intolerance to corruption in the administration".

The babu said he was transferred seven times in his four and half years

of service. In one of his posts, the IAS officer said, "In Bihar they do not make any one DM who mints money. In MP, the less said the

"Stability of tenure in Madhya Pradesh and the joke of an institution Board", said another post by him.

"Interestingly, while those who mint money from all kinds of mafia get transferred from field to field and those with impeccable integrity get thrown to the Secretariat on transfer", read another post in the group by him.

He also indicated to write a memoir after his retirement to bring the facts before everyone since he was bound by service rules currently.

The IAS officer, in one of his posts, alleged corruption by Barwani district collector Shivraj Singh Verma and accused the latter of influencing the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to get him transferred.

## MP IAS officer gets 2 die after consuming spirit stolen from Covid Care Centre in Kerala

**GILVESTER ASSARY I DC** THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

Two persons died in Kerala's Kollam district after consuming surgical spirit kept at a Covid First Line Treatment Centre (CFLTC). The deceased were identified as Prasad of Pattazhy and his friend Muruganandan. Two others — Rajeev and Gopi who had also consumed the spirit are in a critical condition.

The surgical spirit was stolen from a private hospital in Pathanapuram which was functioning as

In the statement recorded by police, Gopi said that Muruganandan who worked as a security guard at the private hospital had brought the spirit. The police said that Muruganandan



A bartender arranges liquor bottles on the shelves at a bar ahead of its reopening after authorities eased restrictions of lockdown in Kolkata on Wednesday.

and diluted it before consuming it along with

According to hospital authorities some quantity of surgical spirit which

believed to have taken was used for sanitising the spirit from hospital hospital equipment, was

to lockdown.

found missing.
The four consumed the

spirit as liquor was not available in the state due It may be noted that the

The state reported 147 deaths taking the death toll to 11,655. At present 4.92 lakh people are under observation including 4.63 lakh under home or institutional quarantine.

The state government had announced lifting of lockdown restrictions in a graded manner from Thursday.

## NEW | LAWS | New IT rules are aimed at regulating content on social media, making it more accountable

# Prasad slams Twitter for not complying with new IT rules

New Delhi, June 16: IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Wednesday slammed Twitter for deliberate defiance and failure to comply with the country's new IT rules, which has led to the US giant losing its intermediary status in India and becoming liable for users posting any unlawful content.

Twitter has allegedly not fully complied with the new rules, called Intermediary Guidelines called that call for setting up grievance redressal mechanism and appointing officers to coordinate with law

enforcement. The rules became effective from May 26 and Twitter even after the

time has not appointed the requisite officers, leading to it losing the 'safe harbour' immunity, sources in the government said. Prasad said Twitter has

"deliberately chosen the path of non-compliance." The minister also mentioned that if any foreign entity believes that it can portray itself as flag bearer of free speech in India to excuse itself from complying with the law of the land, "such attempts are misplaced". "There are numerous

queries arising as to whether Twitter is entitled to safe harbour provision. However, the simple fact of the matter is that Twitter has failed to comexpiry of the additional ply with the Intermediary

Guidelines that came into effect from the 26th of May," he said in social media posts.

He posted a series of messages on Koo Twitter's homegrown replica — and then on Twitter itself, saying the US social media giant "was given multiple opportunities to comply with the same, however, it has deliberately chosen the path of non-compli-

Loss of intermediary status in India implies that in the event of any charge against the microblogging site for alleged unlawful content, it would be treated as a publisher and would be liable for punishment under penal laws.

The new IT rules, originally announced in February, are aimed at regulating content on social media firms and making Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter more accountable to legal requests for swift removal posts and sharing

details on the originators

of messages.

Prasad's ministry on June 5 had written to Twitter warning it of 'unintended consequences" if it did not comply with the rules. Twitter did not immediately comment on Prasad's tweets but it on Tuesday stated that it was keeping IT ministry apprised of progress of every step of the

"An interim Chief Compliance Officer has been retained and details will be shared with the Ministry directly soon," it had said.

'Twitter continues to make every effort to comply with the new guide-

The government's relationship with social media platforms has been tense for the past few months and with Twitter, it got enunciated when posts by BJP leaders on an alleged strategy document of the opposition Congress party to target the Modi government's handling of the second wave of Covid infections, was tagged 'manipulated media'.

## **UP POLICE BOOK TWITTER, 6 OTHERS** FOR 'CREATING COMMUNAL UNREST'

Ghaziabad, June 16: The Uttar Pradesh Police have booked microblogging platform Twitter, a news portal and six persons in connection with the circulation of a video in which an elderly Muslim man narrates his ordeal after he was allegedly attacked by some people in Ghaziabad.

The FIR was lodged on Tuesday on the basis of a complaint by a policeman alleging that the video was shared with an intention to provoke communal unrest. In the video clip, which surfaced on social media on June 14, the eld-

erly Muslim man, Abdul Shamad Saifi, alleges he was thrashed by some young men and asked to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'.

However, the Ghaziabad police, who have arrested three people for assaulting Saifi, have ruled out a communal angle. They said the accused were unhappy about a 'tabeez' (amulet) he sold to them.

FIR lodged against Twitt er India, news website *The* Wire, journalists Mohammad Zubair and Rana Av yub, Congress leaders Salman Nizami, Masqoor Usmani and others.

SHORT TAKES

### **EXTEND BREXIT SAUSAGE WAR DEADLINE: UK**

London, June 16: Britain has asked the EU to extend a grace period for some post-Brexit trade rules in Northern Irela nd, Brexit minister David Frost said Wednesday, as a sausage-centred dispute between London and Brussels sizzles on. Frost confirmed the UK has asked the bloc to delay an endof-month deadline to implement a new trading regime around chilled meats in the British province, which could see Northern Irish imports of products like sausages banned.

'We have asked and suggest ed to the EU that the right way forward would be to agree to extend the grace period, at least for a bit," Frost told a British parliamentary scrutiny panel.

### **RECORD-BUSTING HEAT SPREADS ACROSS S-W U.S.**

Phoenix (US), June 16: Dangerous, record-busting heat spr ead across the US Southwest on Tuesday and into parts of Utah, Montana and Wyoming as a dome of high pressure hovered over a large swath of the region, pushing temperatures into the triple digits this week and intensifying the risk for wildfires amid a long-run-

ning drought.
Some of the highest temperatures were seen in bone-dry Arizona, where the National Weather Service forecast a record high of 117 degrees (47 degrees Celsius) in Phoenix. The previous high for the date was 115 degrees (46 Celsius), set in 1974. "It is kind of early to see temperatures this high, that's for sure," said Marvin Percha, senior forecaster at the weather service's Phoenix office.

### THINNER KIM **LEADS TO HEALTH SPECULATION**

Seoul, June 16: The health of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has long been a source of morbid fascination in rival South Korea, which sits in the sh-adow of Kim's 1.2-million-strong army and his growing arsenal of nuclear-armed missiles.

Has he gained even more weight? Is he struggling for breath after relatively short walks: What about that cane? Why did he miss that important state anniversary? Now, the 37-yearold faces fresh speculation in the South about his health again. But this time, it's because he's noticeably slimmer. Kim's health matters in Seoul, Washington, Tokyo and other world capitals because he hasn't publicly anointed a successor who would control an advancing nuclear programme targeting the United States and its allies.

## **2 CANDIDATES PULL OUT OF IRAN PREZ RACE**

Tehran, June 16: Two days before Iran's presidential elect ion, which is expected to be won by an ultraconservative cleric, two of the seven men vying for the post pulled out of

the race on Wednesday. Conservative lawmaker Alireza Zakani withdrew hours after reformist Mohsen Mehralizadeh had also thrown in the towel ahead of Friday's vote,

Iranian media reported. That leaves five hopefuls in the race, in which ultraconservative judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi, 60, is seen as the clear favourite after other prominent politicians were barred from running. Zakani, 55, was quoted as saying of Raisi to a state television reporter: "I believe him to be qualified and will vote for him, and I hope that fundamental reforms take

place in the country." with him being elected."Last-minute withdrawals by candi-dates, often in return for government postings from the eventual winner, are not

uncommon in Iran. Hours earlier, the former vice president Mehralizadeh, 64, had also pulled out.

China Sea.

The wrecks were found off

Pedra Branca, a rocky out-

## **AUSTRALIA COURT REJECTS FOREIGN INTERFERENCE LAW CHALLENGE**

Canberra, June 16: Australia's highest court on Wednesday rejected a challenge to foreign interference laws in a case that involved a US conservative political organisation and free speech arguments.

China has condemned the laws introduced in 2018 that are widely seen as a means of preventing covert Chinese interference in Australian politics, universities and other institutions.

