# nicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | FRIDAY | 21 MAY 2021





Forecast: Rain or thundershowers likely. Max/Min temp. 38/26ºC

#### ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana Tithi: Vaishakha Shuddha Navami till 11.06 am Star: Poorva Phalguni till 3.16pm Varjyam: 10.05 pm to 11.36 pm Durmuhurtam: 8.21 am to 9.12 am; 12.38 pm to 1.30 pm Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon **HIJRI CALENDAR** 

**Shawwal** 8,1442 AH **PRAYERS Fajar:** 4.35 am

**Zohar:** 12.22 pm **Asar:** 4.44 pm Maghrib: 6.48 pm

Isha: 8.03 pm

**SUNSET TODAY 6.43 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.43 AM MOONRISE** TODAY 12.43 PM **MOONSET** TOMORROW 12.59 AM





Our kids are having enough milk... they are using only our urine and dung!

#### TAKES

#### **SSC** grades to be declared today

Hyderabad: The TS Secondary School Certificate (SSC) grades will be declared on Friday at 11 am on bse.telangana.gov.in, said an official from the state education department on Thursday. The exams were cancelled last month and all students were declared passed. The results have been prepared on the basis of their performance in

■ Full report on Page 2

#### **New tax efiling** site from June 7

New Delhi: The income-tax department is expected to launch a new e-filing web portal for taxpayers, which they use to file routine ITRs and perform other taxrelated works from June 7, officials said on Thursday The existing web portal www.incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in will be shut for six days between June 1-6. Officials said the new portal www.incometaxgov.in will be made more

#### **India sought 40K FB users' data**

user-friendly.

New Delhi: Facebook said it has received 40,300 requests from the Indian government for user data in the second half of 2020. This was 13.3 per cent higher from the January-June 2020 period when India had made 35,560 total requests, according to the Facebook's Transparency Report. The company restricted access to 878 items in India in response to directions from the Union IT ministry.

#### **Bharat Biotech**

**boosts** capacity

Hyderabad: Bharat Biotech has decided to boost its vaccine manufacturing capacity for Covaxin by adding yet another production line at its Ankleshwarbased subsidiary Chiron Behring Vaccines. The Hyderabad-based company has already been producing its Covid vaccine at its Hyderabad and Bengaluru facilities.

■ Full report on Page 2





SPORTS 8

**Rahul Dravid is India** coach for Lanka series

#### **TABLOID**

**World Meditation Day:** For that state of Zen

Vol. 20 No. 355 Established 1938 | 16 pages | ₹6.00

### Govt hospitals hog limelight Navy confirms 37 After KCR's visit to GGH, ministers tour hospitals in districts

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD MAY 20

Government hospitals have begun attracting unusual attention all of a sudden, thanks to Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao's visit to Gandhi Hospital on Wednesday.

A day after the CM's

visit, several ministers made a beeline to government hospitals in their respective districts to interact with doctors, staff and Covid patients, so as to instil confidence among them and ensure better treatment facilities on par with private hospitals.

As the CM's Gandhi Hospital visit evoked a

DC CORRESPONDENT

After establishing a full-

fledged TS Public Service

Commission (TSPSC) on

Wednesday, Chief Minis-

ter K. Chandrashekar Rao

has now shifted his focus to state universities that

were functioning without

He has cleared names of

VCs for 10 universities and referred them to Governor Tamilisai Soun-

dararajan, the Chancellor

of Universities, for appr-

oval, according to official

sources. The universities include Osmania, Kaka-

tiva, Telangana, Satava-

hana, Palamuru, Maha-

tma Gandhi, JNTÚ-Hyder-

abad, Telugu University,

Ambedkar Open University and JNAFAU.

Following the Gover-

almost two years now.

vice-chancellors

HYDERABAD, MAY 20

**Government hospitals** and the public health sector are getting more prominence after the Chief Minister took over the health portfolio from Etala Rajendar on May 2.

ous quarters, he wanted to continue his 'government hospitals yatra' along with finance minister T. Harish Rao. The two would visit government hospitals in headquarters starting with Warangal MGM Hospital on Friday. Energy minister G. Jagadish Reddy visited the government hospitals in Nalgonda district on Thursday. Roads and buildings

KCR clears V-Cs for 10

varsities, awaits Gov. nod

The government has

Governor Tamilisai

Soundararajan for

day or two.

referred the names to

approval. Following her

orders will be issued in a

will issue orders appoint-

Administrative and aca-

demic activities of all

those varsities have been badly affected in the last

two years. They could not fill teaching and non-

teaching vacancies in the

absence of regular V-Cs. A

majority of the posts continue to remain vacant.

When the V-Cs of these

10 universities retired in

July 2019, the state govern-

ment appointed IAS offi-

cers as in-charge VCs, a decision that drew sharp

criticism from academi-

ing V-Cs in a day or two.

nod, the appointment

minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy visited hospitals in Nizamabad district. Endowments minister A. Indrakaran Reddy went to hospitals in Adilabad district, Panchayat Raj minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao and women and child welfare minister Sathyavathi Rathod did so in Warangal, transport minister Puvvada Ajay in Khammam and agricul-ture minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy in

Mahbubnagar district. Government hospitals and the public health sector are getting more prominence after the Chief Minister took over the health portfolio from Etala

munity, student unions

and opposition parties. At

one stage, even the Governor expressed dis-

pleasure over the inordi-

nate delay and urged the

government to expedite

In the meantime, some petitions were filed in the

High Court over the gov-

appointing VCs. The court

also rapped the govern-

ment for the delay on vari-

The pace at which

Chandrasekhar Rao is fill-

ing up vacancies and nom-

inated posts in the govern-

ment has raised hopes of disgruntled TRS leaders,

who are eyeing them. TRS

leaders, who failed to

contest Assembly and Lok

Sabha polls and those who

lost elections, are lobby-

ing for nominated posts in

party tickets to

ernment's failure

the process.

ous occasions.

He has roped in two key ministers — K.T. Rama Rama Rao and Harish Rao - to handle crucial issues of Covid vaccination, injections and recruitment of health staff in government hospitals etc. Rama Rao was appointed as chairman of the state task force on the procurement of vaccines and medicines. He is working on getting increased supplies of vaccines from the Centre and is also engaged in discussions with vaccine makers. Harish Rao is dealing with the day-to-day administration of the health department on behalf of the CM.

Page 2: Medical fraternity upbeat over CM's visit

#### **ITR FILING DUE DATE EXTENDED** TILL SEPT. 30

New Delhi, May 20: The government on Thursday extended the due date of filing income tax returns for 2020-21 for individuals by two

months till September 30. The CBDT has also extended the ITR filing deadline for companies by a month till November 30.

For individuals whose accounts are not required to be audited and who file their income tax return using ITR-1 or ITR-4 forms the deadline to file ITR is July 31. The deadline for taxpayers, like companies or firms, whose accounts are required to be audited is October 31.

The deadline for issuing Form 16 by employers to employees has been extended by a month till July 15, 2021. — *PTI* 

**Full report on Page 7** 

# from barge dead

Barge's engineer blames loss of lives on punctured life rafts and captain's attitude

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC

The Indian Navy Thursday confirmed the death of 37 personnel onboard barge P305, with recoveries of their dead bodies. The barge P305 went adrift and sank in the Arabian Sea off Mumbai coast during Cyclone Tauktae and search operation for at least 36 missing personnel is still in and 188 of the 261 onboard have already been rescued by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard. The barge sank 35 nauti-

cal miles off Mumbai as Cyclone Tauktae battered India's west coast. P305 was amongst the four barges that suffered during the cyclone. The other three were Gal Constructor and Support Station-3 deployed by engineering firm Afcons for its ONGC contract.

'In one of most challenging SAR Ops in aftermath of #CycloneTauktae 325 survivors have been rescued & 37 #BNV recovered off Mumbai & Gujarat Coasts. Vigorous SAR efforts continue for the missing crew of Barge P305 which sank off Mumbai with 05 IN ships, aircraft & helos deployed," Indian spokesperson tweeted on Thursday.

The Navy is leading a massive, round-the-clock rescue effort that includes several of its ships, P-81 reconnaissance aircraft and Sea King helicopters, as well as Coast Guard and ONGC vessels, to detect survivors from the sunken



Rescued crew members of the barge P305, being brought at an Indian Naval Ship off the Mumbai coast on Thursday.

stranded or affected by the storm.

Indian Navy Commodore Ajay Jha said that the Navy on Thursday morning launched a fresh aerial search and rescue mission, deploying helicopters and Indian Navy ships worked through the night, using searchlights to trace any movement in the dark waters to look for survivors. According to Jha, the search operations would continue for anoth-

er three days at least. The Directorate General of Shipping had already ordered an investigation into the deaths. Now the Mumbai Police has also announced a probe into barge P-305 remaining in the area despite storm

According to barge's Chief Engineer Rahman board could have been saved had many of the life rafts not had punctures and the captain taken the cyclone warnings serious-

On Thursday morning the Coast Guard said another missing tug — Sangeeta, with a crew of 10 had been located about 10 nautical miles west of Maharashtra's Tarapur. Another Navy ship INS Talwar was the 'On Scene

Coordinator' off Gujarat coast and assisted Support Station 3 (SS-3) and Drill Ship Sagar Bhushan, which were being safely towed back to Mumbai by ONGC support vessels, an

### Stinking HCA scrap rises to the top

**DC CORRESPONDENT** HYDERABAD, MAY 20

Muck in the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) has hit the ceiling. With five of the elected Apex Council members up against president Mohammed Azharuddin ever since the acrimonious Annual general meeting (AGM) on April 11, the HCA heavyweights have been landing blows and counters for control of the cricket body. The former Indian captain is in a tight

corner and outnumbered. First, it was the appointment of Ombudsman and Ethics Officer on which the two groups weren't on the same page. Now it is the newly appointed CEO who is caught in the cross-

Azhar has taken strong objection to the nomination of Suneel Kante for the top executive post and has written to secretaries



R. Vijayanand



Mohammed Azharuddin

HCA president Mohammed Azharuddin has taken strong objection to the nomination of Suneel Kante for CEO. He alleged "violations of the constitution of HCA and procedural infirmities.'

The rival group put out Kante's CV that lists him holding a MBA degree and having worked for companies such as Tata Technologies, Ernst & Young and EXL with stints in the UK and the USA.

of affiliated clubs, listing out the anomalies in the appointment, which the other group claims was done at the AGM that continued after the president ended it abruptly (after a ruckus) and walked out president, secretary, joint

with his supporters without completing the agenda. Last week, HCA secretary R. Vijayanand sent out a note saying Kante has taken charge as CEO in the presence of the vice-

secretary and treasurer and was available at the HCA office at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium. Azhar contends Kante

does not fulfil the criteria, and threw the rule book at his rivals as he alleged violations of the constitution of HCA & procedural infirmities in the hiring of the CEO."

"It is only logical to assume that the hiring process was done under the collective responsibility and watchful eyes of the Vice-President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer and Councillor. Neither me, the players' council representatives nor the CÂG representative were kept in the loop on this hir-ing," the HCA president said, accusing them of con-spiring to bulldoze the Constitution.

■ Page 2: Hiring process wasn't followed, says Azhar

### Black fungus is now a notifiable disease

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MAY 20

The black fungus disease has been declared a notifiable disease by the state government on Thursday. This makes it compulsory for all hospitals to report to the government all such cases that come to their hospitals, ENT clin-ics, eye hospitals and eye clinics. Those who take up these cases for treatment have to alert the govern-

ment on the same day.

The guidelines for screening, diagnosis and management were issued by the Union health ministry and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). All suspected and confirmed cases must be reported to the health department, the government said, adding there must be strict com-

pliance of protocols. This will help the gov-ernment and the private sector identify the incidence of the disease. It will also help in under-standing what has gone wrong and led to the emergence of the black fungus disease on a large scale.

A health official from the epidemiology wing of the state government explained, "Lowered cell immunity, improper use of humidifiers for oxygen at home and at makeshift hospitals and uncontrolled diabetes are the three main causes. An audit shows that these cases have risen in home treatment and that will require up-skilling them as all mild cases cannot be shifted to hospitals.

■ Page 2: Fungal infection prolongs morbidity: Centre

diarrhoea and vomiting.

Some of the children may

have a moderate disease

with fast breathing and/or

oxygen level being 90-94

per cent. These children

Dr Shivaranjani said

newborn babies can also get Covid like the older

kids. But the percentage of

babies getting the severe

disease is more than that

in older kids. Such babies

would feed poorly and

need to be hospitalised.



#### **VIJAYAN TAKES OATH AS KERALA CM FOR 2ND TIME**

Thiruvananthapuram, May 20: CPI(M) veteran Pinarayi Vijayan, who led the Left Democratic Front (LDF) to an unprecedented consecutive victory in the April 6 assembly polls, on Thursday took oath as Chief Minister of Kerala for the second time along with 20 ministers.

Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administered the oath of office to 77-year-old Vijayan and ministers in a low-key function at the Central Stadium here, which was held completely in accordance with the Covid protocol

Congratulating Vijay-an, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "Congratulations to Shri @vijayanpinarayi Ji on taking oath as CM and commencing his second term in office,"

It is the Marxist veteran's second stint in the top office. While 15 ministers including the Chief Minister took oath in the name of the Indian Constitution, five took it in the name of God.

Representative of the Indian National League in the CPI(M)-led ministry, Ahamed Devarkovil, took oath in the name of Allah. — PTI

VIRUS | ALERT

#### Paediatricians advise parents to keep children hydrated and physically active

# Covid may spark inflammation among kids

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, MAY. 20

With the weather fluctuating, paediatricians have asked parents to be careful about their children in case they show symptoms like fever, cough or vomit-ing, for they could have contracted the Coronavirus. They point out that a variant of the virus during the second wave has been affecting children.

Experts have also cautioned about the multisystem inflammatory syn-

that is affecting children recovering from Covid-19 or whose family member had been infected by the virus. Childcare specialists have recommended vitamin D tablets for children who have been barred from playing outside and cannot be in sunlight. They should be exposed to indoor fitness activities, such as stretching exercises and yoga. Further, all children must be kept well-hydrat-

drome in children (MIS-C)

Paediatrician Dr Shiva-

#### **DON'T LOWER GUARD**

Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) can surface within four weeks after children have recovered from Covid-19. They can also acquire it from persons with suspected or proven Coronavirus infection.

During this period, they may get a fever lasting more than 24 hours. It could be associated with rashes over the body, red eyes, red inner mouth; severe stomach pain with vomiting, diarrhoea, severe dullness, cold and seizures.

Prolonged use of multivitamins can harm the child. Consult a paediatrician for required dosage. Eight glasses of water a day is a must for children. Some children have a slight fever even after the recovery from Covid-19. In

such cases, a paediatrician should be consulted.

that most children get only virus. They may have fever days, sore throat, some ranjani Santosh disclosed a mild form of Corona- for a maximum of five cough and cold; and mild

■ Page 2: Get kids physically engaged, say doctors

remain dull.



IN BRIEF

#### **Rly: RT-PCR report** must for Maha

Hyderabad: The railways has issued an advisory to passengers whose destination is Maharashtra that they must carry an RT-PCR negative report, which is a requirement of the Maharashtra government. The RT-PCR negative certificate will have to be issued up to a maximum of 48 hours before the time of entering Maharashtra.

#### 3 held for black marketing drugs

Hyderabad: Three men, including a pharmacist, were on Thursday held for selling anti-fungal injections that are used to treat black fungus for ₹50,000 per vial, as against the MRP of ₹305. Officials from north zone task force team in Panjagutta also seized five injection vials and three mobiles from them. The accused, Falaram Kashajah and Sugali Vinod Kumar Naik, both 23, and Mohd Khaja Nizam, 30 were nabbed from Pochamma basti in Panjagutta while in possession of amphotericin B injections, said the police. "Noticing the high demand for the injections, they hatched a plan and with the help of Mohd Khaja Nizam, who works at MNR Pharmacy, started targetting gullible people and sold each vial for ₹50,000," police said.

#### **BHARAT BIOTECH TO BOOST COVAXIN PRODUCTION**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MAY 20

Bharat Biotech has decided to boost its vaccine manufacturing capacity for Covaxin by adding yet another production line at its Ankleshwar-based subsidiary, Chiron Behring Vaccines. The company has already been producing its Covid-19 vaccine at its Hyderabad and Bengaluru

The company said it plans to produce 20 crore doses of Covaxin per annum in the GMP facilities that are already operational for the production of vaccines. The product availability at Ankleshwar, the company said, will commence from October 2021. The additional manufacturing at Chiron Behring would effectively take the volumes up to 100 crore doses per annum, with its own established campuses.

