

# DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | FRIDAY 25 | JUNE 2021

## WEATHER



**Max:** 34°C  
**Min:** 21°C  
**Rainfall:** Nill

## ASTROGUIDE

**Pilava:** Aani 11  
**Tithi:** Pradhamai  
**Star:** Moolam  
**Rahukalam:**  
10.30 am to 12 noon  
**Yamagandam:**  
3 pm to 4.30 pm  
**PRAYERS**  
**Fajar:** 4.25 am  
**Luhar:** 12.16 pm  
**Asar:** 3.37 pm  
**Maghrib:** 6.38 pm  
**Isha:** 7.57 pm  
**SUNSET TODAY** 6.48 PM  
**SUNRISE TOMORROW** 6.02 AM  
**MOONRISE TODAY** 7.37 PM  
**MOONSET TOMORROW** 8.26 AM



## CORONA COUNT

CASES	DEATHS
(+51,109)	(+1,322)
3,01,33,288	3,93,336

covid19india.org

### STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS

(+6,162)	(155)
TN: 24,49,577	31,901

### WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

18,05,56,461

### DEATHS

39,11,165

COUNTRIES, AREAS WITH CASES

219

worldometers.info

## Cong to hold nationwide agitation from July 7-17

**New Delhi:** The Congress decided on Thursday to hold a countrywide agitational programme from July 7 to 17 against the rising inflation and the increase in the fuel prices. This was decided at a meeting of the party general secretaries and various state in-charges convened by Congress president Sonia Gandhi. All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K C Venugopal, in a statement, said led by the party chief, the AICC team discussed and deliberated upon the important and urgent issues of high inflation, price rise, the skyrocketing rates of pulses, edible oil and

## COUNTER

## POINT



**Crisis is over... no threat to my government for the next 48 hours!**

# Anti-virus czar John McAfee found dead in jail cell

**Madrid, June 24:** John McAfee, the creator of McAfee antivirus software, was found dead in his jail cell near Barcelona in an apparent suicide on Wednesday, hours after a Spanish court approved his extradition to the United States to face tax charges punishable by decades in

prison, authorities said. The eccentric cryptocurrency promoter and tax opponent whose history of legal troubles spanned from Tennessee to Central America to the Caribbean was discovered at the Brians 2 penitentiary in northeastern Spain. Security personnel tried to



revive him, but the jail's medical team finally certi-

### LOGGED OUT

Spain's National Court had ruled in favour of extraditing McAfee to the US to face tax evasion cases.

fied his death, a statement from the regional Catalan

government said. "A judicial delegation has arrived to investigate the causes of death," it said, adding that "everything points to death by suicide."

The statement did not identify McAfee by name but said the dead man was a 75-year-old US citizen awaiting extradition to his country. A

Catalan government official familiar with the case who was not authorised to be named in media reports confirmed it was McAfee.

Spain's National Court on Monday ruled in favour of extraditing McAfee, who had argued that the charges against him were politically motivated. — AP



**Stalin's fiat fails to enthuse anti-Kudankulam activists**



**Some H-1B seekers can resubmit form**

## SPORT | 8

**Kane salutes his affable Kiwi stars**



deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle, google.com/+deccanchronicle

Vol. 11 No.179 Established 1938 | 8 PAGES | 4.00

# Will reduce distance with Kashmiris, assures Modi

■ **Statehood at appropriate time, PM tells meeting of leaders**

**RAJNISH SHARMA | DC WITH AGENCY INPUTS NEW DELHI, JUNE 24**

In a major initiative, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday reached out to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, saying that he was committed to remove "Dilli ki doori" as well as "Dil ki doori", and also reiterated that he was committed to restoring full statehood to J&K at an "appropriate time".

Mr Modi expressed his views at a marathon meeting of over three hours with 14 top J&K leaders from eight different parties, which included four former CMs -- Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mehbooba Mufti, Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah. Home minister Amit Shah and national security adviser Ajit Doval were among those present.