People working on behalf of a foreign powers have to be publicly registered with the Attorney-General's Department in the interests of transparency. But LibertyWorks Inc, an Australian libertarian think tank, objected to having to register while working on communications for the American Conservative Union ahead of conferences held in Australia. LibertyWorks promotes the American group's annual political conferences.

LibertyWorks argued the so-called Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Act was not valid because it burdened the implied right to free speech in Australia.

LibertyWorks said the registration process was onerous and therefore deterred political communication. But six of the seven High Court judges found the law was valid and any burden was justified.

Even when the purpose of the foreign interfere-nce is not to damage or destabilise Australia, if left undisclosed it can impede the ability of decision-makers in Australia, Justices Susan Kiefel, Patrick Keane and Jacqueline Gleeson wr-Attorney-General Michaelia Cash welcomed the ruling.

Foreign influence activities, when conducted in an open and transparent manner, can contribute positively to public debate and are welcome in Australia, her office said in a statement.

The scheme is not the re to prohibit people or entities from undertaking these activities. Rather, it acknowledges that it is in the public interest that these arrangements are transparent, the statement added. LibertyWorks president Andrew Cooper could not be immediately contacted for comment.

# **Putin says summit 'constructive'**

Despite worst US-Russia tensions in recent years, both Presidents struck positive notes

#### Geneva, June 16: A first At summit, reporters seen shoving summit between US President Joe Biden and his Russian counterpart was "constructive", Vladimir Put-in said Wednesday after

**Geneva, June 16:** President Joe Biden's summit with Russian President "The conversation was Vladimir Putin began with minutes of unusualadding that the sides had ly fierce shoving and shoagreed for their ambassa-dors to return in a small gesture of healing in their uting among United States and Russian journalists

and security forces. Organisers at Wednesday's summit in Geneva opened the meeting room to

great powers" capable of agreeing to disagree. He

stressed his desire to take

US-Russian relations off

their increasingly unsta-

ble trajectory, in which Washington accuses the Kremlin of everything

from meddling in elec-

"It's always better to meet face to face," he told Putin as they met in the

villa's library, with a globe

"We are trying to deter-

mine where we have a

mutual interest, where we

can cooperate; and where

we don't, establish a pre-

dictable and rational way

in which we disagree -- two

great powers," Biden said.
Putin noted at the start
of the meeting that "a lot

of issues" need addressing

"at the highest level" and

that he hoped the meeting

would be "productive"

tions to cyberwarfare.

placed between them.

journalists for what's nor-mally a few minutes of news media filming and shouting questions before

On Wednesday, however, Russian and United States security forces and officials initially blocked journalists as they tried to enter the site for the scheduled press meeting.

The scene then devolved into minutes of chaos inside the meeting room. American journalists de-

and news media grabbing them by the arms and clothes to try to hold them

United States journalists tried to shoulder their way in, and a US reporter

was knocked to the ground.

Before the scene calmed some in the crowd shouted they were being crushed

in the melee.

Biden and Putin initially sat awkwardly in front of the press, but then watched and at times laughed at the tumult.

## Masks requirements vary in Geneva, say authorities

acting chief of protocol for the Geneva region says staff members at the villa United States where President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin are meeting will keep masks on during the summit even if the two leaders don't.

Geneva require the wearing of masks in public, though there are exceptions. The requirement holds particularly in places with a lot of pedestrian traffic, such

as shopping areas. Marion Bordier Bueschi, who is managing the grand lakeside mansion that will serve as the summit site, Associated told Pressstaffers inside Villa La wearing masks.

She said Putin and Biden would likely not wear masks during their talks on Wednesday. She noted that both leaders have been vaccinated against the coronavirus. Confirmed cases and

deaths from Covid-19 have dropped across Switzerland, and authorities are planning steps to ease the mask require-

ment later this month.

Biden and his aides have made clear that he will not follow in the footsteps of his recent predecessors by aiming to radically alter the United States' ties to Russia. Instead, the White House is looking to move toward a more predictable relationship and attempt to rein in Russia's disruptive behaviour.

Biden will push Putin on Wednesday to stop meddling in democratic elections, to ease tensions with Ukraine and to stop giving safe harbour to hackers carrying out cyber and ransomware attacks.

## RUSSIA, U.S. TO **HOLD TALKS ON CYBERSECURITY**

Geneva, June 16: Russian President Vladimir Putin says that he and US President Joe Biden have agreed that their two nations will start consultations on cyber-

After a meeting with Biden in Geneva, Putin said: "We believe that cybersecurity is important for the world in general, for the US in particular, and for Russia as well." The Russian president said that the two countries "just need to abandon various insinuations, sit down at the expert level and start working in the interests of the US and Russia.'

Putin charged that "most of the cyberattacks in the world are carried out from the cyber realm of the United States," with Canada and Britain coming second and third.

However, the most damaging cyberattacks on record have been attributed by the United States and the European Union to Russia's GRU military intelligence agency, including the

## Sun, sea, sand

the talks in Geneva ended.

absolutely constructive",

Putin told reporters,

The ambassadors "will

return to their place of

work. When exactly is a

purely technical question," Putin told reporters after the summit, which lasted about three and a

half hours. Diplomatic

relations between Moscow

and Washington had all

but broken down since Biden took office in Jan-

uary. After Biden likened Putin to a "killer", Russia

in March took the rare

step of recalling its am-bassador Anatoly Anto-

nov. The US envoy, John

Sullivan, likewise retu-

summit at an elegant villa on the shore of Lake Ge-

neva got off to a good st-

art, with the two leaders

shaking hands and strik-

ing cautiously positive no-tes. Biden, who was set to hold a separate press con-

ference later, pressed Put-

in to replace the combus-

tible US-Russian stand-off

with a more "predictable"

relationship between "two

rned to Washington.

Despite tensions,

strained relations.



## target Gaza sites Jerusalem, June 16: Is- Palestinians in Gaza resp-

Israeli airstrikes

raeli aircraft carried out a series of airstrikes at militant sites in the Gaza Strip early Wednesday, the first such raids since a shaky cease-fire ended the war with Hamas last

The airstrikes targeted facilities used by Hamas militants for meetings to plan attacks, the Israeli military said, blaming the group for any act of violence emanating from

There were no immediate reports of casualties. On Tuesday, hundreds of Israeli ultranationalists, some chanting "Death to Arabs," paraded in east Jerusalem in a show of force that threatened to spark renewed violence. Gate.

onded by launching inceed at least 10 fires in southern Israel.

The march posed a test for Israel's fragile new government as well as the tenuous truce that ended last month's 11-day war between Israel and Hamas. Palestinians consider the march, meant to celebrate Israel's capture of east Jerusalem in 1967, to be a provocation.

Hamas called or Palestinians to "resist" the parade, a version of which helped ignite last month's 11-day Gaza war. With music blaring, hundreds of Jewish nationalists gathered and moved in front of Damascus

# Moscow orders mandatory vaccinations over case rise

mayor of Moscow on Wednesday ordered mandatory vaccinations for residents of the Russian capital working in the service industry, citing a "dramatic" rise in Coronavirus infections.

The announcement by Sergei Sobyanin — one of the first compulsory vaccination orders for a a stark admission from a senior Russian official that authorities are struggling to bring the pandemic under con-

Russia lifted most restrictions last year, and the country has pressed ahead with large in-person events, like a recent economic forum in Saint Petersburg and Euro 2020 hosting duties. Vladimir President Putin has repeatedly signalled Russia was

Some of the items were

similar to artefacts found in

archaeological digs on land,

## Two vax for kids show promise

New York, June 16: The Moderna Covid-19 vaccine and an experimen- important, safe tools to curtail the pandemic. "Safe and effective vactal protein-based preventive proved to be safe and showed good antibody response against SARS-CoV-2 in a trial on baby rhesus macaques, scientists say.

The research, published on Tuesday in the journal Immunology, suggests that vaccines for young journal Science

cines for young children will help limit the spread of Covid-19 because we know children can transmit the virus to others, whether they get sick from SARS-CoV-2 infection or remain asympto-Permar from New York-Presbyterian Komansky Children's Hospital, US.

moving beyond the Coronavirus and and claimed his country

Centuries-old shipwrecks found off S'pore

ics to glass and agate objects, as well anchors and

cannons, the heritage board

est caseload globally handled the global outbreak better than most oth-

shipwreck to be found in

It was carrying "more

Singapore's waters.

## **REGENERON THERAPY SAVES LIVES: STUDY**

London, June 16: A new, experimental antiviral treatment used for some worst-affected Covid-19 patients has been cording to the results of

a UK trial on Wednesday. In the ongoing Rando-mised Evaluation of Covid-19 Therapy (RECOV-ERY) trial, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals' combination of drugs was found to benefit patients with severe symptoms of the virus.

