THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI FRIDAY 2 JULY 2021



NATION 4

Gulshan murder: Conviction of Dawood aide, acquittal of Taurani upheld by HC



SPORT | 8

Sania Mirza and her partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands move to 2nd round of Wimbledon

TABLOID 11

Pop star loses case in court, her father to stay as BritneySpears' guardian

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The Tomorrow War, poses at the Los Angeles premiere of the film on Wednesday.

Dogs have right to food, citizens right to feed them: Court

New Delhi: Observing that animals have a right under law to be treated with compassion, respect and dignity, the Delhi high court has asked the Animal Welfare Board of India to designate areas in consultation with RWAs for feeding of community dogs in the national capital. Stating it was the moral responsibility of each and every citizen to protect the animals, the court also directed the AWBI to ensure that every RWA constitutes an Animal Welfare Committee.

More on Page 2

MP mantri falls from dais during function

Gwalior: Madhya Pradesh energy minister Pradyumna Singh Tomar on Thursday fell from the dais during a program here. The minister was taken to a hospital for check-up and his condition was completely normal, a senior police official said. He later left for Bhopal. ■ More on Page 3

Prof. alleges 'caste bias' at IIT-Madras

Chennai: An assistant professor of the IIT Madras on Thursday said he was quitting the institute and alleged caste discrimination as one of the primary reasons for his move. In an e-mail, purportedly from the assistant professor of economics, he apprises members of the faculty about the 'caste bias'.



Don't worry... now, they want to legalise this!





Forecast: Partly cloudy

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana Tithi: Jyeshta Bahula Ashtami till 3.32 pm Star: Revathi full day Varjyam: 5.01 pm to 6.47 pm Durmuhurtam: 8.25 am to 9.17 am; 12.46 pm to 1.38 pm Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12

> **SUNSET TODAY 5.27 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 7.22 AM** MOONRISE TOMORROW 12.52 PM

> > **MOONSET TODAY 12.46 AM**

Cabinet rejig on the cards, Scindia, Sonowal may be in

Reshuffle at Centre likely before Monsoon Session

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Speculation is rife that the much awaited reshuf-fle of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet could take place soon The first reshuffle in the NDA 2:0 could see some more allies getting representations.

The Republican Party of India's Ramdas Athawale is the only non-BJP leader in the current NDA government after Shiv Sena and SAD quit the ruling alliance and LJP's Ram Vilas Paswan's demise.

With crucial Assembly elections, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab lined up, these states could see more representation in the reshuffle of the Council of Ministers. Sources disclosed that UP will be one of the states that will see aderepresentation, including a Brahmin face as the community is said to be feeling disenchanted with the BJP under Adityanath's (a Thakur) rule.

Some names doing the rounds are late BJP leader Gopinath Munde's daughter Pritam Munde and Rajya Sabha MP Narayan Rane, both from







(From left) Jyotiraditya Scindia, Sarbnanda Sonowal, Anupriya Patel, Sushil Modi and Anil Baluni

With crucial Assembly elections, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab lined up, these states could see more representation in the reshuffle of the Council of Ministers. Sources disclosed that UP will be one of the states that will see adequate representation.

Maharashtra where the BJP lost its ally Shiv Sena.

Names of former Congress leader and now the BJP's Rajya Sabha Jyotiraditya Scindia, former Assam chief minister Sarbanand Sonowal, former deputy chief minister of Bihar Sushil Modi, Apna Dal's Anupriya Patel and former TMC leader Dinesh Trivedi, Rajya Sabha MP Anil Baluni are also doing the rounds.
The BJP's ally JD(U)

could also see two of its leaders in Team Modi while the AIADMK could also see a representation in the Modi government.
It remains to be seen

whether or not the BJP's another ally from Bihar LJP, which is witnessing heavy infighting finds representation in the Modi government. Speculation is rife that a couple of BJP ministers

could be sent back to the organisation. Ever since the second wave of Covid-19 started ebbing, a series of physical meetings have taken place between the PM, senior Cabinet ministers and BJP president J.P. Nadda, giving rise to speculations of a rejig in the Modi govern-

Parliament's Monsoon session is likely to begin from the third week of this month and the expectation is that the Cabinet reshuffle could take place before that.

■ More countries likely to lift travel restrictions soon

Nine European nations issue 'Green Pass' to Covishield jab

AGE CORRESPONDENT with Agency inputs NEW DELHI, JULY 1

A day after India flexed its muscle over discriminatopractice by European Union with regard to Indian vaccines Covishield and Covaxin, nine EU countries gave their approval to the AstraZeneca vaccine for a "green pass", allowing free travel in the region of those vaccinated with Covishield. These nine countries are Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Germany, Slovenia Greece, Iceland, Ireland Estonia Switzerland while more EU countries are expected to join in.

The European Union Digital Covid Certificate framework, or the Green Pass, to facilitate free movement during the Covid pandemic, came into effect on July 1 under which persons vaccinated with vaccines authorised the European Medicines Agency (EMA) will be exempt from travel restrictions within the EU. Individual member states have the flexibility to accept vaccines that have been authorised at the national level or by

World

Organisation. However,

movement during the Covid pandemic, came into effect on July 1 under which persons vaccinated with vaccines authorised by the **European Medicines** Agency (EMA) will be exempt from travel restrictions within the EU. while Astra Zeneca's

▶ THE EUROPEAN Union Digital Covid Certificate

framework, or the Green

Pass, to facilitate free

Vaxzevria is approved by EU, the fate of its Indian version Covishield remains under suspense as the EMA has approved only four vaccines so far

— Pfizer-BioNTech's Comirnaty, Moderna's Covid vaccine, the AstraZeneca shot manufactured and sold in Europe as Vaxzervria, and Johnson & Johnson's

Janssen. India has already asked the EU member countries to individually consider allowing Indians who have taken Covishield and Covaxin vaccines and want to travel to Europe.
There has been apprehension in India that peo-

ple who took Covishield and Covaxin jabs are

POST-POLL VIOLENCE

SC issues notice

Covishield. They include Germany and Switzerland. unlikely to be eligible for travel to the European Union member states under its "Green Pass" scheme. The EU Digital Covid certificate 'Green Pass' will be mandatory to travel to European countries and the document will serve as proof that a person is

A DAY AFTER INDIA

flexed its muscle over dis-

criminatory practice by

the European Union with

regard to Indian vaccines Covishield and Covaxin,

nine EU countries gave

AstraZeneca vaccine for a

'green pass', allowing free travel in the region of

their approval to the

those vaccinated with

External affairs minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday took up the issue of inclusion of Covishield in the EU digital Covid certificate scheme during a meeting with Josep Borrell Fontelles, the High Representative of the European Union. The meeting took place on the sidelines of a G20 meeting

vaccinated against Covid-

UK opens work visa route for students from foreign nations AGE CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Britain on Thursday announced that it has opened a "new graduation route" that will allow international students, including those from India, to stay longer in the UK after they have finished their studies there. The Graduate route visa, announced last year by UK home secretary Priti Patel, offers overseas students the option to apply for the right to stay in the country for job experiences at the end of their university courses.

The graduate route visa, open for applications from this week, is for international graduates who have been awarded their degree from a recognised UK university to stay on and look for work for at least two years, or three years for Doctoral PhD students

Applicants do not need a job offer to apply and, crucially, there are no Turn to Page 4

cleared of

MANOJ ANAND

GUWAHATI, JULY 1

sedition charge,

freed from jail

Top RTI activist and Assam MLA Akhil Gogoi

Nirav Modi's sis helps ED recover ₹17cr

New Delhi, July 1: The ED on

man Nirav Modi with sister has "remitted" over ₹17 crore from a UK bank account to that of the Indian government following her turning

approver in the over ₹

13,000 crore PNB loan

Purvi Modi alias Purvi Mehta (47) and her husband Maiank Mehta were granted the 'tender of pardon' in the case by a special Mumbai PMLA court in January on the condition that they will make "full and true disclosure" and help the agency in the probe. Ms Purvi and her husband are British citizens and have never

joined the probe. According to the agency, Ms Purvi had assured the ED that she would help the agency in getting confiscated assets worth ₹579 crore that included flats in New York and London and swiss bank deposit. -PTI

Ready to counter threat of drones, pledges Army Chief

Army Chief Gen. M.M. Thursday that the easy availability of drones to state and non-state actors has increased "the complexity and the challenges that we have to deal with". "Well, the easy availability of drones - and in fact

you can even make it at home, as a do-it-yourself (DIY) project - definitely increases the complexity and challenges we have to deal with," said Gen. Naravane. "We are seized of this problem and have put in place certain measures ... all our troops on the ground have been sensitised to this evolving threat. We are developing capabilities to deal with that, whether by statesponsored (elements) or by states themselves," he said. The Army Chief said capabilities are being developed to deal with the drone threat, both in the kinetic and in non-kinetic realms. "We are catering for both the offensive use of drones, (and) also focus-

Sons unveil Diana's statue on her 60th b'day



Gen. M.M. Naravane

ing on defensive measures or the counter-drone systems or measures that we need to adopt to prevent any attacks on critical facilities by drones and their use, whether by state or non-state actors," he

Army Chief's The remarks come in the back-drop of the first-ever drone attack on a military base on Indian soil, when two drones were used to drop low-intensity improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on the Jammu Air Force Station on the night of June 26-27. Gen. Naravane said the character of warfare has been changing continuously and the advent of drones ■ Turn to Page 4 getting drone jamming tech RAJNISH SHARMA

NEW DELHI, JULY 1

The National Technical Research Organisation has started work developing technology to jam or freeze the frequency of a drone and its "mother station or control unit on the ground." Once developed, this technology will completely disable drones which fly into Indian territory to carry out subversive activities like the one witnessed at an Air Force station in Jammu on Sunday. NTRO is the technical intelligence and surveillance agency of the govern-ment and is involved in

counter-terror operations. Sources said the Centre is also examining technical surveillance equipment and jammers available in other countries that can freeze or intercept the frequency or signals of a drone.

■ More on Page 3

to Centre, WB, **Centre keen on** EC for SIT probe PARMOD KUMAR

NEW DELHI, JULY 1

The Supreme Court on Thursday sought response from the Centre, West Bengal government and Election Commission on a plea seeking an SIT probe into the causes and reasons of post-poll violence in West Bengal. A bench compris-ing Justice Vineet Saran and Justice and Dinesh Maheshwari sought responses from the Centre, West Bengal government and the poll panel on the plea which also sought compensation for the victims of post-poll violence and their families.

The plea, which also sought an SIT probe under the supervision of the top court, has also asked that the people responsible for the violence be identified and action be taken against them. The plea filed by Hindu Front for Justice, advocate Ranjana

Agnihotri and one Jitendra Singh has alleged that thousands of residents of West Bengal are being ter-rorised, penalised and tor-tured by workers of the Trinamul Congress for supporting the Bharatiya Janata Party during Assembly elections. It further sought direction that the Central government and state government take steps for rehabilitation of the people who have been forced to migrate to Assam or any other place in India due to violence that erupted after May 2, when election results were announced.

Central government and the state government to "take appropriate steps to protect the life, liberty, dignity and safety of religious places of under Article 14, 21 and 25 of the Constitution and reflected in the solemn declaration made in the Preamble of the

released Thursday after languishing in jail for the past 18 months as an NIA court acquitted him and three others in a sedition case. along with several other It sought direction to the charges. National Investigation Agency had on Tuesday filed an

additional chargesheet against Mr Gogoi, who was earlier booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 for his alleged role in the violent anti-CAA protests in the state and possible links with Maoist elements.

The NIA court judge said in his order that it was necessary for the agency to note that the 'ambit of sedition does not get stretched beyond permissible limits". The 120-page ruling by NIA judge Pranjal Das had observations on sedition too. Under the sub-title "Some General
Observations", the court
said: "Though the law of
sedition continues in our

statute book, its colony (colonial) legacy cannot be overlooked.

The NIA judge referred to the 1950 Tara Singh case, where the ruling said: "India is now a sovereign democratic state. Governments may go and be caused to go without the foundations of the State being impaired. A law of sedition, thought necessary during a period of foreign rule, has become inappropriate by the very nature of the change

Turn to Page 4

Japan in the 19th and 20th

absolutely not allow any

foreign force to bully, oppress or enslave us and anyone who attempts to do so will face broken heads and bloodshed in front of the iron Great Wall of the 1.4 billion Chinese people.

— Xi Jinping, China President

ing the communists' role in lifting China to global prominence. The rally — which fea-

tured a military flyover and people Chinese flags and singing patriotic songs — in some ways recalled the mass events held by Mao Zedong. Mr Xi, who heads

centuries.



■ CPC has restored China's lost dignity: Jinping Xi talks tough, says anyone trying to bully China 'will face bloodshed' The Chinese people will

Beijing, July 1: Chinese President Xi Jinping warned Thursday that anyone who tries to bully China "will face broken heads and bloodshed," in a defiant speech hailing the country's rise that elicited loud cheers from a carefully chosen crowd at a cele-bration of the centenary of the founding of the ruling Communist Party. In unusually forceful lan-

guage, Mr Xi appeared to be hitting back at the US and others that have criticised the rising power's trade and technology polices, military expansion and human rights record. In an hour-long speech, he also said the nation must stick to its one-party rule, emphasis-



the party and is thought to be considering a third term starting next year, received the biggest applause when he said the party had

restored China's dignity after decades of subjugation to Western powers and

■ More on Page 6



Garden at Kensington Palace, London, on Thursday.



Britain's Prince William and Prince Harry unveil a statue they commissioned of their

mother Princess Diana on what woud have been her 60th birthday in the Sunken















IN BRIEF

Power tariff order for 2021-22 delayed

New Delhi: Announcement of electricity tariff order in Delhi for 2021-22 have been delayed by over 3 months even as the discoms in the city have raised a demand with power regulator DERC for a hike in the rates in view of the Covid. The reason behind the delay is primarily the 2nd wave of Covid and a lockdown imposed due to it, chairman of Delhi electricity regulatory commission Justice (retd) S.S. Chauhan said. "Besides, we also had to implement certain court orders. Our endeavour is to come out with the tariff order as soon as possible," said Mr Chauhan, who completes his term as DERC chairman on July 4. He was appointed to the post on July 5, 2018. The Delhi has already set up a selection committee to find Chauhan's replacement.

revisions burden the consumers with interest costs. sources said. "If the tariff order is not announced before the chairman retires, the process will get delayed. Though a single-member commission can also discharge its full duties, a large have to be re-run," a source

Delayed and insufficient tariff

AIIMS docs among 4 injured in scuffle

New Delhi: Four people, including two doctors working at AIIMS here, were injured during a scuffle in south Delhi's Gautam Nagar, police said on Thursday. The incident took place on Wednesday, they said. According to police, a few doctors from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) went to the shop of Bhagat Singh Verma Paranthe Walla in Gautam Nagar and allegedly consumed alcohol there. "A heated argument broke out between the doctors and the shopkeeper following which both the sides allegedly assaulted each other," DCP (south) Atul Kumar Thakur said. Two doctors and shopkeeper Bhagat Singh Verma and his son Abhishek sustained injuries in the incident, police said.

2 from transport dept held for taking bribe

New Delhi: Two transport department officials have been arrested by the Delhi Government's Anti-Corruption Branch for demanding a bribe of ₹/0,000 from a man foi issuing the trade license for an e-rickshaw, officials said on Thursday. Sandeep Kalvan, a data entry officer, and Naresh Kumar, a peon at the Delhi Transport Authority in Wazirpur were caught red handed while taking the bribe, they said. The matter came to light on Wednesday when Sunny, a resident of Azadpur, approached the Anti Corruption Branch, alleging that officials at the Delhi Transport Authority in Wazirpur demanded a bribe of ₹70,000 from him for issuing trade license for an e-rickshaw, officials said.

COVID HIT EDU SECTOR BADLY, SAYS SISODIA

New Delhi: Noting that the education sector has incurred maximum losses due to the Covid pandemic, Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday stressed upon newer approaches for teaching to reduce the learning gap. 'The education sector has incurred maximum loss due to the pandemic, Reducing the learning gap is a very difficult mission to undertake, but an important one," Sisodia said after laying the foundation stone for a new placement centre, open the atre and auditorium at the GGSIP University here. There is a need to come together and take the responsibility of adopting newer and better approaches to teaching and learning in order to reduce this learning gap, he added. 'Covid has widened the learning gap in students, and to reduce this learning gap, we have to urgently adopt novel approaches in our teaching and learning. We have to decide whether we should continue to teach our children using archaic and traditional approaches

or really teach them how to

learn," the deputy chief

minister said. - PTI

Blow to cops: SC rejects plea against HC order in CS case

Police can't choose things that suit it and it has to be fair, says court

PARMOD KUMAR

Observing that the investigating agency has to be fair and can't choose material that suits it, the Supreme Court, on Thursday, rejected the plea of the Delhi police challenging the Delhi high court order directing it to supply a statement by V.K. Jain to Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in the case of alleged assault of then Delhi chief secretary Anshu Prakash in February 2018 during a meeting attended by Mr Kejriwal, deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, and 11 other MLAs.