This is the first time top political leaders from J&K held detailed talks with Prime Minister Modi and other Central leaders like Amit Shah since J&K's special status under Article 370 was abolished in August 2019 and the state was split up into two Union territories of J&K and Ladakh.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, former CM Omar Abdullah said both Mr Modi and Mr Shah pledged they were committed to restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. "The takeaway from the meeting was that the Prime Minister said he wanted to remove 'Dil ki doori' and 'Dilli ki doori', but I as well as other leaders are sure that one meeting is not enough. However, a process has



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an all-party meeting with various political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir, in Delhi, Thursday. — PTI



**Delimitation has to happen at a quick pace so that polls can happen and J&K gets an elected government that gives strength to J&K's development trajectory.**

— **NARENDRA MODI**, Prime Minister



**The takeaway is that the Prime Minister said he wanted to remove 'Dil ki doori' and 'Dilli ki doori', but we are sure that one meeting is not enough. However, a process has begun.**

— **OMAR FAROOQ**, NC leader

# Congress, PDP call for early elections

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 24**

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad told reporters he put forward various points on behalf of his party, including restoration of complete statehood, followed by elections. "I have also asked for a rehabilitation process for Kashmir Pandits, release of political prisoners, and domicile rules whereby the Centre guarantees jobs for the people of Jammu and

Kashmir," Mr Azad told reporters.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said she complimented the Prime Minister for initiating back-channel talks with Pakistan. On the abrogation of Article 370, Ms Mufti said her party would continue to fight for its restoration. "After all, the special status has not been given to us by Pakistan. It was given to us by late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel.

# Covid numbers show rising trend

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 24**

After a steady decline for over a week, fresh Covid-19 cases have started picking up again, raising the fear that a fresh wave may be on its way. On Thursday, 54,069 new cases were detected in the past 24 hours, which is 6.3 per cent higher than the previous day. In the last 24 hours, 1,321 deaths were reported. However, the Union health ministry said the daily positivity rate was at 2.91 per cent in India at present.

Delhi and Mumbai, which showed a considerable decline in fresh cases, are also slowly showing rising numbers. Delhi reported 109 new cases while Mumbai had 789 fresh cases. Maharashtra Chief Minister Udhav Thackeray has instructed the state health authorities to prepare for a possible third wave as the state is seeing a rise in new cases. Maharashtra also has the highest number of the "Delta Plus" variant of SARS-CoV2 being detected in Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Jalgaon, Thane and Mumbai. To increase the vaccination coverage, the Navi Mumbai Municipal

# Sonia asks cadre to fight vaccine hesitancy, pressure government

**New Delhi, June 24:** Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday expressed concern over the pace of vaccination in India, and said the country needs to prepare for the third wave of Covid-19 and protect children.

Addressing a meeting of party general secretaries and in-charges of AICC in various states, she said

Corporation started inoculating homeless people and beggars.

An ICMR study has shown only 9.99 per cent of fully vaccinated people needed hospital admission in Odisha. The sample size was 361. Out of these, 274 samples with confirmed breakthrough infection, 35 (12.8%) individuals had received Covaxin and 239 (87.2%) had got Covishield. The study said around 9.9 per cent of the individuals were hospitalised with no significant difference between Covaxin and Covishield recipient groups.

the party must ensure that vaccine hesitancy is overcome and wastage of vaccines minimised. She called upon the partymen to continue to put pressure on the Union government to ensure that the daily rate of vaccination troubles so that 75 per cent of the population gets fully vaccinated by end of this year.

"No doubt, this is dependent entirely on the adequacy of vaccine supply. We must continue to put pressure on the Union government which has, at our party's insistence, finally taken on the responsibility for this," Ms Gandhi said. "At the same time, we have to ensure that registration takes place," she said.

# States are free to set marks guidelines: SC

**New Delhi, June 24:** The Supreme Court on Thursday directed all the state boards to declare results of internal assessment of Class 12 examination by July 31, making it clear that each board is free to formulate its own evaluation method for students and there can't be a "fit-all" scheme.

The apex court, which

said it would not pass any direction for a uniform assessment scheme across the country for students whose board exams have been cancelled amid the Covid-19 pandemic, directed the state boards to ensure that schemes are formulated and notified at the earliest and not later than 10 days from Thursday. — PTI

# GRAVES FOUND ON GANGA AS WATER RISES

**DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 24**

Weeks after bodies of alleged Covid-19 victims floating on the river Ganga, reports of mass graves in the sandbanks of the river, suspected to be of Covid patients, have appeared as the water level rose at Prayagraj. Images of authorities fishing out the bodies as the sand banks crumble in the rising waters have been shot by local journalists, reports said.

One of the images showed a Prayagraj municipal corporation team pulling out a body stuck on the riverbank with a hand covered in white surgical glove jutting out of the saffron shroud. Another image showed two men recovering a shroud-covered body at a different ghat. An official of the municipal corporation has been quoted by local media that he had cremated 40 bodies in the last 24 hours.