It not only cut down the numbers requiring a ventilator but also reduced the duration of their hospital stay.

wreck was destined for even-

tual shipping to Britain, said

Kulbhushan Jadhay

## **JADHAV'S CASE ADJOURNED** TILL OCT. 5

Islamabad, June 16: A Pakistani court has adjourned till October 5 the hearing of a government's plea to appoint a counsel for Indian deathrow prisoner Kulbhush-an Jadhav on request of the country's top law officer, according to a media report. Jadhav, the 50-year-old retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017. India approached the International Court of Justice against Pakistan for denial of consular access Jadhav and challenging the death sentence.

The Hague-based ICJ ruled in July 2019 that Pakistan must undertake an "effective review and reconsideration" of

## FATF to give Pak report next week

global watchdog for money financing has prepared a preliminary report on Pakistan's progress on the implementation of the 27point action plan and will present it at FATF's next plenary meeting from June 21, according to a media

report.

The report has been prepared by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG), which includes the US, the UK, France, China and India.

Currently placed on the FATF's 'grey list', Pakistan has been scrambling in recent months to avoid being added to a list of countries deemed non-compliant with anti-money laundering and terrorist financing regulations by the global watchdog, a measure that officials here fear could further hurt its economy.

The Express Tribune quoted sources in the Ministry of Finance as saying that Pakistan's progress was reviewed at a virtual meeting of the ICRG by international observers on Tuesday.

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Pakistan has implemented 26 of the 27-point FATF action plan.

"There is partial progress on the point of conviction. Relevant laws have been amended. Therefore, it is hoped that there will be good news for Pakistan at the FATF's Plenary Session starting from June 21 to 25,' the report said.

Sources said that in view of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, Pakistan is likely to remain on the grey list as it would require two to three more months to implement the remaining one point. "But in terms of performance, Pakistan is very optimistic that it will get good news from the FATF," the report said. According to the report, the situation is likely to change further by September when the US withdraws its troops from Afghanistan and due to Pakistan's best strategy, the influence of the FATF is expected to be diminished. Until this last meeting, Pakistan had implemented 24 points. The FATF had placed Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018, urging Islamabad to implement a

#### 27-point action plan. Singapore, June 16: Two and think tank said. The Yuan dynasty blue-andthe conviction. According to the sources, according to the National Heritage Board and think centuries-old shipwrecks packed with ceramics and Singapore was a trading hub well before the arrival survey and recovery of artewhite porcelain than any other documented ship-wreck in the world," said facts from the two wrecks tank the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak was completed this year. other artefacts have been of British colonisers in 1819. GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🞾 🍱 found off Singapore in a rare discovery that will shed Michael Flecker, a visiting Undersea excavations on Institute, which worked Such cannons were typitogether on the project. the first wreck led to the discally mounted on merchant fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Total No of Tenders :2 Date: 16.06.2021 light on the city-state's mar-The first wreck, discovercovery of the second, which ships used by the East India Ishak Institute's archaeolo-Tender Notice No. itime heritage, ar-chaeologists said Wednes-day. The prosperous island nation has long been a key Company — the trading behemoth through which ed after divers accidentally is likely to be the Shah gy unit. "Many of the pieces Works (ECV) came across ceramic plates in 2015, was carrying Munchah, a merchant ves-sel built in India that sank are rare, and one is believed to be unique." The Yuan 30-06-2021 30-06-2021 @ 02.30 PM @ 03.00 PM the British empire expand-Chinese ceramics that possiin 1796 while sailing from ed in Asia -- in the 18th and dynasty existed in what is Dt:14-06-2021 @ 05.00 PN 'e' Procurement Tender Notice No.201 2021-22/EE-VB / DB/ trading hub on global shipbly date back to the 14th cen-China to India. Items recov-19th centuries, they added. now China in the 13th and 15-06-2021 18-06-2021 18-06-2021 18-06-2021 ping routes connecting the tury, when Singapore was ered from the second wreck The vessel discovered in 14th centuries. Much of the 4Nos 15.80 Lakhs @ 02.00 PM @ 02.00 PM @ 02.30 PM @ 03.00 PM 2746302 Dt:14-06-2021 Indian Ocean and the South known as Temasek. ranged from Chinese ceram-2015 was the first ancient Chinese cargo in the second Note: For any other details required in respect of above tender notice please contact concerned phone number

# **Chronicle**

17 JUNE 2021

## HC upholds right to protest, dissent; offers a ray of hope

he order of the Delhi high court granting bail to three research stu-dents incarcerated for their alleged role in the Delhi riots of 2020 comes as a ray of hope for those who have been anguished by the government's propensity to use legal means against political opponents and the judiciary's proclivity to shut its eyes to executive excesses. The students, two from Jawaharlal Nehru University and one from Jamia Milia Islamia University, were charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, (UAPA), 1967.

The court has made significant observations on two important points that needed judicial clarification. One, the line that demarcates legitimate protests and terrorist activities and two, the police's unmindful application of laws such as UAPA on people and the lower judiciary's failure to apply their judicial mind to it. On the first, the court was categorical in assailing the state for blurring the line between the constitutionally guaranteed right to protest and terrorist activity in an attempt to suppress dissent. Such a mindset gaining traction would harm democracy, the court

It defies the basic principles of the rule of law if the executive thinks that the process of law can be the punishment a citizen would face for defiance. There are far too many such people, including the 84-year-old priest Fr Stan Swamy, now languishing in jail under

has observed. On the second, the court reminds the police that it was not the legislative intent of the UAPA that offences of the usual and ordinary kind, however grave, egregious or heinous in their nature and extent, to be covered by that law.

Referring to the constitutional scheme of things and the separation of powers under the Union, State and Concurrent Lists, the court pointed out that such laws are enacted for the defence of India, trashing the police act of booking students for shouting slouishing in jail under gans. It has also found that the the very same law. chargesheet reveals nothing to prove that the students were engaged in "ter-

rorist activities" the definition of which was, according to the court, "vague". The court enjoined upon the courts to apply its mind when such laws are invoked on unsuspecting people instead of giving its assent to what the executive prescribes.

Governments may be uncomfortable with citizens asking questions, but that's the way democracy functions. It defies the basic principles of the rule of law if the executive thinks that the process of law can be the punishment a citizen would face for defiance. There are far too many such people, including the 84-year-old priest Fr Stan Swamy, now languishing in jail under the very same law.

Entries in the statute book cannot be allowed to be tools in the hands of a repressive government that has no compunction towards invoking the most stringent of laws against political opponents at the drop of a hat and muzzle dissent. The executive should be stopped from going beyond the legislative intent of the laws, and any transgression must be viewed from the point of view of the victim. It's the job of the judiciary to raise the pro-tective covering of the Constitution when a vindictive government takes aims at a peacefully rebellious citizen. The Delhi high court has just done that. Every court must do it, should democracy survive and succeed; it should not be left to the individual judges to show the gumption.

## BJP behind drama in LJP?

When the late Ram Vilas Paswan, once among the leading young Lohia socialist leaders of Bihar and the country along with Lalu Yadav and Nitish Kumar, figured that his best bet lay in emerging as a dalit leader, he created the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP). But he had a handicap. His base lay exclusively among the Dusadh community of dalits of Bihar. On that basis alone, it was not easy to be a long-distance runner.

But Mr Paswan survived with clever footwork, joining alliances which he changed with frequency to retain a position in the Union cabinet in a range of governments. He had a personal standing and was a well-liked politician. After the demise of the nine-term parliamentarian last October,

The party had mostly become a family affair, with his son Chirag named its president, a brother and a nephew being bought to Parliament, and another nephew heading the party's Bihar unit. This lot is now busy fighting. The Lok Sabha Speaker promptly gave recognition to the breakaway group, which has five of the six party MPs, while only Chirag is out. So, the BJP's blessing to the move is a likely assumption.

Such parties usually do not last long. The split may have been brought about in the hope that one among the group may be made a Union minister in a Cabinet expansion. In the last Bihar Assembly election, Chirag had earned the enmity of chief minister Nitish Kumar by setting up candidates against his Janata Dal (United) nominees while remaining in the NDA at the Centre. It was the strangest of situations. Now, many think JD(U) may have exacted revenge by engineering the process of LJP's split or eventual vapourising. In any case, it is the BJP in Bihar to which the Dusadh community may gravitate. For socioeconomic reasons, this direction was manifesting itself in the late Ram Vilas Pawan's lifetime.