Mr Jain was then advisor to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Telling the Delhi police that "it can't choose things that suits it" and that "it has to be fair," Justice D.Y. Chandrachud heading a bench also comprising Justice M.R. Shah said, 'Investigating agency must abide by its duty to be fair

20-year-old

man stabbed

front of father

In a suspected case of

road rage, a 20-year-old

man was stabbed to death

by around six people in front of his father, on

Thursday, in Northwest

The deceased has been

identified as Dev Priya, a

resident of Burari. The police said it has arrested

the six people in connection with the incident.

A senior police officer

said information regard-

ing the incident near Kewal Park in Azadpur was received at the

Adarsh Nagar police sta-

"It was found that the

victim was allegedly

stabbed during a quarrel with the accused persons.

He was rushed to Babu

Jagjivan Ram Memorial

Hospital and later shifted

to Fortis Hospital where

he succumbed to his injuries," DCP

Thereafter, a case under

Section 302 (murder) of

the IPC was registered at

the Adarsh Nagar police

According to the police,

Jaipal (45), the father of

the victim, was coming

home on his bike when it

brushed past another

vehicle following which

an argument ensued

between him and the

Mr Jaipal, who was

under the influence of

alcohol, called his son, it

said, adding that the scuf-

There were some per-

sons, who were also drunk, sitting nearby.

They came to the spot.

An argument followed

between them and Mr

Jaipal. The accused per-

sons stabbed his son and

fled the spot, the police

fle was later pacified.

tion at 12.20 am.

Northwest)

Rangnani said.

station, she said.

other person.

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA

NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Delhi's Azadpur.

to death in

Telling the Delhi police that 'it can't choose things that suits it' and that 'it has to be fair,' Justice D.Y. Chandrachud heading a bench also comprising Justice M.R. Shah said, 'Investigating agency must abide by its duty to be fair

in its investigation.'

As additional solicitor general Aman Lekhi argued that the statement by Mr Jain was part of the case diary and could not be given to the accused, Justice Chandrachud said, 'Politically, this case may be a hot potato, but on merits the high court passed a correct order.'

in its investigation." As additional solicitor general Aman Lekhi, appearing for the Delhi police, argued that the statement by Mr Jain was part of the case diary and could not be given to the accused, Justice Chandrachud "Politically, this case may

correct order." Having reminded the Delhi police to be fair in its approach and shun the

be a hot potato, but on merits the high court passed a

mindset of convicting an accused at all costs even by holding back the material that can be read in the favour of accused, the court, in its order, said: "We are not inclined to entertain the special leave petition under Article 136 of the Constitution of India. The special leave petition is accordingly dismissed." Mr Kejriwal, Mr Sisodia, and other AAP MLAs were charge-sheeted

on August 13, 2018, in the

Before the high court, Mr Kejriwal, in his plea, had alleged that the prosecution was withholding the statement of witness Mr Jain recorded on February 21, 2018, because it did not suit the prosecution case in falsely implicating him, Mr Sisodia, and other AAP leaders including Prakash Jarwal and Amanatullah Khan. Mr Jain, in the 2018 reproduced in the high court judgment, stated that on the night of February 19 there was a meeting that took place between the leaders and Anshu Prakash on the issue of doorstep delivery of ration, advertisement release, and slow processing of files.

During the meeting, Mr Jain stated that he went to the washroom and upon returning saw Mr Prakash leaving, adding that he could not say anything about what transpired while he was in the wash-



Members of Tibetan Youth Congress during their protest outside the Chinese Embassy, as Chinese Communist Party (CCP) celebrates its centenary in New Delhi on Thursday.

Children bathe in a reservoir to get relief from the ongoing heatwave during a hot

summer day on the banks of river Yamuna in New Delhi on Thursday.

Heatwave drives peak power demand to a high of 7,026 MW

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 1

The national capital's peak power demand crossed 7,000 MW on Thursday afternoon, the highest in this season so far, as the city sizzled under heatwave conditions with the maximum temperature soaring up to 43.1 degrees Celsius.

According to the real-time data of the Delhi State Load Dispatch Centre, the peak power demand reached 7,026 MW at 3.30 pm.

The season's previous peak of 6,921 MW was recorded just a day earlier on Wednesday.

This year, Delhi's peak demand already crossed last year's peak of 6,314 MW on June 30, 29, 28, 24, 23, discom officials said. The BSES discoms --

BRPL and BYPL successfully met the peak power demand of 2,933 MW and 1,598 in their areas, respectively, said a BSES spokesperson.

Delhi Power Distribution Limited (TPDDL) successfully met the peak power demand of 2,039 MW on Wednesday afternoon, the highest for it in this season, without any net-

Delhi reels under heatwave, maximum temperature 43.1°C

New Delhi, July 1: The national capital on Thursday sizzled under heatwave conditions with the maximum temperature settling at 43.1 degrees Celsius, six notches above the normal, the Indian Meteorological

Department (IMD) said. For the plains, a heat-wave is declared when the maximum tempera-ture is over 40 degrees Celsius and at least 4.5 notches above the nor-

The minimum temperature of the city was recorded at 31.7 degrees Celsius, also our notches above the normal. The relative humidity in the evening was 29 per cent.

air quality was in the 'poor' category on Thursday evening. Data from the Central Pollution Control Board showed that the hourly air quality index (AQI) at 7.05 pm etcod of 2.26 7.05 pm stood at 236. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300

"severe".

A thunderstorm with

rain is predicted in the city on Friday. Delhi recorded its first

heatwave of this summer

on Monday with the mer-

cury settling at 43 degrees Celsius.

The national capital's air quality was in the

work constraint and power outage, according to a TPDDL spokesperson. Because of the Covid-induced curbs and the weather, Delhi's peak power demand this year is expected to be in the

range of 7000 MW to 7400

MW. Initially, the esti-

mates were around 7.900

MW, officials said. Delhi and its neighbouring areas receiving monsoon rains till July 7 and after that, the region will witness below-normal rainfall till the middle of this month, the India Meteorological depart-

"poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500

There is no chance of

Govt waives 2-month licence fee for bars in hotels, restaurants

AGE CORRESPONDENT July 1 to September 30.

In a relief for the hospitality sector, the Delhi government has waived two months of licence fee of bars in hotels and restaurants that were closed due to lockdown during the second wave of Covid infection in the city.

The move will help hotels, restaurants, guest houses, motels and clubs in the city that serve liquor in saving money ranging from a few thousand to lakhs of rupees.

Delhi went into a lock-

down when it was hit by a second wave of Covid. All bars in the hotels and restaurants were closed from April 16 to June 20 following an order from

The Excise Department had last month directed the licence holders to pay the fee for extension of their excise licence from

Considering the impact of Covid and lockdown on hotels and restaurants in Delhi, the competent authority in view of the provision of Rule 49 of . Delhi Excise Rules 2010, has decided that the lockdown period (April 16 to June 20) may be treated as deemed cancellation of licences," said an order of the excise department on Wednesday. Accordingly, the licence fee paid by the licensees for the first quarter of 2021-22 may be adjusted towards the sec-

September 30), it said. The department has also extended the last date of payment of the licence fee for the second quarter from June 30 to July 31. The order will benefit licence holders of L-15/L 15 F, L-16/L-16F, L-17/L-17F, L-18/L-18F, L-19/L-19F, L-20/L-20F, L-28/L-28F, L-

ond quarter (July 1 to

Covid: 4 deaths, 91 new cases in Delhi AGE CORRESPONDENT

with agency inputs NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Delhi recorded four more Covid-related deaths and 91 new cases on Thursday with a positivity rate of 0.12 per cent, according to the Health department.

The national capital had recorded 94 Covid cases at a positivity rate of 0.12 per cent and six fatalities on Wednesday.

As many as 111 more patients have recovered from the disease in the city, as the recoveries again outnumbered the new cases

Delhi had recorded 101 fresh Covid cases at a positivity rate of 0.15 per cent and four more deaths on Tuesday.

With the fresh cases on Thursday, Delhi's COVID-19 caseload has increased to 14,34,281, and the death toll stands at 24,981, the bulletin said, adding that the case fatality rate is at

Delhi hospital begins Sputnik V jabs, beneticiaries to register through CoWin

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 1

After a long wait and much delay, citizens of the national capital have begun to receive the much awaited jabs of Sputnik V Covid vaccine. A private hospital in Delhi, on Thursday, started administration of the Sputnik V vaccine for the public in a staged manner. Around 1,000 people have been administered with the first dose of the Russian vaccine so far,

On Monday, the city had recorded 59 cases of the infection, the lowest single-day rise this year, and two deaths. On Sunday, Delhi had reported 89 cases and four deaths while the positivity rate

informed the hospital.

"Indraprastha has started the administration of the Sputnik V vaccine for the public in a staged manner from June 30. As of Thursday, around 1,000 persons have been administered the said vaccine," stated

Indraprastha Apollo. "The spot registration and walk-in facility for Sputnik V are currently restricted and we are encouraging beneficiaries to register and make appointments through the CoWIN app," the hospital further stated.

stood at 0.12 per cent. The infection rate, which had risen to 36 per cent in the last week of April, has fallen below 0.20 per cent now. Delhi had been reeling under a brutal second wave of the pandemic that swept the country, claim-Daily cases and deaths in

the city began spiralling upwards from April 19 onwards. According to official data, over 28,000 cases and 277 deaths were recorded on April 20 and 448 deaths on May 3.

Thursday's bulletin said total of 76,468 tests, including RTPCR/ČBNAAT/TrueNa t tests, were conducted in the city on Wednesday, while the rest were rapid antigen tests.

The number of active cases decreased to 1,357 from 1,379 on Wednesday.

As many as 14,07,943 patients have recovered from Covid in the city so far, it said.

The number of patients under home isolation dropped to 314 from 329 a day ago, while the number of containment zones fell to 1,349 from 1,599 the previous day, the bulletin said.

Stray dogs have right to food, feed them without causing nuisance: HC

SANJAY KAW NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Observing that animals have a right under law to be treated with compassion, respect and dignity, the Delhi High Court has asked the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) to designate areas in consultation Resident Welfare Associations for feeding of community dogs in the national capital. The court also directed all law enforcement authorities to ensure that no harassment or hindrance is caused to the people feeding street dogs at the designated

Stating it was the moral responsibility of each and every citizen to protect the animals, the court said that the RWAs or Municipal Corporation have to ensure that every community dog in every area has access to food and water in the absence of caregivers or community dog feeders. While directing the AWBI to ensure that every RWA constitutes an Animal Welfare Committee, the court made it clear that if any of the street or community dogs are injured or unwell, it will be the duty of the RWA to secure their treatment by the vets from their own funds.

In an order, Justice J.R. Midha said : "Community dogs (stray/street dogs) have the right to food and citizens have the right to feed community dogs but in exercising this right, care and caution should be taken to ensure that it does not impinge upon the rights of others or cause any harm, hindrance, harassment and nuisance to other individuals or

members of the society. While issuing guidelines for the welfare of the community dogs, the court constituted a committee for effective implementation of



A man feeds stray dogs in New Delhi.

the order and asked it to hold a meeting within four weeks. The committee will comprise the Director, Husbandry Animal Department or his nominee; a senior officer of the Municipal Corporations, Cantonment Board AWBI; Delhi's Additional Standing Nandita Rao, AWBI counsel Manisha T. Karia and lawyer Pragyan Sharma. A copy of the order will also be sent to the Delhi Judicial

Academy to sensitize the

judges about these direc-

tions. Recognizing every

dog as a 'territorial being'

the street dogs have to be fed and tended to at places within their territory which are sparingly used by the general public and residents. While keeping in mind the fact that community dogs live in 'packs', the court said that care should be taken by the AWBI and RWAs to see that each 'pack' ideally has different designated area for feeding even if that means designating multiple areas in a locality.

the court emphasized that

The court also directed all law enforcement authorities to ensure that no harassment or hindrance is caused to the people feeding street dogs at the designated spots. It also said that the RWAs or Municipal Corporation have to ensure that every community dog in every area has access to food and water in the absence of caregivers or community dog feeders. "Any person having compassion for stray dogs can feed the dogs at the private entrance/porch/driveway of their house or any other place not shared with other residents," the order said, adding that no person can restrict anyone from feeding dogs until and unless the same is causing harm or harassment to them. The court emphasised

said that the dogs have to be sterilized and vaccinated and then returned to the same area. It said that vaccinated and sterilized dogs cannot be removed by the municipality. The judge said that if any of the street or community dogs are injured or unwell, it will be the duty of the RWA to secure their treatment by the vets from the funds of the RWA Despite the law prohibiting cruelty to animals, the court pointed out that there was an increasing tendency of defiance among citizens and many times the government officials also take up a position contrary to the well-settled law. "Such act of defiance be noted down in the ACR file of Government employee. If any such complaint is received by AWBI, the same be sent to the concerned office for being placed in the ACR file of the government employee for necessary action as per CCS Rules.

The court observed that being territorial animals. dogs live in certain areas and play the role of guards by protecting the community from the entry of outsiders or unknown people "If these are removed from a certain area, the new stray dogs will take their place... Every RWA should form Guard and Dog partnerships and in consulta-tion with the Delhi Police Dog Squad, the dogs can be trained to make them effective as guard dogs and yet friendly to those who live in the colony.'

SHORT TAKES

New Vice-Chief of IAF takes charge

New Delhi: Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari on Thursday took over as the Vice-Chief of Indian Air Force. Vice Chief is a crucial position in IAF, as he is the head of operations. Before assuming the new appointment, he was heading Indian Air Force's Western Air Command that looks after both the crucial borders, with China in Ladakh and all along Pakistan from Ladakh up to Bikaner in Rajasthan. Air Marshal B.R. Krishna on Thursday took over the new Commander of the Western Air Command. Air Marshal Chaudhari was commissioned in the Fighter stream of the IAF in 1982. The officer has a flying experience of more than 3800 hours on a wide variety of fighter and trainer aircraft, including missions flown during Op-

Senior IPS officer's premises searched

Meghdoot and Op-Safed

Sagar. He is an alumnus of NDA and Defence Services

Staff College, Wellington.

Raipur: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Chhattisgarh police on Thursday conducted raids on at least ten premises linked to ADGrank IPS officer G.P. Singh in the state. This was the first time an IPS officer was targeted by the anti-graft wing of Chhattisgarh police for allegedly amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. Incidentally, the 1994 batch IPS officer headed the ACB and the Economic Offences Wing of Chhattisgarh police a year ago before being shifted as director of state police academy in June last year. Sources in the ACB said the raids were conducted following complaints that the police officer had amassed disproportionate assets at several places and also unaccounted money.

SC nod for e-passes to enter Hyderabad

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday gave its nod to the e-pass mandated by the Telangana government for entering into its capital city of Hyderabad. A bench of Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice V. Ramasubhramanian refused to entertain a plea by a law student against the state government's notification, saying it is a temporary measure and the validity of the notification has expired. Telangana government of illegally denying the the people of Andhra Pradesh the right of unimpeded access to Hyderabad by mandating th e-pass mid Covid. "You cannot just go with a patient to full hospitals. You apply for a pass if you travel with a patient," court said

'ONLY HOUSE CAN FRAME LAW ON **DISQUALIFICATION**⁷

PARMOD KUMAR

The Supreme Court on Thursday said how can it frame law setting time-frame for the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the state Assemblies and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, to follow in deciding the petitions seeking disqualification of legislators for defying the party whip under anti-defection law. "How can we frame legislation? Its all a matter of par-liament," Chief Justice N.V. Ramana, heading a three judge bench also comprising Justice A.S. Bopanna and Justice Hrishikesh Roy, told the lawver appearing for Congress leader Ranjit Mukharjee seeking framing of the guidelines for the Speakers to follow while dealing with petitions seeking disqualification of the lawmakers under the antidefection law. While showing its reluctance to entertain the plea, the court, however, adjourned the matter by two weeks giving time to the petitioner, Ranajit Mukherjee, to go through Chief Justice of India Ramana's judgment on this very issue in the Karnataka Assembly defection matter. CJI Ramana adjourned the hearing by two weeks as petitioner Mukherjee said that he has not read the judgment. The Chief Justice said: "I have already

PM: This decade to be 'India's techade'

New Delhi, July 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the combination of nation's demographic dividend and data, with proven tech prowess presents immense opportunities as he exuded confidence the decade will be "India's techade"

Speaking at a virtual event to mark the completion of six years of Digital India, Mr Modi said India is fully conscious of its responsibilities as a data powerhouse and noted that work was underway on all aspects of data protection.