#### **SSC 2021 GRADES TO BE DECLARED TODAY**

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, MAY 20

The TS Secondary School Cert ificate (SSC) grades will be declared on Friday at 11 am on the official website bse telangana.gov.in. This was stated by an official from the state education department here on Thursday. The exams were cancelled last month and all students were declared passed The results have been prepared on the basis of their performance in internal assessments.

The government had announced that grades would be awarded duly considering the performances in internal assessment marks for 20 per cent (only one formative assessment was conducted instead of two due to Covid-19) and 20 per cent of internal marks would be scaled up to 100 per cent marks.

Over 5.5 lakh students who have been promoted to the next class will receive their grades as a one-time measure. Last year too, about 5.3 lakh SSC students were assessed for results based on year-long performance due to lockdown that came into force in March.

#### **UTTAM: GIVE FREE** TREATMENT TO **BPL FAMILIES**

**Hyderabad:** TPCC president and Nalgonda MP N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, on Thursday demanded that the state gov-ernment ensure that all BPL families in the state get free treatment for Covid-19 and non-BPL families must be given treatment in private hospitals at regulated charges. He also demanded that ambulances should be provided at nominal charges. He said that while many states are providing free treatment, people in the state were being forced to pay for getting the treatment. He said that ₹10 lakh ex gratia is given to the kin of persons who die of Covid in other

## People shift to meditation for calm

SRIRAM KARRI I DC

On turning 43 in May two year ago, Pushpak, a highly successful senior executive with a global fin-tech firm located in the Financial District, made several changes in his lifestyle. These included getting a farm house in the town, buying a new SUV and promising to block his calendar for a family holiday abroad.

His fitness goals included joining a gym, cycling and running. His life revolved around the stress of managing his own wealth portfolio as also his finan-

cial goals and ambitions. Two years later, the SUV means far less to him. His farmhouse seems a trifle less important.

He has lost two members in his extended family, a close friend and several friends. He has failed at least in one case: despite all the money, he failed to get an ICU bed for a close relative in another city.

He now has a new priority; having peace of mind. After many trials, he has chosen an unlikely route – meditation - to achieve his

Speaking on the eve of World Meditation Day, Pushpak says, "I knew it



Spiritual leader Daaji during one of the sessions of Heartfulness meditation.

but missed the significance of such an elementary truth in life. Life is all breathing. breathe, we are alive. For all my life, I took it for granted. Today, anxiety and stress, fear and worry are all taking a toll on my life. Corona has raised questions on what we thought was our success. The calm of being aware of mv own breath has been the greatest learning."

He's alone now. Hordes of people have been forced by the pandemic and its continuing challenges to seek and find mental peace through meditation.

Kamala Chirravuri, one of the top-notch yoga meditation teachers Hyderabad, has celebrities — those with serious men-

tal issues and corporate executives — seeking her help. She offers them counseling and personalised yoga-meditation solutions. 'Meditation as defined by Patanjali comprises dharana and dhyana. Dharana

is singularly focusing all our conscious attention on one object, the starting point of meditation. Dhyana is the highest level point we can achieve, wherein we are immersed and become one with the flow,' When asked about her

heightened interest in meditation, Kamala replies, "It feels like we are in the midst of a mythological pralaya. To face the unrest outside, we must find strength, peace and calm within. Once we learn to

**CENTRE: FUNGAL** 

focus our attention within, and become aware of our breath, we find a center and we reduce the imbalance that causes stress, anxiety and unrest.

A trainer in the Krishnamacharya tradition, Kamala is comfortable with the diversity of meditation techniques. "There are many techniques from Vipassana, the focus on breath and sensations, to chanting of 'Om' to visualizations. Anything that works for you! But the one constant in life is our breath-

Sanjay Sehgal, a US-based master and guide of Heartfulness meditation, says, "In our technique, we begin with thought as a focal point and dive deeper into the heart. This is a 76-



years-old technique of diving deeper and achieving a higher level of conscious-

He says, "People may reach out for various reasons. Relieving your stress or finding peace is easy. I often say, you can find peace with a peg of good whiskey or if you can av-oid fighting with your sp-ouse. But finding sustainable inner peace, to be a better person, is harder, which is where we take you to."

The heart-centered meditation, which has millions of practitioners, over 14,000 trainers and over 260 ashrams in 130 nations, renders its service all free.

When quizzed about the recent spurt in interest, Sehgal says, "Even a basic practice of pranayamam will help you at a physical level. It expands your lungs and eases the flow of air from your nose to inside. It can most certainly help during Covid times. Bad things can happen to anyone. But a great gift of meditation is that it helps you alter and find a better sense of control over your own reactions and responses. I have seen in my own family that those who meditate had a distinctly different and qualitatively better response to the emergencies arising out of the Covid pandemic than to

those who don't meditate.' Trainers have adopted technology in the Covid season to ensure that meditation can be taught in the virtual mode. From an institutional meditation like Heartfulness, whose global headquarters is in Hyderabad and whose spiritual leader Daaji has held remote virtual sessions to individual trainers like Kamala, to those who are doing sessions through Zoom or Google Meets, technology is helping bring together the agitated with those who guide you

to inner peace. For more, you can contact www.heartfulness.org or access the Hearts App or write to anilkamala@gmail.com for a session.

#### **150 GET ADMITTED** TO ENT HOSPITAL: **BLACK FUNGUS**

KANIZA GARARI | DC

As many as 150 persons have been admitted with black fungus infection or mucormycosis at the Government ENT Hospital here in the last three days. The maximum of these patients were from different districts of Telangana state who came in once facility declared the nodal centre for treatment.

Doctors say they have only 50 unoccupied beds and the hospital is now full with in-patients of black fungus infection. Severe cases have been admitted where the infection is in the nose and space behind the eyes. Mild cases of sinus are being treated at out-patient level and oral medicines prescribed.

The out-patient ENT department is also seeing a huge rush of patients as Covid-recovered patients are coming to the hospital for check-ups. Panic about the disease is also causing many to get themselves checked.

Doctors have advised the recovered patients to wear masks at home, which will help in prevention. From the admitted patients, it was found that only 30 per cent of them had uncontrolled sugar levels while the others were found to have sideeffects of steroids and lowered cell-immunity due to the virus.

Mucormycosis maximum patients has affected the eyes and this will require ear, nose, throat and eve doctors to step in with help in the treatment

A doctor at the hospital says, "There are a few patients whose both eyes have turned black. These will require aggressive treatment. The challenge is to save lives and also save vision in at least one eye. These patients will be attended to on a pri-

ority basis." Stocks of amphotericin B are sufficient, stated doctors, adding, they are being directly supplied by the Telangana State Medical Devices and Infrastructure Dev-

elopment Corporation. The cases in ENT Hospital indicate more men than females suffering from the disease. The ratio is 9 males per one female for every 10 cases. The cases among the age group of 30-50 years are high. Those who were under home treatment and did not take steroids have also reported severe infec-

tions of black fungus.

Dr Manish Gupta senior ENT surgeon at the hospital, explained: 'The Covid19 virus reduces cell immunity, making the human body susceptible to fun-Improving cell immunity in recovery is impor-tant." With the antifungal medicines available, doctors are confident that after surgical intervention in the treatment will be effective as the medicine removes the fungus completely from the

### Doctors: Get kids physically engaged

From Page 1

The doctor, however, maintained that severe disease affects only 1–2 per cent of

Dr Sudheer Charles, a paediatrician, said, "Don't let children venture outside during this time as the weather is fluctuating. Make sure houses are totally ventilated. Provide children a healthy and timely diet, apart from keeping them engaged and happy.'

Dr Suchitra Dontamala, associate professor of paediatrics and neonatology, Gandhi Hospital, said, "Limitations due to lockdown must be countered by encouraging physical activity. The time of children playing with gadgets should be reduced. They must be given vitamin Ď supplements.

She wanted children to be given liquids like water, fresh fruit juices and coconut water. Otherwise dehydration could raise their body temperature. Overeating among them should be to be avoided and it should be ensured that they sleep well.

 DR SUCHITRA Dontamala, associate professor of paediatrics and neonatology, Gandhi Hospital, said, "Limitations due to lockdown must be countered by encouraging physical activity.



Dr Sivaranjani Santosh



Dr Suchitra Dontamala



**Dr Sudheer Charles** 

#### MEDICAL FRATERNITY UPBEAT OVER CM'S VISIT TO GOVT HOSPITALS

From Page 1

The CM has decided to set up 48 oxygen production plants in major government hospitals in all districts besides opening six new medical colleges in the government sector, mostly in interior and backward

districts. The medical fraternity in the government sector is upbeat over the visits by the CM and the ministers to government hospitals and they are hoping this will boost the image of hospitals as well help spruce up the infrastructure.

#### **MORBIDITY** From Page 1 The Union health ministry

**INFECTION PROLONGS** 

said a new challenge has emerged in the form of black fungus disease. This has been reported from many states, from amongst Covid19 patients, especially those on steroid therapy and deranged sugar con-

"This fungal infection is leading to prolonged morbidity and mortality "Control of the protection of t amongst Covid19 patients," Lav Agarwal, joint secretary in the Union health ministry, said.

The treatment of this fungal infection requires multidisciplinary consisting of eye surgeons, ENT specialists, general surgeon, neurosurgeon and dental maxillo facial surgeon, among others, and institution of amphotericin-B injection as an antifungal medicine.

#### **TMREIS EXTENDS LAST DATE FOR ADMISSIONS**

Hyderabad: Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) has extended to May 31 the last date for online submission of applications for admission into classes V, VI, VII, VIII and Intermediate first year for academic year 2021–22.TMREIS secretary B Shafiullah requested students and parents to utilise this opportunity and submit online applications through the TMREIS mobile app or tmreis.telangana.gov.in.

Applications can also be submitted at offices of the schools and junior colleges by those who do not have internet facilities. Further details can be gathered from TMREIS website or by contacting district minority.

STORIES OF HOPE

### Hiring process wasn't followed, says Azhar received on email. I would holding a Master in

FROM PAGE 1

"The rule says there shall be an appropriate induction process laid down by the Apex Council for the CEO and the managers, which shall include a fair and transparent process of appointment," Azhar added.

"As per the advertisement issued on October 27, 2020, for CEO & CFO, the six requirements Management degree with sufficient experience in different layers of organisation; knowledge of budget planning and financial operational knowledge cricket operations; ability to innovative implement administrative methods; should possess the ability to handle regulatory bodies and should be a team

player. "Twelve CVs were received on email between October 27, 2020 and November 11, 2020 The CV of the selected candidate announced by the Secretary is not in the applications

be surprised if the 12 applicants were even called for an interview. Shortlisted applicants should have been tested by a panel of experts from the fields of cricket, finance, management, compliance administration. None of this was followed. 'The law also says he

should have management experience of at least 5 years as CEO/MD of a company having turnover of at least ₹100 crores besides having knowledge & familiarity with cricket & other sports; understanding of the financial position & fiscal direction of HCA: knowledge of operations of cricket administration & overall policy; clarity on role, division of responsibilities & hierarchy and familiarity with regulatory legal responsibilities & attendant risks. All the above requirements of law were blatantly violated," Azhar alleged.

The rival group put out Kante's CV that lists him

**Business Administration** and worked for companies such Technologies, Ernst & Young and EXL with stints in the UK and the Ironically, in the previ-

ous episode, it was Azhar who went ahead with the appointment of an ombudsman which was challenged by the group over procedures and violations of norms.

Azhar says there's an enquiry initiated against some members of the Council and that they should get their names cleared by the authority before administration can resume and Council meetings con-

The opposite group is levelling charges, raking up Azhar's past and pending CBI cases on match fixing and betting. This ugly confrontation

definitely dragging Hyderabad through mud, and the game looks far from gentlemanly now.

### Final yr medicos join Covid battle

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, MAY 20

tives from the central and governments to dents to join duty and serve in Covid wards, over 250 students from medical colleges in the state would do special training outside of their regular fields so as to help

tive prompted a team of doctors and public health experts in the state to nars to inform and teach students on practical treatments and differing the first and second

for the past five days. final year medical courses, and are now adding

classes, said

#### ences between handling In a follow-up to the direcand risk assessment dur-

those in need. The government's direc-

Covid waves. The team led by Dr P.S. Vijayender, a public health expert and professor at one of the medical colleges in the state, has been taking these classes They started it with about 30-40 volunteers from

training was to help lift off a part of the burden on our medical practitioners. These students on the way to become healthcare workers need to be able to help the needy efficiently. For that, they need expert training from as many doctors as possible before they jump into the real world. So far, practitioners like Dr Karuna Madap, a pediatrician and another doctor from AIIMS Rishikesh have helped with the

oxygen. I got this number

on a social network site

and contacted them. They

#### **AYUSH HAS CURE FOR BLACK FUNGUS: CHIEF**

AYUSH (Ayurveda, Una-

Hyderabad:

immediately came with the oxygen cylinder. Without charging us for the service, they fixed the oxygen and left. At that time, it was a life-saver. Our family is Vishal Temker, another control of black fungus disease among Covid patients on Wednesday, a day later she said that formulation unani

#### Team of Sikh youths helps patients in isolation THIS GROUP lives in the surrounding areas of got infected. She required

**SANJAY SAMUEL** PAUL I DC HYDERABAD MAY 20

Twenty friends from the Sikh community came forward and extended their help to Covid19 patients here in the past 15 days. Some 35 families have been benefited by their efforts

They are supplying free oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators required medicines to those who are getting treated in home isolation.

This group lives in the surrounding areas of Ameerpet. Its members are of different age-groups and different backgrounds. This group was formed with six members on May 1. They initially bought four cylinders, then

grew up to 20, having equipment of 21 oxygen cylinders and four oxygen concentrators. Along with these, free medication is supplied. Kunaldeep Singh, work-

ing in a corporate sector, said, "This idea occurred to us when we were sitting at the gurudwara at Ameerpet and discussing how we can be of some use to these suffering people. We friends wanted to start doing something immediately. Initially, we decided to distribute free food. But, the need for oxygen emerged. We changed the plan to procure oxygen cylinders and oxygen concentrators.

cylinder for five days. He "A Covid patient we has recovered." helped is Shanker Yadav. We provided him oxygen



Sikh community members supply free oxygen cylinders. oxygen concentrators to Covid-19 patients.

Sukwinder Kaur said,

lost seven close family members. This made me "Due to this pandemic, I something for those affect-

initially bought four cylinders. ed by this disease. When the idea was shaping up, we knew it will be a great help to many. We started pooling in money. As our progressed, many more came forward to give us funds. We

Ameerpet. Its members

groups and from different

backgrounds. This group

members on May 1. They

are of different age-

was formed with six

Mahesh Chand Agarwal, a beneficiary from Balkampet, said, "My wife

us in this endeavour.

beneficiary, lives in Vidyanagar. "My father got infected. He was treated in a private hospital for seven days. When he was discharged, his condition was not stable. Doctors advised that he be kept on oxygen support. I knew one of the group members doing this activity. When contacted, they helped us with the setexpanded our services. We hope more people will join ting up of the oxygen cylin-

thankful to them.

der free of cost. This was a great help to us.

#### ni, Siddha, Homoe-opathy) department appears to be on the offensive in the battle against mucormycosis or black fungus infections with its director claiming that AYUSH systems can help fight the disease. After claiming that ayurvedic formulations could help in

could be used as prophylactics for Covid-19 patients to help boost their immunity and possibly help prevent subsequent black fungus infections among those vulnerable to the disease.

### OTHER STORIES

#### **VILLAGERS IMPOSE ₹1K FINE FOR NOT WEARING MASK**

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, MAY 20

Laxmipuram in Mudigonda mandal of Khammam district have decided to impose a penalty of ₹1,000 on any person entering the village without wearing a mask. The same has been displayed on a board erected at the entrance of the

Police are also extending assistance to the villagers in

New Laxmipuram sarpanch Vagadani Kannaiah said the decision has been taken in consultation with people of the village, who have extended their wholehearted support to the penalty of ₹1,000.