# Wait for budget, CM tells Oppn

**G. BABU JAYAKUMAR, D. SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, JUNE 24**

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday hit out at those who found the Governor's Address to be uninspiring and not speaking about the plethora of promises given in the DMK manifesto saying "this is only a trailer, wait for the full picture".

The full picture would be unveiled when the budget will be presented, the Chief Minister said in his reply to the motion of thanks for the Governor's address in the assembly on Thursday.

Launching a scathing attack on the opposition AIADMK for blaming the government for the spike in Coronavirus cases in the state, Mr Stalin explained with statistics that the previous government's negligence between February 26 and May 6, when they were technically in power, caused the rise in numbers.

Likening the AIADMK washing its hands off the Coronavirus surge to the title of a Tamil film, 'Naduvule Konjam Pakkatha Kanoom' (some pages in between are



missing), he said that it was the previous government's gross neglect with a fear that may not return to power that led to the rise in numbers.

Referring to the statement of the leader of the opposition Edappadi K. Palaniswami that the DMK gave 505 promises in its manifesto but had not addressed any of them, Mr Stalin said he was thankful that people's confidence on his government was such that it was expected to fulfil the promises in just 49 days of rule.

Explaining that all the plans of the five-year government could not be listed in the Governor's address, containing the one-year plan in a concise manner, he assured the house and the people that all the promises made during the elections would be honoured without fail. ■ P2

# SC frown has AP drop exam plans

**DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS NEW DELHI/AMRAVATI, JUNE 24**

The Andhra Pradesh government on Thursday announced the cancellation of its Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations after the Supreme Court earlier in the day took a serious view of the state government's indecisiveness.

State education minister A. Suresh said it had decided to cancel the exams as it was difficult to adhere to the July 31 deadline set by the Supreme Court to complete the process.

The Supreme Court's scathing remarks about the state government's determination to conduct the exams in the last week

of July, while most states had already scrapped their state board exams, forced the state to cancel the exams, to the relief of lakhs of students and their parents.

Earlier, referring to the 'Delta Plus' strain Covid cases in Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh, the Supreme Court took to task the Andhra Pradesh government for exposing five lakh students and nearly one lakh teachers, invigilators and support staff to the pandemic over its insistence on holding physical Class 12 examinations that it said would require 34,634 rooms to seat 15 students each in a room. "Nobody knows how the Delta Plus Covid strain will roll out", it said.



## OTHER STORIES

## Ten shops sealed in Kanchi for violating Covid-19 norms

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, JUNE 24

Kanchipuram district administration sealed at least 10 saree shops for Covid-19 protocol violations. According to officials, 10 shops were sealed for failing to enforce physical distancing norms and control the number of people entering the shops. In addition to this, the officials also fined 26 shops for opening despite the coronavirus lockdown.

The officials collected imposed a fine of ₹5,000 each on 26 traders and ₹200 for the public that come to purchase silk sarees. Even as the large shops are shut down in Kanchi, small shops are allowing customers inside shops. While there is a restriction for the entry of customers in the shops, these small shops allow 100 customers at a time. People from around South India reach Kanchipuram for the purchase of silk sarees during the wedding seasons.

People flocking to this town is the reason for the surge in Covid cases in the district.

## 3,21,300 doses of Covishield arrive in Chennai

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, JUNE 24

The Tamil Nadu health department on Thursday received 3,21,300 doses of the Covishield vaccine. On Thursday afternoon, 27 parcels with 3,21,300 doses of Covishield vaccine manufactured by Serum Institute in Pune arrived here at Chennai airport in an Indigo Airlines flight.

The processing of the shipment at the Chennai airport was completed quickly and it was handed over to Department officials, airport sources said.

The vaccines were sent to the Directorate of Medical And Rural Health Services in Teynampet in Chennai.

## Stalin's fiat fails to enthuse anti-Kudankulam activists

M. ARULOLI | DC  
TIRUNELVELI, JUNE 24

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's announcement in the assembly withdrawing all cases registered against the anti-Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) protesters has not enthused the anti-KKNPP activists. Even after a couple of earlier promises of the state government, there are still 105 cases pending against the protesters.

Despite the Supreme Court's May 6, 2013 directive to then Tamil Nadu government to withdraw all criminal cases filed against the anti-KKNPP protesters, the state gov-



ernment in response to the PILs filed by environment activist G. Sundararajan and advocate P. Pugazhendhi in the Madras high court on July 24, 2013 refused to clear the cases saying time had not ripened to do so.