Data and demographic dividend present a massive opportunity for India... together, we will be successful in making this decade, "India's this decade, "India' techade", Mr Modi said.

Estimates suggest that dozens of tech companies in India will enter the unicorn club (with \$1 billion valuation) in coming vears, he said and assert ed that data and demo-graphic dividend collectively offers huge poten-

Mr Modi spoke via video conference to beneficiaries of various schemes of Digital India programme, including Diksha, eNAM, eSanjeevani solution for telemedicine, DigiBunai and PM SVANidhi scheme.

Mr Modi talked about



the critical role that technology had played during the pandemic to ensure continuity of education, access to healthcare, and other citizen services, and noted that digital solutions created by India during this period are being acknowledged globally.

The digital solutions that India has prepared during this time are a topic of discussion and interest all over the world today. One of the world's largest digital contact tracing app, Aarogya Setu has played a key role in containing the spread of Covid, he said.

Many nations have shown interest in the CoWIN app, and tools like these are proof of India's technical prowess.

Mr Modi lauded the passion for innovation and the zeal to adopt those innovations rapidly, and said six years of Digital India programme marks the rapid strides that the country has taken in adoption of technology.

Harsh Vardhan targets critics of vaccine drive

48,786 new cases, 1,005 deaths in 24 hrs in India

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs

Union health minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday hit out at his political rivals, saying state leaders should spend more energy in planning vaccination and not in creating panic. "If vaccine supply is still an issue, it's the fault of the states. I'm seeing irresponsible statements from various leaders regarding (the) largest vaccine drive. After GoI provided 75 per cent of vaccines for free, vaccination speed picked up and 11.50 crore doses were given in June," the

health minister said.
Dr Harsh Vardhan added that 12 crore doses of vaccines will be given to states and UTs in July and information in this regard was shared with them two weeks in advance. He said the allocation of vaccines for private hospitals will be

done separately.
India on Thursday recorded 48,786 fresh cases of Covid-19 and 1,005 deaths.

Meanwhile, Cadila has requested emergency use approval for its ZyCoV-D vaccine



Doctors celebrate National Doctors' Day at Masina Hospital in Mumbai on Thursday.

for children. The threedose vaccine is the "world's first Plasmid DNA vaccine" which is needle-free and termed safe for children.

"Data has been submitted to the DCGI for the world's first plasmid DNA-based Covid-19 vaccine. The vaccine has undergone testing that is among the country's largest of such clinical trials," the company said in a statement. Another pharma company, Dr Reddy's Laboratories. said that the Russian safety data for the singledose Sputnik Light vaccine can be submitted before DCGI for approval

in India. The cumulative number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has crossed 35 crore, according to the Co-WIN dashboard

More than 9.61 crore vaccine doses have been administered to beneficiaries in the age group of 18-44 years, the the Union health ministry said.

It added that more than 38.17 lakh (38,17,661) vaccine doses were adminisaccording to a provisional report compiled at 7

The ministry said 21,80,915 beneficiaries in 18-44 age group received the first dose, while 84 107 were administered the second dose of the vaccine on Thursday.

Special

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const.-I, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

Name of work and location attendants of indoor patients and other allied works including Electrification works in Northern Railway, Central Hospital, New Delhi (Composite work). 15 (Fifteen) months from the date of issue of 2 Completion period of the work

Approx. Cost of Work Rs. 477.04 Lakh (Rupees Four hundred

Tender may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs. on 26.07.2021 on IREPS website i.e. www.lreps.gov.in The bidders can only participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 26.07.2021 Above tenders document will be available on 6 Detailed Tender Notice & IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 03.07.2021 to 26.07.2021. All other terms and

conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice

Tender No.220-Acs/1/1170/50/Rooms/NRCH Dt. 01.07.2021 1473/2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE NORTHERN RAILWAY **OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE** The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tende

e following work. 1 Name of Annual Zone for maintenance of track work in the section of SSE/P-Way/SSB under ADEN/DLI for the period 30.06.2022 2 Approx. cost of work Rs. 99,94,192.64/- (Rupees Ninty Nine Lakh Ninty Four Thousand One Hundred Ninety Two & Sixty Four Paisa Only) 3 Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 0.00

Rs. 0.00/-

23.07.2021 @ 15:00 Hrs.

Date of Cancellation

10.07.2021

Website particulars where comple details of tender documents can

The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement syste (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.

No manual offers are acceptable Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net

No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/08/2021-22/W-3 Dated: 01.07.2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

■ State reduces timings of its offices, cuts down on supply to industries

Punjab reels under major power crisis

Chandigarh, July 1: The chief minister Capt. Am-Punjab government on Thursday reduced timings of government offices and ordered cut down on power supply to high energy-consuming industries as the electricity demand in the state soared to over 14,000 MW a day. On Wednesday, the

power demand peaked to 14,142 MW against the supply of 12,842 MW, leaving a gap of 1,300 MW, an official of the stateowned power utility PSPCL had said.

sion on banning the use of air conditioners (ACs) in government offices, which will function from 8 am to 2 pm from Friday till further orders, an offi-

RAJNISH SHARMA

The National Technical

Research Organisation

(NTRO) has started work

on ambitious project to

jam or freeze the fre-

quency of a drone and its

'mother station or con-

Once developed, this

trol unit on the ground".

technology will com-

pletely disable drones which fly into Indian ter-

ritory to carryout subversive activities like the

one witnessed at an the

Air Force Station in

The NTRO is the techni-

cal intelligence and sur-

veillance agency of the

government and is in-

volved in counter-terror

Sources said apart from the NTRO project, the

Centre is also examining

technical surveillance

equipment and jammers

available in other coun-

tries that can freeze or

Jammu on Sunday.

operations.

NEW DELHI, JULY 1

arinder Singh appealed to all government offices to make judicious use of 14,500 MW

are losing precious paddy transplantation time due to power breakdowns and added that the agriculture sector needed to be prioritised for uninterrupted power supply.

So far, there is no decirial spokesperson said. ciously and switch off The spokesperson said ACs up to July 3. cial spokesperson said.

electricity, adding that the situation is dire as the peak demand in the state has touched a whopping The CM said farmers

Amid rising demand and prolonged dry spell, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) also appealed to government and public sector offices in the state to use electricity judi-

A cyclist wades through a flooded street after heavy rains in Bishalghar village, on the outskirts of Agartala, on Thursday. -PTI

High frequency jammer tech

to help counter drone attacks

THE GOVT is examin-

ing technical surveillance

equipment and jammers

available in other coun-

tries that can freeze or

intercept the frequency

or signals of a drone fly-

ing into Indian territory

intercept the frequency

Erratic power supply in the past a few days have forced consumers to hold protests and block roads at many places, including Mohali, Kharar & Batala

The power utility in an appeal said, "Due to prolonged dry spells, paddy transplantation power shortage owing to failure of one unit of the Talwandi Sabo thermal power plant, the PSPCL is facing problems in meeting the power demand of more than 14,500 plus

According to a statement here, the PSPCL has also decided to impose power regulatory measures on industrial con-

industry, including rolling mills, and induction furnaces with immediate effect. Erratic power supply in the past a few days have forced consumers to hold protests and block roads at many places, including Mohali, Kharar and Batala.

"It is really shocking that on one hand the government is claiming surplus power and on the other, the weekly offs and unscheduled power cuts are being imposed on industries," said Badish Jindal, president of the Federation of Punjab Small Industries' Associations. Farmers have slammed the state government for not providing the promised eightsumers by imposing two-day weekly offs on the transplantation. — PTI

MP energy mantri falls from dais twists ankle

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY

MP energy minister Pradyumna Singh Tomar on Thursday fell from the dais during a programme in Gwalior and twisted his ankle.

The incident happened when the minister was going to address the function organised on the occasion of inauguration of National Horticulture Board's office.

He accidentally hit a flower base kept on the dais and fell down, the police said.

He was in a state of shock for some time following the incident. He however recovered and was rushed to the local government hospital. He twisted his ankle,

but his condition was normal, doctors said. The minister left for Bhopal to attend an important meeting after he was discharged.

CANCELLATION/DIVERSION/REGULATION & RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS

4 Cost of tender document

Date & Time of submission of

tender bid and opening of tender

In order to further strengthen the infrastructure and enhance safety standards, Railway will undertake the launching of open web steel girder for Dedicated Freight Corridor Rail Fly Over between Dadri - Ajaibpur section over North Central Railway. To execute this work, there will be suitable Power and Traffic Blocks from 03.07.2021 to 20.07.21. As a result, the following trains will temporarily be affected as under:-

CANCELLATION OF EXPRESS/ MEMU TRAINS

Train No. & Train Name

		freeing min and minerally amount of
02419/02420 Lucknow - New Delhi	11.07.2021 11.07.2021	
04183/04184 Tundla Jn Delhi Jn.		
DIVERS	SION OF SPECIAL TRAIN	S
Train No. & Train Name	Diverted Route	Date (from the Originating Station)
02570 New Delhi - Darbhanga Jn. Superfast Special	Via Moradabad - Lucknow	11.07.2021
02566 New Delhi - Darbhanga Jn. Sampark Kranti Special	Via Moradabad - Lucknow	11.07.2021
02561 Jaynagar - New Delhi	Via Kanpur - Etawah Jn Udi Mor	10.07.2021

REGULATION OF TRAINS

Jn. - Bhandai - Palwal - New Delhi

Train No. 02419 Lucknow - New Delhi Gomti Express Special will be regulated for 40 minutes between Tundla - Ajaibpur on 07.07.2021 and 12.07.2021 to 17.07.2021

Train No. 02420 New Delhi - Lucknow Gomti Express Special will be regulated for 30 minutes between New Delhi-Maripat on 07.07.2021 and 12.07.2021 to 17.07.2021

Train No. 02368 Anand Vihar Terminal - Bhagalpur Vikramshila Special will be regulated for 15 to 30 minutes between New Delhi - Maripat on 03.07.2021 to 06.07.2021, 09.07.2021 and 12.07.2021 to 20.07.2021

Train No. 12817/12873 (02579/02583) Hatia - Anand Vihar Terminal Jharkhand Swarna Jayanti Express will be regulated for 80 minutes between Tundla - Ajaibpur on 04.07.2021, 05.07.2021, 08.07.2021, 17.07.2021, 18.07.2021 and 19.07.2021

Train No. 02815 Puri - Anand Vihar Terminal Special will be regulated for 180 minutes between Tundla-Ajaibpur on 10.07.2021

RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS

Train No. 02466 Anand Vihar Terminal - Madhupur Jn, Baba Baidynathdham Deoghar Special will be rescheduled by 30 Minutes on 07.07.2021 (Wednesday) and 14.07.2021 (Wednesday) from Anand Vihar Terminal

Train No. 02210 New Delhi - Bhubaneswar Duronto Special will be rescheduled by 30 Minutes on 15.07.2021 (Thursday) from New Delhi Station

Train No. 02268 New Delhi - Howrah Jn. Duronto Special will be rescheduled by 30 Minutes on 13.07.2021 (Tuesday) and 17.07.2021 (Saturday) from New Delhi Station

Train No. 02570 New Delhi - Darbhanga Jn. Superfast Special will be rescheduled by 30 Minutes on 07.07.2021 (Wednesday), 12.07.2021 (Monday) and 17.07.2021 (Saturday) from New Delhi Station Train No. 05026 Anand Vihar Terminal - Mau Jn Express Special will be rescheduled by 20 Minutes on 05.07.2021 (Monday), 09.07.2021 (Friday) and 19.07.2021 (Monday) from Anand Vihar Terminal Train No. 02586 Anand Vihar Terminal - Santragachi Jn. Special will be rescheduled by 20 Minutes on 06.07.2021 (Tuesday), 13.07.2021 (Tuesday) and 20.07.2021 (Tuesday) from Anand Vihar Terminal Train No. 02368 New Delhi - Bhagalpur Vikramshila Special will departs at 15:50 hrs. instead of 13:15 hrs. from New Delhi Station on 11.07.2021

Train No. 02398 New Delhi - Gaya Jn. Festival Special will departs at 16:45 hrs. instead of 12:50 hrs. from New Delhi Station on 11.07.2021

ote: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing. anitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of Information such as detailed Timeto contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App

Please join us on 🖸 🖾



NORTHERN RAILWAY Always at your service Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

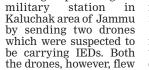
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Railway Station			Form through payment Gate	h E-	be deposited through E-payment	p	period of	for submission of tender &	Website particulars & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc	
2 Pay & Use Toilet, Denradur Pay & Use Toilet, Moradabad Excluding GST @18% GST @18% Rs. 1,000/-				cluding	Rs. 1,47,700/-			Tender will be received up to	Tender will only be accepted via e-tendering	
3 Pay & Use Toilet, Moradabad 8,10,000/- P.A. Excluding GST @18% Rs. 3,540/- including Rs. 81,000/- GST @18% Rs. 3,540/- including Rs. 81,000/- GST @18% Rs. 1,180/- including Rs. 5,400/- GST @18% Rs. 1,180/- including Rs. 5,400/- GST @18% Rs. 2,360/- including Rs. 27,900/- GST @18% Rs. 2,360/- including Rs. 2,7900/- GST @18% Rs. 2				cluding	Rs. 74,600/-		0.00000000	23.07.2021 and	through www.ireps.gov.in any tender received manually or through any other mode will not be considered.	
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Railway Station Excluding GST @18% GST @18% 6 Pay & Use Toilet (Karan Paryag end) Yog Nagari Rishikesh Railway Station Excluding GST @18% GST @18% 7 Pay & Use Toilet, (Virbhadra end) 1,19,280/- P.A. Rs. 1,180/- including Rs. 12,000/-				cluding	Rs. 5,400/-					
end) Yog Nagari Rishikesh Excluding GST @18% GST @ 18% Railway Station 1,19,280/- P.A. Rs. 1,180/- including Rs. 12,000/-				cluding	Rs. 27,900/-					
				cluding	Rs. 8,700/-					
Yog Nagari Rishikesh Railway Excluding GST @18% GST @ 18% Station			Rs. 1,180/- ind GST @ 18%	cluding	Rs. 12,000/-	1				

No correspondence will be entertained after opening of tender SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

expressed my opinion in the



away after alert security



Sources said the jammers will help secure important defence assets in the border from drone attacks being carried out by Pakistan-based terror outfits. Efforts are also entering Indian territory.

personnel fired at them.

or signals of a drone flying into Indian territory. This is being done on a priority basis and security agencies plan to deploy these high frequency jammers at key installations, the range of radars in particularly close to the border areas.

India-Pakistan border. Apart from the drone attack on the Jammu Air Forces base, an attempt was made by Pak-based terror groups to target a Both the Air Force and military station which

being made to procure special radars that can hostile drones As of now the radars used by defence agencies only detect aircrafts or missiles but not drones as they fly at much lower altitude which is out of

While drones have been used to drops weapons and narcotics in border areas of Punjab it was the first time that these were used to carryout terror attack on a defence installations using IEDs.

were targeted by the drones are barely 14-km from the Indo-Pak border.

Maratha

quota: SC

junks govt's

review plea

The Supreme Court has

dismissed the Centre's

plea seeking review of

the top court's constitu-

tion bench judgment that held that the states

no longer have powers to declare socially and edu-cationally backward

classes (SEBC) for grant

of quota in government jobs and admissions in

102ndConstitution

amendment in 2018.

education

higher

because

PARMOD KUMAR

NEW DELHI, JULY 1

SHORT TAKES **Odisha cop kicks**

boy, suspended

Police officer suspended for kicking minor boy for keeping tea-stall open beyond Covid-19 restricted deadline A police officer in Odisha was Thursday suspended for allegedly kicking a minor tea-seller at Kesura area under Sahid Nagar police station and running away with some articles from the shop. According to police sources, an investigation into the incident has been launched and two other police personnel have also been brought under its purview. According to reports, while patrolling in the area on Tuesday the police team found the tea-stall open after 1 pm in clear violation of the state government's Covid-19 guidelines. The cops entered the stall and started beating the boy severely. One cop even went to the extreme extent of kicking him on the belly.