"At the same time, we also convinced all people within our village to venture out only after wear masks," he pointed

Sarpanch Kannaiah said that the second wave of Covid-19 has caused tension among people from all walks of life. The death rate is alarming and it is time to protect ourselves even if it means taking drastic measures

He asserted that the norms stipulated by the village, including ₹1,000 fine for not wearing mask, are for safety of people. "There is no second opinion about it," he added.

#### **TWO CHECK DAMS COLLAPSE DUE TO POOR QUALITY: BJP**

**DC CORRESPONDENT** KARIMNAGAR, MAY 20

The BJP district unit president Gangadi Krishna Reddy has demanded that the state government take immediate action against the contractor and the officials for poor quality construction works leading to the washing away of a check dams on the Manair bridge in Korkal and Lasmakkapalli villages of Veenavanka mandal.

Referring to the fall of these check dams, Krishna Reddy said there was no supervision of the works by officials, who instead kept quiet after taking bribes from contractors. Crores of money went into the pockets of the contractor and officials, he said.

The check dams constructed at a cost of ₹12.59 crore did not last for even a few days. The check dams would have benefited not only to the farmers of this region but also the fishermen community and others living in the surrounding vil-

Krishna Reddy criticised the government for giving contracts to shady men looting public money by way of taking up works and doing a shoddy job. This must be a lesson to the government, and it should take up works on new check dam on Manair and maintain high standards, he

If the government does not take action against the con-cerned officials and the contractor, the BJP will hold protest demonstrations at the damaged sites of the check dams, he said.

#### **3 COVID DEATHS IN FAMILY LED TO** PROPERTY DISPUTE

Nizamabad: Three Covid deaths in a family brought not only untold grief but also led to property disputes with the 'victims' approaching police here on Thursday seeking jus-

Retired staff Shakuntala. Chandrasekhar colony and her husband Samuel, 63, succumbed while undergoing treatment at GGH recently. Their son Sanjay, a private employee in Hyderabad also tested positive for Covid-19 and succumbed in Hyderabad.

Meanwhile, the daughters Lalitha and Anitha also tested positive but recovered. During their infection, the daughters served their parents, who owned a house in the colony and agriculture lands in Mettu village of Makloor mandal. Meanwhile, Sanjay's widow reached Nizamabad allegedly evacuated Lalitha and Anita from her inlaw's house. Reportedly, the daughters demanded a share in the properties, but Sanjay's

family bluntly refused it. The daughters approached police in Nizamabad, but they refused to intervene in a civil matter. The family members are planning to approach the court while some elders are hoping to settle the issue ami-

### **Govt well equipped to counter Covid: Minister**

Facilities have been upgraded, medicine stock is sufficient

DC CORRESPONDENT NIZAMABAD/KAMAREDDY, MAY 20

Minister for roads and buildings V. Prashanth Reddy on Thursday said that the state government was ready to effectively tackle even a third wave of Covid-19. Medical infrastructure is being strengthened and stocks of medicines are suffi-cient, he said and claimed that the collective efforts of various departments have yielded substantial results in

containing the pandemic. He was speaking at a review meeting on the situation in Covid-19 Nizamabad districts. Kamareddy Reddy said that lockdown restrictions and household survey have fetched good results and there

has been a 10 per cent reduction in positive cases. It has come down from 26 to 14 in Kamareddy district. He applauded medical and health staff for serving people though they are

away from their family.
Meanwhile, the minister made a surprise visit to the government hospital in Kamareddy and interacted with Covid-19 patients, who are undergoing treatment there. He

DC CORRESPONDENT

As part of its 'Corona

Cheyutha' initiative, Bala

Vikasa with the financial

support of Canada based

NGO, SOPAR, distributed

as many as 4000 grocery

kits to rural poor families

with Covid-19 positive patients in an effort to

alleviate hunger and star-

vation caused by plummeting incomes due to the

strict quarantine proto-

Understanding the grave

financial impact of Covid

care and management on

families dependent on

daily wages, Warangal-

Meritorious Service Cross

decorations from Canadian Government

and founder of SOPAR

Bala Vikasa, quickly mobilised funds to the

tune of Rs 25,00,000 from

"We are really disturbed

by the situation that is

emerging in India due to

the deadly second wave.

Working with rural poor communities for nearly 40

years now, we know that

**DC CORRESPONDENT** 

Teachers of Khammam,

who have received show-

cause notices from dis-

trict collector R. V. Karnan for not attending

to poll duties during

Corporation elections, are

struggling to justify why

they skipped duties. The

443 teachers, who have

received notices, have to file their reply within

Municipal

KHAMMAM, MAY 20

Khammam

Canadian donors.

of

Teresa

the

Bala

born

Singareddy

recipient

WARANGAL, MAY 20

Use newly constructed hosp in Vemulawada: Congress

KUMAR | DC

It is shameful that even though hundreds of people are dying every day due to non-availability of medical services, the government seems to be in no hurry to start the newly-constructed 100bed hospital in Vemulawada, alleged TPCC secretary and the Vemulawada

Assembly segment in-charge, Adi Srinivas here on Thursday. Speaking to the media after consoling family members of those who had succumbed to coronavirus in Vemulawada,

Srinivas questioned the

Bala Vikasa donates grocery

kits to 4,000 Covid patients

to COVID P

Donor: S

bala lasa

had faced hunger and

something about that. As

families with Covid

patients are confined to

their homes for a few

weeks, we decided to help

them with grocery kits so

that they dont have to

worry about their next

meal at the least," said

Teresa.

expressed her heartfelt

gratitude to all the

Reddy, said "Recent sur-

KHAMMAM TEACHERS STRUGGLING WITH SHOW-CAUSE

**NOTICES FOR NOT ATTENDING MUNCIPAL POLL DUTIES** 

Executive director of

It is a matter of fact that

60 percent of teachers in

Khammam district kept

away from poll duties. As

a result, district election

authorities faced an

uphill task in mobilising

Finding themselves in a

difficult situation, teach-

ers have approached their

respective unions for a

solution. Panchatyatraj

Khammam district president Motukuri Madhu

said due to prevailing

Union

Teachers

staff for election duties.

Vikasa, Shoury

Canadian donors.

Bala

Hyderabad.

purpose of constructing tive, are dying, he said, the hospital when it is kept idle despite the pandemic taking a heavy toll, all around.

It may be recalled that during his visit to the temple town in April, IT minister, K.T. Rama Rao had said that the hospital would start functioning by April-end, However, it remains a non-starter till date.

second Coronavirus is spreading rapidly even in rural areas. With beds not available in the government hospital, people are forced to shell out money private hospitals Given their economic compulsions, poor people, who are testing posithe government and officials. He said that had the hospital started functioning,

adding that it was sheer

negligence on the part of

it could have saved the lives of several patients. He said that other states are not only going all-out to save people's lives but they have also included Covid treatment in schemes like Arogyasri besides announcing ex gratia of ₹10 lakh to the family members of Covid dead, he pointed out.

Town Congress presi-Venkataswamy, leaders Srinivas Goud Krishna, Rakesh and Raju were present in the press meet.

urged the medical staff to be on constant alert and shift critical patients to Hyderabad. He said all funds black fungus patients Government would be referred to Gampa

Yellareddy Surender, collector A. Sharath, SP N. Swetha Zaheerabad MP BB Patil donated 30 oxygen concentrators to the govand other officials were

Representatives of Balavikasa distribute grocery kits to

they will be the worst suf-ferers in all of this. Many veys suggest that during this second wave, Covid

starvation during the first communities and three

wave and we wanted to do out of ten households are

villagers in Wardhannapet of Warangal Rural district on

-BY ARRANGEMENT

has spread to the rural

showing symptoms. We

are motivating the public

to do their bit in support-

ing the poor in facing

He further mentioned

that the organisation is

mobilising individual and

institutional donors to

help provide medical kits,

oxygen concentrators and

other relief activities in

the rural areas as a part of

the 'Corona Cheyutha'

Coronavirus, authorities

should take a lenient view

of those who have skipped

He said 20 percent of the

teachers were, in fact,

down with Coronavirus

They even have docu-

ments to prove it. Some of

the teachers were preg-

nant. Many could not

attend to duties as their

near and dear had been

afflicted with the virus or

other ailments. There was

none to take care of them,

their poll duties.

initiative.

these tough times.

ernment hospital. He also provided an ambulance The Nizamabad meetfacility under MPLADS

ing was attended by Urban MLA Bigala Ganesh Gupta, district collector C. Narayana Govardhan, Reddy, commissioner of police Kartikeya, and additional

### STARTED FOR KIDS IN SIRCILLA

**DC CORRESPONDENT** KARIMNAGAR, MAY 20

Zilla parishad chairperson\_Nyalakonda Aruna on Thursday announced 040 – 23733665 as helpline number for protecting children who have lost their parents to Coronavirus or whose parents are under treatment for the virus in Rajanna Sircilla district. Aruna released a poster in this regard and flagged off a special vehicle to spread information about facilities available for such chil-

Speaking on the occahelpline will be available from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. A special centre has been established in the Agraharam of BC Welfare Hospital for helping children who have no one to take care of them. Information could be passed on about such children through the helpline number.

The ZP chairperson said people can also dial toll free number 1098, which is available round the clock, if they find any child needing protection. Later, she handed over essential commodities to family members of a person who died due to Covid-19.

Association members apart from staff of District Protection Bhavan were present on the occasion.

District

THE ZP chief said people can also dial toll free number 1098, if they find any child needing protection.

### **HELPLINE CENTRE COVID-ORPHANED**

she said the

Punnam Chander and Nazimuddin, Child

Welfare

### Doctors treating Covid-19 patients cry for attention 200 GGH staff test

PULLOOR | DC

NIZAMABAD, MAY 20.

More than 100 employees of Government General

Hospital (GGH) have test-

ed positive for Covid-19.

They were all attending to Coronavirus patients, who were undergoing treatment for the last few

days. Few of them suc-

cessfully recovered and others in isolation. Doctors and other staff in

GGH have been facing tremendous pressure for

providing treatment to

the Covid-19 patients.

After Gandhi hospital in

Nizamabad is treating the highest number of Covid-

There are 521 beds

including oxygen beds

and ICU with ventilator

Government General Hospital. Around 400 Covid-19 patients are get-

ting treatment in the hos-

pital. The hospital staff have been working round

the clock to treat the

Covid-19 patients. People

Nizamabad, Adilabad,

Karimnagar and neighbouring Nanded district of Maharashtra state are

visiting GGH for Covid-19

Doctors 21, nurses 34,

lab technicians 8, staff 12,

sanitation workers 14,

security guards 8, PCWs

10 tested positive for Covid-19. Government

Covid-19. Government General Hospital superin-

tendent Dr Prathima Raj

had twice tested positive for Covid-19 in first and

After getting treatment,

along with GGH staff.

Nimmala Balraj said that

they are taking utmost

precautions to prevent

the Covid-19 infection

during the treatment. Around 100 staff mem-

bers got infected with

Covid-19 and all of them

Replying to a question, he

said that even in home

extending their possible services for Covid-19.

"Being medical profes-

said.

recovered, he

superintendent

treatment.

second waves.

undivided

facility available

first and second waves.

Hyderabad,

19 patients in

CEREMILLA | DC WARANGAL, MAY 20

Despite braving their lives to treat those affected by Covid-19, the doctors at MGM hospital in Warangal are not provided with the required equipment and facilities.

The senior resident doctors who have been serving covid patients since the last ten months complain that despite their frequent requests, no authority has addressed

their issues.
The doctors allege that the hospital administration has failed to curb the oxygen flowmeter scam. Due to an insufficient number of flowmeters, grade four employees are involved in stealing, hiding and renting flowmeters to patients within the hospital.

Due to non-availability of oxygen flowmeters and ventilators, several patients who have been referred from private hospitals in critically ill status are not receiving the emergency treat-ment. The duty doctors are facing the wrath of the kin of the patients if they succumb during treatment. Several injections required in the treatment like broad spectrum antibiotics, dexamethasone, drenaline/atropine, low molecular weight heparin are also not handy for the doctors.

addition, Remdesivir injection required for critical cases is being administered to stable cases\_on recommendations. The doctors say even though they are at the ground level, they are not aware of who is receiving the injections. The protecting gear like NIV masks, NRBM/surgical/oxygen masks, N-95 masks, PPE gloves are also not being

provided to the doctors. The duty doctors also complained of the highly unhygienic condition prevailing in the hospital despite dedicating themselves to the service of the people, the doctors allege there is no clarity on how they would be treated in case they get infected.

SEVERAL INJECTIONS required in the treatment like broad spectrum antibiotics, dexamethasone, drenaline/atropine, low molecular weight heparin are also not handy for the doctors.

### positive for Covid **COVID INFECTED**

**STAFF IN GGH** General medicine 17 General surgery 6 Orthopaedics **OBGY Psychiatry Emergency** medicine Dentistry Ophthalmology DVL **Pulmonology ENT** Anaesthesia **Paediatrics** Regular 61 nursing staff Drag gen PCSP 11 SSS staff 11 Regular Class IV **SNCU** Sanitation staff Security staff Micro Biology 6 **Supervisors** 

Replying to a question, GGH deputy superintendent Dr Nimmala Balraj said that even in home isolation hospital staff extending their possible services for Covid-19. "Being medical professionals, we are doing our level best to save the Covid-19 patients", he

200

**Total** 

sionals, we are doing our level best to save the Covid-19 patients", he

drive.

store in-charge drug Radhakishan tested positive for Covid-19, but he monitored his duties from home isolation due to the pandemic situation. Minister isolation hospital staff Prashanth Reddy appreciated GGH staff for invaluable services during

### **POLICE ARREST MAN**

WARANGAL, MAY 20:

The Central Crime Station (CCS) and the Geesugonda police have jointly arrested a man accused of committing robberies in the Warangal police commissionerate limlts and seized 13 grams of gold jewelery and 630 grams of silver worth ₹2.5 lakh, ₹48,000 cash, a mobile, foreign currency, a twowheeler and a knife from him.

Disclosing the details of arrest, Warangal Po Police arrest, Commissioner Tarun Joshi said the accused has been identified as Mandanapu Subhash, who hails from Garla Bayyaram, Petallagadda village in Mahabubabad district and now resides in Kirtinagar in Gorrekunta. He had been committing thefts since 2008.

ted thefts in Mahabubabad and Jangaon areas and stole chains from women passengers on trains in Nelakondapalli of Khammam

#### she resumed her services Meanwhile, a section of on Wednesday. Prathima Raj got accolades for treating Covid-19 patients staff of the district medical and health department have also tested pos-Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, GGH deputy itive for Covid-19. The

staff are busy with serving the Covid-19 patients at primary health centres and door-to-door survey For instance, Central

Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **FOR BURGLARY** DC CORRESPONDENT

The accused had earlier commit-

### THE GAYATRI CO-OPERATIVE URBAN BANK LTD., JAGTIAL BRANCH, JAGTIAL, DIST: JAGTIAL, TELANGANA STATE POSSESSION NOTICE

(RULE 8 (I))

(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of The Gayatri Co-Operative Urban Bank Ltd., Jagital Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,(Act 54 of 2002), and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (2) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, The Gayatri Co-Operative Urban Bank Ltd., Jagital Branch Issued a demand notice dated 30-01-2021 calling upon the Borrower Mis. Naresh Kiranam Merchant Prop. Sri Gunda Naresh, Sio. Sambaiah, H. No: 3-3-178, Puranipet, Jagital Town & District to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 6,06,185' (Rupees Six Lakhs Six Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Five Only) with Interest thereon from 31-01-2021 and incidental expenditure, costs, etc., within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having railed to repay the amount, notice is bereby

to days from the date of receipt or the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned hat taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise or powers conferred on him/her under Act under section 13 (4) of the said Act and with Rule 8 of the said Act on this 17th day of May the year 2021.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby autioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of The Gayarti Co-Operative Urban Bani tid., Jagtial Branch for an amount of Rs. 6,06,185/- (Rupees Six Lakh: isx Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Five Only with interest thereor from 31-01-2021 and incidental expenditure, costs, etc.,

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: 3-3-178/A Jagtial. 134.00 Sq.Yards BOUNDARIES:

House of Maripelli Lingam (H. No. 3-3-171).