Then additional solicitor general P. Wilson, now a DMK Rajya Sabha mem-

ber, representing the Union government too toed the AIADMK government's stand against the anti-KKNPP activists alleging there were threats to blow up the nuclear power plant.

Arguing that the PILs seeking the withdrawal of cases were not maintainable in the high court, Wilson added, "when the petitioners allege violation of the order of the Supreme Court they must necessarily go to the apex court."

I.S. Inbadurai, former AIADMK MLA of Radhapuram, where Kudankulam is located, who assisted the Tamil Nadu advocate general against the PILs in the

high court in 2013, remembered that Dr S.P. Udhayakumar, the co-ordinator of the People's Movement Against Nuclear Energy (PMANE), himself has more than 100 cases pending against him. The anti-nuke activist said, "let's wait and watch before celebrating the announcement of Stalin."

Udhayakumar added that PMANE activists would continue their efforts to withdraw all cases against people involved in the anti-KKNPP struggle as many of the youth, particularly in the fishing hamlets of K u d a n k u l a m , Idinthakarai and Kuthankuli, still are

unable to find jobs and unable to apply for passport or police verification certificate because of the pending cases.

Of the 350 cases filed against thousands of people between 2011 and 2014, 213 cases were withdrawn following the court order on October 9, 2014 and 32 cases were dropped at the local police in 2016. Later in February 2021, then chief minister Edappadi K Palanisamy too announced withdrawal of 105 cases, but nothing positive happened. Of the pending cases against the anti-nuke activists, chargesheets have been filed in the Valliyoor court in 38 cases, while 67 are still at the FIR stage.

## Salem farmers celebrate withdrawal of all cases

ZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC  
SALEM, JUNE 24

The jubilant farmers in Salem burst crackers and distributed sweets to celebrate Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's announcement that all cases filed against the farmers who revolted against the Salem-Chennai eight-lane highway project will be withdrawn.

Many cases were filed against the farmers in Poolavari, Parapatti, Kuppanur and Kallapatti villages during the AIADMK regime for staging protests against the project.

"The farmers in Poolavari and surrounding areas had never been to courts for any cases as their focus had always been on farming activities. Just for opposing the Salem-Chennai eight-lane project, many cases were

Many cases were filed against the farmers in Poolavari, Parapatti, Kuppanur and Kallapatti villages during the AIADMK regime for staging protests against the project

filed against the protesting farmers and had to make frequent visits to the courts. The farmers protested only to safeguard the farm lands. Now, the farming community in Salem is happy that the TN government has come forward to withdraw all cases against the farmers. The TN government should stand firm with the farmers and should not allow the eight-lane road project to take shape," a farmer added.

## New beginning



Students receive new textbooks at a government school in Chennai on Thursday.

— DC

## Over 100 activists hit out at Centre for pushing EIA draft

OP ARULN | DC  
CHENNAI, JUNE 24

Criticising the Union government for attempting to push the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2020, over 100 environmental groups, activists and eminent personalities demanded withdrawal of the notification.

In an open letter sent to Union minister of environment, forest and climate change Prakash Javadekar on Thursday, they alleged that the ministry was pushing the notification through the backdoor.

The ministry published the draft EIA in March 2020, which was vehemently opposed by environmental activists stating that it diluted the legally-binding environmental safeguards.

They alleged that it was a move to dilute the norms governing the environment clearance process for industrial projects. They have opposed re-categorisation of projects and avoiding

public scrutiny and post facto legalising the project violations and overriding tribal laws and the rights of adivasis and dalits.

They have demanded the government to accept and acknowledge the CSIR-NEERI report analysing the 20 lakh objections to the report and put in place a transparent and independent mechanism to identify and incorporate the comments received regarding the draft notification.

Subsequently, the ministry asked the CSIR-NEERI to collate and compile the comments and objections for draft EIA 2020.

The CSIR-NEERI report on "Collation and review of the comments/suggestions received from all the stakeholders on the draft EIA Notification 2020", has been in the public domain from March 2021.

After going through this report more than 100 environmental groups and individuals on Thursday wrote a letter to the

Ministry demanding to acknowledge and accept the conclusion of CSIR-NEERI report that there are serious problems with the EIA Draft 2020, to follow the recommendations of the report, to address its gaps, and to ensure transparency and objectivity regarding MoEFCC's next steps with respect to the draft EIA Notification 2020.