Fuel price rise due to Cong policy: BJP

Noida: BJP MP and former Union minister Mahesh Sharma on Thursday said the rise in fuel prices in the country is due to policies of the previous Congress-led central government. Mi Sharma, the Lok Sabha MP from Gautam Buddh Nagar, also said that checking fuel prices is not in the control of any government or minister now. If you look at the rate of price rise in petrol and diesel, you know it is not because of our government but of the Congress. The Congress during its rule had linked the fuel prices to the international price index, which is now not in control of any government or minister, he said. The fuel prices are rising because of a system that was created by the Congress, he told reporters at a press meet when asked if inflation could be an issue for the BJP in future elections. — PTI

Fake call centre busted in Ludhiana

Ludhiana: The police said they have busted a fake call centre which used to dupe UK-based residents by impersonating government officials of that country. With 27 people held in the case, the police said the accused had also been threatening the victims to impose some penalty on them. The police said that employees at the call centre used to approach UK citizens through an internet based calling application and at times posed as "Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, United Kingdom officials". The CP said these fraud callers used to induce fear in victims by telling them that their identity has been used to carry out tax or insurance frauds in their country and a criminal case would be filed against them. - PTI ■ Govt ready for talks, 3 farm laws will uplift the economy of farmers, says Union minister

No talks on repeal of farm laws: Tomar

CHOUDHURY

Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Thursday reiterated that the Centre will not drop the three new farm

Talking to reporters in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, Mr Tomar said the government was ready to talk with the agitating farmers on options other than the farm bills. "The government was ready to talk with the agitating farmers on any provision in the farm bills. But, we will not consider any demand for repealing the three farm laws", he said.

Mr Tomar said the government had held several rounds of talks with the agitating farmers and was ready to sit with them again to end the impasse. "If the farmers' organis-

New Delhi, July 1:

Blistering heat scorched north India on Thursday

driving power demand to

new highs while the India

meteorological depart-

ment warned that the

heatwave is likely to con-

tinue in this region for

It also said there is no

chance of Delhi and its

receiving monsoon rains

till July 7. After that, the region will witness below-

normal rainfall till the

Temperatures across the northern plains have

crossed 40 degrees Celsius in the last few

days. The southwest mon-

soon has covered the

entire country but has

eluded Haryana, Delhi, parts of Punjab, west Rajasthan and west Uttar

A number of places in the Himalayan hills have

been experiencing unusu-

hill station in Himachal

Pradesh recorded 31 degrees Celsius and 35.5

degrees Celsius. Drass, one of the coldest places

in the country where the

minus 20 degrees Celsius,

recorded a high of 22.6

degrees Celsius. Heatwave conditions were recorded in most

Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh,

northwest Rajasthan and

Pradesh, with severe heat-

is Punjas, Chandigarh, Pradesh,

Punjab,

Madhya

mercury

places

Haryana,

northwest

falls

ally high temperatures. Thoise in Ladakh's Nubra Valley and Solan

middle of this month.

the next two days.

neighbouring

Heatwave singes

not yet in sight

N. India, monsoon



UNION MINISTER Narendra Singh Tomar said he was asking the farmer leaders what was wrong in the three laws. But, no one was forthcoming.

THE MINISTER described the three farm laws as an 'important step' for the welfare of the farmers in the Narendra Tomar country

ers are ready to discuss options other than the agriculture bills, then the government is ready to talk to them," he added. Farmers have been agi-

tating on Delhi borders against the three new farm laws since November Mr Tomar, who represented Morena Lok Sabha

currently on tour of Gwalior-Chambal region in the state. The Union minister said he was asking the farmer leaders what was wrong in

> THE IMD said there is

neighbouring region

no chance of Delhi and its

receiving monsoon rains

till July 7. After that, the

normal rainfall till the

ed areas in the region.

well, the IMD said.

middle of this month.

region will witness below-

wave conditions at isolat

Severe heatwave condi-

tions were observed at

isolated places over northeast Rajasthan as

The national capital on

Thursday recorded a

maximum temperature of 43.1 degrees Celsius, six

notches above the nor-

mal, pushing the city's

7,026 MW on Thursday

afternoon, the highest in

The season's previous

peak of 6,921 MW was

recorded just a day earlier

recorded its first heat-

wave of this summer on

Monday with the mercu-

ry soaring to 43 degrees

Among other places in

Haryana, Hisar recorded a high of 44 degrees

Celsius, up five notches

normal

recorded identical maxi-

mums of 44 degrees Celsius each. Narnaul

also braved the hot weath-

er at 43.5 degrees Celsius,

according to the meteoro-

logical department here.

In Punjab, Patiala

recorded a maximum

temperature of 41.6 degrees Celsius. — *PTI*

and Bhiwani

Wednesday.

this season so far.

Celsius.

against

power demand to

Delhi

wniie

constituency in MP, was

was forthcoming. He described the three

farm laws as an 'important step' for the welfare of the farmers in the country. The laws have given farmers options to sell their produce outside the 'mandis' and unlike the state government notified market places, such sale would not attract any tax.

He said all the states barring a few have accepted the farm laws.

Mr Tomar said the three farm laws would uplift the economy of farmers in the country and give a boost to

SC rejects plea seeking spl budget for judiciary

PARMOD KUMAR NEW DELHI, JULY 1

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to entertain a petition asking the Central and the state governments to allocate a percentage of their budget for the judiciary to let it spend as per its priorities.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Ramana, Justices A.S. Bopanna Hrishikesh Roy also turned down the plea of petitioner Reepak Kansal for the Supreme Court and the high courts to manage the funds so allocated to the judiciary.

"We don't want to direct the government to allocate us funds," CJI Ramana remarked.

In his petition, Mr Kansal claimed the judiciary is not able to discharge its functions as expected due to poor allotment of funds to it.

"It is a matter of great concern that the Centre and state governments are not even spending 1% of the Budget allocated to the judiciary, which is necessary for the development of judicial infrastructure and its functioning," said the

petition.
"To have an independent Judiciary India is not merely a fundamental right of the citizen but is part of the basic structure of the Constitution as held by the Supreme Court," the petition said.

However, there is a need tional districts where crop to expand the scheme in the country so that the crop insurance coverage PMFBY, launched on can be increased and more farmers get benefits, an official statement quoted the minister as saying. Mr Tomar also urged

state governments and other stakeholders such as banks and insurance com-

them, he said.

and reach out to the farmers in these identified 75 aspirational districts.

ers to come forward and insurance and become selfsufficient in times of crisis. The minister flagged Communication mobile vans to engage with farmers on PMFBY

understand the scheme, its

He also urged the farm-

enjoy the benefits of crop off Information Education during the week-long drive. He also launched

PMFBY e-brochure, FAO booklet and a guidebook to assist farmers and on ground coordinators to benefits and the process of

Rejecting the Centre's application for oral hearing of the review petition, the top court in its order said, "We have its order said, "We have gone through the review petition filed against the judgment dated May 5, 2021. The grounds taken in the review petition do not fall within the limited ground on which review petition can be considered. The various grounds taken in the review petition have already been dealt with

in the main judgment. We do not find any sufficient ground to entertain this review petition. The review petition is dismissed."
The 102nd Constitution amendment Act of 2018 inserted Articles 338B, which deals with the structure, duties and

powers of the National for Classe Commission Backward (NCBC), while 342A deals with power of the President to notify a particular caste as SEBC and power of Parliament to change

the list. A five-judge bench of

Supreme Court headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan, who relin-quished the position on Wednesday on reaching the retirement age, passed the review judgment as one of his last acts as a judge.

Spl drive to bring more farmers under PM crop cover scheme Minister Narendra Singh panies to work together

Tomar said so far 29.16 crore farmers have

insured their crops under

More than ₹95,000 crore

worth of claims have been

provided to farmers since

the launch of the scheme,

against the total premium

of ₹17,000 crore paid by

New Delhi, July 1: In a the government on Thursday launched a special drive to enrol more cultivators under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

A week-long drive, starting July 1, will cover all notified areas under the kharif 2021 season with special focus on 75 aspirainsurance penetration is

January 13, 2016, aims to provide a comprehensive risk solution to farmers at the lowest uniform premium across the country.
Launching the special

HC upholds conviction in '97 Gulshan Kumar case

State appeal against Ramesh Taurani's acquittal rejected Nagar police station. A non-availability warrant would be issued against him if he failed to surren-

SHAHAB ANSARI MUMBAI, JULY 1

The Bombay high court on Thursday upheld the conviction and life sentence of sharpshooter Abdul Rauf Merchant in the 1997 music baron Gulshan Kumar murder case. The HC also upheld the trial court order acquitting Kumar's business rival Ramesh Taurani.

Gulshan Kumar, the founder of T-Series, was shot dead while coming out of a temple in Mumbai on August 12, 1997. The trial court had passed judgment on April 29, 2002. The state government had filed an appeal challenging acquittal lenging acquittal of Ramesh Taurani of Tips Industries. The division

bench of Justices S.S.



appeal as it couldn't prove charges against him beyond reasonable doubt. The HC partly allowed state's appeal against acquittal of Abdul Rashid against Merchant, brother of Abdul Rauf, and held him guilty of murder and criminal conspiracy. The court has directed him to either surrender before Sessions court or the DN

attempt to cause death or grievous hurt) but didn't grant him any remissions. The high court denied him remissions looking at his past conduct in

absconding twice.

der as per HC order.

Even though the court acquitted Abdul Rauf

from sections 392 (punish-

ment for robbery) and 397 (robbery, or dacoity, with

Kumar was killed by three hitmen outside Shiv Temple in Andheri on August 12, 1997. Kumar tried to escape through the bylanes of the slum but the assailants, who fired crowd first, fired 16 bullets to kill him on the spot.

27 python eggs hatch in incubator

SAHOO

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 1

History was created on Thursday when Odisha forest department officials and Snake Helpline personnei successfully 27 newborn released pythons into the wild at Niala in Khurda district.

The newborns were hatched through artificial incubation following abandonment of the eggs by the mother python after 18 days of natural incubation in a small cave. According to Subhendu Mallick, honorary wildlife

warden of Khurda district, 30 eggs abandoned by the python were rescued on May 22 and they were later brought to Chandaka forest range office in Khurda district. With the technological support by Snake Helpline and logistical system provided by the state forest department, an artificial incubation

"During the incubation, three eggs were destroyed by ants while the remaining 27 eggs hatched. The hatching process began on Wednesday morning and continued till early hours

system was developed.

DURING INCUBATION, 3 eggs were destroyed by ants while the remaining 27 eggs hatched ▶ IN JUNE 2016, 22 python

eggs were hatched through artificial incubation

Thursday," said Mr "While Wednesday's spec-

tacle of newborns emerg-ing out of the eggs was overwhelming and awesome, today's scene was nonetheless breathtaking. We released the hatchlings near a shallow water body in Chandaka forest. They merrily crawled into the water body and disappeared. Our 38 days of hard work has finally borne fruits. What is more satisfying is that the success rate of hatching is 100 per cent." said Mr Mallick. This is not for the first

Subhenau and the forest officials have shown their expertise in artificial incubation of python eggs In June 2016, 22 python

eggs found from forest were hatched successfully through artificial incubation in Rairakhol area of Sambalpur district under guidance Subhendu.

Asst. Prof. alleges 'caste bias' at IIT-Madras

Chennai, July 1: An assistant complaint received by the professor of the IIT-Madras institute from employees and on Thursday said he was quitting the institute and alleged caste discrimination as one of the primary reasons for his move.

In an e-mail, purportedly from the assistant professor of economics, he apprises members of the faculty that one of the primary reasons for "my leaving the institute is the caste discrimination I have faced at the HSS (Humanities and Social Sciences) department since my joining in March 2019."

Asked if the professor has formally resigned and if he has made allegations of such discrimination in his letter of "resignation" to the institute, IIT-M did not respond immediately.

However, the premeier institute said in a statement, "the institute has no comments on this email. Any the mail added.

institute from employees and promptly through the established process of redressing grievances."

The professor could not be contacted immediately.

The e-mail that was widely circulated in the socialmedia was also retweeted by the Ambedkar Periyar Study Circle, an initiative of the IIT-M students. "The discrimination came

from individuals in position of power irrespective of their claimed political affiliations and gender. There were multiple specific instances of discrimination and I shall be pursuing appropriate actions to address the matter," the mail claimed.

The institute should set up a panel to study the experiences of the Scheduled Caste and OBC faculty members

'Ready to counter threat of drones' ■ Continued from Page 1 Then another capability of incidents, terror-related incidents in the Valley

and counter-drone systems

"has radically altered the way we think or we will have to fight in the future". He added: "With the ease of availability, drones can be easily accessed and can be used by both state and nonstate actors, so we will also have to factor that in, as we go along and make our plans. But I would like to assure you we are fully seized of this and are working towards making sure we are not found wanting in this regard," the Army Chief said. "A capability is developed and then another capability is developed to counter it.

goes further up, so this seesaw battle between drones and counter-drone technologies will continue, and this is how the character (of warfare) will keep changing, and we have to keep adapting to this if we have to succeed," he added. On J&K, the Army Chief

said that since the ceasefire agreement between the DGMOs of India and Pakistan in February this year, the situation in the UT had seen a marked improvement, especially regarding terrorism. "There has been little or no infiltration from across the LoC. And the number

have also seen a considerable decline," said the Army Cchief. He said the overall sharp drop in all parameters of violence have clearly indicated that the general population in Kashmir is all for peace and development. "I think going ahead, this is where we need to focus and make sure that we create the conditions which are conducive to peace and development," he added. On the situation along

the Line of Control with

February from the northern and southern banks of Pangong Tso as well as the Kailash ranges. "Since then both sides have strictly adhered in letter and spirit to the disengagement agreed upon. We are engaging with the Chinese at various levels at the political level, at the diplomatic level and of course at the military level," said the Army level," said the Army Chief. This, he said, had helped build trust between the two sides, and going ahead "we are sure we will be able to resolve all the

China, the Army Chief said it was normal for quite some time now, since

remaining issues", he added.

UK opens work visa route for students

minimum salary requirements or caps on numbers, allowing graduates on the route to work flexibly, switch jobs and devel-

British High Commission (BHC) said on Thursday, "A new graduate immigration route has been opened by the UK Home Secretary, Priti Patel, for applications today (1 July 2021), allowing Indian students the opportunity to stay longer in the UK after they have finished their studies. The Graduate route provides an opportunity for talented international students

who have been awarded

their degree to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, at any skill level for at least two years. The BHC added, "For the

Successful applicants will be issued an eVisa and be to conveniently er needed to prove their rights in the UK. This is a tion process which means applicants will not have to visit a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Service or re-submit their

biometrics. Application Service.

Government's points-based immigration system, talented students from India and across the globe now have the opportunity to kick start their careers in the UK at the highest levels of business, science, technology and the arts. Once they've received their world-leading qualification from one of our fantastic education institutions, this freedom to fulfil their aspirations and advance their

careers.' Acting British High Commissioner Thompson said, numbers show that UK universities are already a popular destination for Îndian students, who contribute immensely to the unique living bridge that exists between the UK and India. The Graduate route will further help students who wish to stay and work in the UK, strengthening this bond between our two countries even more. Cooperation in higher education is one of the crucial commitments in the UK and India's 2030 Roadmap, and this is another positive step in that direction.

Akhil Gogoi freed ■ Continued from Page 1

which has come about. The judge added:

"Nevertheless, as long as it remains on the statute book in the present form, for enforcing the law on sedition, it is desirable for the investigating authorities to be continually trained to conform to the parameters of the law of sedition laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Kedar Nath Singh case. This is to ensure while enforcing this penal law by the police and other investigating agencies, the ambit of sedition doesn't get stretched beyond the permissible limits imposed by the Supreme Court.

Mr Gogoi, newly elected to the Assam Assembly from Sibasagar, has been in jail for the past 18 months. Over 12 cases were slapped on him by the Assam police following protests led by Mr Gogoi and his outfit, Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti, against the Citizenship Amendment Act in 2019. Two of these cases were taken over by the NIA, which accused him of having "Maoist" links and being involved in "seditious activities".

Mr Gogoi said the NIA court's ruling has reaffirmed the public's faith in the judiciary. Saying he would continue his struggle for the people, Mr Gogoi told reporters the court order has once again proved that the

nation's judiciary was independent, and the public can seek relief against injustice. Mr Gogoj, who was elected to Assembly from jail, said he would be leaving for Sibasagar, his constituency, on Friday morning to meet the people who had elected him.