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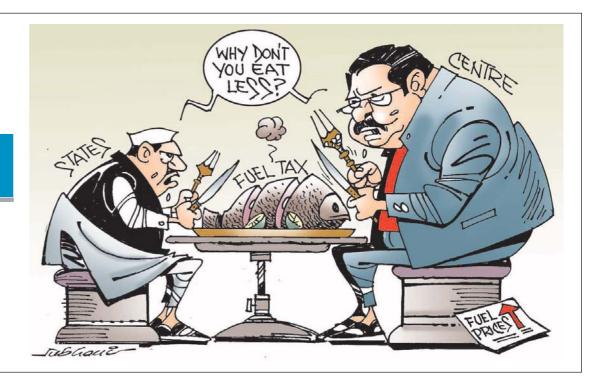
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Subhani



# Covid-19 accountability: Making the dead count



Patralekha Chatteriee

**Dev 360** 

hyper-polarised India, it needs dollops of bravery for governments admit that they got their Covid-19 death data wrong, that the magnitude of the problem they face in the time of the pandemic is more serious than they previously stat-ed. Because political ed. Because political rivals are likely to pounce on such bursts of honesty as evidence of rank incompetence.

Nevertheless. some states are taking baby towards greater transparency of Covid-19 data. That is good news.

Bihar is in the spotlight. Covid-19 death figures in the state shot up from 5,478 on June 8 to 9,429 on June 9 in the wake of data revision. The dramatic jump in the number of coronavirus casualties did not happen because the Bihar government suddenly woke up to the need for good data. It was because the judiciary stepped in. The Patna court demanded an audit of the figures after widespread allegations that the state government was underplaying the scale of infections and deaths.

Arguably, Bihar is not the only state which has faced such accusations. Ground reports by the media from crematoriums in many places, along with images of dozens of bodies dumped in rivers or buried in shallow graves have only bol-stered the widespread belief that the official Covid-19 death count in the country doesn't tell the real story. Many states like Maharashtra and Telangana are revising their official death toll in the Covid-19 pandemic.

Interestingly, Jhar-khand, one of India's poorest states, is setting an inspiring example by initiating an Intensive Public Health Survey. This is the first such doorto-door counting of deaths by any state during the second wave of the pandemic. It has revealed that

25,490 people died in the state in April-May 2021 that is 43 per cent higher than the 17,819 total deaths officially regis-tered across all 24 districts in the state in April-May 2019.

What should one make of this sudden rush for data integrity in many states even as the pan-demic rages on? Will other states follow suit? Will the Narendra Modi government stop denying that India's official Covid-19 death toll is a massive undercount?

It is too early to tell. The pandemic is indeed making many countries finally acknowledge that they have been undercounting Covid-19 deaths. Peru diď it. Mexico did it. But truth-telling may not be as contagious as the mutating coronavirus. Here in India, even as state governments start to revise their Covid-19 data, the Centre insists all is well. It recently lashed out at an international newsng the magazine for 1 country's excess deaths due to the pandemic at 5-7 times the official figure.

But better late than ever. Whatever be their motives, the states which are embracing greater transparency deserve to be cheered even if by doing so, they push up India's official

Covid-19 death count. As health economist Rijo M. John puts it: "Those brave states that are indeed doing this must be appreciated and I hope it motivates the rest to do so too."

Dr John cites the exam-Maharashtra, which he says "has been relatively honest with the data right from the beginning, compared to many

Now, more states are

joining in. In India, even in normal times, many deaths are not officially recorded. Globally two-thirds (38 million) of 56 million annual deaths are still not registered, according to World Health Organisation.

But the coronavirus pandemic may have set in motion a laudable trend: many governments are beginning to acknowledge that there has been a massive undercount of deaths. The science of death-counting is making headlines and the critical need for strong and developed death registries is a talk-Dr Hemant Shewade, a

medical doctor specialis-ing in community mediand operational research, points to the uneven quality of even routine surveillance of deaths in the country. "The coverage of routine death surveillance (proportion of deaths registered along with medical certification of cause of death) is as high as 100 per cent in Goa and as low as 2.5 per cent in Jharkhand. One did not really expect 100 per cent accuracy in Covid-19 death reporting. We cannot improve routine death surveillance overnight. But in the time of the pandemic, the problem rose because the undercounting of deaths was way too high," he told

What is really unacceptable, says Dr Shevade, "is singling out certain states for contributing higher proportion of reported covid-19 deaths ates an environment that encourages poor Covid-19 death reporting."

Why is accurate Covid 19 data so important? Because poor data

makes for poor planning. The administration, as well as the public, become lax as the true picture is not presented. Then it takes a wave as large as the second wave to wake us up. By then any action is too little too late," says Dr Shevade.

What should be done? Public health experts

In India, even in normal times, many deaths are not officially recorded. Globally two-thirds (38 million) of 56 million annual deaths are still not registered, according to the **World Health** Organisation.

who have been tracking the Covid 19 numbers stress the importance of making an honest attempt to not "show less numbers" by reporting all Covid-19 deaths, captured by routine death surveil-lance. "Accepting that under-reporting is an inescapable reality in India, we need regular local estimates of underreporting to guide us regarding the true esti-mate of mortality," says

Dr Shevade, "This can be through postmortem surveillance of all Covid-19 deaths in sentinel sites. Every district should have one sentinel site (local data for local action). This should be explored. This is important because in a country like India it takes time for data on excess deaths to come out.

Alongside data, there is the problem inadequate data. Together, they create a fertile ground for the spread of misinformation which severely hampers the battle against Covid-19. Many public health experts say the Centre must proactively and regularly publish reliable allcause mortality data in regular intervals at the national level so that studies using incomplete and unreliable data to measure the true extent of deaths become redun-

Telling the truth may seem politically risky, but it's the only way out. Bad data causes reputational damage. India has already suffered heavily with its official Covid-19 data being widely questioned and public trust being dented. It's true that the Indian Council of Medical Research has issued a "Guidance for appropriate recording of Covid-19 related deaths in India". as the Centre likes to

However, there are gaps. As Dr Rijo John tweeted last week: "Do you have data to show which states adhere to these guidelines & which do not? What actions have you taken against those who did-

> The writer focuses on development issues in India and emerging economies. She can be reached at patralekha.chatterjee @gmail.com

## **LETTERS**

## **EXODUS FROM BJP**

It's surprising to note that the West Bengal Governor rushed to New Delhi to implement anti-defection law in view of mass desertion from the BJP to TMC (WB Gov. in Delhi after 24 BJP MLAs skip meet, DC. June 17). Prior to the election when a large number of TMC leaders migrated to the BJP the pet governor did not utter a single word about anti-defection

> **Someswar Sharma** Visakhapatnam

#### **USE OF UAPA**

The Delhi High Court has rightly expressed concern over casual application of stringent UAPA law (Delhi HC says state blurred line between protest, terror, DC, June 16). The UAPA should be used provingly and judicipally as it is sparingly and judiciously as it is very stringent and takes away personal liberty of accused immediately and for a long time. The sedition law and the UAPA should be with clear definitions and apt applications for being effective. **Dr D.V.G. Sankararao** *Vizianagaram* 

#### **UG ENGLISH MEDIUM**

The AP government's decision to make English medium compulsory for all degree colleges from this academic year will lead to a comprehension problem (English medium must at UG level, DČ, June 16). Those who studied in Telugu medium from the beginning and are now pursuing degree in Telugu medium will not understand anything. The government must first implement English medium till Class X, and then Intermediate before UG and PG.

D. Ravikumar Visakhapatnam



BRISBANE, June 16. The expulsion of Bengalis from East Bengal was a "calculated move to throw India into chaos" the Indian High Commissioner to Australia, Mr. A. M. Thomas, said here today.

Mr. Thomas, who arrived in Queensland on a farewell visit after four years in Australia, said Pakistan was "driving out the Bengalis at the point of the bayo-

He said the world was still not taking the requisite action over Bengal and described the situation there was chaotic and desperate.—Reuter

Mahir Ali



Bye bye Bibi: Netanyahu's exit may not spell change

mong the various heads of state and government who have seemed like permanent fixtures on the international political landscape in the past decade or so, no one's perch has looked as precarious as that of Benjamin Netanyahu. There's a degree of irony in the fact that Israel's longest-serving prime minister apparently ran out of steam midway through the presidential term of the most fervent White House admirer he could conceivably have attracted.

It's all relative, of course. Ever since its inception, Israel has never not had an ally in the White House, and occasional tensions have scarcely dampened US enthusiasm for — let alone hindered its munificence towards what was identified early on as an invaluable satellite in a region once deemed broadly hostile to US interests.

The Obama administration, for instance, set a record in generosity, notwithstanding the toxic personal chemistry between Bibi and Barack. By then, it hardly looked like a case of the tail wagging the dog. The transformation may not have been sudden, but Netanyahu had few qualms about treat-

ing America as the tail. He was happy to do most of the barking until another top dog chimed in, determined, as the leader of the pack, to be louder than anyone else. And lovally tagging along behind Donald was Jared Kushner. Even Trump and Kushner apparently baulked, however, when Netanyahu talked about fulfilling his dream of annexing much of the occupied West Bank. Had the US flashed the green light, enabling him to pursue this project, Netanyahu would probably still be Prime Minister, and Israel would almost certainly be embroiled in a military campaign far more vicious than its most recent assault on the Gaza Strip.