Dead end lane (followed by place of K. Rajaiah (H. No. 3-3-183) & House of K. Lachaiah (H. No. 3-3-188)) Place of Ranga Mallesham (H. No. 3-3-178). Place: JAGTIAL Date: 20-05-2021

### SPACE LISSUE 18 cold storages in Khammam, filled with various farm produce

#### No space for chillies in cold storages WITH NO space to

RAVINDRA SESHU | DC KHAMMAM, MAY 20

Getting a place in a cold storage to keep their harvested produce, particularly chilies, is turning out to be a herculean task for farmers, who have raised the crop over 56,000 acres Khammam district.

Ananthaiah. farmer from Konigerla, has been trying continuously to get a place for storing his harvested chili in any of the cold storages in Khammam. ages in Khammam with

store their latest drop, farmers have stacked chilies in their fields. But they are fearful of unseasonal rains destroying their crop.

He even approached a TRS leader for recom-mendation, but even that did not help. This is not case only Ananthaiah but many other chili farmers. There are 18 cold stor-

lakh quintals. However, all the space in these storages is reportedly full of various farm produce harvested in the previous season, including chilies. These stocks arrived in the godowns before the lock-

With no space to store their latest drop, farmers have stacked chilies in their fields. But they are fearful of unseasonal rains destroying their crop. The district has already witnessed two

total storage capacity of spells of rain in the last 20 days.

Currently, no stocks are being lifted as agricultural markets in Khammam, Nelakondapalli, Madhira, Kallur, Wyra and Sattupalli have been closed as part of lock-

Mandadapu Sudhakar, a farmer said the government should at least lease private godowns if the chili crop is to be stored safely.

Following repeated pleas from farmers, Khammam Agricultural

Market Committee is planning open the market from May 24 for limited Gudavarthi Srinivasa Rao, a chili trader said farmers have about two lakh quintals of chili with them.

government opens the market, it would be of great help to the farmers.

Some farmers have complained that they can only. Students please no call.
Admission Guidance. some space in godowns only if they pay Engineering Education Service more money than the fixed charges to cold stormail:engg.educationserage owners.

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IN BRIEF

#### **POLICE THRASH WOMAN FOR NOT WEARING MASK**

**Sagar, May 20:** A woman was allegedly beaten up and dragged by some police personnel on a road for not wearing a mask while going out to buy vegetables amid the Covidpandemic in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district.

After a video of the incident, which took place on Monday in Rahli town, went viral, a police official said the woman allegedly hit a female cop first. The woman and her daughter were stopped by police around 11 am on Monday for not wear-

The police tried to take them away in a jeep to an open jail as punishment, but the duo resisted and allegedly hit a police-

In the video, some police personnel, including a female cop, were seen beating up the woman, pushing her down and dragging her by her hair.

They were trying to shift her in the police jeep while she

was resisting it and in the process, they thrashed her.
However, Rahli's sub-divisional officer of police Kamal Singh said the "video showed only half of the incident".

The woman hit a female cop first and the latter had bruises on her face of an injury caused by nails," he said.

#### **ONE DETAINED FOR REMDESIVIR BLACK MARKETING**

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, MAY 20

Driver of spouse of a minister in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan was on Thursday detained in Indore for interrogation in connection with the alleged black marketing of life saving drug Remdesivir.

Govind Singh Rajput, driver of wife of state irrigation min-ister Tulsi Silawat was picked up by police in Indore for interrogation after Punit Agrawal, driver of a local government doctor, dragged him

in the case.
Govind was, however, let off after interrogation.

'Govind denied his role in the black marketing of the life saving injection. The driver said he had procured two Remdesivir injections from Punit after he tested positive for coronavirus.

"He, however, did not use the injections since he had recovered from Covid-19 and returned the two injections to Punit", a senior police officer of Indore told this newspaper unwilling to be quoted in the interest of investigation in the case. "We may call him again for interrogation if needed", indicated. Earlier on Monday, Punit, driver of local government doctor Poornima Gadria, was 'caught red handed' by police while selling Remdesivir injections at inflated prices in Indore.

Interestingly, Punit told the reporters in Indore while being produced in the local court on Tuesday that he had procured Remdesivir injections from Govind.

#### **SONIA URGES MODI TO HELP OUT COVID ORPHANS**

New Delhi, May 20: Congress president Sonia Gandhi on urged Minister Narendra Modi to provide free education in . Navodaya Vidyalayas to children orphaned due to the

Covid-19 pandemic. In her letter, Sonia Gandhi said the nation owes it to children to give them hope and provide them a robust future after their tragedy.

"I am writing to request you to consider providing free education at the Navodaya Vidyalayas to children who have lost either both parents or an earning parent on account of the Covid-19 pandemic," the Congress chief said.

"I feel that as a nation, we owe it to them to give them hope for a robust future after the unimaginable tragedy that has befallen them," Sonia Gandhi said.

The BJP, however, took a swipe at the Congress chief, saying her idea of looking after kids orphaned during the pandemic is "outdated and copied"

'Several state governments are already doing it except perhaps those run by the Congress. Instead of writing to the PM, she should have written to Amarinder Singh and Ashok Gehlot," BJP IT department head Amit Malviya said. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi shared the letter on Twitter.



Mass cremation of Covid-19 victims at a crematorium set up on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Thursday.

## Vaccine will be available for all by December: Nadda

#### India conducts 20.55 lakh Coronavirus tests in single day, highest so far

Jaipur, May 19: BJP president J.P. Nadda said on Wednesday the coronavirus vaccine will be available for all in the country by December.

He also accused the Congress of spreading anarchy at the time of the pandemic.

Nadda was reviewing the Covid-19 situation in Rajasthan in a virtual interaction with BJP state president Satish Poonia and party MPs from the state, a party statement

Nadda said the prime minister had warned the chief ministers of the states in March itself and asked them to be prepared for the second wave of

coronavirus. "India developed two indigenous vaccines for the first time in just nine months, which have been administered to 18 crore

**67 MORE DIE OF** 

**COVID IN JAMMU** 

& KASHMIR

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, MAY 20

Even as 67 more patients

died of Covid-19 in

Jammu and Kashmir

during the past 24 hours,

the authorities said the silver lining in the

ostensibly gloomy situa-

tion is that over two lakh

people who had con-

tracted the virus have recovered completely over a period of time in

the Union Territory.
The officials said that

while 67 patients died of

Covid-19 including 41 in

Jammu region and remaining 26 in the Kashmir Valley, 4,169 new positive cases of the

coronavirus surfaced in

the Union Territory since Wednesday

evening.

of December, the vaccine will be available to all and its calendar has been set, he said. Nadda said the Modi gov-

ernment at the Center has ensured the availability and supply of oxygen and medicines to all the states.

He said that real face of the Congress has been exposes after revelation of its "tool kit". Even at the time of the

pandemic, the Congress is trying to spread anarchy in the country and is working to destroy the morale of the people by spreading confusion among them, he

Meanwhile, more than 20.55 lakh Covid tests were conducted in a span of 24 hours, the highest-ever conducted in a single day in India, while the daily positivity rate stands at 13.44 per cent, the Union

DC CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi on Thursday

evening refused to react to

media reports that quoted

Commissioner to India

Simon Wong as saying

that his country reserves

the right to invoke its anti-

POFMA (Protection from

Online Falsehoods and

Manipulation Act) against

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for his

recent comments that had

alleged that there was a Singapore variant of the

Covid virus and that

flights from Singapore to

about

the

High

India should be stopped.

Asked

Singapore

Commissioner's

NEW DELHI, MAY 20

Singapore's

misinformation

Indians so far. By the end Health Ministry said on Thursday. Cumulatively, 20,55,010

tests were conducted on Wednesday in the country. India's daily Covid-19 recoveries outnumbered the daily new cases for the seventh consecutive day. A total of 3,69,077 patients recuperated in a span of 24 hours as against 2,76,110 infections being reported during the same period,

the ministry said. India's cumulative recovhave 2,23,55,440.

Besides India recorded less than 3 lakh new cases for four consecutive days

Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, West Odisha, Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana reported 77.17 per cent of the 2,76,110 new cases regis-

ments, ministry of external affairs spokesperson

Arindam Bagchi said his

ministry "does not have

anything to add" other

than the statements already issued by the MEA earlier on

Wednesday on the entire

Indian media reports

quoted Mr. Wong as saying, "Prominent political

office holders must have a

responsibility not to prop-

agate falsehoods. In Singapore, we have Protection from Online

Falsehoods & Mani-pula-

tion Act. It is meant to

mitigate the spread of

misinformation, so we

reserve the right to invoke

POFMA on some of the

comments and assertions

made by the honorable

controversy.

Tamil Nadu has reported the highest daily new cases at 34,875, followed by Karnataka with 34,281

tered in a span of 24 hours.

The ministry said India's total active cases have decreased to 31,29,878 with a decline of 96,841 cases being registered in the total active caseload in a day. It now comprises 12.14 per cent of the country's total cases.

Karnataka, Maha-rash-tra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh cumulatively account for 69.23 per cent of India's total active cases. The National Mortality Rate currently stands at 1.11 per cent, the

ministry said. A total of 3,874 deaths were reported in a span of

chief minister on this

Commissioner there and

lodged a strong protest

against a recent tweet by

the Delhi Chief Minister

that claimed there was a

Singapore variant of the

Coronavirus that was harmful to children, fol-

lowing which the Indian

promptly told Singapore

authorities that the Delhi

Chief Minister had "no

competence to pronounce

on Covid variants or civil

Minister S. Jaishankar

had also then swiftly "clar-

ified" that "the Delhi CM

does not speak for India".

aviation policy".

External

Commissioner

had

summoned

on

S'pore talks of anti-misinformation

topic".

India's

Singapore

Wednesday

law after AK demands flight ban

24 hours. Ten states account for

72.25 per cent of the new deaths. Maharashtra saw the maximum casualties (594). Karnataka follows with 468 daily deaths. The ministry also said that the cumulative num-

ber of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has reached 18.70 crore. A total of 18,70,09,792 vaccine doses have been administered through 27,31,435 sessions, according to the provision-

al report till 7 am. These include 96,85,934 workers healthcare workers (HCWs) who have taken the first dose and 66,67,394 HCWs who have taken the second dose, 1,46,36,501 FLWs who have received the first dose, 82,56,381 FLWs who have taken the second dose and 70,17,189 beneficiaries in the 18-44 years age group who have years age group ... received the first dose.

Lauding Singapore's dis-patching of military air-craft with oxygen supplies

recently to help India bat-

tle the second Covid wave,

Jaishankar - in a thinly-veiled barb at Mr. Kejriwal - had lamented that "irre-

sponsible comments from

better can damage long-

lambasted Mr. Kejriwal

and asked him to "stick to

facts - then thanked Jaishankar for the clarifi-

Mr. Kejriwal's tweet ear-

lier on Tuesday when he

called for a ban on flights

from Singapore to India

had led to a furore in the

Foreign

who had

Vivian

standing partnerships".

Singapore's

Balakrishnan -

Minister

cation.

tiny nation.

### The second wave did not fatalities.

March 1 and May 15. However, since the outbreak of the pandemic last year, 21,71,931 con-

The data shows that 20,206 children up to the

age of nine were infected in the second wave which killed 17 of them, whereas 51,673 teenagers con-

tracted the disease, of which 19 lost their lives.

People in their 20s accounted for 1,53,174 infections of which 151 lost their lives.

According to the data, as many as 467 people in their thirties, 1,037 in their 40s and 1,717 in their 50s died of Covid in the second wave.

age were the worst hit in

2,198 sexagenarians lost their lives whereas 1,584 people among the 28,658 infected persons in their

## NDRF to set up spl. unit to deal with pandemics ond wave has also been a

DC CORRESPONDENT

Learning from the experience of the devastation caused by Corona, Home Ministry plans to set up a specialised within the Division National Response Force (NDRF) to deal "exclusively with pandemics.'

As of now the mandate given to NDRF allows it to deal with all "natural and manmade disasters" like cyclone, floods, earth-quake, chemical or gas leakage, building collapse etc. The NDRF is a highly specialised force and has been fully trained and equipped to deal with such disasters.

But now the Home Ministry is planning to set up a high specialised unit within the NDRF which will also deal with pandemics like Corona or other diseases. This will not only allow NDRF to have spcialised medical teams but also the neces-sary infrastructure to set up health facilities at a

Home Ministry sources said they were examining the proposal and looking into the legality whether it will have to approach the Union cabinet for sanction or the new division can be set up through an executive order itself. Senior officials said the devastation huge learning curve for Central

Shortage of oxygen, critical medicine, ventilator and hospital beds had led to a massive health crisis across the country as Corona cases registered a massive surge during the second wave. So what the Home

Ministry now plans is to put in place what is being described as a "modern and professional unit' that can deal with all health related pandemic in future. Even now both central para-military forces and defence forces had worked over time in setting up temporary hospitals and health car facilities, transporting oxygen and other essential items. But now the government proposes to have a dedicated agency which will anticipate, prepare and provide all necessary assistance during the

such health crisis.
Senior Ministry officials argued that NDRF is an extremely competent agency with tremendous experience of dealing with natural or manmade disasters. Now with additional resources in terms manpower and equipment, the Force will be able to handle these health crisis and Home Ministry has started working in that direction, officials said.

### 2nd Covid wave hits K'taka hard

Bengaluru, May 20: One-third of the total Covid cases and fatalities since the outbreak of the pandemic in Karnataka took place in the last twoand-half months when the second wave hit the State, reveals official

spare children, teenagers and youth in their 20s who accounted for a number of infections and

According to the data, 7,06,449 people got infected, of which 7,980 people

tracted Covid, out of which 21,434 lost their

People above 60 years of

this second wave of pandemic. Out of 93,483 infected,

The second wave did not spare children, teenagers too. The data shows that 20,206 children up to the age of nine were infected in the second wave which killed 17 of them, whereas 51,673 teenagers contracted the disease, of which 19 lost their lives.

 People in their 20s accounted for 1,53,174 infections of which 151 lost their lives.

lost their lives between 70s succumbed to Covid-19. The mortality rate among the people in their 80s and 90s was very high compared to any other

age group.
Out of 81,65 infected octogenarians, 674 died of Covid taking the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) to 8.3 per cent.

Among those in the 90s, the CFR is 11.9 per cent with 970 infections and 115 deaths.

The centenarians, however, were lucky enough to escape the wrath of the second wave of pandemic. Out of 68 infected, only one person died.

Chakravarthy, Director of Internal Medicine at Fortis Healthcare, said Covid infection and its reaction to the virus caus-

es injuries to the lungs.
"Since elderly people have poor immunity, they end up having infections. A majority of youngsters are affected because of cytokine release," Dr Chakravarthy said.

#### FIGHTING | COVID | Coronavirus cases in the country peaked in Sept. and there was a decline in cases from Oct.

### 3rd wave likely if vaccination not ramped up: Scientist

New Delhi, May 20: If the vaccination drive against coronavirus is not ramped up and Covid-19 appropriate-behaviour is not maintained, there is a possibility of a third wave of the pandemic in 6-8 months,

months, said M. Vidyasagar, a scientist involved in the Sutra Model which uses mathematics to project the trajectory of Covid-19. He, however, stressed the Sutra Model has not predicted any third wave and

it is working on it.
The Indian Institutes of
Technology-Hyderabad professor cited a paper by Italian researchers on people with decreasing antibodies, which give some sort of

immunity, in six months. "If the antibodies are lost, then there is a chance of immunity going down. In this case, vaccination has to be ramped up and Covid-19 appropriate-behaviour must be practiced. If not then there is a possibility of a third wave in 6-8 months," Vidyasagar said. "We are also adding the aspects of immunity

and vaccination in our

model for our future fore-

casts," he added. According to a study by the San Raffaele hospital Milan, antibodies nst coronavirus against remained in the blood of patients with Covid-19 for at least eight months after

A recent sero-survey by

they were infected.

 According to a study by the San Raffaele hospital in Milan, antibodies against coronavirus remained in the blood of patients with Covid-19 for at least eight months after they were infected.

the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) suggested that the neutralising antibodies significantly declined after five-six months, making people prone to reinfections. The coronavirus cases in the country peaked in September 2020 and there was a nationwide decline of new cases starting in October.

"Using more stringent measures (more than 30 per cent inhibition of surrogate receptor-spike protein binding), the loss of neutralisation may be even higher. "We speculate that this

may be related to recurrence of outbreaks in March 2021, after the peak in September 2020," the IGIB paper said on the second wave that started raging from late March. K. VijayRaghavan,

Principal Scientific Adviser, had said on May 5 that as the virus mutates further, a third wave of infection inevitable and it is necessary to be prepared for new waves. Two days later, he said there may not be a third wave of coronavirus in the country, if strong

effectively implemented at the state, district and city-

"If we take strong measures, the third wave may not happen in all places or indeed anywhere at all. It depends on much how effectively guidance is implemented at the local level in the states, districts and cities everywhere.