Mr Gogoi's release was

welcomed by people from all political quarters. Mr Upamanyu Hazarika, convenor of the Prabajan Virodhi Manch, said the Upamanyu judgment should be seen as a stern warning to the ruling class against the use of undemocratic means to quell critics. "It is singularly unfortunate for our democracy that political opponents are muzzled by slapping false cases against them and that Mr Gogoi was deprived of his personal liberty for resorting to democratic means of protest. The NIA court's judgement has reaf-firmed public faith in the iudiciary

Raijor Dal chief and RTI activist Akhil Gogoi shot into the limelight in 2005 when he exposed a PDS scam in his hometown Golaghat. A close associate of Anna Hazare, Mr Gogoi has relentlessly fought corruption in Assam, for which he was awarded the Shanmugam Maniunath Award in 2008. He was also awarded the national RTI Award by Public Cause Research Foundation in 2010.

BIHAR MINISTER THREATENS TO QUIT CITING HIGH-HANDEDNESS OF BABUS cers have the temerity to do so,

Patna, July 1: Bihar social welfare minister and JD(U) leader Madan Sahani threatened to resign in protest against highhandedness of bureaucrats in his department.

Sahani alleged that he was distraught over officers concerned putting on hold transfers and postings he had approved in his capacity as a cabinet member. "If the offiwhat is the point of my remaining in my chair? I do not want to remain a minister just to enjoy some facilities", Sahani told reporters.

Interestingly, when asked if he had shared his grievances with the CM, Sahani replied "why should I do so? He would blackmail".

■ Continued from Page 1

their career required. In a statement, the

first time, the vast majority of applicants to the Graduate route will be able to apply in a fully digital way, using the UK Immigration ID Check smartphone

access this status whenevmore convenient applica-

who cannot use the app can still apply online but will need to visit a UK and Citizenship Ms Patel was quoted as saying, "Under the UK



THE ASIAN AGE

2 JULY 2021

SC nudge on Covid ex-gratia exposes govt sloth, red tape

he Supreme Court's directives to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to frame guidelines for paying ex gratia compensation to victims of Covid-19 and to the governments to simplify the process of certification of deaths due to the pandemic have come as a big relief for a large number of people. The directives also expose the sloth that has become part of the character of the government even in the face of a national crisis and the love for red tape while

dealing with the lives of worst-affected people in a given point of time. The court's decision has come against the government's position that it did have the money but its focus is on providing food, medical care, oxygen, vaccination and on supporting the economy and not to pay compensation to the kin of four lakh odd people who have lost their lives due to the pandemic. The court, however, did not buy the argument and told the government that the relevant section of the National Disaster Management Act, 2005, says that the NDMA shall recommend guidelines for the minimum stan-

has come against the government's position that it did have the money but its focus is not on helping the kin of the four lakh people who have lost their lives

dards of relief to be provided to persons affect-The court's decision ed by disaster, which shall include ex gratia assistance on account of loss of life. The government cannot run away from its responsibility, the court reminded it.

The government's argument not only sound-

ed specious but also revealed its disdain for the legal responsibilities when it comes to bringing succour to the most vulnerable sections of people during a national disaster. The government conveniently forgot the fact that it had invoked the appropriate sections of the

Act while dealing with the pandemic but chose to ignore those that talked of compensation. The court refused to accept the government interpretation of the law dealing with compensation

as "recommendatory"; it is instead mandatory and statutory, the court said. The judges who chastised the NDMA, the statutory body headed by the Prime Minister and vested with the power and responsibility to form a national strategy to face disasters, saying it failed to perform its duty but refrained from fixing the quantum of the compensation and instead left it to the wisdom of the executive. The court, in fact, limited itself to interpreting the law and reminding the government of its duty; it did not transgress the boundaries that separate the two branches of government.

The court's direction to streamline the process of certifying Covid deaths

has not come a day earlier. Several state governments have been following a pattern that did not count a death as a Covid death if it comes after the victim tested negative for the virus. This is in fact not in conformity with the international practice and has two inimical impacts. One is that several deaths, which had indeed been caused by the virus, would not be counted, resulting in the denial of compensation to the relatives. The second is that it would deny the decision-makers the advantage of reliable and accurate data to analyse and take decisions on the ways to resist the pandemic. A simplified and transparent death certification process would hopefully reverse the practice.

Fuel price paradox

minister remarked facetiously in relation to rising fuel prices that cycling is good for health. The middle and lower classes may wish to send him by bullock cart to a school of economics so that he may understand what damage high fuel taxes can inflict on the economy that is just about to emerge from the depths of a Covid-hit slump. While petrol is selling at above ₹100 a litre and diesel is inching to those heights in multiple regions, the price of cooking gas is hitting the roof too, raised as it was by ₹25 per cylinder on Thursday.

The cascading effect of the fuel price rise is reflected in price escalation in goods as milk to cement prices spiral and services. The effect was visible in retail inflation ruling at six per cent, which helps explain somewhat the sharp rise in cost of living. For governments, at the Centre and in the states, fuel is a weapon to raise revenues at a time of a sluggish economy as lock-downs are technically still in force in many parts of India. In the last 12 months, the government's take from fuel tax was a phenomenal ₹5.6 lakh crores, with the Centre taking a lion's share as most recent increases were in the form of cess and surcharge among many other levies.

A study showed how the Centre could easily cut fuel price by ₹4 to ₹5 per not suffer a din in revenues as demand would c omy takes off again with post-Covid consumption. However, low hanging fruits like liquor and fuel sales, with very few hazards for the treasury to mop up the money, are too tempting. Paradoxically, India raised taxes on fuel, of which it imports about ₹8 lakh crore worth annually, when international prices were hitting the bottom at \$30 per barrel last year but are now ruling at \$70. Consumption is being taxed whereas corporate taxes have been reduced. This is not an economic riddle so much as a disaster in waiting that will put our economic recovery in jeopardy.

THE ASIAN AGE

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Covid's impact, WFH has hit India's women harder



Patralekha Chatterjee

Dev 360

homemaker and a mother really mean for the vast of Indian women? In an essay in The Atlantic last year, Helen Lewis, journalist and author of Difficult Women: A History of Feminism in 11 Fights, pointed out some home truths which resonate with millions of women across the world. "When people try to be cheerful about social distancing and working from home, noting that William Shakespeare and Isaac Newton did some of their best work while England was ravaged by the plague, there is an obvious response: Neither of them had child-care responsibilities."

For millions of people in many parts of the world, things have not changed that much.

In Índia, the situation new analysis from the Centre for Global Development reconfirms. The Global Childcare Workload from School and Preschool Closures Dur-ing the Covid-19 Pandemic, by Charles Kenny and George Yang of the US-based think tank, estimates that women around the world each provided as much as an additional 173 hours in childcare for free during the pandemic. This is about three times more than men (59 hours). The figures from India are even more extreme.

According to the study, which draws on published data from multiple sources including Unesco and OECD, the estimated additional unpaid childcare burden per woman because of pandemic-related care burdens between January and October 2020 in India was 360 hours. The corresponding figure for men was 33 hours. The unpaid childcare burden per woman in India in a "normal" year is estimated to be 2,380 hours. None of this should

come as a huge surprise to anyone in India not totally removed from

ground realities.
Everyone, including
Bollywood, pays tribute
to motherhood. Think of Shashi Kapoor's iconic line from that 1975 blockbuster *Deewar* — "Mere paas Ma Hain". A noble sentiment. But pedestalising mothers can lead to motherhood being rarely unpacked in terms of the extra hours of unpaid work in the popular discourse.

Women's unpaid care work has emerged as a big issue among progressive economists in recent But millions of women in India, as in many other countries, are still socialised into accepting the notion that it is "natural" for women to be tasked with unpaid domestic work. And they should not complain.

But when we talk about women's "natural" role in the context of unpaid and at what cost?

first-of-its-kind pan-India time use survey (TUS), released by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation last year, tossed up some telling data. The survey, that covered 4.5 lakh persons aged six years and above, across 1.4 lakh households in India, offers information valuable about the activities performed by every individual and the time spent in each of these activities during January-December 2019. The respondents were asked to recall what they did during the last 24 hours of

the day of the survey Unsurprisingly, Indian men were found to have spent a lot more time in remunerated Their participation in paid employment was found to be around 57.3 per cent, compared to women, whose participation rate was only 18.4 per cent.

However, when it came to unpaid work such as cooking, cleaning or unpaid caregiving, looking

women were way ahead. Every day, women spent nearly five hours in unpaid domestic work; for men, the corresponding figure was one hour

and 37 minutes.
Sona Mitra, a feminist economist, associated with the Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE), has drawn attention to related troubling issues in her public presentations: according to OECD (2014) data, women in India spent an average of 5.6 hours a day in unpaid work, compared to 52 minutes a day for men (same source); ILO 2018 shows on an average women in India spent 297 minutes per day on unpaid care work, as against 31 minutes by men (in paid work, women spend only 160 minutes, compared to 360

minutes by men).

Ms Mitra points out the multiple implications of unpaid care work for women - it means increased stress and less time for many other things which women may want to do; it means reduced income earning potential, missed opportunities for upgrading skills, education, socialiand also

and entertainment. important, means entrenching the sexual division of labour, furthering gender inequalities and creating intergenerational cycle of "unpaid work" for girls and women. The bottomline — it leaves women with fewer options and choices in life, with all attendant consequences.

While working from home may open up more opportunities for a small section of middle class and upper middle class women, for millions of others, including large numbers of not-so-poor women, the closure of schools and childcare

Unpaid care work means entrenching the sexual division of labour, furthering gender inequalities and creating an intergenerational cycle, with all attendant consequences

pandemic has made things much tougher. In an article in the

Economic and Political Weekly in May 2020, Ashwini Deshpande, professor of economics at Ashoka University, pre-sciently flagged these issues. "South Asia, India and Pakistan in particular, have among the most unequal norms of sharing domestic chores and housework. Will the WFH (work from home) regime, where middle class families heave to means with lies have to manage without helpers, propel men to share the domestic work burden more equitably than they have done in the past? Will the pandemic shift the social norms of sharing of domestic work? Only time will tell."

'Going forward", wrote Prof. Deshpande, "we should use this crisis to overhaul the current system that prevents women from entering the workforce and when they do, by not rewarding them enough"

We can do this, she added, "by recognising the myriad facets of women's work, the need for adequate compensation, putting support structures in place that sharing of domestic chores and care work, and most important, creating favourable opportunities for work and livelihoods within a conscious anti-discriminatory policy framework".

In India, less than a quarter of women are a part of the labour force. Globally, India has amongst the lowest rates of female labour force participation, with only parts of the Arab world lagging behind us. Worryingly, this trend shows scant signs of reversal. India's workforce continues to rapidly masculinise.

This must change, so that not only Indian women, but India realises its true potential. We must have an honest discussion about what being a mother and homemaker really mean in the India of 2021.

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

POWER-HUNGRY AAP

A war of words has broken out between the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party over free electricity to the people ahead of the Punjab Assembly elections. Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal is dreaming of winning Punjab but his party has few leaders of his calibre. His announcement to deliver 300 units of electricity free to each family and a waiver on previous power bills is bogus as well. With the state reeling under a debt of ₹3 lakh crore, any party that talks about freebies is not to be trusted.

> **Bhagwan Thadani** Mumbai

NOT A PUNY CITY

THE HISTORIC Pune is now Maharashtra's geographically largest city, surpassing the financial cap ital of Mumbai. The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) now commands an area over 518 sq km as against the BMC which is spread over 434 sq km. However, if one considers the budget and population, Pune is behind Mumbai. The PMC has an estimated budget of ₹8,370 crore for 2021-22, as compared to the ₹39,038 crore budget Similarly Pune's popu lation is 34 lakh as against Mumbai's whopping 1.2 crore.

Sankar Paul Chakdaha, West Bengal

DRONES A MENACE

THE DECISION to ban drones and flying toys in the Rajouri district of Jammu & Kashmir is a step in the right direction. The move follows explosions caused by a couple of drones that rocked the technical airport of the IAF. Sorties by drones around security installations in Jammu have put security agencies and the government on edge. The Centre must engage with military and aviation experts on a war footing and develop a lasting solution to counter the menace of armed drones. N.J. Ravi Chander

BESTED BY WOMEN

FORMER ENGLAND Michael Vaughan likes to keep things spicy. After the Indian women team put on an improved performance in the second ODI in Taunton, Vaughan praised the side for playing a good brand of cricket in English conditions. He also took a jibe at the men's side. He was clearly taking a potshot ahead of their fivematch Test series against England.

M.R. Jayanthy

Zahid Hussain

Civil war looms: Taliban to take Afghans back to mess of 1990s

ith the revival of armed regional militias to stop the Afghan Taliban offensive, Afghanistan is edging towards a new civil war. Headed by old mujahideen warlords, these armed bands are fighting along the Afghan government forces in some areas, but in many cases they are defending their own regional fiefdoms.

It appears that we are returning to the 1990s following the downfall of the Najibullah government when several mujahideen groups fought each other, plunging Afghanistan into a devastating civil war and killing thousands of Afghans. Those events saw the rise of the Taliban movement, which swept away warlord rule and established the so-called Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. But the warlords returned to power after the American invasion. The withdrawal of the foreign forces and the looming threat of a Taliban takeover compelled them to raise their

own forces. They don't seem to have much faith in government security forces to protect them. Some three decades later, the same former mujahideen commanders are again arrayed against their old nemesis.

Most prominent among them are Abdul Rashid Dostum, Ismail Khan and Ata Muhammad — the same old faces that symbolise four decades of conflict in Afghanistan. The Taliban offensive in northern Afghanistan in recent weeks has been a major reason behind the revival of the militias representing different ethnic groups, particularly the Tajik and Uzbeks.

Over the past weeks, the insurgents have achieved some spectacular successes in the region that has never been considered their stronghold. The Taliban are generally seen as a Pakhtun-dominated movement, with eastern and southern Afghanistan as their main support base.

The Taliban have overrun many

northern districts and have besieged some major towns. They now control major roads leading to Mazar-i-Sharif. In many areas, Afghan government soldiers have abandoned their posts without any fight. In some cases, the soldiers have joined the insurgents. The Taliban now control the main border crossing with Tajikistan, a main trade route. While these militia movements have helped reinforce the government forces fighting the Taliban in many northern districts, they have also strengthened the warlord fiefdoms, thus weakening the authority of the government in Kabul.

Some analysts, however, contend that these militias may eventually serve as the last line of defence, with the security forces unable to counter the Taliban onslaught. But there is also the question of whether these ragtag armed groups can stand their ground against

a more committed enemy. The Taliban's success in the north has not come as a surprise. While consolidating their military and diplomatic gains, the Taliban have also sought to secure the support of communities it had fought in the past in order to present themselves as a national movement. The Taliban had traditionally relied on ethnic Pakhtuns, but made a clear shift to recruit members of other ethnic groups with a view to expanding their area of influence.

Over the years, the insurgent group made significant inroads into the non-Pakhtun belt in northern Afghanistan and inducted several Tajik and Uzbek commanders in its ranks, giving them more operational autonomy. The non-Pakhtuns assumed important positions in the Taliban leadership and held key posts in the provinces.

The changing ethnic profile of the group was evident in the fact that non-Pakhtuns now constituted a quarter of the Taliban leadership council and its various commissions. Members of ethnic minorities were also handed out senior positions as provincial and district shadow governors and zonal commanders. By inducting Shia Hazaras, the Taliban wanted to make themselves more acceptable by presenting themselves as a multiethnic, multi-sect force. As an example, the Taliban appointed a Shia ethnic Hazara as its shadow district chief before the intra-Afghan peace talks. The hard-line Sunni Taliban had been previously blamed for persecuting the minority group during its stint in power. The Hazaras largely inhabit the central Afghan provinces

The Taliban also leveraged the peace deal with the US to their advantage in order to woo regional ethnic groups. With the withdrawal of US forces, joining the Taliban had once again become a serious option for many people and groups in Afghanistan.

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TAKES

BILL COSBY RELEASED FROM

New York, June 30: US comedian Bill Cosby was freed from prison Wednesday, in a blow to the #MeToo movement after a US court overturned his conviction for drugging and sexually assaulting a woman 17 years ago. The 83-year-old flashed the sign outside his home near Philadelphia after leaving jail following a Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling that he had been denied a fair trial. He did not answer reporters' questio ns. Cosby, who shattered racial barriers with his Emmy-winning role on "I Spy" in the 1960s, was convicted in 2018 of ass aulting Andrea Constand at his Philadelphia mansion in 2004.

But the judges wrote in a 79page decision that a non-prose-cution agreement between a former district attorney and Cosby over evidence he gave in a civil case meant the actor should not have been charged.