The latter did not suffice to keep him in power — not least because a substantial proportion of Israelis are under the impression that he chickened out. Unable to pull together a coalition after Israel's fourth election in two years, Netanyahu predictably

ranted against the alternative regime

that was taking shape. In the past couple of weeks he has ludicrously labelled his opponents as dangerous and far left. The new Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, is an extremist all right, but on the other end of the ideological spectrum. He has served Netanyahu as chief of staff and in various ministerial capacities, and throughout his political career has been described as even more right wing than his former master.

In the past he has not only enthusiastically hailed the idea of West Bank annexation but also proudly boasted about seeing "no problem" having "killed lots of Arabs in my life". Now, as a Prime Minister at the head of a disparate — and desperate — eight-party coalition, whose Yamina party boasts only six seats in the 120-member Knesset, he has indicated that there will be no movement on the Palestinian front. The idea that the status quo can indefinitely be maintained while the state-sponsored settlers (whom Bennett has been proud to represent) keep gnawing away at what's left of the diminishing Palestinian territories is one of Netanyahu's proudest achievements. There's no need to bother with a deal, not even with an eagerly compliant Palestinian "authority" in place under Mahmoud Abbas, who put off his elections to ward off the likelihood of another triumph for Hamas.

That likelihood has only increased in recent months, but yet another Israeli election before the end of the year cannot be written off. After all, the Bennettled coalition has the bare minimum parliamentary support necessary, and Netanyahu as Opposition leader will no doubt continue trying to topple his rivals. The 'Bye bye Bibi' placards displayed by jubilant demonstrators after his comeuppance may prove to have been premature. Does any of this matvery much? Not for the Palestin-ians. Sure, there is an Arab Islamist party on the fringes of the Bennett coalition, playing pretty much the sort of collaboration ist role that the odd relatively unrepresentative black organisation did under South African

apartheid. It also includes the Meretz and Labour parties, which remain wedded, at least formally, to the fantasy of a two-state solution.

What's far more important is that the political centre has shifted sharply to the right — Netanyahu deserves some of the credit for that, but the narrowing of the political spectrum from the centre right to the far right is by no means an exclusively Israeli phenomenon. Hardly anywhere, though, is the political system more fractured: what once were factions have evolved into a plethora of parties, and one-party majorities are now a thing of the past.

Netanyahu has hitherto thrived on this dysfunction, but whether he can exploit it much longer remains to be seen. The criminal justice system may catch up with him. One thing that won't change, however, is what Joe Biden reiterated last week: "Israel has no better friend than the United States." Which in effect means nothing will really change.

By arrangement with Dawn

52,501.98 -0.51 Nifty 50 15,767.50 -0.64 S&P 500\* 4,234.42 -0.29 73.30 0.02 Dollar (₹) 103.48 Pound Sterling (₹) -0.28 88.90 0.02 47,814▼48 0.10 Gold (10gm)\* (₹) Brent crude (\$/bbl)\* 74.32 0.45 IN 10-Yr bond yield 6.045 0.00 1.485 -0.014 US 10-Yr T-bill yield\* \* As of 8:30 PM IST

## MF SIP asset base touches ₹4.67L cr in May

Assets under the systematic investment plan (SIP) touched an all-time high of Rs 4.67 lakh crore in May. Over the past five years, assets under management (AUM) of SIPs has grown 30 per cent annually, twice as fast as the growth in the overall mutual fund industry's AUM. According to Amfi data, SIP AUMs have seen a close to four-fold jump to Rs 4,67,366 crore as of May this year from Rs 1,25,394 crore as of August 2016.

## Subsidies hiked for DAP, other fertilisers



The Union Cabinet raised the subsidies for DAP and some other non-urea fertilisers by Rs 14,775 crore to keep the prices low for farmers. After urea, diammonium phosphate is the most widely used fertiliser. Minister of state for chemicals and fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya "Farmers will continue to get DAP at the old rate of Rs 1,200 per bag." He said the sub sidy for DAP has been raised to Rs 1,200 per bag from Rs 500.

## **Cost Inflation Index for LTCG** notified

The income tax department has notified the Cost Inflation Index (CII) for the current fiscal beginning April 2021 for calculating long-term capital gains arising from sale of immovable proper ty, securities and jewellery. The CII is used by taxpayer to compute gains arising out of sale of capital assets after adjusting for inflation. "The Cost Inflation Index for FY 2021-22 relevant to AY 2022-23 & subsequent years is 317," the CBDT said.

# Video recordings

The NHAI said it has made mandatory the use of drones for monthly video recording of national highway projects during all stages of development, construction, operation and maintenance. It said contractors and concessionaires shall carry out the drone video recording in the presence of team leader of the supervision consultant and upload comparative project videos on NHAI's portal 'Data Lake.'



## ■Three firms hit daily limit for the third day

# **Adani stocks** tumble more

**NUPUR ACHARYA** JUNE 16

The slump in shares of companies controlled by Indian billionaire Gautam Adani deepened on Wednesday with three of them tumbling by the daily limit for a third straight day.

Adani Total Gas Ltd, Adani Power Ltd and Adani Transmission Ltd hit the lower circuit after dropping 5 per cent each even as the group denied a local report on Monday that said accounts of three Mauritius-based funds that own the group's stocks were frozen.

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone tumbled 7.17 per cent and flagship Adani Enterprises tanked 5.77 per cent on the BSE. Adani Green Energy declined 3.10 per cent.

dramatic rout marks a halt to the dizzying rally in shares of some of the Adani Group of Companies that had added almost \$40 billion to the billionaire's wealth this year through Friday that made him the second richest person in Asia. His net worth, based on Tuesday's closing share prices, is \$71.5 billion.

The conglomerate refuted the reports that said National Securities Depository Ltd froze the Albula Investment Fund, Cresta Fund and APMS Investment Fund. It called the report "blatantly erro-neous" and followed up **INVESTORS FRET OVER** LITTLE-KNOWN FUNDS

NUPUR ACHARYA & P. R. SANJAI JUNE 16

Confusion over three Mauritius-based funds that whipsawed shares of Adani Group companies this week has underscored a deeper risk for investors in such stocks owned by opaque entities.

"It is important for investors and the regula-tor to be aware of the ownership in listed companies, especially when they originate from tax havens like Mauritius," said Hemindra Hazari, an independent research analyst in Mumbai. "The names of the funds are not very well known in the capital market and they have high concentra-tion into a select number of stocks, which in itself

is unusual. Even as a massive share rally in the companies of the conglomerate has this year more than doubled the net worth of Adani to

43.500 crore (\$6 billion) in

Tuesday citing communication from the national depository that the three funds' demat accounts are 'suspended for debit." The funds, registered at the same address in Port Louis, own more than Rs

\$73 billion, this week's events have pointed to a deeper pain point: opacity around the group and its key non-founder shareholders. There's also scant analyst coverage for Adani companies, high-lighting the information lacunae could be a chronic issue.

"It is extremely crucial for the Adani Group to disclose relevant details regarding ultimate beneficial ownership of forsaid Zulfiquar Memon, managing partner of Mumbai-based law firm MZM Legal LLP.

Some of the group's listed stocks have soared more than six-fold in value since the start of 2020 on bets Adani's push into infrastructure will pay off as the economy revives. Adding to the tailwind was MSCI Inc including three more Adani stocks to its India benchmark index, taking the total to five.— *Bloomberg* 

Dollar bonds issued by Adani group firms have pared some of the losses from earlier this week. Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone's dollar bond due 2031 fell by a record 3.3 cents on the dollar on Monday to 94.1 cents and is now trading at 95.4 -Bloomberg

## **SHYAM METALICS IPO SUBSCRIBED** 121 TIMES, **SONA 2.33 TIMES**

**RAVI RANJAN PRASAD** MUMBAI, JUNE 16

Integrated metals manufacturer Shyam Metalics and Energy's Rs 909 crore initial public offering received huge subscription demand as it got subscribed 121.40 times shares offered in the public issue. But another issue that closed on Wednesday, that of Sona Comstar, got subscribed by a modest 2.33 times.
In the Shyam Metalics

public offer, priced in the band of Rs 303 to Rs 306 per share, the portion for reserved investors was subscribed 11.64 times. The qualified institutional buyer categorv was subscribed 155.71 times, the non-institutional investor category was subscribed 339.98 times.