'The guidance about pre cautions, about surveillance, about containment, about treatment and about tests. This insidious asymptomatic transmission can be stopped if we follow the guidelines. This sounds difficult, it is difficult and we can and must do it," VijayRagahvan had said. - PTI



Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visits Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College & Hospital to review treatment facilities for Covid in Barpeta. SHORT TAKES

#### **IMPEACHMENT VOTE AGAINST SLOVENIA PM**

Ljubljana, May 20: Less than takes over the EU's rotating presidency, conservative Prime Minister Janez Jansa is battling fires at home and abroad including an impeachment

The vote in the Alpine country's parliament is the latest crisis for the combative 62year-old, known for his support former US president Donald Trump and his outspo-

ken Twitter posts.

Four centre-left opposition parties have initiated the impeachment bid, alleging among other things that Jansa mismanaged the country's

coronavirus response.

With the nation of two million suffering a relatively high proportion of pandemic deaths compared to other EU countries, the premier's public approval ratings have slumped to their lowest point since he took office in March 2020.

#### **13 KILLED IN AFGHAN ROAD BOMBINGS**

Kabul, May 20: Roadside bombings in southern and cen-tral Afghanistan killed 13 people, including nine members of one family, officials said Thu-rsday. Meanwhile, militants stopped a bus in western Afghanistan, ordered three men to get out and shot and killed them. No one has claimed responsibility for the latest attacks. The three men on the bus were ethnic Hazaras.

The government blamed the Taliban, who denied responsi-bility. Previous attacks on Hazaras, who are mostly Shiite Muslims, have been claimed by the Islamic State group. Large swaths of war-ravaged Afghanistan have been littered with bombs and land mines.

Many have been planted by insurgents to target military convoys but often kill civilians instead. One of the two bombs struck a car carrying a family of 12 in southern Helmand pro-vince late on Wednesday, said provincial police spokesman Zaman Hamdarad. Several of the nine family members who died were children.

#### **NIGERIA'S BOKO HARAM LEADER BADLY WOUNDED**

Kano, May 20: Nigerian Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau has been seriously wounded after trying to kill himself to avoid capture during clashes with rival Islamic State-allied jihadists in the north of the country, two intelligence sources said Thursday.

Shekau's Boko Haram faction and fighters from the Islamic State West Africa Province had been battling in northeastern Borno state, where ISWAP militants have become the dominant force in Nigeria's more than decade-long jihadist insurgency. Shekau, who made international headlines when his men kidnapped nearly 300 schoolgirls in Chibok in 2014, has been reported dead several times since Boko Haram first

began its insurgency in 2009. After a series of clashes Shekau and some of his fight-ers were surrounded on Wednesday by ISWAP jihadists in Boko Haram's Sambisa forest stronghold, where they demanded he surrender, one intelligence source said.

#### **2012 CAMPAIGN FINANCING: SARKOZY ON TRIAL**

Paris, May 20: The trial of former French President Nicolas Sarkozy on charges that his unsuccessful 2012 reelection bid was illegally financed has formally started on Thursday The scandal had thrown his conservative party into turmoil. Sarkozy, 66, is facing allegations that he spent almost twice the maximum legal amount of 22.5 million euros (\$27.5 million) on the presidential race he lost to Socialist Francois Hollande. He has denied wrongdoing. Sarkozy wasn't present Thursday at the Paris court, where he was represented by his lawyers.

The trial is scheduled to last until June 22. Sarkozy, who was president from 2007 to 2012. faces up to one year in prison and a fine of 3,750 euros (\$4,580), if found guilty. The proceedings got underway less than three months after Sarkozy was convicted of corruption and influence peddling in another case. He has appealed that verdict. According to the judicial investigation in his case, Sarkozy "indisputably benefitted from fraud that allowed him to have, during his campaign, resources much superior to what the law authorised.



Slovak Foreign Mnister Ivan Korcok (C) and his counterpart from the Czech Republic Jakub Kulhanek (2nd R) listen to remarks by their Israeli counterpart Gabi Ashkenazi (L) during a tour of a building that was hit by a rocket fired by Palestinian militants from the Gaza Strip, in the Israeli city of Petah Tikva on Thursday. -AF

### Israel unleashes strikes as chances of truce rise

Bibi pushes back against US calls to wind down offensive

Gaza City, May 20: Israel unleashed another wave of airstrikes across the Gaza Strip early Thursday, killing at least one Palest-inian and wounding sever-al, and Hamas fired more rockets, even as expecta-tions rose that a cease-fire could be coming.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pushed back against calls from the US to wind down the Gaza offensive, appearing determined to inflict maximum damage on Hamas in a war that could help save his political career.

Still, officials close to the negotiations say they expect a truce to be announced in the next 24 hours. In another possible sign of progress, Netanyahu scheduled a meeting later Thursday with his Security Cabinet, where the issue of a cease-fire was likely to be debated.

Explosions shook Gaza City and orange flares lit up the pre-dawn sky, with bombing raids also reported in the central town of Deir al-Balah and the southern town of Khan Younis. As the sun rose, residents surveyed the rubble from at least five family homes destroyed in Khan Younis. There were also heavy airstrikes on a commercial thoroughfare in Gaza City.

The Israeli military said it struck at least three homes of Hamas commanders in Khan Younis and another in Rafah, targeting "military infrastrucstorage unit at a home in Gaza City. With hundreds already killed in the worst fighting since Israel and Hamas' 2014 war, US President Joe Biden told Israel on Wednesday that he expected "a significant deescalation today on the path to a cease-fire" — but . Netanyahu pushed back, saying he was "determined to continue this opera-

tion until its aim is met." It marked the first public rift between the two close allies since the fighting began and poses a difficult test of the US-Israel relationship early in Biden's presidency. Still, an Egypti-an intelligence official said a cease-fire was likely late Thursday or early Friday, after the US appeal bolstered Cairo's own efforts to halt the fighting.

The official spoke on

### Stop hostilities at once, says UN chief

The UN chief is urging an immediate cease-fire between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers at the start of a UN General Assembly emergency meeting.

The session is expected to hear from about 100 speakers, including 12 ministers mainly from Arab and Islamic countries. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told Thursday's in-person meeting in the assembly chamber that he and the UN Mideast envoy are engaged in "extensive diplomatic efforts" in the region, including with Egypt, Jordan and Qatar, to stop the fighting.

He called on all members of the international community "to do everything in their power to enable the parties to conflict to step back from the brink. The UN chief also called on Israel and Hamas "to allow for mediation efforts to intensify in order to bring the fighting to an end." Guterres implicitly criticised Israel and Hamas for violating "the laws of war" which ban indiscriminate

#### GUTERRES IMPLICITLY criticised Israel and Hamas for violating "the laws of war" which ban indiscriminate attacks and attacks against civilians and civilian property as well as

attacks on military targets

that cause disproportion-

ate civilian casualties.

and attacks against civilians and civilian property as well as attacks on military targets that cause disproportionate civilian casualties. He said "counterterrorism or self-defence' are not justifications.

He urged Israeli authorities to abide by the laws, "including the proportionate use of force" and called on them "to exercise maximum restraint in the conduct of military operations." He urged Hamas and other militant groups "to stop the indiscriminate launching of rockets and mortars from highly populated civilian neighbourhoods into civilian population centres in İsrael.

#### **EXPECTED COSTLY BATTLE: ISLAMIC JIHAD LEADER**

Beirut, May 20: The leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group says militant factions in Gaza went into the latest battle with Israel knowing it will be "costly but also knowing that it is the only road to freedom and to protect

Jerusalem."

Ziad Nakhaleh said in a televised speech from Beirut on Wednesday that neither nuclear weapons, warplanes nor peace agreements with some Arab states could bring Israelis security and peace. He added that militant groups in Gaza have "made miracles that you can see with your own eyes and you live them every moment when you run to shelters.

Nakhaleh was referring to thousands of missiles and rockets that Gaza militants have fired toward Israel. Nakhaleh said that after Israel's moves that threatened the eviction of Palestinian families in east Jerusalem, "we were in front of two choices, to surrender and to give them everything or fight them over everything.

### Palestine cries genocide

United Nations, May 20: The top Palestinian diplomat is accusing Israel of committing "genocide" against Palestinian families and urging the international community to protect the Palestinian people until their freedom is assured. Foreign Minister Riad Al-Malki told Thursday's emergency meeting of the UN General Assembly on the conflict between

Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers that "every country in the world has a responsibility to ensure that peace, justice and freedom prevail." He urged the assembly ensure that Israel is held accountable for killing innocent Palestinians and is not provided with arms.

He said the presence of a dozen ministers, almost all from Arab and Islamic

countries, sends a clear message: "Stop the violence." He responded to Israel's claims of acting in self-defence by saying: "How can an occupying power have the right to defend itself when a whole people under occupation is deprived of the very same rights?" He said the Palestinians have informed the Biden administra-

condition of anonymity to discuss the delicate talks. Khalid Okasha, director of the Egyptian Center for Strategic Studies, which has close ties to the government, also said a ceasefire was likely in that timeframe, as did Osama Hamdan, a senior Hamas official. Visiting the region,

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Israel has "the right to defend itself against such unacceptable attacks." But he also expressed concern about the rising number of civilian victims and voiced support for truce efforts. Even as the diplomatic efforts appeared to gather

strength, an Israeli airstrike smashed into the Khawaldi family's two-story house in Khan Younis, destroying it. The 11 residents, who were sleeping outside of the home out of fear, were all wounded and hospitalised, said Shaker al-Khozondar, a neighbour.

### Lavrov says talks with Blinken constructive

were the first high-level

countries since Joe Biden

ones between the two

SINCE TAKING over

the White House in Janu-

ary, Biden has taken a st-

rong line against Russia,

Putin as a "killer" — in sharp contrast to his

predecessor Donald

appease each other.

Trump.

going as far as describing

became president.

Reykjavik, May 20: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Wednesday praised his talks with United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken as "constructive" and "useful", saying both sides understand the need to

"The conversation appeared constructive to me," Lavrov was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies after nearly two hours of talks with Blinken in Reykjavik.

The discussions were the first high-level ones between the two countries since Joe Biden became president.

"There is an understanding of the need to overcome the unhealthy situation in ties between Moscow and Washington," Lavrov told Russian reporters after meeting Blinken on the sidelines of the Arctic Council meeting in Iceland.

Since taking over the White House in January, Biden has taken a strong line against Russia, going as far as describing Putin as a "killer" — in sharp contrast to his predecessor Donald Trump, who was accused of complacency towards the Russian president. But signs have emerged that the two sides are seeking to appease each other.

Lavrov said there were "a lot of logjams" in the two countries' ties and working through them was not easy.

"But I sensed the determination of Antony Blinken and his team to do it. We will not be found wanting," he said.

"I believe the talks were useful," he added, saying the two sides also looked into the work of US and

**UK TO REUNIFY RAIL NETWORK** 

London, May 20: Britain plans to bring the national rail network back under government control, reversing one of the most controversial elements of the privatisation drive carried out by the Conservative governments of the 1980s and 1990s.

Under plans acts with the state.

Prime Minister Boris

Beirut, May 20: Leban-

dent Bashar Assad. Assad is running for a as president.

BUT SIGNS have emerged that the two Thursday.

The election is the secsides are seeking to

Russian diplomatic missions following tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats. "We've agreed to contin-

ue our joint actions which are developing rather successfully — on regional conflicts where US and Russian interests overlap," he also said.

Lavrov and Blinken discussed Washington's proposal to organise a summit between the Russian and US leaders, possibly in June. But asked by reporters if Russia formally agreed to the summit between Biden and Vladimir Putin, Lavrov did not reply.

He said however that

the two had agreed to prepare proposals for the toplevel summit, including those on strategic stability. He said he had reiterated Moscow's suggestion of beginning broad dialogue with the United States on strategic stability, stressing that Blinken did not refuse.

"But experts will have yet to work on it," he

#### **MOBS ATTACK SYRIANS HEADING FOR PREZ VOTE**

ese mobs attacked buses and cars carrying Syrians expatriates and those who fled the war heading to the Syrian embas-sy in Beirut on Thursday, protesting against what they said was an organised vote for Presi

fourth seven-year term facing symbolic competition from two candida-tes in a vote all but guar-anteed to bring him back

The in-country vote is expected next week, while Syrians abroad are casting their votes

ond since the country's civil war broke out 10 years ago and is seen by the opposition as well as Western and some Arab countries as a sham designed to give the incumbent a new mandate with a veneer of legitimacy. Scattered mobs of anti-Syrian Lebanese, most of them from the Christian rightwing Forces group, waited for convoys of cars and buses carrying Syrian voters at intersections in Beir-ut, outside the capital and in the eastern Bekaa region. They pelted them with rocks and smashed windows with sticks. In one incident near Nahr el-Kalb on the highway north or Beirut, one attacker poked a wooden stick inside the car, poking the driver as others smashed the windshield.

Buses carrying hundreds of voters featured pictures of the incumbent president on the windows. They don't need to carry pictures and flags for an absurd criminal regime, said Fadi Nader, one of the protesters.

### China 2nd protest **UNDER GOVT**

nced Thursday, the government will create a new entity known as Great British Railways that will own all railroad infrastructure, set most fares and schedules, collect ticket revenue and run a single ticketing website. Private companies will continue to operate trains under contr-

Johnson's government said the move would end "a quarter-century of fragmentation" that created a confusing, expensive patchwork of privately run rail franchis es. That system was cre ated after the railroads were privatised in the 1990s under former Prime Minister John Major who, like Johnson, led a Conservative Party government. "I am a great believer in rail, but for too long passengers have not had the level of service they deserve," Johnson said in a statement. The privatisation of

Britain's railroads followed the sell off of other state-owned assets that began under PM Marga-

TECH | REASONS | Nasa says Beijing failed to meet standards regarding debris

China delays mission to space station

#### over US navy move **Beijing, May 20:** China on Thursday issued its second protest in as many CHINA ON Wednesday

days over US naval activity in the region, accusing a US ship of intruding into its territorial waters surrounding the Paracel island group in the South

A statement from the Southern Theater Command said the guided missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur committed the "il legal" action on Thursday, prompting Chinese forces to mobilise and demand it leave the area. The US action "artificia-

lly increases regional security risks, and is prone misunderstandings, misjudgments, and accidents at sea," the statement said. It called the ship's manoeuvres "unprofessional and irresponsible," saying Chinese forces were determined to defend the country's sovereign claims while maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea. The US refuses to recog-

nise China's claim to virtually the entire South China Sea and regularly conducts what it calls freedom of navigation operations to assert its right to sail in international waters. China on Wednesday issued a complaint over the Wilbur's passage through the Taiwan Strait, also calling it a provocation that undermined peace and stability in the region. While the strait is in international waters. China claims selfissued a complaint over the Wilbur's passage through the Taiwan Strait, also calling it a provocation that undermined peace and stability in the region.

 CHINA HAS fortified its island holdings in the strategically vital South China Sea.

governing Taiwan as its own territory and regards the US Navy's presence near the island as providing support for its independence-leaning democratically elected govern-

Along with building the world's largest navy and coast guard by numbers of vessels, China has fortified its island holdings in the strategically vital South China Sea and created new island outposts by piling sand cement on coral reefs and topping them with airstrips and other infrastructure.

It has ignored rival territorial claims by its smaller Southeast Asian neighbours, as well as an international arbitral ruling that declared most of China's claims in the South China Sea invalid. An emboldened China faced with the scaling up of US military operations in the area has increas ingly raised concerns about a possible clash or confrontation, whether intended or not. -AP

### **US** man survives mauling by bear

Anchorage (US), May 20: Allen Minish was alone and surveying land for a real estate agent in a wooded, remote part of Alaska, putting some numbers into his GPS unit when he looked up and saw a large brown bear walking about 30 feet away. "I saw him and he saw me at the same time, and it's scary," he said by phone Wednesday from his hospital bed in Anchorage, a day after being mauled by the bear

in a chance encounter.