"Cosby's convictions and jud gment of sentence are vacated, and he is discharged," they wrote. Cosby left SCI Phoenix, a state jail 35 miles northwest of Philadelphia, just before 2:30 pm (1830 GMT).

F-16 COLLIDES WITH BUILDING AT **DUTCH AIR BASE**

The Hague, July 1: A Belgian F-16 fighter jet collided with a building at a Dutch airbase Thursday morning as it prepared to take off, injuring two people, Dutch and Belgian authorities said.

Belgium's defence ministry said in a statement that the incident happened at the start of an F-16 mission and the pilot had to use his ejector seat.

There was no fire or explosion following the incident at Leeuwarden military airbase, the Dutch air force said.

The air force said the cause of the incident was unclear and was being investigated.

immediately available.

PAK INDUCTS CHINA-MADE VT-4 **BATTLE TANKS**

Islamabad, July 1: The Pakistan Army has formally inducted the first batch of the Chinamade VT-4 battle tanks into its armoury. Produced by Chinese state-owned armoured vehicle manufacturer, Norinco, the delivery of VT-4 tanks from the manufacturer began in April last year. Pakistan is the third country to have bought these from China after Thailand and Nigeria.

The Army's media affairs wing in a statement said that Commander Mangla Corps, Lieutenant General Shaheen Mehmood, on Wednesday visited the Armoured Division and inspected the first batch of VT-4 tanks. Major General Rashid Mahmood briefed the commander about ongoing post shipment inspections of the first batch of tanks.

DEADLY HEAT WAVE SLAMS CANADA, U.S.

Vancouver, July 1: Millions of people in western Canada and the northwestern United States were under heat alerts Wednesday as the region baked in record-breaking temperatures and police reported scores of deaths likely linked to the scorching conditions.

The heat wave has stretched emergency services, with at least 134 people dving suddenly since Friday in the Vancouver area and hundreds more across British Columbia, according to Canadian police and the local coroner. "The temperatures recorded this week are unprecedented — lives have been lost and the risk of wildfires is at a dangerously high level," said Canadian PM Justin Trudeau.

TRUMP's CFO **SURRENDERS TO FACE CHARGES**

New York, July 1: The chief financial officer of Donald Trump's company surrendered Thursday to New York authorities planning to indict him, possibly with tax-related offences. US media reported.

The indictment of Allen Weisselberg, Trump's long serving and loyal CFO, has been expected for days as part of an almost three-year investigation by the Manhattan district attorney into alleged fraud at the Trump Organisation. Weisselberg, 73, could be charged with evasion of taxes on fringe benefits, according to sources quoted by The New York Times and Wall

Street Journal. The district attorney's office did not immediately confirm these reports.

No foreign force can bully China: Xi

Ruling Communist Party celebrates centenary with show of strength at Tiananmen Square

Beijing, July 1: Any "foreign force" trying to "bully" China will encounter a "great wall of steel" erected by over 1.4 billion Chinese people and its powerful military, President Xi Jinping warned on Thursday, as the ruling Communist Party celebra-ted its centenary with a massive show of strength at the historic Tiananmen Square here.

In his keynote address at a highly-choreographed ceremony from the balcony of Tiananmen Gate, which also adorns a giant size photo of 'Chairman' Mao Zedong, the founding father of the People's Rep-ublic of China, Xi also underlined that the "reunification" of Taiwan with the Chinese mainland is a "historic mission" and an "unshakable commitment" of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Xi, who is also the General Secretary of the CPC and Chairman of the Cen-

CHINA HAS repeatedly accused the US of trying to curb its "peaceful rise", amidst concern in the neighbourhood about the growing assertiveness of the Chinese military in the strategic Indo-Pacific region and elsewhere.

tral Military Commission, warned that any foreign force will be allowed to bully China, an apparent reference to the US.

China has repeatedly accused the US of trying to curb its "peaceful rise", amidst concern in the neighbourhood about the growing assertiveness of the Chinese military in the strategic Indo-Pacific regi-

on and elsewhere.

Both former US president Donald Trump and his successor Joe Biden have pursued a hardline policy towards China, targeting it on several fronts including trade, human

already threatening to cur-

tail its use.

The EU document —
essentially a QR code
available on smartphones

or on paper — shows whether the bearer is vaccinated with one of the EU's approved jabs (from BioN-Tech/Pfizer, AstraZeneca,

Moderna or Johnson &

Johnson), or whether they

have recovered from an infection or recently test-

Under EU law, the certifi-

cate is meant to do away

with the need for quaran-

tines or further testing

when travelling between

the EU's 27 countries or four associated European

nations (Iceland, Norway,

Switzerland and Liechten-

stein). All EU member

states were connected to

the digital certificate syst-

em on Thursday except

Ireland, which was hit by a

cyber-attack targeting its

health service in May and

plans to have it operatio-

But a surge in the Delta

ariant, first detected in

India and now quickly gai-

ning ground elsewhere,

could trigger an "emerge-

ncy brake" provision suspending the certificate's

Already Germany has a

ban on incoming travelle-

rs from Portugal, where

the Delta variant has bec-

ome dominant. Only its

own citizens or residents

are allowed in from Portu-

gal, and they must quaran-

tine for two weeks upon arrival. Berlin's decision

has raised Brussels' ire,

with EU Justice Commis-

sioner Didier Reynders

saying on Wednesday that

'we should avoid travel

bans" within the EU and

stressing that Germany

should have consulted

The startling rise in

Delta cases in former EU member Britain, with a

rolling two-week infection

rate more than seven

times that of the bloc, is

generating deep concern

This week, Portugal, Spa-

in and Malta all abruptly

increased restrictions for

travellers from the UK,

although the three said

they would accept fully va-

The World Health Orga-

nisation added to the une-

on the continent.

ccinated Britons.

with its partners first.

nal on July 19.

acceptance.

ed negative

rights and the origins of the Covid-19, which first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan before becoming a pandemic. "We Chinese are a people who uphold justice and are not intimidated by threats of forceWe have never bullied, oppressed. or subjugated the people of any other country, and we never will," Xi said.

"By the same token, we will never allow any for-eign force to bully, oppress, or subjugate us," the 68year old leader said. "Anyone who would attempt to do so will find themselves on a collision course with a great wall of steel forged by over 1.4 billion Chinese people," he said.

Over 70,000 carefully vetted party workers and schoolchildren who took part in the event cheered Xi's over an hour-long speech which was telecast live. About 71 aircraft participated in the flypast.



Balloons fly during the celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China in



Gholamhossein Mohseni

IRAN GETS NEW HARD-LINE **JUDICIARY CHIEF**

Dubai, July 1: Iran's supreme leader on Thursday appointed a hardline cleric sanctioned by the West as the country's new judiciary chief, state media reported, replacing the president-elect who previously held the

powerful post.
The new chief, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejehi, 64, takes the reins from Ebrahim Raisi, who will ascend to the country's highest civilian position after his election victory earlier this month.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters in Iran, announced Ejehi's appointment, urging him to advocate for justice and fight corruption. In a decree, he praised Ejehi's valuable experience, shining records and legal competence.

Ejehi takes over a judiciary widely criticised by international rights groups for being one of the world's top executioners, as well as conducting closed-door trials of dual nationals and individuals with Western

Raisi, the previous judiciary chief and a protege of Khamenei, was sanctioned by the in part over his involvement in the mass execution of thousands of political prisoners in 1988, as well as over his tenure at the judiciary.

Thursday's announcement was widely expected as Ejehi, considered close to Khamenei, had served as deputy judiciary chief after a long history in the branch, including as prosecutor general. In that post, from 2009-2014, he pushed to further limit access to the internet and popular social media apps, sparking worries among his opponents over the rise of social oppression.

From 2005-2009, during the first term of hard-line populist former President Mahmoud Ahmadineiad. Eiehi served as intelligence minister, following decades of deep involvement in the services dating back to his role as head of the ministry's recruiting office in the 1980s.

The conservative cleric landed on the US Treasury Department and European Unions sanctions lists over allegations of severe human rights abuses.

That vote, considered rigged by the reformist opposition, sparked massive Green Movement protests and a sweeping crackdown in which thousands of people were detained and dozens were killed.

-AP

Double Covid jab seems to Study: Viral load wide Covid certificate for easier travel came into force on Thursday, just in control Delta variant: EMA time for Europe's busy summer vacation period — but the highly infectious Delta variant is

Delta variant

The Hague, July 1: Two doses of Covid vaccine appear to provide protection against the rapidly spreading Delta variant of coronavirus, Medicines

European Medicines Agency said on Thursday. The upbeat assessment came as the World Health Organization warned that the variant first spotted in India could fuel a new wave of cases in Europe. The EMA's head of vac-

cine strategy, Marco Cavaleri, said the Amsterdambased watchdog was "aw-

We should avoid travel bans" within the European Union. - DIDIER REYNDERS

EU Justice Commissioner

ase by warning Thursday that Covid case numbers in Europe were on the rise once again, up 10 percent after two months of decline, because of a loosening social restrictions and increased travel.

The darkening context could limit the effects of the EU certificate. "There is no doubt that

the tourist industry could do with a boost in time for the summer season," economic research consultancv Capital Economics said in a note.

But it forecast the EU certificate "will have very little impact on European tourism this year", observing that "most adults are not fully vaccinated and the Delta variant is making people and governments more cautious". Airlines grouped togeth-

er in an umbrella lobby group, A4E, have expressed worries that an "incsed worries that an onsistent approach" among EU countries in vetting the EU Covid certificate could create lengthy lines in airports with the potential to "create new health hazards". They called for the certificates to be checked online before travellers even arrived at the airport. There were scenes of problems at Brussels' airport early Thursday as the first day of school summer vacation in Belgium, an airport strike in neighbour-

RIGHT NOW it seems the four vaccines approved in the European Union are protecting against all the strains circulating in Europe, including the

> MARCO CAVALERI, Head, European Medicines Agency

are of concerns caused by the rapid spread of the

Washington, July 1: People who contract Covid-19 even after vaccination are "Right now it seems the four vaccines approved in the European Union are protecting against all the strains circulating in Eur-

variant," he said. "Emerging data from real world evidence are showing that two doses of vaccines are protective against the Delta variant.' Four vaccines are currently approved for use in the EU: Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson.

ope, including the Delta

W.H.O.: VACCINATE AT LEAST 10% OF POPULATION IN EACH COUNTRY

Delta shadow over EU Covid travel pass

London, July 1: Voicing concern over many countries failing to vaccinate their people, WHO chief Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Thursday called for vaccinating at least 10 per cent of the population of every country by September as ne warned that "until we end the pandemic everywhere, we will not end it anywhere".

'Vast inequities in the access to vaccines are fuelling a two-track pandemic. While some countries have reached a high level of coverage, many others don't have enough to vaccinate health workers, older people & other at-risk groups," the World Health Organisation Director General said at the virtual

India Global Forum. Asserting that when some countries cannot vaccinate, it's a threat to all countries. Ghebrevesus called for a global effort to vaccinate at least 10 per cent of the population of every country by September, at least 40 per cent by the end of the year, and at least 70 per cent by the middle of next year.

"Vaccine equity is not just the right thing to do. It's the best way to control the pandemic and reboot the global economy," the WHO chief said as he warned that "until we end the pandemic everywhere, we will not end it anywhere."

Globally, the Coronavirus has infected over 18.2 crore people and killed nearly 40 lakh, according to Johns Hopkins Univers ity. India has recorded more than 3 crore cases and registered 400,000

less in re-infected

likely to have a lower viral load or quantity, experience a shorter infection time and have milder symptoms than unvaccinated individuals, according to a study of mRNA preventives in the US.

Researchers noted that while Covid-19 vaccines are proving to be highly effective in preventing infection, no vaccine is 100 per cent effective, and breakthrough infections infections after immunisation — do occur.

"If you get vaccinated, about 90 per cent of the time you're not going to get Covid-19," said Jeff Burgess, a professor at the University of Arizona Health Sciences in the US. Even if you do get it, there will be less of the virus in you and your illness is likely to be much milder," Burgess said.

The study, published in the New England Journal *of Medicine* on June 30. involved 3,975 health care personnel, first responde rs, and other essential and frontline workers in the US. From December 14. 2020, to April 10, 2021, the participants completed weekly SARS-CoV-2 testing by providing nasal swabs for qualitative and quantitative RT-PCR analysis, the gold standard for testing for Covid-19.

Among the participants, SARS-CoV-2 infections were identified in five participants who were fully vaccinated and 11 who

TREATMENT FOR **BLOOD CLOTS DUE TO VAX FOUND**

Toronto, July 1: Scientists in Canada have found a new lifesaving treatment for people suffering from rare blood clots associated with Covid-19 vaccination.

The researchers at the McMaster University recommend a combination of anti-clotting drugs and high doses of intravenous immunoglobulin to combat vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT).

VITT is a rare side effect of adenoviral vector vaccines against Covid-19. It occurs when antibodies attack a blood protein, which results in activation of platelets in the blood, causing them to clump together and form clots.

The treatment, described in The New England Journal of Medicine, has pro ven effective in three Canadian patients.

were partially vaccinated, as well as in 156 unvaccinated participants. The research found that participants who were partially or fully vaccinated with the Pfizer and Moderna messenger RNA vaccines at the time of infection had a viral load that was 40 per cent less than that of unvaccinated partici-

Russia booster shots amid spike

Moscow, July 1: Russian health authorities on Thursday launched booster recommend having boost-er shots six months after vaccination," Sobyanin vaccination for those who had been sick with Covid-19 or immunised more than six months ago, an effort that comes amid a surge in new infections and deaths.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said he had received a booster shot and urged city residents to follow suit. "In view of the difficult epidemiological situation today, doctors said on his blog. "I'm pleading with you not to miss a chance to get additional protection from the virus, which is particularly important amid the spread of a more aggressive delta variant.

Moscow health authorities on Thursday started offering booster shots with the domestically produced, two-shot Sputnik V vaccine and its one-shot

Other Russian regions are also starting to offer booster shots. Health Minister Mikhail Murashko told a government meeting Tuesday that the ministry has issued guidelines allowing those who contracted Covid-19 to get vaccinated six months after they recovered, and those who have been immunised to get booster shots six mo-

nths after their first vacci-

nation. Health authorities

Sputnik Light version.

gious Delta variant of the virus has accounted for the bulk of recent new inf ections in Moscow and some other regions. The nation's chief sanitary doctor, Anna Popova, confirmed Tuesday that the authorities also registered the first contagion with the Delta Plus variant. The new guidelines come as infections in Russia soar and vaccination rates lag behind many

SOARING I PRICES Court had ruled government policy to freeze rents for five years as illegal

Berlin to vote on bid to combat housing crisis

Berlin, July 1: Berliners are to vote on a referendum to force major property companies to sell thousands of their flats to the city, officials said Thursday as the election-year issue of high rents grows more charged

A grassroots petition campaign fuelled by anger over surging housing costs submitted 183,711 valid signatures, "more than the total required" of around 172,000 to put the question to a general ballot, the Berlin election supervisor said. Local officials must now set a date for the vote. which is widely expected to be held on September 26, the same day as elections for a new federal parliament and Berlin government. The "Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co.' initiative, named after Berlin's biggest property group, targets companies with more than 3,000 apartments in their portfolios.

The movement would

homes placed 240,000 under a public agency to be administered "democratically, transparently and in the public interest"

In a city of 3.7 million residents where more than 80 percent rent their homes, the capital's attractiveness to investors and structural lack of housing sent prices soaring by nearly 85 percent between 2007 and 2019.

Berlin's city-state government already moved to freeze rents for five years

from 2020 in a bid to halt runaway gentrification, but the federal constitutional court ruled that policy to be illegal in April.

"Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co." bases its claims on Article 15 of the German constitution, which stipulates that "land, natural resources and means of production may... be transferred to public ownership" in the public interest in return for compensation. Adopted in 1949 West German state, the article was long forgotten during the Cold War with its tensions between capitalist West and communist East.

Deutsche Wohnen owns around 111,000 of an estimated two million rental apartments in Berlin and in May announced plans to merge with fellow real estate giant Vonovia.

It sharply criticised the initiative's aims as counterproductive "because it square metre of additional living space

We need more housing built to ease the market pressure, that is why we will be stepping up build-ing in the coming years in Berlin," a company spokesman said.

The city's Social Democratic mayor Michael Mueller has also rejected the referendum, arguing that he would prefer "partnerships with the private sector" to develop more

like to see more than with the founding of the doesn't create a single housing.