Shyam Metalics received over 21.13 lakh applications across investor categories as per last update made available by sources close to the merchant

bankers. Automotive technology company Sona BLW Precision Forgings (Sona Comstar) Rs 5,250 crore IPO was subscribed 2.33 as per last update from the

stock exchanges.

The portion reserved for retail investors was subscribed 1.61 times.

The qualified institutional buyer category was subscribed 3.54 times, the non-institutional investor category was subscribed 0.40 times as per the last update made available by sources close to the merchant bankers.

Sona Comstar received over 4.46 lakh applications as per the last update.

# Cooking oil prices start softening

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JUNE 16

After more than doubling in the past one year, edible oil prices have started softening in the last one month. "Edible oil prices in India are showing a declining trend across a wide array of oils. As per data from the Department of Consumer Affairs, over the past month, the prices of edible oils are now coming down," an official statement said Wednesday.

Palm oil prices have dropped 19 per cent from Rs 142 per kg on May 7 to Rs 115 per kg, sunflower oil prices dropped 16 per cent to 157 per kg, price of soya oil has come down from Rs 162 per kg to Rs 138 per kg in the past few weeks. Mustard oil was down 10 per cent, groundnut oil 8 per cent and vanaspati 8 per cent at Rs



157, Rs 174 and Rs 141 per kg, respectively.

Expectations of a production recovery in Malaysia and Indonesia amid slowing demand have pulled down the prices. Due to the second wave, exports of edible oils were affected in these countries. In the case of soya oil, the surge in the interest for renewable energy too had supported prices. However, the market now finds that the

the US would be reduced due to the intervention of the environmental protection agency. This has cooled down prices," said Ajay Kedia, MD, Kedia Commodities.

The international price trends are directly affecting the domestic edible oil market as India imports a significant quantity of the commodity to meet its demand. Ås per reports, India meets 56 per cent of its domestic demand through imports. The effective rate of import duties, including agriculture infrastructure and development cess and social welfare cess, ranges from 35 per cent to 59 per cent for edible oils. This too has led to higher edible oil prices in India.

Despite the rising prices the industry has been asking the government not to cut the import duties

# Govt plans ₹50,000-cr loan guarantee for health infra

SIDDHARTHA SINGH JUNE 16

The government is considering offering as much as Rs 50,000 crore (\$6.8 billion) of credit incentives to boost health care infrastructure in the nation hit by the coronavirus pandemic, according to people familiar with the matter.

The programme will allow companies to access funds for ramping up hospital capacity or medical

supplies with the government acting as a guarantor, said the people, who asked not to be identified citing

A finance ministry spokesperson could not be immediately reached for comment.

The government's loan guarantees will complement the central bank's efforts last month to boost credit for health care services and provide fresh lending to vaccine-makers.

The Reserve Bank of India had then announced an on-tap liquidity window for banks worth Rs 50,000 crore to extend credit to health services and vac cine manufacturers until March 2022.

The government also last month separately included airlines and hospitals in a \$41-billion emergency credit programme to cushion them from the impact of the pandemic.

Bloomberg

## Most new loans are unsecured credit

SANGEETHA G

Unsecured credit has grown faster than secured products between 2017 and 2020. This could be a cause of worry for lenders in the aftermath of moratori-

Increasing consumerism and entry of large number of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) in the segment have increased the share of unsecured credit among newly sanctioned loans to 85 per cent in 2020-21 till end February.

Overall, the share of unsecured credit in the loan book increased from 15 per cent in March 2017 to 24 per cent as of February 2021. During the first wave of the pandemic, the share went up from 22 per cent to 24 per cent, as per a report by Experian India and

Invest India. In terms of number of loans, the unsecured category has increased its share to 71 per cent by February 2021 from 62 per cent in March 2017, indicating that consumers are looking to fund small purincluding con-

sumer durables and holidays through credit, and the lending institutions have increased confidence in their borrowers' ability to repay and are thus willing to take more risk.

Unsecured products have seen an increase in loan book at a CAGR of 38 per cent compared to secured products that grew at a CAGR of 17 per cent over 2017-2020. An unsecured loan is supported only by the borrower's creditworthiness, rather than by any collateral, such as property or other assets.

Rising share of unsecured loans is a cause of worry, especially during pandemic-induced financial crisis.

According to Icra, the delinquencies for the retail loan pools that had seen a gradual reduction in Q4 FY2021 are now again expected to reach elevated

Emkay Global Financial Services says, "Given the two rounds of moratoriums, we believe that the visibility of the asset quality pain in NBFCs had largely remain suppressed

## RBI: 2nd wave hits domestic demand

**FALAKNAAZ SYED** MUMBAI. JUNE 16

The second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic has hit domestic demand. Going forward, the speed and scale of vaccination will shape the path of recovery, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its monthly bulletin for June 2021 released on Friday. It observed that while vaccines will not end the pandemic by themselves, "the country will have to learn to live with the virus, complementing vaccines with ramping up investment in healthcare, logistics and research"

"The pandemic is a real shock with real consequences. Hence, there is a need to ensure that the recovery is built on a solid foundation of business investment and productivity growth. Lifeand work-style transformation such as increased remote work and online shopping may likely endure. When patterns of demand shift, some firms may face closure. Some industries may become permanently smaller. At the same time, existing



firms in industries expeincrea-sed demand may expand and new ones will emerge. What matters is that resources are put to their best use and that reallocation occurs smoothly and with as few costs as possisaid the central bank.

influential view An identifies three sectors with the greatest growth potential in the post-recovery decade—digital technologies; biomedical science (along with its applications in health care); and technologies that address the various challenges to sustainability, especially those pertaining to climate change, said the RBI.

Commenting on the

state of the economy, the central bank has said that while the second wave has hit domestic demand, on the brighter side, several aspects of aggregate sup-

ply conditions—agriculture and contactless services—are holding up, while industrial production and exports have surged compared to last year amidst pandemic protocols. "Going forward, the speed and scale of vacci-nation will shape the path

of recovery. The economy has the resilience and the fundamentals to bounce back from the pandemic and unshackle itself from pre-existing cyclical and structural hindrances. Signs of the ebbing of the second wave of the panbecoming evident. In fact, the data suggest that the second wave is rolling back almost as fast as it rolled in.'

On June 14, 2021 India's daily cases fell to a seventh of their peak of 4,14,188 a month ago (May 6). The seven-day average, which smooths out daily fluctuations, also declined by a fifth from its peak of close to 4 lakh. This is also reflected in the doubling rate, which increased to 247 days from its trough of 34 days at the end of April.

The daily positivity rate, which had peaked at 22.7 per cent in early May, plummeted to 3.8 per cent. remaining below 10 per cent for the 14th consecutive day, and dipping even lower than the first wave's peak of 11.7 per cent at end-August 2020. Recoveries outnumbered fresh cases for the 36th day, taking the total number of recoveries in India past 2.8 crore.

On the fiscal framework and quality of expenditure in India, the RBI noted that the pandemic necessitated an overwhelming fiscal response.

## NPPA ASKS DRUG FIRMS TO REDUCE **PRICES IN WAKE OF GST RATE CUT**



New Delhi, June 16: Drug pricing regulator NPPA has asked pharmaceutical companies and medical device makers to reduce prices on products on which the GST has been lowered in order to pass on the benefit to the consumers.

In a notification, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) noted that a change in tax rates has an impact on the fixation of maximum retail prices (MRP) of various drugs and formulations. As per DPCO 2013, MRP

of drugs and formulations are inclusive of taxes. Therefore, any downward change in tax or GST rates should be reflected in the MRP and benefit of the reduction should be passed on to the consumers, it noted.

### **NEW RANGE** must for stages of NH projects **ROVER VELAR SUV** COMES AT ₹79.87L

**MICHAEL GONSALVES** PUNE, JUNE 16

Motors-owned British luxury car maker Jaguar Land Rover on Wednesday drove in the new Range Rover Velar SUV in the country with prices starting at Rs 79.87 lakh. The Range Rover Velar comes in the R-Dynamic S trim on the Ingenium 2.0 l petrol and diesel powertrains. The new SUV will rival luxury SUVs like the Jaguar F-Pace, Mercedes GLE Coupe and the BMW X6.



## Entire board can now meet via video, audio

**SANGEETHA G** CHENNAI, JUNE 16

Providing relief to companies, the government has omitted the rule pertaining to the conduct of meetings with physical presence of the board of directors for approval of several important matters.

Ministry Corporate Affairs has omitted Rule 4 of the Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014. Rule 4 pertained to matters which should not be dealt with in a meeting through video conferencing or other audiovisual means. As per this rule, directors can attend the board meeting through video conferencing if a quorum or a mini-

mum number of members

the meeting. Usually, this number of minimum members should be onethird of the number of directors of the company.

ence of minimum number of board directors, included those held for approval of annual accounts and financial statements, board reports, prospectus, audit committee meeting consideration accounts and approval of amalgamation, mergers, acquisitions takeovers, said Jidesh

are physically present for

publication in the official

gazette, the ministry said.