The mauling left Minish with a crushed jaw, a puncture wound in his scalp so deep the doctor told him he could see bone, lacerations and many stitches after a 41/2 hour surgery. He also is wearing a patch over his right eye, saying the doctors are worried about it. All that damage came from a very brief encounter — he estimates it lasted less than 10 seconds after he startled the bear Tuesday morning.

Beijing, May 20: China postponed a supply mission to its new space station Thursday for unspecified technical reasons. The Tianzhou-2 cargo

spacecraft was expected to have been launched early Thursday morning. China Manned Space announced the delay on its website but didn't say when the rescheduled launch may occur. It would be the first mission to head to the main Tianhe module of the space station that was launched on April 29.

Another 10 launches are planned to deliver the station's other two modules, various components and supplies, and a three-person crew. The launch of Tianhe, or Heavenly Harmony, was considered a success although China was criticised for allowing the uncontrolled reentry of part of the rocket that

Usually, discarded rocket stages reenter the atmosphere soon after liftoff normally over water, and don't go into orbit.

carried it into space.

Nasa Administrator Sen. Bill Nelson said at the time that China had failed meet responsible standards regarding space debris. China's space programme has suffered relatively few setbacks since it first put an astronaut into orbit in 2003, although the space station launch was delayed by the failure of an earlier version of the massive Long March 5B rocket.

Earlier this month, China also landed a probe and its accompanying rover on

ing back pictures from the surface of the red planet. Only the United States has successfully landed and operated a spacecraft on Mars — nine times, beginning with the twin Vikings in 1976 and, most recently, with the Perseverance rover in February.

China also recently brought back lunar samples, the first by any country's space programme since the 1970s, and also landed a probe and rover on the moon's less explored far

Mars and has begun send- side. China earlier launched two smaller experimental space stations. It has been excluded from the International Space Station largely at the insistence of the United States, which is wary of the secrecy surrounding the Chinese space programme and its close military links.

Despite that, China has entered into increasingly close cooperation in space with various European and other countries.

## **Chronicle**

21 MAY 2021

### Govt must act fast to beat Covid's spread in villages

he stringent lockdown declared in several states to contain the spread of coronavirus seems to be paying some dividend as is evidenced by the gradual decline of the daily caseload numbers, from a daily average of four lakh or above a week ago to below three lakh now. However, the daily death toll has shown no signs of easing; it hovers around 4,000 steadily for more than a week now

It is in this background that we must see reports about the second wave targeting India's villages, as admitted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a meeting with state chief ministers a week ago. "I want to warn you about corona. The infection is spreading fast in villages," the Prime Minister has been quoted as telling the chief ministers. And all the anecdotal evidence available points to the fact that rural India is finding it difficult to cope with it as everything is in short supply; the bodies that floated on river Ganga was an indication of the crisis that has gripped the villages.

It is going to be a long and tough game to play the virus in rural settings as

a programme for the rural areas, and the lack of health infrastructure is going to be a major issue there. However, no challenge is insurmountable if there is political will.

Facebook-WhatsApp's

this privacy storm was

exacerbated the situa-

tion by warning users

performance during

enough and it

now to sign up

every single factor is in its favour. Compared The government will with the urban settings, the rural areas lack have to quickly roll out a health infrastructure. Testing hesitancy, which is proving to be a major hurdle in the path of the health workers to identify the trouble spots, is on the rise in the villages due to many factors. The lack of awareness about the fatal nature of the infection and the trust in quacks and their home remedies are going to be major obstacles in the efforts to contain the pandemic in rural areas. Taking these factors together, the recent fall in numbers gives a realistic person very little reason to be optimistic about it.

is political will.

The government will have to quickly roll out a programme for the rural areas, and the lack of health infrastructure is going to be a major issue there. However, no challenge is insurmountable if there is political will. Top US public health expert on Covid-19 and former director of the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Anthony Fauci, is on record saying India must put to use all its national resources, including the military, to fight and stop the virus spread. He has even gone on to suggest that the government make use of the services of the armed forces to get medical facilities available for its suffering population by building field hospitals. The government must consider the suggestion as it has little choice if it wants to save its massive rural population from falling victim to the virus.

The government must use all the tools available with it to convince the people into dropping their testing hesitancy and joining the governmental efforts. This is easier said than done but people following Covid protocol would be the most cost-effective and efficient line of defence against the pandemic. There are experts who warn of a more fatal third wave; but the gov ernment must find ways to manage the wolf which is already at the door.

### The WhatsApp conundrum

he Indian government has told WhatsApp once again to withdraw its new privacy policy while giving it seven days to respond to the notice. India is taking this up as a serious issue that concerns its sovereign laws and it would be up to Facebook-WhatsApp to determine whether it needs its Indian presence. The problem is, of course, bigger for WhatsApp as some of its two billion users are leaving the app in droves because they are fed up with its

ham-handed and obstinate handling of issues over sharing data with its principal Facebook, which is often described as the world's greediest

data harvesting machine.

Any user of the Internet should know the **never transparent** minute he signs up for a free site like the messaging platform WhatsApp that his privacy has already been compromised. In Facebook's case, it stood exposed by rivals, including Apple, that it collects much more data — device ID, user ID and contact info — of a user than is really required for offering its secure messaging. Encryption of messages is still its best feature as

all individual user's conversations are secure and no one has access to them unless they are leaked by other users in a group. However, the reason for collecting excessive data is hard to understand. Being a free platform, WhatsApp was at liberty to base any advertising fed to the user on the basis of the data collected. But it was not free to share some data with Facebook, whose last quarter of 2020 revenues were upwards of \$28 billion. Facebook did clarify that its change of terms would only enable its business customers to communicate to WhatsApp users who allow access. A user can now turn off, in WA settings, access to anyone who is not on his/her contact list.

Facebook-WhatsApp's performance during this privacy storm was never transparent enough and it exacerbated the situation by warning users now to sign up under new terms or face cuts in access to full functionality. It is now up to users to decide whether to stay on or switch off and look for alternatives.

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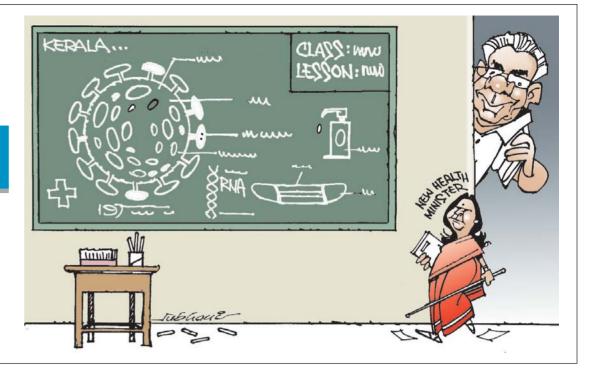
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# RSS & BJP: Is there a shift in the equation?



Anand K. Sahay

**Far & Near** 

recent observations on India's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic emanating from the highest levels of the RSS praised by many as a selfless, nationalist outfit doing social service, and denounced as a "fas-cist" or "militarist" body by a range of critics have left the country mystified. This is because the RSS is the inspiration behind the founding of the BJP.

The RSS can obfuscate speak assertively, but also as a ventriloquist, when needed. It works in a bamboo curtain kind of inner culture. As with China's power pyramid, words coming out of the RSS's Nagpur headquarters lend themselves to multiple plausible meanings.

probably because the organisation was suppressed in certain periods like after Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, but also because before the BJP's rise to power, it sought to play down its ambition that its creation should proceed to capture power.

Now that the BJP is at the pinnacle of political power and not any rival, the RSS should no longer have to deploy the artifice of stealth in negotiating relations with the holders of national power. But here lies the irony: though the BJP, election-fighting instrument it created, is in power in New Delhi, the RSS still appears to be careful in the way it says things out aloud. The reasons are up for

speculation. However, in the context of the Narendra Modi government's conspicuous failure to tackle Covid-19's second wave, as well as its striking failure to offer the country hope — with crematoriums and graveyards becoming increas-

ingly out of reach, oxygen, medicines and hospital beds running short, and hundreds of (pre-sumably Hindu) corpses floating downstream from UP in the holy Ganga — RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's piercing words, although couched in calm delivery, may give the gov-ernment cause for

On May 15, winding up the "Positivity Unboun-ded" lecture series spon-sored by the RSS, Mr Bhagwat gave a pep talk on "collectively" facing the present "difficult" times, when there might be a death in every family one knows, and go into a fightback mode against the virus. But he also said: "The people, administration, government each got into gaflat!" In other words, they goofed up; they failed to gauge the situaappropriately.

These may have been words of Opposition leader, except that they weren't. The RSS no doubt intends that the Modi government regain its composure and is ready to help. But perhaps there is also something else implied here: there is no immediate rush. But should there be a run on the bank, the RSS may prefer to forearmed.

Some Assembly elections are due next year, including in Uttar Pradesh, the nation's biggest state where the BJP did far from well in the recent panchayat polls. If popular disenchantment surfaces in a big way in voting behaviour in the Assembly election early next year, UP, which sends up the largest contingent of BJP MPs the RSS is unlikely to settle down to regard situation

equanimity. And the way to prepare for any eventuality may the ground from now to be able to guide key changes in the govern-ment's top tier if push came to shove. All of this must be done in good time and none of this can be spelt out. But it is hard to miss that a new particle now hangs in

Through one policy disaster after another —
demonetisation, GST
rollout, the sapping
farmers' agitation (which continues), the disconcerting unemployment graph, the RSS stood foursquare behind the government. But the Covid-19 disaster, with corpses floating down the holiest river for Hindus, is a different matter — indeed a different kind of matter.

In a recent newspaper article, a senior RSS figure, Ram Madhav, who until recently was a BJP general secretary, asked the "political leader-ship" — meaning the top government leadership - to show "a little more transparency, a little more engagement with the public, and a little more openness to constructive criticism and enlightened expert opinion from outside the government... After all, the lives of millions are at stake". It does seem the RSS is signalling that all is not well

Wearing BJP colours, two RSS "pracharaks", or full-time volunteers dedicated to the spread of Hindu nationalism in a country of many reliand spiritual mores, have made it to the top. But Atal Behari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi had framed a very different relationship with the mother organisation, the RSS, upon becoming Minister.

Mr Modi has been on the whole solicitous, his

> The spirit of the **RSS** is the fountainhead of the culture and organisation of the BJP too. But the BJP has become something of a mass party.

was more correct, rather than deferential. A part of the reason may have been that Vajpayee's government had to depend on a host of secular coalition partners for survival. Speculation still abounds on this issue, but it's evident the relationship between the BJP and RSS is not carefully studied

well-known While research studies exist on the RSS itself, the sociology of the organisation, its inner workings, and the way it seeks to articulate power in relation to the BJP (earlier Jan Sangh) and influence in Hindu society more generally, has not been adequately studied. The literature is mostly in the nature of self-serving propaganda, hagiography, or trenchant criticism from critics.

The Jan Sangh was created under the RSS's aegis in 1951, and the BJP in 1980. Both were the same thing in spirit. However, at no point did the Jan Sangh wield national power or become a mass party. The RSS, its creator, was the shadow that loomed over it. The spirit of the RSS is the fountainhead of the culture and organisation of the BJP too. But the BJP has become something of a mass party. It has secured power at the Centre for which it doesn't depend on allies. Therefore, its government and leadership may not be a pushover if the RSS showed displeasure.

BJP can't fail to notice that it's the spread of the RSS itself in a communalised polity that ineluctably promoted the BJP's rise as a mass party. At every level of the party and government, the levers are in the hands of RSS personnel. It's evident that the RSS-BJP leadership is shot through with contradictions. What factors give one the upper hand and not the other, at a time when the BJP holds national power, is a complex subject and needs attention. Which entity will prevail is a matter of great interest to the entire country.

On the other hand, the

#### **BEWARE THIRD WAVE**

We must be very cautious now to avoid the third wave of Covid-19. If it happens, the damage will be beyond imagination. Politicians should forget about George Orwell's 'All animals are equal but some are more equal' philosophy. Much damage has already been done. So many families have lost bread-earners. We should follow protocols strictly.

Nitesh Mandwariya Hyderabad

#### **'SURPRISE' VISIT**

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's 'surprise' visit to Gandhi Hospital seems have been planned meticulously (KCR makes a sur-prise visit to Gandhi Hospital, DC, May 20). Even our PM made a 'surprise' to a Valmiki Colony near his official residence during his first term and got it widely covered in the media the following day. Our politicians are not Lord Rama of Ayodhya who went incognito to hear what people have to say about

N. Nagarajan

#### **COVID CITIZEN CARE**

India is a welfare state, but only in the books. The real welfare work is being done by NGOs and Sikh com-munity who are arranging food deliveries, oxygen and providing quarantine facilities. Elsewhere, the dead are being cremated for free. Government's extravagant expenditure on Central Vista, mega statue, etc., seems to have dwindled the finances.

P.R. Ravinder

### 50 YEARS AGO IN hronicle **h**

#### **Ramagundam** power plant to work from next month HYDERABAD, MAY 20

Krishnaswami Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board, today announced that the Ramagundam Thermal Station would start functioning from next month.

Speaking to the ANS, Mr. Krishnaswami said that the capacity of this station would be 62.50 million megawatts. Its total cost would be about Rs. 12 crores and a sum of Rs. 7 crores had been advanced as loan by the

He said that at present the work of firing the boiler was in

Mahir Ali



Killings don't end; but America's love affair with Israel is slowly withering

ell before he plucked up the courage to timorously call for a ceasefire, Joe Biden has been echoing the mantra recited by a long line of his predecessors: Israel has the defend itself. That discredited framework glosses over pertinent questions, such as: does that entail the right to slaughter children, including infants? Ignoring the scale of the carnage in Gaza, the predictable riposte would be: well, Israeli children have also been killed, and remain at risk. Besides, Hamas invited the retaliation.

That's not an absurd argument. Hamas could not possibly have been unaware that its largely ineffective rockets would elicit a brutal response. And Israeli kids obviously have as much right to safety as Palestinian

But that is not how the moral calculus operates in that part of the world. Much of the mainstream Western media has no qualms about implying some kind of equivalence between the supposed combatants. Notwithstan-

ding the extreme imbalance of military power, there's a kind of unacknowledged truth in there: if Hamas can be framed as a terrorist organisation, the Israeli state qualifies for that accolade many times over

That is borne out by its behaviour both historically and in the present instance, where the ratio of casualties is already roughly 1:20, and destined to grow even more disproportionate. All too often, the crude missiles lobbed by Hamas and its allies land in the desert. Sometimes they pose a hazard for Palestinians. Israel claims that 90pc of the rest are intercepted by its Iron Dome defences. That's worth bearing in mind when reading about thousands of Hamas rockets heading into Israel.

Yes, they are 'indiscriminate'. The Israel Defence Forces, on the other hand, are extremely discriminating in aiming their attacks. Hospitals, and towers housing media offices all fall in the category of military targets. If entire families are slaughtered in the process, that's always 'inadvertent'.

As a senator in 1988, Biden declared that if Israel did not exist, America would have been obliged to invent it as a means of defending US interests in the Middle East. For 'interests', read 'oil'. The significance of that fossil fuel has been diminishing in recent years, but the ardency of the fossilised

fools remains intact. Biden faces a somewhat tougher task in this context than most of his Democratic predecessors. The Democratic establishment's hitherto more or less unconditional allegiance to Israel is no longer going unquestioned. Most Democratic senators, including several prominent Jews, were calling for a ceasefire long before the president chimed in, after his administration resisted efforts to produce a UN Security Council state-ment. Of course, Israel is in no way obliged to heed such requests, regardless of their source, because it knows there will be no price to pay. Key UNSC resolutions have remained unheeded.

It's unlikely the UN could make much difference, but the US can.

Apart from the dogged moral support it proffers, the nearly \$4 billion it unconditionally provides every year offers substantial scope for leverage That subsidy feeds directly into the client state's fascist tendencies.

That grotesque US-Israel love affair now faces a threat, with a growing number of American Jews wearving of the Zionist project, particularly its manifestations under Benjamin Netanyahu's reign. Netanyahu, though, is merely a symptom of the problem which has been writ large since the days of David Ben-Gurion. The Zionist project wasn't incompatible with 19th-century European imperialism, but something of an anachronism in the postwar 20th century, when the broad trend was towards liberation rather than colonialism.