INDICATO	%	
Sensex	52,318.60	-0.31
Nifty 50	15,680.00	-0.26
S&P 500*	4,308.61	0.26
Dollar (₹)	4,305.76	0.19
Pound Sterling (₹)	1.466	0.022
Euro (₹)	88.38	0.004
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,310▼526	1.13
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	75.76	1.53
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.039	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.456	0.012
* As of 8:30 PM IST		

QR code printing on B2C invoices deferred till Oct.

The government has extended the implementation of printing dynamic QR codes on B2C (business-to-consumer) invoices generated by businesses by three months till October 1. QR code printing on B2C invoices by large businesses having an aggregate turnover of over Rs 500 crore was originally envisaged to be rolled out from October 1, 2020, However, the CBIC has been deferring its implementation.

Special drive on to promote govt crop insurance



In a major outreach, the Centre has launched a special drive to enrol more farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). A week-long drive, starting July 1, will cover all notified areas under the kharif 2021 season with a special focus on 75 aspirational districts where crop insurance penetration is low. PMFBY, launched on Jan. 13, 2016, aims to give a comprehensive risk cover to farmers at low premium.

Srei Infra board okays ₹2,500-cr fundraising

Srei Infrastructure Finance's board has approved a plan to raise up to Rs 2,500 crore through various means, including public offer and QIP. Earlier. its subsidiary Srei Equipment Finance Ltd (SEFL) attracted investment proposals of Rs 4,200 crore from foreign investors. Singapore-based Makara Capital Partners offered a term sheet for an investment of Rs 2,200 crore by way of infusion of capital.

Biocon official barred from mkt for 3 months

The Sebi has restrained a Biocon's senior VP Shreehas P. Tambe from the securities market for three months and levied monetary penalty for insider trading. Biocon had announced collaboration with Sandoz and the period of unpublished price sensitive information was from Dec. 20, 2017 to Jan. 18, 2018. Tambe, being an insider, traded in the shares of the firm during Dec. 19-27, 2017, in violation of market norms, Sebi said.

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■ All sellers in the network have to register with DPIIT

Registration must for direct selling players

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JULY 1

Direct selling entities like Amway, Avon, Herbalife and Modicare as well as millions of sellers operating in their networks will now have to register with Department Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), as per the new rules proposed by the government. The entity should also have one physical location as a registered office in India.

The draft rules also says direct selling entities cannot charge entry or registration fee or the cost of equipment/ materials for sales demonstration from their agents.

As per the proposed Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021, notified by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs



selling entity which intends to operate in India and every direct seller operating in the network will need a registration number from the DPIIT.

The rules define direct selling entity as an entity which sells or offers to sell goods or services through direct sellers but does not engages in a pyramid scheme or money circulation scheme. A direct seller is a person appointed or authorised by a direct selling entity.

In India there are more

needs to engage in discussion with the government, he said. Sood, Aseem

Proveda Marketing India, said, "Registering with the DPIIT will increase the trust customers have with the company and individual participants."

No direct selling entity or direct seller should promote a Pyramid Scheme or Money Circulation Scheme in the garb of doing direct selling business. In such schemes there is transaction of money without sales of goods and services.

The entity shall appoint a grievance officer as well as a chief compliance officer as a nodal contact person.

Also, anyone offers to sell any product of a direct selling entity on an e-commerce platform must have prior consent of the entity.

VODA IDEA SEEKS MORATORIUM ON ₹8,200 CRORE **SPECTRUM FEE**

MOUMITA BAKSHI CHATTERJEE NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Cash-strapped Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) has approached the govern-ment to seek a one-year moratorium on payment of spectrum instalment of over Rs 8,200 crore, due in April 2022.

VIL, in a letter to the telecom secretary on June 25, has said it will be "unable to pay the instalment of Rs 8,292 crore due on April 9, 2022" due to "cash being used for payment of AGR (adjusted gross revenue) dues and the inability of the operations to generate the required cash in a predatory pricing situation".

As per the letter, seen by PTI, the company requested the Depart-ment Telecom to grant it another year of the moratorium to pay this instalment in April 2023 and has made it clear that "it is almost inevitable" that the firm will not be able to pay the amount in April

VIL has also said that while it is working on raising new funding for the last six months, "investors are not willing to invest in the company because they believe that unless there is a significant improvement in consumer tariffs, the health of the industry will not recover and they will incur a loss on their invest-

cyber-attacks as risk Mumbai, July 1: The sec-**BANKS TOLD TO**

RBI Guv flags rising

ond wave of the pandemic took a "grievous toll" on India, but the dented economic activity has started recovering from late-May, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday. In a first, Das flagged

the rising data breaches and cyber attacks as a risk facing the economy, along with other risks like firming global commodity prices.

"The recovery that had commenced in the second half of 2020-21 was dented in April-May 2021, but with the wave of infections abating as rapidly as it had set in, economic activity has started to look up in late May and early June," Das wrote in his foreword to the bi-annual Financial Stability Report pre-pared by the RBI.

The report said the gross non-performing assets of banks have been stable at 7.5 per cent in March 2021—the same level as six months agobut are expected to go up to 9.8 per cent in March 2022, as per its baseline scenario.

Das said the dent on balance sheets and performance of financial institutions in India have been much less than what was projected earlier, but was quick to add that a clearer picture will emerge as the effects of regulatory reliefs fully work their way through.

He said capital and liquidity buffers at financial institutions are "reasonably resilient" to withstand future shocks.

TRACK RETAIL, **MSME LOANS**

Mumbai, July 1: The RBI on Thursday asked banks to monitor their exposures to the retail and small businesses, saying both the seg-ments are witnessing high stress.

In its bi-annual financial stability report (FSR), the RBI also asked banks to shore up capital positions while favourable market conditions prevail, improve governance and remain vigilant in the context of global spillovers.

The banking sector will be required to specifically guard against adverse selection bias while being alive to the credit demand from productive and viable sectors, the FSR said. -PTI

The financial system is on the front foot to aid recovery, but the priority is to maintain and preserve financial stability, he said.

Domestic financial markets are also boosted by the strengthening signs of the pandemic's abatement, the growing pace and breadth of the vaccination drive and renewed hopes of the economy clawing back lost ground as it unlocks,

CHENNAI, JULY 1 which produces the spike and the vaccine was found Zydus Cadila has applied protein of the Sars-CoV-2 to be safe and very well tolerated. "As the first ever plasmid

SANGEETHA G

for emergency use authorisation to the DCGI for its three-dose Covid vaccine, which has achieved primary efficacy of 66.6 per cent. Once approved by the Drug Controller General of India, it will be the second home-grown Covid vaccine and the fifth to be cleared for use in the country.

The company plans to manufacture 10-12 crore doses annually.

RAGINI SAXENA

Lenders to Jet Airways

India Ltd stand to receive

just about 5 per cent of

what they're owed, anoth-

er blow to banks in the

nation that are growing

increasingly accustomed

The new owners of Jet

Airways -- Dubai-based

businessman Murari Lal

Capital Management Ltd

in London -- have pro-

posed paying Rs 380 crore

(\$51 million) of the Rs

7,810 crore they owe to

according to a bankrupt-

cy tribunal order tabled

Some Rs 190 crore will

be paid upfront within six

months while the rest

will come from the pro-

ceeds of issuing zero-

coupon bonds. The new

owners have also offered

the lenders a 9.5 per cent

stake in Jet Airways and

a 7.5 per cent interest in

Jet Privilege, the carrier's

loyalty and rewards man-

In India, recoveries for

financiers from resolved

agement company.

late Wednesday

and Kalrock

creditors,

to paltry recoveries.

ZyCoV-D is a three-dose Plasmid DNA vaccine, virus when injected. Primary efficacy of 66.6 per cent has been attained for symptomatic RT-PCR positive cases in the interim analysis and 100 per cent accuracy for the third dose on moderate disease.

The company conducted the clinical trial for its vaccine in India in over 50 centres and has tested in adolescent population in the 12-18 years age group.

insolvency cases dropped

to 39 per cent of dues as of

March from 46 per cent a

year earlier, Macquarie

Capital data show. If the

top nine cases by recov-ery are excluded, lenders

received just 24 per cent

Jet Airways was India's

biggest private carrier

before it went belly up in

2019 under mounting

Airways is closer to fly-

ing again now that its res-

cue plan has been approved, there are many

challenges ahead for the grounded carrier. Jet

Airways was planning to

operate all its historic

domestic slots, which

went to other airlines in

the time it wasn't flying,

but the bankruptcy court

didn't agree to restore

and their usage is like a

constantly changing jig-

saw puzzle," the order

fore could not be left or kept idle. Besides, other

airlines have utilised

those slots for all these

"A single slot there-

Bloomberg

"The allotment of slots

though

of dues.

Even

them.

Jet Airways creditors to

recoup just 5% money

Around 1,000 subjects were enrolled in this age group

selling companies and sev-

eral others which are not

registered. As per the new

rules, not just the entity, but the individual sellers

who are part of the net-

work also will have to reg-

ister with the DPIIT.

According to the World

Federation of Direct Selling Associations, India had 5.7 million direct sell-

chairman, Indian Direct

Selling Association (Idsa).

welcomed the govern-ment's move. "However,

ers in 2018-19.

Cadila applies for Covid vaccine approval

Rajat Banerjee,

DNA vaccine for human use, ZyCoV-D has proven its safety and efficacy profile in our fight against Covid-19. The vaccine when approved will help not only adults but also adolescents in the 12 to 18 years age group," said managing director of the company Sharvil Patel.
"We expect to produce 1

crore vaccine doses per from onwards and 5 crore doses by December this year. Our target is to produce 10-12 crore vaccine doses in a year," Patel said. Once the vaccine gets approval, the company plans to launch

ZyCoV-D in 45-60 days. The vaccine has to be stored at 2 to 8 degrees celsius but has shown good stability at temperatures of 25 degrees for at least three months, says the company. This makes it easier to transport and store.

MANUFACTURING June car sales in high gear; demand rises **PMI DIPS IN JUNE**

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, JULY 1

India's manufacturing industry contracted in June for the first time since July last year, as the Covid second wave forced containment measures that impacted demand. As a result, renewed contractions witnessed across all the sectors in factory orders, production, exports and quantities of purchases, a private survey showed on Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index, or PMI, showed that the index declined to 48.1 in June against 50.8 in May. "The The latest reading pointed to a renewed deterioration in the health of the sector that was, however, moderate. The PMI averaged 51.5 in the opening quarter of fiscal year 2021-22, the lowest three-month figure since the same period one year ago," the survey showed.

Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit, said, "Companies became increasingly worried about when the pandemic will end, which resulted in downward revisions to output growth projections.

MICHAEL GONSALVES

Car manufacturers have driven a swift turnaround in wholesales in June and hope to continue the trend as they replenish low stocks with dealers even as orders pile up for popular models. fuelled by pent-up demand and consumers switching from public to personal transport.

In fact, reopening of dealerships and a low base of

car and SUV dispatches in June with an estimated sale of over 2,50,000 units.

In June last year, around 1,15,000 units were sold by 15 passenger vehicle makers due to partial reopening of showrooms and restricted production.

Most automakers expected to start manufac turing in all three shifts this month, with steep production targets at Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai Motor

In the fourth quarter of FY21, most of these companies reported sustained recovery in retail sales. But supply constraints due to a shortage of microchips led

to a long waiting period for

some vehicles. Last month, Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai Motor, l'ata Motors, Mahindra, Kia and Toyota Kirloskar Motor logged big jump in

sales. Passenger vehicle sales at

Maruti Suzuki jumped 142 per cent to 1,24,280 units, compared with 51,274 units in June last year. Similarly, Hyundai Motor

posted 90 per cent rise in

sales to 40,496 cars, up from 21,320 units sold a year ago. Sales at Tata Motors rose 111 per cent at 24,110 units against 11,419 units last wnne Mahindra and Mahindra

doubled to 16,913 units in June as against 8,075 units last vear.

Crypto exchanges flounder as banks cut ties

Mumbai, July 1: Indian cryptocurrency exchanges are scrambling to secure viable, permanent payment solutions to ensure seamless transactions after banks and payment gate-ways started cutting ties with them, six industry insiders said.

The exchanges are struggling to cope after the Reserve Bank of India, which has said it does not favour digital currencies, out of concern over their impact on financial stability, informally asked banks to steer clear.

complaints Customer have inundated all key exchanges as the pullout by major payment gateways has hit transactions, according to social media and users.

"Banks are reluctant to do business," said Avinash Shekhar, a co-chief executive of ZebPay, one of the oldest crypto exchanges that is not offering immediate settlement. "We have been talking to several payment partners but the progress has been slow."

Options being resorted to include tying up with smaller payment gateways, building their own payment processors, holding back on immediate settlements or offering only peer-to-peer transactions,

the heads of five crypto exchanges said.

At least two exchanges have tied up with smaller payment processing firm, Airpay, as its larger peers have cut ties.

Some crypto exchanges, such as WazirX, are forced to stick only to peer-to-peer transactions on certain days, while others, such as Vauld, allow bank transfers with manual settlement as they hunt for a payment processor.

Even payment gateways such as Razorpay, PayU and BillDesk have severed ties, as they too depend on banks to process transac-

PANDEMIC-HIT CAFE **COFFEE DAY TAKES VENDING MACHINES BACK, JUNKS CABINS**



New Delhi, July 1: As the Covid pandemic forces work-from-home and travel restrictions, Coffee Day Global Ltd, which operates the coffee chain Cafe Coffee Day (CCD), discard-ed about 30,000 custommade cabinets used for vending machines at its customers' places.

According to a regulatory filing by Coffee Day Global Ltd (CDGL), parent firm Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd, a lot of vending machines installed by the company has been withdrawn from customers' locations in view of the

pandemic situation. CDGL on Wednesday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 306.54 crore for the financial year ended March 31, 2021 and its revenue from operation was down 73.4 per cent Rs

400.81 crore. According to CDGL, in the earlier year, to attract new customers, vending division of the company used to install custommade cabinets at customers' locations. Custombuilt cabinets are fixtures and cannot be removed and do not have any salvage value. "In this situation, 29,996 cabinets are

discarded," it said. —PTI

DROPS | THAT COUNT | Many businesses are going to customers for money and offering great yields How crowdfunding can revive small businesses Keys to an effective

TINA OREM NEW YORK, JULY 1

A pandemic-fuelled boom in crowdfunding has small businesses flocking to capital-raising platforms that experts say could help many companies get back to normal as long as small-business owners are able to launch effective campaigns.

Regulation on crowdfunding, in which companies raise capital from investors via governmentmonitored online platforms, has mushroomed in the last two years, going from about 100 million in 2019 to over 200 million in 2020, according to Chris Lustrino, founder and CEO of crowdfunding analytics and ratings firm

KingsCrowd. It's already exceeded the 200-million mark year to date in 2021, he adds

Covid has been a massive boon to this market, Lustrino says.

When the pandemic disrupted traditional financing options, more smallbusiness owners began looking for alternative sources; that made them more open to the ideas of crowdfunding and of capital as a commodity, he says. More investors got comfortable with crowdfunding dur-

ing the pandemic, too. There are so many angel investors and investors in general out there who had a lot of skepticism about putting money into private companies online,



Lustrino says. But suddenly that was the only way they could do these deals. And so almost overnight there was this total buy-in from the retail investor market.

Although crowdfunding is often associated with raising capital for new businesses, months of lockdowns have many small businesses explor-

ing crowdfunding as a

way to get back to normal operations, according to Sherwood Neiss, a principal at Crowdfund Capital What we're seeing is a

lot of these small restau-

rants, local parlours, beauty salons, that type of thing, that were struggling during the pandemic are now going up to the customers and saying, 'Hey, I need 25,000, 50,000 to reopen, get us up and running," he says. And the businesses are offering great yields, if you think about it. Many of them are 7 per cent, 8 per cent, 9 per cen%, which is a healthy yield for a short-term loan, and people don't have to pony up 25,000. The average investment is about \$700, he says.

crowdfunding campaign: Crowdfunding may not be a good fit for small-business owners who are strapped for time or ener-Small businesses launching recovery-oriented crowdfunding campaigns should keep three things in mind, according

to the experts Find a good fit: A small business may have more success on a platform that aligns with its mission and goals. Some crowdfunding platforms cater to industries; others focus on geography or businesses of certain sizes. Look at how much money their companies have raised or are raising right now so you can start to get a sense of how big their investor base might be.

Don't skip the legal work: This isn't people just giving money to support someone...you have to disclosures for investors. Templates and boilerplate language can go a long way, but have a lawyer review the final documents, says Neiss.