The signatories include Chennai Solidarity Group, Chennai Climate Action Group, Poovulagin Nanbargal, Abhayraj Naik, Azim Premji University, Aditi Deshpande, Anil Varghese, Delhi Forum, K Ramnarayan, ecologist & educator, Uttarakhand, Climate Front India, Focus on the Global South, India, Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India, Green EIA Movement, Nousheen Khan, Children Against Dow-Caribide, Nita Mahadev, Gujarat Lok Samiti, T. Ivan Zhimo, Nagaland, V Arun, Akila Balu, Students' Sea Turtle Conservation.

## HC rejects plea against appointment of a person from IAS cadre as the commissioner of school education

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, JUNE 24

The Madras high court has dismissed a petition, which sought a direction to the authorities to appoint the Director of School Education as head of the department from among the promotees, instead of appointing the officers from Indian Administrative Service. The first bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Senthil Kumar Ramamoorthy dismissed the petition filed by P.Karunakaran.

The bench said there is no merit in the petition as the petitioner seeks to challenge a government notification of May 14, 2021 appointing a person from the Indian Administrative Service cadre as the Commissioner of School Education.

The bench said according to the petitioner, the post of Commissioner may have been mistakenly identified as that of the Director of School Education. The petitioner says that what the impugned notification has done may



amount to the merger of the posts of the Commissioner of School Education and the Director of School Education. The petitioner refers to a previous government notification of November 20, 2019, the bench added.

The bench said apart from the fact that in matters pertaining to service and appointment to a particular post, which was within the exclusive domain of the executive, the Court tends not to interfere unless gross illegality was pointed out. It appears that the post of the Commissioner of School Education was included in the cadre strength of Indian Administrative Service with effect from June 6, 2014 and the same was evident from the notification of November

20, 2019, the bench added.

The bench said advocate general R.Shanmugasundaram stated that this was the third Indian Administrative Service officer who has been appointed as the Commissioner of School Education and the post has always been occupied by an officer of the Indian Administrative Service since the time it has been included within the fold of Indian Administrative Service from 2014 or, at any rate, from the publication of the previous notification of November 20, 2019.

"The petitioner, claiming to be a retired school teacher, may have some personal ideas as to what class of persons would be best suited to be the Commissioner. As of now, it appears that an officer of the Indian Administrative Service cadre has to be appointed to such post and as to the choice of the officer of the Indian Administrative Service cadre the Court cannot interfere into what is clearly within the executive domain. There is no merit in the petition", the bench added.

## Safety protocols, vax can stave off Delta+ threat



B. Vijayalakshmi

## Viewpoint

With buses, metro rail and suburban trains being operated and travel restrictions lifted, Chennai is almost back on its feet. Traffic has begun choking arterial roads as e-registration is no longer required to travel in taxis and auto rickshaws and motorists have begun commuting to their offices. Education institutions are functioning for enrollment of students even while students were given free textbooks this week.

Since film and television serial shootings have resumed, it is back to nor-

malcy for TV channels. Neither old TV serials are re-telecast nor episodes return. Popular soaps are back with 'new episodes' much to the excitement of TV buffs.

Amid worries of a possible third Covid wave, along with the emergence of a Delta Plus variant in Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh, the Tamil Nadu government must exercise caution in easing further curbs.

The health ministry has categorised Delta Plus as a variant of concern. While the variant's transmissibility and virulence are being



probed, the Central government has asked states to immediately take up containment measures.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court on Thursday said it

would hold the Andhra Pradesh government responsible for any deaths while holding Class 12 exams as it was not convinced of the precautionary

measures suggested by the state.

The Tamil Nadu government must continue to bar entry of people to beaches, tourist spots and amuse-

## DMK cannot be chained like tamed elephant, says Stalin

From P1

Taking off from a quote by Mr Palaniswami, twisting a popular axiom that the sound of bells precedes the arrival of the elephant (Yaanaivarum pinne, mani osai varum mune) by adding that there was no chiming of the bell or the arrival of the elephant in the Governor's address, Mr Stalin came up with an interesting retort.

He said only tamed elephants would be harbingers of the sound of bells, adding that the DMK cannot be chained and like an elephant whose strength was on its four legs, the DMK, and the present government, stood on the four pillars of social justice, self-respect, love for language and rights of the state.

The Chief Minister recalled the 100 years history of the Dravidian movement, starting with the Justice Party coming to power in Madras Presidency during British Rule and paid tributes the previous Chief Ministers A. Subbarayalu Reddiar of the Justice Party, K. Kamaraj of the Congress, C.N. Annadurai and M. Karunanidhi, both of the DMK.