The meetings which hitherto needed physical pres-

Kumar, managing partner, King Stubb and Kasiva, Advocates and Attorneys.

any headway since. The notification will come into force after its RBI's supervision of

## ON THE I BACK BURNER SSRC receives lukewarm staff response

# RBI quietly buries specialised cadre plan

**MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, JUNE 16** 

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is learnt to have quietly shelved the plan for raising a specialised supervisory and regulatory cadre (SSRC) to strengthen its supervisory wing to check bank frauds and other regulatory violations in the sys-

About a year ago, the apex bank had assured Parliamentary Standing Committee on

Finance about the cadre, but the plan hasn't made After Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam, questions were raised over the

scheduled commercial

banks. In response, RBI had come up with a grandiose plan of creat-ing an SSRC. Its Central Board had, in May 2019, approved the creation of such a cadre and the RBI had announced the creation of SSRC on November 1, 2019.

The RBI has silently buried the plan and even its latest annual report has no mention of the SSRC.

The RBI spokesperson is yet to respond to a mail sent in this regard.

Explaining the reasons for shelving the SSRC, the source, however, said the scheme drew a lukewarm response for several reasons. "Merely 5 per cent of its staff opted for the SSRC. The poor response hension among the staff regarding the HR issues like lack of mobility, promotional avenues, etc. Besides, there was no proper communication or stakeholder consultation by top management. The unions also opposed the move," the source said.

was mainly due to appre-

Another reason is that 'traditionally, the supervisory vertical is headed by a deputy governor, who comes from a commercial bank. This leads to obvious conflict of interest. He heads the department, which is supposed to examine his own performance as managing director of the com-

mercial bank. There have been several instances in the past

regulatory violation and even vigilance cases had to be dropped from the (assessment) Further, in many cases it has led to vindictive action even to the extent of blocking the promotion of the entire supervisory team examining the particular bank," the source said. "Incidentally, RBI is one

where serious concerns,

of the very few public institutions in India, which does not have a whistleblower policy or effective redressal system. Also, the RBI as a regulator, must display highest standards of corporate governance for financial institutions to emulate," the source said.

**France** 

Germany

(Mats Hummels 20-og)

SHORT TAKES

## Milkha is stable & out of Covid ICU

Chandigarh: Legendary Indian sprinter Milkha Singh is "stable' and he has been shifted out of Covid ICU to another section of the PGIMER hospital, a statement from his family said on Wednesday. The 91-year-old had contracted the dreaded virus last month. "Milkha is sta-ble and is out of the Covid ICU, but is in the Medical ICU," a spokesperson of the Milkha family said. "Thank you for your continued prayers and good wishes," it added. PGIMER sources said that Milkha was "fine, stable and recovering". "He has tested Covid negative after which he was shifted out of the Covid ICU," the sources said. The sources further said that a medical team comprising senior doctors of the institute

### **Japan to set 10k** spectator-cap

were closely monitoring his

daily health progress. - PTI

Tokyo: Japan is planning to set a cap of 10,000 fans at sports events ahead of the Olympics, a cabinet minister said on Wednesday, as organisers weigh how many domestic spectators can attend the Games. The proposed measure would come into force after a Covid-19 state of emergency in Tokyo and other parts of the country ends on June 20, and would last until the end of August, said Yasutoshi Nishimura, the minister in charge of virus measures. It would limit spectators to 50 percent of a venue's capacity or 10,000 people, whichever is smaller, he said. The plan is expected to become official later this week. - AFF

## **Federer suffers** defeat in Halle

Berlin: Roger Federer suffered a setback in his preparations for Wimbledon after crashing out of the second round of the ATP grass court tournament in Halle on Wednesday. Federer, who will bid to win a ninth title at Wimbledon which starts June 28, suffered a shock 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 defeat to 20year-old Canadian Felix Auger Aliassime, who is almost half Federer's age. "It's amazing, for sure I did-n't expect this," Auger Aliassime said after beating one of his heroes at the first attempt on the ATP tour. "I wanted to win, but Roger Federer is my idol and it was a huge honour to play him." Federer is exactly 19 years older than Auger Aliassime as the pair share the birth-

## **IPL Aussie stars** pull out of tours

day on August 8. - AFP

Melbourne: Seven top Australian cricketers who recently played in the IPL have pulled out of the country's white-ball tour of West Indies and Bangladesh. The two tours are part of team's preparations for the T20 World Cup later this year. David Warner, Pat Cummins, Glenn Maxwell, Jhye Richardson, Kane Richardson, Marcus Stoinis and Daniel Sams have requested not to be considered for the tours for various reasons while Steve Smith has been rested to fully recover from an elbow complaint which flared during the IPL, Cricket Australia said in a statement.

## **Virat climbs to 4th** spot in rankings

**Dubai:** India skipper Virat Kohli climbed to the fourth spot while Australia batsman Steve Smith reclaimed the top position in the ICC Test rankings released on Wednesday. Kohli has 814 points. Keeping Kohli company in the top 10 is wicketkeeper batsman Rishabh Pant (747 points) and star opener Rohit Sharma (747 points), who have retained their joint sixth position.

## Live on TV

Group Stage: Ukraine vs North Macedonia from 6.30 pm; Denmark vs Belgium from 9.30 pm; Netherlands vs Austria from 12.30 am (Friday) on Sony Ten 2,

## **COPA AMERICA**

Group Stage: Colombia vs Brazil vs Peru from 5.30 am

# Shot in the foot Ronaldo breaks scoring record

## Germany go down as Hummels kicks into own net

champions France beat Germany in a blockbuster Euro 2020 clash on Tuesday.

In Munich, a 20th-minute Mats Hummels own goal proved enough for 2018 World Cup winners France to beat 2014 World Cup winners Germany in Group F.

France deserved win, with both Kylian and Benzema having secondhalf goals disallowed for tight offside calls while Adrien Rabiot also hit the post for Les Bleus.

knew my players would be ready and they were up for the fight, France coach Deschamps said.

"It's our first match, but this is a game that could have been a semi-final or a final and to take these three points in a group like this was important.

The win was savoured by a small band of French fans among the crowd in the Allianz Arena, which was limited to just 20 percent of capacity because of Covid-19 restrictions.

It was also enjoyed by fans back home in France who packed into bars to see their team kick off their bid to add the European crown

#### **POGBA PLAYS DOWN RUEDIGER 'BITE'**

France midfielder Paul Pogba has played down Antonio Ruediger's apparent attempted bite on his back during their win over Germany.

Immediately after the incident, Pogba cried out complained to Spanish referee Carlos del Cerro Grande, who did not punish the German, and the Manchester United star played it down after the game.

"I think he nibbled at me a little bit, but we've known each other for a long time. It was nothing big. We hugged after the game," Pogba said.

bothered by what peo-

ple think about his game as he goes on

with his job of winning

Test matches for India.

blow-cold form over the

last few years, India's

Test vice-captain with

1095 runs in 17 games is

team's top scorer in the

two-year World Test

Despite his blow-hot-

I'VE REACHED HERE BECAUSE

OF CRITICISM, SAYS RAHANE

**Southampton, June** the flak that he has **16:** Ajinkya Rahane faced because of poor

"criticism" but has happy to take criti-never been too overtly cism. I feel it's because

doesn't mind a bit of run of scores?

Mbappe (centre) during their Euro group match at the Allianz Arena in Munich. - AFP lnjury mars Russia win St. Petersburg. June 16: Russia A special goal by Aleksei allowed Miranchuk

Russia to kickstart their Euro 2020 campaign with a 1-0 win over Finland in Saint Petersburg on Wednesday, but the game was marred by an injury to Mario Fernandes. Miranchuk, of Serie A

side Atalanta, produced a glorious finish in firsthalf stoppage time for the only goal of the game between the neighbours in Group B. It blows open

of the criticism I'm

here. I always want to

give my best whether

people criticise me or

"For me, it's impor-

tant to give my best for

my country and con-

tribute each and every

time be it as a batsman

or a fielder," Rahane

Having played Test

(Aleksei Miranchuk 45+2) **Finland** 

Germany's Matthias Ginter (left) vies for the ball with France's forward Kylian

one of nine participating nations at the Euro playing matches at home, had lost 3-0 to Belgium in their opening game at the week-

Finland had beaten Denmark 1-0 on Saturday, game completely overshadowed by Christian Eriksen's cardiac arrest.

I'm happy to take

because of the

criticism. I feel it's

criticism I'm here.

my best whether

I always want to give

people criticise me or

— AJINKYA

Here it was Russia's Fernandes, the Brazilian-born CSKA Moscow rightback, who provided an injury scare.