Promote your campaign: Campaigns that just go up there without any marketing behind them get zero, Neiss says. Targeted social media efforts, email outreach and in-store promotions such as QR codes with campaign information are popular. "I've seen people do really creative things like have an ice cream social," Lustrino

SHORT TAKES

Dunkley dazzles

in England's win

Taunton: Skipper Mithali Raj's second successive fifty went in vain as Sophie Dunkley produced a fighting half-century after Kate Cross' five-wicket haul to help England Women register a five-wicket win over India Women and grab an unassailable 2-0 lead in the threematch series here on Wednesday. Chasing 222 for a win, England batswomen couldn't capitalise on their starts to lose five wickets for 133 in 28.5 overs but Dunkley and Katherine Brunt produced

take the team home with 15 balls to spare. — *PTI* **Brief Scores:** India 221 (Mithali Raj 59, Shafali Verma 44; Kate Cross 5/34) lost to England 225/5 (Lauren Winfield-Hill 42, Sophia Dunkley 73 (not out), Katherine Brunt 33 (not out); Poonam Yadav2/63).

a 92-run partnership for the unconquered sixth wicket to

12-yr-old Mishra is youngest GM

New Delhi: Indian-American prodigy Abhimanyu Mishra on Wednesday became the youngest ever chess Grandmaster after he scored his third GM norm in Budapest, Hungary, according to a report. The 12-year-old from New Jersey in United States became a GM from International Master, having crossed the required 2500 Elo rating barrier chess.com website said. Mishra broke GM Sergey Karjakin's record that has stood for 19 years. On August 12, 2002, Karjakin, a world champi-

secured the Grandmaster title at the age of 12 years and seven months. Mishra, born on February 5, 2009, took 12 years, four months, and 25 days to obtain the highest title in chess, the website said. - PTI

onship challenger in 2016,

Jhajharia rewrites

own world record

New Delhi: India's greatest Paralympian, javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia, rewrote his own world record once again as he punched his ticket for the Tokyo Paralympics during a national selection trial here. The 40-year-old, who has won two gold medals in the men's F-46 category at the Paralympics, sent the spear to a distance of 65.71m during the trial here on Wednesday. With that effort, he not only sealed a spot for the Tokyo Paralympics but also bettered his own world record of 63.97m, set at the Rio Games in 2016. "Today at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi, I qualified for the Tokvo Paralympics by setting a new world record of 65.71, breaking my older record of 63.97 in a qualifying event." Jhajharia tweeted in hindi. - PTI

Fifteen athletes qualify for Tokyo

New Delhi: Star sprinter Dutee Chand, javelin thrower Annu Rani and 400m hurdler M P Jabir qualified for the Tokyo Olympics through world rankings as 15 Indian athletes and two relay teams were confirmed for the Games by the sport's world governing body on Thursday. Twelve individual athletes, including star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, booked automatic quota for the Olympics by breaching the

qualification mark, while the trio of Dutee, Rani and Jabir, as well as the men's 4x400m relay team made it to the Games through rankings. Dutee was 41st and 50th

respectively in the list of 56 athletes to compete in both the 100m and 200m events, while Rani was at 18th (out of 32) and Jabir at 32nd (out of 40). The mixed 4x400m relay team had booked an Olympic berth

after reaching the final of the **World Athletics Championships** in 2019. — *PTI*

Live on TV

Quarterfinals: Spain vs Switzerland from 9.30 pm; Belgium vs Italy from 12.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 2

COPA AMERICA Quarterfinals: Peru vs Paraguay from 2.30 am (Saturday): Brazil vs Chile from 5.30 am (Saturday) on

Sony Ten 2 Published by K. Sudhakar for and on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay

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BELGIAN BAFFLE

Mystery remains over Belgian duo's fitness as Italy tie looms

Munich, July 1: Belgium are anxiously waiting on the fitness of stars Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard for their Euro 2020 quarter-final showdown against Italy on Friday. Thorgan Hazard fired

Belgium into the last eight with the goal that knocked out holders Portugal, but the fitness of his brother Eden and De Bruyne is Belgium's main concern before facing the Azzurri in Munich.

De Bruyne came off early in the second half against Portugal with an knock, while Belgian captain Hazard injured a hamstring late in the game.

Neither trained Wednesday with the Belgium's medical staff working around the clock to get them fit to face Italy.

Coach Roberto Martinez admits neither player will probably be 100 percent in Munich, "but we will use every day to get them as fit as possible"

Manchester City midfielder De Bruyne is central to Belgium's hopes of reaching the semi-finals, where Spain or Switzerland would await

next Tuesday.

Martinez is assessing his alternative options in attacking midfield. Atletico Madrid's Yannick Carrasco could replace Hazard, while Napoli forward Dries Mertens may step in for De Bruyne.

Martinez expects Italy to "attack from the very first second, they will be very structured", underlining the need for De Bruyne's guide presence to counter-Belgium's

attacks. Chelsea midfielder Jorginho, who faced De Bruyne's City in last month's Champions League final, has warned his Italy team-mates.

"De Bruyne is a player who makes the difference. We have to stop him because he always finds space. He can be really dangerous,

With four dominant victories and three clean sheets so far at the Euro. the Belgians are living up to their billing as the

London, July 1: No. 3-

seeded Elina Svitolina

became the latest upset

victim in the Wimbledon

women's draw when she

lost in the second round

on Thursday to Magda

Linette of Poland, who

earned the biggest victo-

Eight of the top 11 players in the WTA rankings

are out of the tournament

due to defeat, withdrawal

Linette had 28 winners to just eight for Svitolina,

semifinalist

a semitinalist at Wimbledon two years ago. Linette, ranked 44th,

had never before beaten a

top-15 player in a complet-

French Open champion

extended her winning

streak to 14 matches by

beating Andrea Petkovic

7-5, 6-4. Krejcikova seeks to become the first woman since Serena

Williams in 2015 to win

Roland Garros and

Wimbledon back to back. A former Wimbledon

Krejcikova is making her

tournament debut in the

In men's play, fourth-

seeded Alexander Zverev hit 13 aces, lost only 12 points on his serve and

advanced to the third

round by beating Tennys Sandgren 7-5, 6-2, 6-3. Zverev was the U.S. Open

runner-up in 2020 and a semifinalist at last month's French Open,

but he has never been past the round of 16 at

SCRAPPY BARTY INTO THIRD ROUND

Ashleigh Barty's bid to

win the Wimbledon sin-

gles title on the 50th anniversary of fellow indigenous Australian

Cawley's first victory

stayed on course on

Goolagong

Krejcikova

champion,

ed match.

Barbora

doubles

singles draw.

Wimbledon.

Evonne

Thursday.

ry of her career, 6-3, 6-4.



Italy's Francesco Acerbi during a training session with his teammates ahead of the Euro 2020 quarterfinal against Belgium.

50-50 CHANCE FOR KDB AND EDEN: COACH

Brussels, July 1: Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard on Thursday were both absent from Belgium's final training session before their Euro 2020 quarter-final

Coach Roberto Martinez said both players were "50/50" to feature against Italy in Munich on Friday.

"Italy will attack from the very first second; they will be very structured and dynamic. Every play-er knows his role. The game against Portugal was a game that could have been played a lot further down the line: usually players don't play these physical and intense games at this stage of the tournament,"

Martinez. Midfielder Midfielder Thorgan Hazard said: "Italy will be the toughest opponent. They've had a good run of wins and it will be a nice challenge for us to end that sequence. Their style may suit us more than Portugal. They are enterprising so we may be able to profit from the open

Swiss eye another big scalp

St. Petersburg, July 1: Switzerland will try to follow up their shock elimination of world champions France at Euro 2020 against Spain on Friday after reaching the quarter-finals of a major tour-nament for the first time in 67 years.

recovered from two goals down to force extra time against France and prevailed on penalties as 2018 World Cup hero Kylian Mbappe missed the decisive spot-

world's top-ranked team.

games after a slow start to the group stage.

Vladimir Petkovic's side much-fancied group stage.

Svitolina Polished off

Now the Swiss hope to spring another surprise against a Spain team that has scored 10 times in two

Alvaro Morata's redemp-

tive strike helped secure a 5-3 extra-time win over Croatia, but Spain will need to cut out the errors if they are to contend for a record fourth European Championship.

The Juventus forward and his family had been subjected to abuse by fans in Seville after he missed a series of chances in the

History is on Spain's side against Switzerland, having lost just once in 22 meetings, a 1-0 defeat in South Africa that sparked their run to the 2010 World

Sergio Busquets, the Spain captain, is the lone survivor from that team, while the Barcelona midfielder and Jordi Alba are the only two players in the squad left from their Euro 2012 triumph.

The win over Croatia was Spain's first in a knockout fixture since they beat Italy 4-0 to claim the second of back-to-back European crowns.

quarter-final depends on us not our rival. It wouldn't matter if it were France, the Swiss, Ukraine — we are here to win so we have to face and beat the best," said goal-

keeper Unai Simon. Athletic Bilbao 'keeper embarrassing lapse of concentration, allowing a Pedri back-pass to roll off his foot for an own goal, but recovered his compo-sure to make a crucial save in extra time.

"It was a miscontrol. I've seen it six or seven times now and I've got a bit worked up about it," said Simon.

"The sun's not bothering me and it doesn't bounce awkwardly. I think I tried to get the ball out of my feet by controlling it instead of stopping it. "It's an accident and

something that can be fixed," he added.

SANIA-BETHANIE **UPSET 6TH SEEDS**

London, July 1: Sania Mirza and her American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands knocked out sixth seeds Desirae Krawczyk and Alexa Guarachi to move to the second round of the women's doubles event at the Wimbledon Championships, here on Thursday.

IN FIRST ROUND

Sania and Mattek-Sands were a bit rusty at the start but once they got their rhythm they dominated the match and won 7-5 6-3 against the American-Chilean combination in one hour and 27 minutes. Pressure was put on the pair early in the match when Mattek-Sands served the third game that featured seven

NOVAK, ROGER, NAOMI ON ENTRY LISTS FOR TOKYO

Wimbledon, July 1: Serbia's Novak Djokovic, Switzerland's Federer, Japan's Naomi Osaka and Australia's Ash Barty are on the entry lists for the Tokyo Olympics that were announced on Thursday by the International Tennis Federation.
As the ITF noted, though: "The entry lists

are still subject to change." Federer, for one, said last weekend he would wait until after Wimbledon ends on July 11 to decide whether he will head to Japan.

Djokovic would like to pursue a Golden Slam, something only Steffi Graf has done: winning all major tennis tournaments and an Olympic singles gold medal in the same year.

COPA | AMERICA



Brazilian star Neymar during a training session ahead of the Copa America quarterfinal.

Neymar back for Chile clash

Rio de Janeiro, July 1: with goals by David Luiz Defending champion Brazil and Chile will have almost beat the hosts in their star players back in action when they meet in the Copa America quarter-

finals on Friday. Neymar will return for Brazil and Alexis Sánchez has recovered from a calf muscle injury ahead of the encounter at the Nilton Santos Stadium in Rio de

Janeiro.

The Seleçao spared a group of regular starters Ecuador on Sunday, resting Neymar, defender Thiago Silva and striker Gabriel Jesus. Others, including Casemiro, including Casemiro, entered as substitutes in that game.

Brazil, with three wins in four Copa America matches, are the clear favourites to win. Chile's only win in the group stage was against Bolivia and they are lacking the kind of form that inspired their back-to-back championship wins in 2015 and

last memorable match between Brazil and Chile was in the Round of 16 at the 2014 World Cup. Regular time ended 1-1, extra time, with a strike by Mauricio Pinilla hitting

the bar in the last minute. But Brazil won on penalties, 3-2 — Pinilla also missed his from the spot. Thiago Silva, who could start on Friday, was marked by that match for his tears of tension during the shootout.

"I didn't programme myself to get emotional. It just happened," Silva told a news conference on Wednesday. "I was labelled negatively for that moment against Chile. It was very sad for me for a long time, but it was also a learning experience so I could prepare myself for other objectives, decisive match-

Sánchez missed Chile's group-stage matches and his absence affected the team's production; La Roja only tallied three goals, with Eduardo Vargas scorand Ben twice Brereton once.

Coach Martín Lasarte is yet to decide whether 32vear-old Sánchez will start against Brazil or come off

HUMPY, PRANEETH JOIN

Praneeth and Kidambi Srikanth have been nominated for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award by the Badminton Association of India, which has also recommended three players for

the Arjuna award.
Praneeth, who won a bronze medal at the 2019 World Championship, is the only men's singles shuttler to have qualified

for the Tokyo Games.
Srikanth has been struggling of late but won four titles in 2017. Badminton

Association of India (BAI) nominated HS Prannoy, Pranav Jerry Chopra and Sameer Verma for the Arjuna honour.

The federation also sent

New Delhi, July 1: applications of S Olympic-bound shuttler Muralidharan and PU Bhaskar Babu for the Dronacharya award.

Leroy D'sa and PVV Lakshmi have been nominated for the Dhyanchand award. Reigning women's world rapid chess champion Koneru Humpy has been

nominated for the presti-gious Khel Ratna award by the All India Chess Federation (AICF). Humpy is already a recipient of the Arjuna award and Padma Shri.

Also, seven other players — Vidit S Gujrathi, B Adhiban, S.P. Adhiban, Sethuraman, M R Lalith Babu, Bhakti Kulkarni and Padmini Rout have

been nominated for the Arjuna award, AICF secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan said. — PTI

2 UAE cricketers banned for fixing

Dubai, July 1: The ICC on Thursday banned two UAE players Amir Hayat and Ashfaq Ahmed for eight years after they were found guilty of trying to fix T20 World Cup qualifying round matches in their country, colluding with an

Indian bookie.

While the ICC's Anti-Corruption Tribunal had charged both the Pakistanborn cricketers back on September 13, 2020, the backdated quantum of sentence was passed on the

day.
"The bans are backdated to 13 September 2020, when they were provisionally suspended for corrupt conduct in relation to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier 2019 in the UAE,"

the ICC release stated. Both cricketers had taken 15,000 AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham totalling USD 4083 approx) from an Indian bookie, identified as Mr 'Y' in the ICC chargetaken 15,000 AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham totalling \$4,083 approx) from an Indian bookie.

sheet for fixing the qualifying round games. Hayat is a medium pacer while Ahmed is a batsman.

As per ICC's anti-corruption code, the duo has been charged on five counts which includes failure to approach, tr corrupt trying improperly influence the outcome of a match, and accepting gifts worth more

than \$750.

"In October 2019, the ICC ACU commenced an investigation into allegations that members of the UAE senior international team may have had dealings with a known corruption network controlled by an Indian man named," the releasee said.

Poland's Magda Linette plays a shot against Ukraine's Elina Svitolina during their second round match at the Wimbledon Championships on Thursday.

RESULTS

Men's singles: Second round: Christian Garin (CHI x17) bt Marc Polmans (AUS) 7-6 (7/3), 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (7/5); Roberto Bautista Agut (ESP x8) bt Miomir Kecmanovic (SRB) 6-3, 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 3-6, 6-3; Aljaz Bedene (SLO) bt Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN) 6-1, 6-0, 6-2; Alexander Zverev (GER x4) bt Tennys Sandgren (USA) 7-5, 6-2, 6-3; Cameron Norrie (GBR x29) bt Alex Bolt (AUS) 6-3, 6-1, 6-2 Women's singles: Second round: Katerina Siniakova (CZE) bt Coco Vandeweghe (USA)

duced a far from perfect

performance in her 6-4. 6-

3 win over Russia's Anna

Blinkova as she pro-

gressed to a third round

meeting with Czech Katerina Siniakova.

"She pushed me incredi-

4-6, 6-2, 6-2; Anastasija Sevastova (LAT) bt Marta Kostyuk (UKR) 1-6, 6-4, 6-3; Barbora Krejcikova (CZE x14) bt Andrea Petkovic (GER) 7-5, 6-4; Magda Linette (POL) bt Elina Svitolina (UKR x3) 6-3, 6-4; Paula Badosa (ESP x30) bt Yulia Putintseva (KAZ) 6-4, 6-1; Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (RUS x16) bt Kristyna Pliskova (CZE) 6-3, 6-3; Karolina Muchova (CZE x19) bt Camila Giorgi (ITA) 6-3, 5-7, 6-3; Shelby Rogers (USA) bt Maria Sakkari (GRE x15) 7-5, 6-4.

However, Barty pro- bly hard," said Barty. **COCO MAKES ANOTHER RUN**

Back on Centre Court, Coco Gauff beat an opponent twice her age to reach the third round at England Club. Wimbledon.

17-year-old American defeated 34year-old Russian veteran Elena Vesnina 6-4, 6-3 to keep her on track for making another run into the second week at the All

Agencies