In fact, he started his speech by exultingly remembering the heroes of the past one century who created history by passing orders relating to social justice, breaking the dominance of north India, recognising women's rights and providing them representation, introducing reforms in education and sowing the seeds of social changes.

He recalled that with limited powers the Justice Party that ruled the state from 1920 to 1937 upheld class rights, worked for SC's welfare and protected temples and said that when DMK came to power in 1967 Annadurai called it a continuation of the Justice Party rule.

Thus he traced his government to the legacy of

the Justice Party and the Dravidian movement and said that the people of Tamil Nadu had elected his government with the hope that the government would nourish them and take care of their interests and development.

He said the government's objectives and goals were enunciated in the Governors' address and thanked the 22 members of a wide range of political parties who spoke on it during the past two days.

Then, he went on to list the various things that his government had done since it assumed power and gave the assurance that Covid-19 care will be a priority. He mentioned the steps taken by his government since taking charge on increasing the number of beds, setting up a war room to help people seeking help on treatment and so on.

He referred to the decision to provide coverage for Covid-19 in private hospitals under the Chief Minister's Insurance Scheme, funds spend on addressing the emerging problem of Black Fungus infection, making vaccination a movement and the payment of compensation to frontline workers who laid down their lives in the line of Coronavirus duty.

The state's economy was in a shambles and it was to revive it he had brought in internationally renowned experts as advisors, he said and promised to set up more industries in the northern districts of the state, revive the Samathuvapuram (equality villages) that Karunanidhi launched but left to rot by the AIADMK governments.

Summing up his reply, he said the government would never forget the people of the state, and sought the support of the House in passing the resolution.

With that the session adjourned and the budget session is expected to begin in July.

## Plea to permit pharma firms to manufacture 2DG oral powder

DC CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI, JUNE 24

A Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the Madras high court to direct the Union government to grant permission to multiple pharmaceutical companies to manufacture the 2-Deoxy D-Glucose (2DG) oral powder with affordable cost for the patients affected by Covid-19 infection.

A division bench comprising Justices N.Kirubakaran and Thamiliselvi before whom the PIL filed by D.Saravanan came up for hearing on Thursday, posted the matter to June 25, for Centre's reply.

According to the petitioner, 2DG, an inhibitor of glucose transport and glycolysis, was known to inhibit the growth of neoplastic cells in vitro and in vivo. While 2DG has been studied in 218 clinical trials for the treatment of various cancers globally. However, based on mechanistic and in-vitro evidence as well as efficacy seen in the interventional clinical studies in malignancies and genital herpes, the sponsors believe that 2DG could be developed for the specific treatment of patients with Covid-19 disease in conjunction with other anti viral therapies. 2DG was chosen based on its in vitro inhibition potential towards SARS-Cov 2 from the studies conducted by Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, Delhi, of the Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO) at centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, he added.

He said it was very shocking to note that one particular pharmaceutical company namely Dr.Reddy's was authorized to manufacture the above 2DG oral powder developed by DRDO with cost of ₹900 which will certainly lead to disaster when the emergency care patients were suffering every day losing their lives. Hence, in order to safeguard the lives of our people the above drug may be licensed to multiple pharmaceutical companies to manufacture in war footing to save the lives at the nominal cost which will enable the people affected under the Covid-19 to get rid of the above hazard who were forced to suffer under severe economic disaster by losing the jobs in several places. In our country, Covid-19 was causing huge economic as well as monetary loss. The policy of granting license to one particular company will create monopolistic trade and give way for price rise and method of providing the drug to nationwide emergency patients, those who were in ICU as on date will benefit. As per the policy of the DRDO it ought to have invited applications for the multiple companies to manufacture and supply the above 2DG oral powders without any delay to the hospitals directly to save the human lives.

Minister for municipal administration K.N.Nehru launches a website to book vaccination slots at Ripon Buildings. Corporation Commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi also seen.

ment parks till the time majority get vaccinated in the state. There has been good response to mass vaccination centres and mobile vaccination camps organised across the city by the Chennai corporation. Special job camps are also held for those going abroad for studies and jobs.

It is important that Tamil Nadu reopens the economy gradually. It must contain the possible third wave with sequencing which helps to keep tabs on mutations. If safety protocols are not enforced strictly and daily vaccination rate not doubled, the third wave may catch up faster than we expect.