The 30-year-old went up for a high ball in the Finland box in the first half and came down awkwardly, the back of his neck taking the full force of the landing. He needed to be stabilised and was stretchered off before being taken to hospital.

The Russian team's Twitter feed said he was undergoing tests.

## **EMOTIONAL DENMARK TO FACE BELGIUM**

Copenhagen, June 16: Denmark can take heart that Christian Eriksen is recovering and will be cheering them on along with the rest of the country as they try to salvage their Euro 2020 campaign against fancied Belgium Copenhagen Thursday.

Kasper Hjulmand's talented side know that their qualification from Group B will be in jeopardy if they get the same treatment that leaders Belgium dished out to Russia on Saturday, and they need to bounce back from their traumatic 1-0 defeat by Finland.

#### **UKRAINE. MACEDONIA DESPERATE FOR WIN**

Both Ukraine and North Macedonia conceded late goals in their opening matches at the Euro, and both lost because of them.

The teams will next play each other at Euro on Thursday, knowing another loss just might end their chances of advancement. "We have two more games to go and we will still play with the same energy," said Ukraine Andriy captain

#### **DUTCH & AUSTRIA EYE MOMENTUM**

Netherlands will meet Austria in the team's second Group C match at the Johan Cruyff Arena.

Both the Dutch and the Austrians won their opening matches at Euro 2020, so both can advance with another victory.

The top two teams in each of the six groups advance to the knockout stage, along with the four best third-place teams.

Cristiano Ronaldo netted a double to become the European Championship's all-time leading scorer as times late on to beat a stubborn Hungary 3-0 in their Euro 2020 opener at a packed Puskas Arena on

Tuesday.
The holders, who appear to have a much stronger squad than when they won their first major title five years ago, laboured for long periods in Budapest. But Raphael Guerreiro

made the vital break-through in the 84th minute and Ronaldo slammed in a penalty shortly afterwards before tapping home in injury time. "We didn't deserve a 3-0

defeat, with a bit of luck it could have been a point each, but it was an experience of a lifetime," said Hungary goalkeeper Peter

#### **LEGEND PLATINI**

Ronaldo netted his 10th and 11th goals at Euro, surthe record of nine held by France legend Michel Platini. The 36-year-old has **Portugal** 

(Raphael Guerreiro 84,

#### Cristiano Ronaldo 87, 92) Hungary

■ All-time Euro top scorer with 11 goals and counting.

Milestone man

■ All-time top scorer for Portugal with 106 goals.

■ First player to appear in 5 Euro final tournaments.

■ First player to score at 5 consecutive Euro final tournaments.

now scored at five different European Championship finals tournaments and has 106 goals for his country in total, leaving him just three away from matching Iranian Ali Daei's all-time international scoring record of 109.

"I am really grateful to the team for helping me to score twice and be named man of the match," Ronaldo said.



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring a

## CR7 snub takes fizz out of Cola

Cristiano Ronaldo removed Coca-Cola bottles placed in front of him at a European Championships press conference here, which reportedly cost the global beverage giant a

staggering \$4 billion.

A well-known fitness enthusiast, Ronaldo set aside two Coca-Cola glass bottles which lay in front of him during a press conference ahead of Portugal's opening Euro match against Hungary here on Monday. In a video that has since

gone viral, the 36-year-old Juventus striker picked up a bottle of water instead saying "Agua!" in Portuguese, seemingly urging people to choose water over aerated drinks.

According to media reports, the share price of Coca-Cola, one of the official sponsors of Euro 2020, slipped from \$56.10 to \$55.22 almost immediately after Ronaldo's gesture.

The market valuation of

superstar 242 billion to USD 238 billion, a fall of USD 4 billion Reacting to the incident

Coca-Cola in a statement said "everyone is entitled to their drink preferences with different "tastes and needs'

Ronaldo has spoken about his uneasiness with carbonated drinks earlier as well. In December last year, he had tweeted, "My son has potential, We'll see if he will become a great footballer

'Sometimes he drinks Coke and eats crisps and it

#### **POGBA REMOVES BEER BOTTLE**

On Tuesday, France mid-fielder Paul Pogba removed a bottle Heineken beer that had been placed in front of him

at a press conference.
Pogba, a practising Muslim, removed the bottle when he sat down to speak to the media after his side's 1-0 win over Germany.

## **INDIA DISMISS BEAUMONT BUT ENGLAND CONSOLIDATE**

Bristol, June 16: India women picked up the crucial wicket of Tammy Beaumont (66) in the second session but England women consolidated their position by reaching 162 for two at tea on the opening day of the one-off Test here on Wednesday.

After getting rid of Lauren Winfield-Hill (35) in the first session of the day, India toiled hard for most part of the post-lunch period before debutant off-spinner Sneh Rana picked up her maiden Test wicket.

She got rid of in-form of Beaumont, who was brilliantly caught by Shafali Verma at short leg. Beaumont faced 166 balls and decorated her innings with six fours en route to her second Test fifty.

Skipper Heather Knight (47 not out) batted cautiously and remained unbeaten in the company of Natalie Sciver (11 not out) as England made 76 runs off 28 overs in the second session.

Earlier, the hosts made a solid 86 for one in the opening session. The Indian pace duo of veteran Jhulan Goswami and Shikha Pandey made a promising start, doing just enough to trouble the English batswoman on more than one occasion.

Brief scores: England 162/2 in 55 overs (Lauren Winfield-Hill 35, Tammy Beaumont 66, Heather Knight 47 (batting); Pooja Vastrakar 1/37, Sneh Rana 1/33) vs India.

#### Championship cycle leading to the final against New Zealand. cricket for more than eight years, Rahane **RAHANE** India vice-captain 'It feels special," knows that public opin-Rahane said about ion is fickle and at best emerging as the top left alone with scorer. But what about controllables. left alone with focus on

## ENVY OF WORLD Gavaskar says India's batting depth is highly admirable

New Delhi, June 16: Former captain Sunil Gavaskar says India's batting depth helps them bounce back from tough situations, as they face an upbeat New Zealand in World Championship final this

India have a host of batting stars in their line-up including skipper Virat Kohli, his deputy Ajinkya Rahane and dashing opener Rohit Sharma.

R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, both spinners who have six Test centuries between them while batting in the mid-dle and lower-middle order, are also expected to take to the field in the clash Southampton starting

Friday. "With Ashwin and Jadeja playing so well, India's batting depth is the envy of the cricketing world," Gavaskar, who is

## **TAYLOR SAYS KOHLI & CO. HAVE SET BAR REALLY HIGH**

Southampton, June 16: Senior New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor has said India have set the bar really high and considering their bench strength, it will be an extremely tough battle for his team during the World Test Championship final beginning June 18. "You go through the Indian line-up, all world-class players all through and whatever side they do decide to go with, they will leave out some world-class players as well. We know whatever XI we face will be very tough," Taylor said.

"India have been a world no.1 side and they have kept the bar really high for a long period of time, everyone in the world had to catch up to and I don't see any difference, yes we had a couple of Tests here but playing India in home, away or neutral venue will be a tough opposition," he said. — *PTI* 

in England as a television on bouncing. pundit for the final said. 'Yes, there could be the

New Zealand, led by the world's top Test batsman bad-innings like Kane Williamson, head Adelaide, Australia, but into the final with a recent 1-0 win over hosts this team is like a wonderful rubber ball, always England in a two-match bouncing back and keep

perennial underdogs New Zealand now have quality players in their team that settled well in English conditions. "New Zealand have

invariably flown under the radar and thus underestimated by the opposition," said Ğavaskar.

"They have one of the greatest batsmen in the world in their team as well as a pace bowler who will be among the greatest left arm pacers too. They will be high on confidence after the win over England," he added.

India last played in March and are coming out of a stint in quaranbut Gavaskar believes the team would be hungry to perform.

"In terms of match practise, yes, the Indians may feel a bit undercooked but they will be hungry to get into action," he said. — *PTI* 

### **OF FORMAT** Southampton, June 16: New Zealand pacer Tim Southee on Wednesday said changes can be made to the format of the World

Ajinkya Rahane

Test Championship final going ahead, instead of it being a one-off match.
"At the start of the twoyear cycle, we knew that it was going to be a one-off final. Maybe it's something they can look at

**SOUTHEE BATS** 

**FOR CHANGE** 

potentially mal changes," Southee said. "It was made clear two years ago at the start of the cycle, what was required to win the championship.

going forward and then

"It's been great to put context around the Test game, to have the twoyear cycle. There have already been adjustments going forward to the next cycle. So, it'll be an evolving thing," he added.
"It's been long time

since we won Champions Trophy in 2000. We've come very close in the last last couple," added the premier bowler of New Zealand.

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