In the wake of the horrendous Holocaust, the biggest global powers found Israeli exceptionalism acceptable. The consequences for the land's indigenous inhabitants were barely taken into consideration. The plethora of potential risks involved in implanting a mainly European-run

entity in the Arab world were mainly ignored. The ethnic cleansing of 1948 elicited no Western opposition: there was no alarm over certain Nazi tendencies being echoed by their victims.

The Arab world too has frequently faltered in its (often foolish) response to Israeli power. Lately, much of it has abandoned the pretence of caring for the plight of dispossessed Pales tinians. Last weekend, the hashtag "Palestine is not my cause" reported ly circulated in the UAE, Bahrain and Kuwait. It never was, frankly, but one must be grateful to the over-privileged Gulf Arabs for admitting as much. Israel, on the other hand, will never admit that it encouraged the Muslim Brotherhood precursors of Hamas and Islamic Jihad to set up shop in the occupied territories as a counterweight to the broadly secular Fatah. The project was a success: where would Netanyahu and his ilk be today without Hamas? As for how long this dance of death can be sustained, the answer is still blowing in the wind.

By arrangement with Dawn

# Chronicle

# quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	49,564.86	-0.68
Nifty 50	14,906.00	-0.83
S&P 500*	4,161.83	1.12
Dollar (₹)	73.10	0.09
Pound Sterling (₹)	103.23	0.39
Euro (₹)	89.09	0.28
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	47,994▲237	0.49
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	65.37	-1.94
IN 10-Yr bond yield	5.968	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.642	-0.041
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

#### Sugar exports subsidy cut to ₹4,000/ tonne

The Centre slashed subsidy on sugar exports from Rs 6,000 per tonne to Rs 4,000 per tonne with immediate effect in view of firm global prices. For the ongoing 2020-21 marketing year (Oct.-Sept.), the government had fixed a subsidy of Rs 6,000 per tonne to facilitate exports. Sugar mills were mandated to export 6 million tonne of sugar in the current year. So far, 5.7 million tonne of sugar has been contracted for export.

#### Bosch Q4 net jumps six-fold to ₹482 crore



Auto component major Bosch posted a six-fold increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 482 crore for the fourth quarter, from Rs 81 crore a year ago, driven by robust sales. Revenue from operations rose to Rs 3,218 crore from Rs 2,237 crore. For FY21, Bosch reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 481 crore against Rs 650 crore in 2019-20. Revenue from operations stood at Rs 9,716 crore as compared with Rs 9,842 crore in FY20.

#### Mindtree to buy L&T's NxT **Digital Business**

Mindtree said it will acquire the NxT Digital Business from Larsen and Toubro for Rs 198 crore, a move that will enable the mid-sized IT firm to capture opportunities in the IoT and Industry 4.0 space. The total consideration for the deal was "Rs 198 crore including earnouts.", Mindtree said in a filing. L&T is the promoter/ holding company of Mindtree with a 61.03 per cent stake in the Bengaluru-based company.

#### **Nucleus Software** gets Bank of **Sydney contract**

Nucleus Software, a provider of lending and transaction banking products, said Bank of Sydney has chosen its lending solution. FinnOne Neo, to accelerate its digital lending transformation strategy. Bank of Sydney wanted a sophisticated lending solution to automate and digitize the origination processes for mortgages and credit cards. With FinnOne Neo, Bank of Sydney will be able to launch

new products faster, it said.



### **■**₹250 kit to give result in 15 minutes

### **Covid home test kit to** hit market next week

**MICHAEL GONSALVES** PUNE, MAY 20

A Pune-based research laboratory's indigenously developed self-use rapid antigen test (RAT) kit called CoviSelf, which enables Covid-19 test at home for as little as Rs 250, would be available across pharmacies from next

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the nodal body in the fight against the tricky virus, on Wednesday officially approved the test kit, India's first such.

"This test at home will take just two minutes and results will be available in 15 minutes flat," Sujeet Jain, director at Mylab Discovery Solutions, told Financial Chronicle. "The CoviSelf test kit

will be priced Rs 250 inclusive of taxes," Jain said, adding that the firm was ready to produce 10 lakh test kits every day and the production would be ramped up to 15 lakh units

daily within 15 days. He said the kits would be available by the end of next week in more than seven lakh pharmacies and the company's online pharmacy partners across India.
"After meeting the needs

of our country, we will also export the kits," he said, adding that about 40 scientists and technicians had worked on the project for about five-six months top develop the kit.

Jain said the firm had spent over Rs 150 crore on the product in capex and



"This test is for self-use. If you test positive via this there is no need for RT-PCR test, as per ICMR. Any adult can use this kit by reading our manual,"

he explained. The kit has designed in a way that it is extremely simple to use and it is not a biohazard. There is a disposal bag that comes along for safely disposing off the items after use.

Meanwhile, the ICMR said only symptomatic individuals and immediate contacts of people who have tested positive in laboratory-conducted tests should use this kit. "Indiscriminate testing is not advised," the top medical body said while issuing detailed guidelines on the kit's use.

"All symptomatic individuals who test negative by RAT should get themselves immediately tested by RT-PCR," the ICMR

The testing will be monitored using Mylab's mobile phone application, through which users are advised to click a picture of

the test strip after complet-

ing the test procedure. "This easy-to-use test combines with Myab's AIpowered mobile app so that a user can know his/her positive status, submit the result to ICMR directly for traceability, and know what to do next in either case of result," Jain said.

Data transmitted by the phone will be centrally captured in a secure server that is connected to the ICMR's Covid-19 testing portal, where all data will be eventually stored.

Experts say these home based tests are useful when a runaway infection pattern is observed.

"These tests are used in developed countries such as US and UK. Since these tests have high specificity, it can be used at places where positivity rate is high so as to be able to detect cases early. Positive cases through RAT are mostly true positives," Dr G.C. Khilnani, former head, pulmonology department at AIIMS, Delhi, said

#### **BANKS MAY SHIFT ABOUT 80 LARGE** NPA A/Cs TO NARCL

New Delhi, May 20: Banks are likely to trans-fer about 80 large NPA accounts for resolution to National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL), expected to

be operational soon.

NARCL is the name coined for the bad bank announced in the Budget 2021-22. A bad bank refers to a financial institution that takes over the bad assets of lenders and undertakes resolution.

The size of each of these NPA accounts is over Rs 500 crore and the banks have identified about 70-80 such accounts to be transferred to the proposed bad bank, sources said. NPAs of over Rs 2 lakh crore could move out of the books of the banks to the bad bank.

minister Finance Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget 2021-22 announced that the high level of provisioning by public sector banks of their stressed assets calls for measures to clean up the bank books.

# Gold to gain from crypto fall, dollar weakness

**SANGEETHA G** CHENNAI, MAY 20

The fall in the value of cryptocurrencies and a subdued dollar index will be supportive of gold. Once the speculative money starts moving from cryptocurrencies to gold, the yellow metal prices are likely to touch fresh highs.

"Cryptocurrency is neither a currency nor an asset class. But we have seen enormous amounts of speculative money going into them in the past one year as Bitcoin value moved up from \$8,000 to \$60,000 levels. Single day drop of 40 per cent has made investors realise that cryptocurrency movement has been just speculation,' Ajay Kedia, MD,

Kedia Commodities. According to him, the movement of speculative money into cryptocurrencies had led to slug-

gishness in gold in the past few months despite strong fundamentals. However, now the trend shall see a reversal and this has been evident from the gold price movement in the past few ses-

"Gold prices in the international markets have gained by around 11 per cent while on the futures it gained by around 10 per cent between March 8 and May 19," said Prathamesh AVP-research, non-agri

cies, Angel Broking.

Analysts at JPMorgan Chase too have found that large institutional investors are dumping bitcoin in favour of gold. The bank in January had predicted that bitcoin become an alternative to gold, hitting \$146,000 in

the long term. The fall in the value of the dollar in recent weeks also increased optimism in gold prices. The dollar index on May 19 came down to 89, lowest level in a year.

Mallya expects gold prices to move higher towards Rs 51,000 per 10 gm mark in a month. According to Kedia, it will take at least a month's time for the speculative money to move into gold. Once this happens, international prices can move towards \$2,100 per ounce in a cou-

### FY21 ITR filing deadline extended till Sept. 30

New Delhi, May\_20: The government on Thursday extended the due date of filing income tax returns for 2020-21 for individuals

by two months till September 30.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has also extended the ITR filing deadline for companies by a month till November 30.

As per the income tax law, for individuals whose accounts are not required to be audited and who usureturn using ITR-1 or ITR-4 forms the deadline to file ITR is July 31. The deadline for taxpayers, like companies or firms, whose accounts are required to be

audited is October 31.
In a circular, the CBDT said an extension of time limits is being given for certain tax compliances "to provide relief to taxpayers in view of the severe pandemic".

Also, the deadline for issuing Form 16 by employextended by a month till July 15, 2021, the CBDT said. The due date for filing the

tax audit report and transfer pricing certificate has been extended by a month till October 31 and November 30, respectively. For filing belated or revised return of income, the due date is now January 31, 2022.

Besides, the deadline for financial institutions to furnish the Statement of (SFT) report has been extended till June 30, from May 31, 2021.

Also, the Income Tax Department is expected to launch a new e-filing web portal for taxpayers, which they use to file routine ITRs and perform other tax-related works, early next month, officials said.

The existing web portal will be shut for six days between June 1 and 6. The officials said the new portal will be made more user-

### New investment projects down 68%

SANGEETHA G

Despite the recovery seen during the second half of the year, new investment projects declined by 68 per cent in FY21. Government share in the new projects came down to 32 per cent last fiscal.

In FY21, new investment projects aggregated to Rs 5.18 lakh crore against Rs 16.28 lakh crore in FY20. This was also the lowest since FY04, when total investment projects stood at Rs 4.73 lakh crore. Since FY05. new investment projects were always above Rs 10 lakh crore each year with seven of them witnessing above Rs 20 lakh crore, as per data

from Care Ratings. New investment projects had stood at Rs 2.92 lakh crore in FY03 and it steeply went up to Rs 27.07 lakh crore in FY09. A trough was witnessed in the FY12-FY14 period when there was an increase in NPAs of banks and subsequently

the quantum of stalled

projects increased. Until FY17, government

companies dominated the mix with a share of 58 per cent. This has been coming down since then and from 49 per cent in FY20.

The fall in investments in FY21 can be primarily attributed to the lockdown. The capacity utilisation rate had fallen sharply in June 2020 to 47.3 per cent and since then recovered to 63.3 per cent and 66.6 per cent respectively in September and December 2020.

Lower investments also indicate the increased borrowings witnessed last year was for working capital and refinancing purposes. Of the Rs 5.18 lakh crore, metal and metal products, electricity and chemical and chemical products accounted for major share of the new invest-

ment projects. Investment is a concern because the gross fixed capital formation rate has been falling from 34.3 per cent in FY12 to 28.8 per cent in FY20.

#### **HOME LOAN MARKET GROWS 9.6%**

SANGEETHA G

The home loan market grew 9.6 per cent in the December 2020 quarter over the year-ago period despite the pandemic

With a 9.6 per cent growth, the home loan market made a recovery towards pre-Covid December 2019 level, when the growth was 10.4 per cent. Active housing loan borrowers' base as of December 2020 stood higher than pre-pandemic levels in December 2019, with a yearly growth of nearly 5 per cent, as per the data

from CRIF High Mark. The affordable housing segment constituted 60 per cent of the market by value and nearly 90 per cent by volume. Tier- II and III geographies witnessed a higher annual growth rate in home loan book compared to metros ,with a large part of the growth coming in from the affordable and midmarket segment Visakhapatnam and Coimbatore were among the top 10 cities, having

the largest yearly growth

of over 10 per cent.

### 'Not very social' ByteDance founder to hand CEO reins to college buddy

ECHO WANG & YINGZHI YANG

Zhang Yiming announced he will step down as CEO of TikTok-owner Byte-Dance, saying he lacked the social skills to be an ideal manager and naming his college roommate Liang Rubo as his successor to navigate a rising tide

of Big Tech regulations. In a surprise announcement to employees on Thursday, Zhang said the change would enable him "to have greater impact on longer-term initiatives". He will move to a "key strategy" position at the end of the year, ByteDance

said. The 38-year-old will be succeeded by Liang, a longtime colleague and the current head of human resources at ByteDance, one of the world's biggest private tech companies with an estimated value of about \$300 billion in recent trades.

The management shakeup - ByteDance's biggest since its launch in 2012 comes as Chinese regulators are increasing scrutiny of the country's biggest



**Zhang Yiming** 

technology firms. In April, they handed ecommerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd with a \$2.8 billion fine for anticompetitive practices, and last year suspended fintech affiliate Ant Group's initial

public offering (IPO). regulators Anti-trust have also told Tencent Holdings Ltd they are preparing to fine the gaming giant as much as \$1.55 billion.

who turned Zhang, ByteDance into a social media force, said he was not in fact a social person.

He blamed the day-to-day challenges of a ČEO as being a hurdle to research and innovation, while calling Liang "an invaluable partner" with "strengths in management, organization, and social engage-

"I'm more interested in

analysing organisational and market principles, and leveraging these theories to further reduce management work, rather than actually managing people,' Zhang, who will remain in his role as chairman, wrote in the memo.

"Similarly, I'm not very social, preferring solitary activities like being online, reading, listening to music, and contemplating what may be possible.

In an internal memo seen by Reuters, Liang - also 38 said the new role represented a "huge challenge" with "a lot of pressure".

Liang, not a household name in China, roomed with Zhang at Nankai University in Tianjin, China. He also worked with him at real estate website 99fang.com prior to joining ByteDance. Liang on his LinkedIn profile said he is a ByteDance co-founder.

ByteDance. employs over 100,000 people worldwide, had been preparing for anticipated IPO this year, but halted the plans in

vear, such as those for sci-

#### **DBS HAS FUNDS TO BUY CITI INDIA UNIT: BERNSTEIN**

CHANYAPORN CHANJAROEN

DBS Group Holdings Ltd has sufficient capital to bid for Citigroup Inc's consumer assets in India valued at S\$2.7 billion (\$2 billion) without needing to raise additional funds, Sanford C. Bernstein & Co analysts said.

It's a case of "either go big or go home" for DBS to further expand in India where the Singaporebased bank also acquired Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd in November, Bernstein analysts led by Kevin Kwek wrote in a report on Thursday. DBS chief executive officer Piyush Gupta last month said he is interested in the US bank's assets that are for sale in the South Asian country, as well as in China, Taiwan and Indonesia.

A takeover of Citi's India unit would be DBS's largest acquisition since 2001, when the Singapore firm spent \$5.4 billion buying the Hong Kong unit formerly known as Dao Heng Bank Group Ltd. Among the US bank's assets for sale, India stands out as "the crown jewel," Kwek wrote. Its credit card and wealth business would be attractive to any bidder given the country's economic growth rate and population size, he added.

DBS has pledged to make more income outside its home turf, where the bank derived 70 per cent of its S\$4.7 billion profit in 2020.

DBS remains very disciplined on acquisitions and wouldn't be drawn into any "bidding frenzy," Gupta said April 30 when asked about his interest in Citi's asset sale.

Citi plans to exit retail banking in 13 markets across Asia. Europe, the Middle East and Africa, as part of a strategy by CEO Jane Fraser, who took over in March.

In April, DBS said it would pay S\$1.1 billion for a 13 per cent chunk in China's Shenzhen Rural Commercial Bank Corp., and Gupta has indicated an interest to raise the size of that stake.

- Bloomberg

#### THAILAND PRIORITISES **WORKERS FOR JABS** TO REVIVE ECONOMY

**RANDY THANTHONG-KNIGHT** 

Thailand is adding workers to the front of the vaccination queue in an effort to buttress the economy as a raging Covid outbreak threatens to delay plans to reopen bor-

ders for foreign tourists. Millions of employees under the social security programme in Bangkok. the nation's capital and financial hub, and nine provinces with large economies will get their shots along with other priority groups, according to Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha.

"This group is an important engine to the nation's economy," Prayuth said. — Bloomberg

### **BADGE LOF HONOUR Verification application to appear in Account Settings tab** Twitter starts verification for blue tick

New Delhi, May 20: Twitter will start rolling out its verification application process from Thursday after which approved

the 'blue verified badge'. Twitter had paused its public verification programme a few years ago. However, last year, Twitter said it would re-launch the account verification process in 2021.

user accounts can sport

On Thursday, Twitter highlighted that it has also automatically removing the verified badge from those accounts that no longer meet the updated criteria. We're excited to share

that starting today, we'll

begin rolling out our new

verification application

process and reviewing

public applications for verification on Twitter. Today's application rollout marks the next milestone in our plans to give more transparency, credibility, and clarity to verification on Twitter, Twitter said in a blog. Verified accounts that repeatedly violate the

form said over the past clarity to the verification eligibility criteria and has launched a new policy shaped by public feedback.

to have the blue badge removed, it added. The microblogging platseveral months, it has been working to bring

Twitter highlighted that it has also started enforcing that policy by automatically removing the veri-



fied badge from accounts that no longer meet the updated criteria for verification, such as those that are inactive or incomplete. The coveted 'blue badge'

is one of the ways Twitter helps people distinguish authenticity accounts that are of high public interest, and gives Twitter users more context about who they're hav-

ing conversations with. With today's application launch, we're also introducing new guidelines for verified accounts on Twitter. These verification guidelines are intended to encourage healthy conversations for the betterment of the Twitter community overall, the US-based company said To qualify for verifica-

tion, users must belong to one of the six categories government; companies /brands/organisations; news organisations and iournalists: entertainment; sports and gaming; and activists/organisers/ other influential individu-

Twitter pointed out that it is planning to introduce more categories later this

entists, academics, and religious leaders. It said users must also provide a profile name, a profile image, and either a confirmed email address or phone number. The account must also be active within the last six

months and have a record adherence to the Twitter Rules. Over the next few weeks

everyone on Twitter will start to see the new verification application directly in the Account Settings tab. Twitter said, adding that once the application is submitted, users will get an emailed response. If the application is approved, users will see the blue badge automatically on their profile. -PTItheir profile.

TAKES

#### **Legendary Milkha** Singh is Covid +ve

New Delhi: Legendary Indian sprinter Milkha Singh has tested positive for Covid-19 and is in isolation at his Chandigarh residence. The 91-year-old, popularly known as Flying Sikh, is asymptomatic and claims to be in "high spirits". "A couple of our helpers earlier

tested positive and so all the family members did the tests. Only I returned positive on Wednesday and I am surprised," Milkha said. "I am fine and there is no fever or cough. My doctor told me I will be alright in three-four days. I did jogging just yesterday. I am in high spirits," he added. None of the other family members, including Milkha's wife Nirmal Kaur returned a positive test. — PTI

#### **Shooting coach Monali dies at 44**

New Delhi: In a big loss to the Indian shooting fraternity, coach and technical official Monali Gorhe died of mucormycosis on Thursday She was 44 and is survived by her mother and a sister Monali was admitted to a hospital after being diagnosed with Covid-19 but was discharged only to get re-admitted to treat mucormycosis

Many people recovering from Covid-19 have of late been afflicted by black fungus - or mucormycosis — disease. It is a fungal infection that affects the nose, eve and sometimes the brain. A few hours before her death, her father Manohar Gorhe too succumbed to Covid-19. Monali was the coach of the

pistol core group. She had also served as the national coach of the Sri Lankan shooting team. — PTI

#### **Bhuvneshwar's**

dad passes away

New Delhi: India pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar's father, Kiran Pal Singh on Thursday died at his Meerut residence after battling liver cancer for the last eight months. He was 63 and is survived by his wife Indresh Devi and son and daughter Bhuvneshwar and Rekha respectively. According to ESPNCricinfo, Singh was first detected with the illness in September last year when Bhuvneshwar was playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad in UAE for the IPL. "It is understood that Bhuvneshwar's return from the IPL in UAE, where he was representing Sunrisers Hyderabad, was mainly due to his father's health condition," the report said. Singh was undergoing treat-

#### **Archer doubtful** for India series

ment, including chemotherapy at the All Institute of Medical

Science here after consulting

doctors in the UK. — PT

London: England pacer Jofra Archer will undergo a surgery on his right elbow on Friday, which could effectively rule him out of the first part of the fivematch Test series against visiting India beginning on August 4. Archer is already out of the upcoming two-match Test series against New Zealand and this will be his second surgery after being operated upon on his right hand.

"Jofra has been reviewed by a medical consultant in respect of his right elbow soreness. He will now proceed to surgery tomorrow," the ECB said. — PTI

### **Medical insurance**

for sportspersons

New Delhi: The government has decided to widen its medical insurance cover for sportspersons by increasing the number of beneficiary athletes and including contractual coaches and support staff from this year in the wake of the pandemic. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) on Thursday said that with this decision, the coverage would increase to more than 13.000 athletes, coaches and support staff. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said the well-being of athletes, coaches and support staff are his ministry's

"We want to ensure that all our athletes and contractual staff have health cover during these difficult times and even after,' he said. - PTI

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# REJUVENTUS Dravid to coach India on SL tour

Dethroned as league champs, Juventus claw back to claim Italian Cup

Juventus beat Atalanta 2-1 to win the Italian Cup for 14th time Wednesday returned to the stadium for the first time in over a

Goals in either half from Dejan Kulusevski and Federico Chiesa gave coach Andrea Pirlo his second second trophy of the season after the Italian Super Cup, on the day he turned 42.

Atalanta coach Gian Gasperini was denied a first trophy of his coaching career, and Atalanta's second trophy after the 1963 Coppa Italia.

It was a boost for Juventus who go into the final weekend of the season with their Champions League qualification going down to the wire after Inter Milan ended nine-year league reign. Gianluigi Buffon was in the Juventus goal for the final time in his career and the veteran keeper was solid on the night winning his sixth Coppa Italia 22 years after

his first with Parma.

The veteran pulled off a big save just after kickoff at the Mapei Stadium in Reggio Emilia.

Duvan Zapata had pulled back for Jose Luis Palomino with 43-year-old Buffon using his legs to stop the ball.

Despite the Bergamo side's early domination Juve made the breakthrough after half an hour. Cristiano Ronaldo went down but amid a scramble in front of goal Weston McKennie sent the ball across to Kulusevski who curled into the net.

But ten minutes later Ruslan Malinovskyi blasted in the equaliser.
Pierluigi Gollini denied Kulusevski a second just before the hour after good

work from Chiesa. Chiesa then clipped the post after latching onto a Ronaldo backheel flick. But the former Fiorentina forward made no mistake with quarter of an hour remaining after combining with Kulusevski to beat Gollini.



Juventus' Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon (centre) holds the winners trophy as his teammates celebrate winning the final of the Italian Cup (Coppa Italia) match against Atalanta at the Citta del Tricolore stadium in Reggio

### Liverpool move into top 4; Spurs' Euro hopes dented

Liverpool set up a dramatic final-day battle to qualify for the Champions League with a vital 3-0 win at Burnley, while Tottenham's bid to reach the Europa League suf-fered a blow in a 2-1 defeat against Aston Villa on Wednesday.

Jurgen Klopp's side moved into fourth place in Premier League thanks to goals from Roberto Firmino, Nathaniel Phillips and Oxlade-Chamberlain.

Liverpool are above fifth-placed Leicester on goal difference, with the Reds on +24 and the Foxes on +20. If Liverpool win their final game at home to Crystal Palace on Sunday, they should finish in the top four and salvage a difficult campaign that saw them tamely surren-

der the title to
Manchester City.
Leicester host Tottenham
on Sunday, while thirdplaced Chelsea travel to Aston Villa.

Firmino put Liverpool on course for their fourth consecutive victory with a clinical finish from Andy Robertson's 43rd minute cross. Phillips got the second goal in the 52nd minute with a header from Sadio Mane's cross for his first goal for the club. Oxlade-Chamberlain

in

lashed

third in the 88th minute. Fifth and sixth place finishes secure a spot in next season's Europa League, seventh place brings entry into a playoff for the new Europa

Conference League.
Tottenham will have to wait until their last game of the season to discover their European destiny.

A second defeat in their last three games left them in seventh place, level on points with eighth-placed Everton and three points behind sixth-placed West

They will have to beat Leicester and hope West Ham lose to Southampton to pip their London rivals on goal difference. — AFP

#### **MBAPPE DAZZLES AS PSG CROWNED** WITH FRENCH CUP

Paris, May 20: Paris Saint-Germain have a domestic double in their sights after they won the French Cup by beating Monaco Wednesday's final at the Stade de France.

Goals from Mauro Icardi and Kylian Mbappe won a largely uninspiring final for PSG who now go into the weekend's final round of French league fixtures with 10th league title still a possibility. PSG have now won the French Cup six times in the last seven seasons having reached the final every year since 2015. It was also the sectrophy of coach ricio Pochettino's ond Mauricio Poche managerial career.



Paris Saint-Germain players celebrate with the trophy after winning the French Cup final match against Monaco at the Stade de France stadium in Saint Denis, North of Paris, on Wednesday. Paris Saint-Germain won 2-0.

### **INDIAN FOOTBALL TEAM AWAIT COVID** TEST RESULTS AFTER REACHING DOHA

Doha, May 20: The Indian football team players underwent Covid-19 tests on arrival and are waiting for results before starting their preparatory camp ahead of the joint Qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup. The 28-member squad and support staff landed here on Wednesday night from

"The 28 players and the support staff are in compulsory quarantine till they receive the test results of the conducted RT-PCR tests in Doha,' the All India Football Federation said in a release.

"The squad will, thereafter, be allowed to kickoff their preparatory camp as part of their preparation for

matches," it added The team, bolstered by the return of Sunil Chhetri, will have a preparatory camp inside a bio-bubble here before its first match on June 3 against hosts Qatar. The round of matches are being played in Doha in view of the pandemic which doesn't allow the original format of home and away matches. — PT

#### **PEREZ LEADS 1ST PRACTICE SESSION, HAMILTON FIFTH**

Monaco, May 20: Red Bull driver Sergio Perez clocked the fastest time Thursday during the first practice session for the Monaco Grand Prix.

Perez had a best lap of 1 minute, 12.49 seconds on the sinewy 3.4-kilometre circuit that snakes around the picturesque Principality. Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz Jr. and Max Verstappen, Perez's teammate, were next. AlphaTauri driver Pierre Gasly had the fourth fastest time. He was followed by F1 champion Lewis

Hamilton and Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas. Hamilton is 14 points ahead of Verstappen in the standings after they finished 1-2 in the first four races. Hamilton will be aiming for his 101st career pole position on Saturday and his 99th win on Sunday.

New Delhi, May 20: National Cricket Academy chief and former India captain Rahul Dravid is set to be the head coach of the Indian white-ball squad that will tour Sri Lanka in

Dravid, who stopped trav elling with the India 'A' and U-19 teams after taking over as NCA head in Bengaluru, will be the head coach of the secondstring side in the absence of Ravi Shastri, who will be busy with the Test side in England at the same

"He will travel with the team to Sri Lanka in all likelihood," a BCCI source

It was reported on May 17 that Dravid was being considered for the assignment. Bowling coach Paras Mhambrey will also be a part the of the support

India are expected to play three ODIs and as many T20s in Sri Lanka in July though the schedule has not been announced yet.

The squad will have plenty of fringe players and some established white-



**Rahul Dravid** 

Rahul Dravid will be the head coach of the second-string side for Sri Lanka tour in the absence of Ravi Shastri, who will be busy with the Test side in England at the same time.

ball specialists.

Hardik Pandya, Shikhar Dhawan and Shreyas Iyer are in the running for captaincy.

It remains to be seen if Iyer recovers in time from his shoulder surgery to play in Sri Lanka. -PTI

#### **4,000 FANS TO BE ALLOWED FOR INDIA VS NZ WTC FINAL**

May 20: The World Southampton, Championship final between India and New Zealand in Southampton will be held in the presence of 4000 spectators, Hampshire County Club head Rod Bransgrove has said

The Covid-19 situation has improved in the UK and around 1500 people were allowed to watch the county game between Leicestershire and Hampshire at the Ageas Bowl, which hosts the WTC final from June 18.

"We're staging a four-day county game from today and for the first time since September 2019 fans were allowed for a cricket match in England. The other county games of this round will begin tomorrow and those games too will see crowds," Rod Bransgrove, the head of Hampshire County Club said.

Bransgrove told the website that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the ICC are permitting a crowd of "4000 people" in the eagerly-awaited clash. I understand 50 per cent of the permitted crowds will be taken by the ICC for its sponsors and other stake holders and we will be selling the rest 2000 tick ets. We have already received more than double applications from the fans," Bransgrove said.

"It is a high interest game and there is a good demand for it," Bransgrove added.

The Indian team, currently quarantining in Mumbai for two weeks, depart for the UK on June 2.

### India not safe for C20 WC: Hussey

Sydney, May 20: Former Australia batsman Mike Hussey who tested positive for Covid-19 in IPL's biobubble, has advocated moving this year's T20 World Cup from India to the UAE as he feels teams will be "nervous" to travel there because of the raging pandemic.

Batting coach Hussey was among three members of the Chennai Super Kings contingent who contracted the virus during the IPL, which had to be suspended after cases were detected in four teams.

"I think it's going to be very difficult in my view to play that tournament in India," Hussey told Fox Cricket upon his return to Sydney.

Hussey had also spent two weeks isolating in India after testing positive for the virus in Delhi from where he was transported to Chennai in an air ambu-

"We're talking about eight teams in the IPL. I think there are probably similar number, maybe more teams coming in from overseas (for the T20 World Cup), there'd be more venues. As I said earbig contingency plans, perhaps looking at the UAE or somewhere like that that could host the World T20. — MIKE HUSSEY former Australia plaver

I think it's going to be

very difficult in my view

to play that tournament

have to look some pretty

in India. I think they'll

lier, if they're playing in different cities, that is when the risk goes up.

"I think they'll have to look some pretty big contingency plans, perhaps looking at the UAE or somewhere like that that could host the World T20. I think there will be a lot of cricket boards around the world that'd be pretty nervous about going back to India for a cricket tourna-

ment," said Hussey. UAE has already emerged as the back up venue and the ICC is likely to take a call on the tournament on June 1. Talking about his ordeal in India, Hussey said he had symptoms but he never feared for his life.

### There's got to be much more to the ball-tampering story



Hemant Kenkre **Silly Point** 

ameron Bancroft wittingly or otherwise has etched his name in the annals of cricket history. The Australian opener who has yet to score 500 runs in 10 Test matches so far in his career, was caught by the television cameras trying to rough up one side of the

cricket ball in the third Test between the Aussies and South Africa in Cape Town in 2018. The sorry tale shook up Australian cricket with skipper Steve Smith and David Warner getting one year bans and Bancroft being out for nine months. Just when people thought the water had

Bancroft opened the can once again when, in an interview, he hinted that more players were aware of what's called 'sandpa-per gate.' The interview pointed fingers at the bowlers who most former players believe were equally conscious that a foreign substitute (sandpaper) was being to tinker with the ball in the Test.

While Cricket Australia (CA) said that the incident was thoroughly investigated and they had reached out to Bancroft to see if he was willing to speak fur-

whole affair was brushed under the carpet which, now was showing a bump on the far side. Former skippers Aussie Chappell and Michael Clarke have stated that there had to be more people involved (than the punished trio), with Clarke questioning the integrity of the bowlers saying: 'Can you imagine that ball

Ball management, on the field of play, is as old as the game. Picking the seam

knowing about it?'

being thrown back to the

bowler and the bowler not

nail to help movement or using foreign substitutes from bottle caps to strips laden with Vaseline is a been-there, done-that situation, if one peeks into the history of cricket.

The Aussie pack of bowlers in the Cape Town Test including Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins seem to have smoked the peace pipe with Bancroft. incident when looked at from a practical cricketing perspective makes no sense. One can-

not imagine a bowler play-

ing at a serious level not

been played around with. The new episode in this saga brought back a memory which goes to show that not just the bowlers but even the batsmen can tell from the changing pattern of the ball. As a schoolboy one was

privy to an episode which involved Mansur Ali Khan, a.k.a. Tiger Pataudi. While playing against us (schoolboys) in a Sunday friendly in 1974-75, Tiger showed us kids his remarkable knowledge and understanding of the game. Getting out in the first

the former Indian skipper gently asked if the ball had been changed? No, said the vehement umpires and yes, said the bowler who had quietly replaced the ball during the break as he couldn't get a decent grip on the old one.

It was just the feel of the ball on his bat that prompted Tiger to raise a doubt. What the most iconic cricketer of that era could surmise in a minute with one good eve, international bowlers couldn't do at Newlands, Cape Town hard to believe!