



### PM to address doctors today

JUNE: PM Narendra Modi will address doctors on Thursday. The PMO tweeted, "India is proud of the efforts of all doctors in fighting COVID-19. 1st July is marked as National Doctors Day. At 3 PM tomorrow, will address the doctors community at a programme organised by the IMA." Modi has previously applauded the work of healthcare workers during Covid with the "Taali bajao, Thaali bajao" and lighting of lamps, to motivate them. The IMA has said that 798 doctors died during the 2nd Covid wave last month. The Doctors' Day is observed in the honour of noted doctor and former West Bengal chief minister Bidhan Chandra Roy, whose birth and death anniversaries fall on July 1.

### Conversion case: ATS arrests one

GANDHINAGAR: The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) on Wednesday nabbed one person alleged to be involved in the religious conversion case filed by the Uttar Pradesh police, the police said. The Gujarat ATS arrested one Salauddin, believed to be a resident of Ahmedabad, on Wednesday in connection with a religious conversion case filed by the UP ATS. Uttar Pradesh is the first state in the country to come up with an anti-religious conversion law. According to information from the police, Salauddin has been charged with involvement with a gang associated with religious conversions where the UP police have already arrested five persons.

### Delhi records 94 new cases

NEW DELHI: Delhi recorded 94 new confirmed cases, along with six more Covid deaths in the last 24 hours. The tally of active cases of infection in the national capital now stands at 1,379, a mere 0.09 per cent of the total cases reported in the national capital. It is important to note that the number of positive cases in Delhi has dropped below the 1,500-mark for the first time since February 28 of this year. According to Delhi's health department, another 240 recoveries on Wednesday pushed the tally of recovered/discharged patients to 14,07,832. Delhi has reported a total of 14,34,188 confirmed cases of infection to date. At the same time, the pandemic has claimed 24,977 lives in the national capital alone. While positivity rate in Delhi is 0.12 per cent, recovery rate now stands at 98.16 per cent.

## 2 DRONES AGAIN SPOTTED OVER MILITARY AREA IN JAMMU

SRINAGAR

TWO drones were spotted over the military installations on Wednesday in Jammu city which were fired upon by alert troops forcing them to withdraw. Police sources said two drones were spotted around 6 a.m. over the army installations in Miran Sahib and Kunjwani areas of Jammu city.

"Alert troops fired at these drones after which they withdrew," sources said.

On Tuesday, drones were spotted over military camps in the Kaluchak and Ratnuchak areas which were also fired upon.

The Union home ministry has issued orders to formally hand over the investigation of the drone attacks at Air Force Station in Jammu to the NIA.

Meanwhile, an army soldier was injured in a firing exchange between hiding militants and the army personnel in Dadal village of Sunderbani tehsil of Rajouri district.

A search operation was launched in the area after a small group of suspicious, armed persons were seen in the village few kilometres away from the Line of Control (LoC).

"The injured soldier has been shifted



for treatment to hospital. The operation is going on in the area," sources said.

Expressing concern over the use of drones to target the Jammu Air Force Station, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Wednesday urged the research community in the country to develop "much more intelligent methods" to combat such issues.

He also asked the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to focus on the areas of "eliminating terrorism."

Such low-flying drones could not be detected by the military radars and therefore there was a need for new methods,

he said in his address after visiting the site of the first 3D Printed House in India at IIT Madras here.

Two drones had dropped explosive material on the IAF station located at Jammu airport on Sunday injuring two personnel. A cocktail of explosive material, including RDX, is believed to have been used. The case was handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday. Terrorism was the enemy of mankind, the entire humanity and terrorists "are making us restive and they are affecting the growth of the country," Naidu said.

## Ex-gratia to families of Covid victims a must: SC NDMA failed to perform duty: Top court

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court Wednesday directed National Disaster Management Authority to issue guidelines in six weeks for ex-gratia compensation to families of those who died of Covid, saying the NDMA has "failed to perform" its "mandatory statutory duty".

The top court also ordered steps to simplify guidelines for issuance and correction of "death certificates/official documents stating the exact cause of death, that is, 'Death due to Covid-19'" for enabling dependents to get benefits of welfare schemes. A bench of justices Ashok Bhushan and MR Shah however noted the "peculiarity and the impact and effect" of the pandemic and said that it cannot order payment of Rs 4 lakh as ex-gratia compensation which should be decided by NDMA as there was a need to "focus simultaneously on prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery, which calls for a different order of mobilization of both financial and technical resources".

"The courts would be very slow to interfere with priorities fixed by the



government in providing reliefs, unless it is patently arbitrary and/or not in the larger public interest at all. The Government should be free to take policy decisions/decide priorities..," the bench said while refusing to fix the compensation amount.

"We direct the NDMA to recommend guidelines for ex gratia assistance on account of loss of life to the family members of the persons who died due to Covid-19, as mandated under Section 12(iii) of Disaster Management Act (DMA) 2005 for the minimum stan-

dards of relief to be provided to the persons affected by disaster – Covid 19 Pandemic, over and above the guidelines already recommended for the minimum standards of relief to be provided..." it said. Dealing with the provisions on compensation in the DMA, it said the word "shall" has to be read as "shall" and "it is the mandatory statutory duty cast upon the National Authority to recommend guidelines for the minimum standards of relief which shall include ex gratia assistance on account of loss of life..."

## Laxmi Nagar market closed over Covid violation

NEW DELHI

THE Laxmi Nagar main market and some nearby marketplaces have been closed by the east Delhi district administration till July 5 following violation of COVID-19 protocols there, officials said on Wednesday.

In an order issued on Tuesday, Sonika Singh, chairperson of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (east district), said the market association and shopkeepers in the main bazaar of Laxmi Nagar were "unable to ensure Covid protocols (compliance) on last Sunday (June 27) due to large footfall". "The guidelines/directions of Covid protocol are being contravened in the Main Bazar, Laxmi Nagar which may cause super spreading of the coronavirus. The Market Welfare Association of Main Bazaar, Laxmi Nagar has failed to ensure strict compliance of guidelines of COVID-19," the order said. It was necessary to take an "immediate and stringent action" to curtail the spread of the virus in the larger interest of the public, it added. The areas that will remain closed till July 5 include the Laxmi Nagar main market from Vikas Marg to Lovely Public School, Kisan Kunj, and its surrounding markets like Mangal Bazaar, Vijay Chowk, Subhash Chowk, Jagatram Park and Guru Ramdas Nagar.

The restrictions are applicable on all shops except those dealing in essential goods and services.

Delhi was under a complete lockdown from April 19 to May 30, following which the capital saw a phased unlock process.



## 2K Delhi children lost thier parents

NEW DELHI: Over 2,000 children in the city have lost either one or both their parents due to the coronavirus infection, with 67 of them losing both their parents, since the pandemic outbreak in March last year, says a survey conducted by the DCPCR.

According to the survey carried out by the Delhi Commission For Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR), a total of 651 children lost their mothers and 1,311 children lost their fathers to the infection.

The Delhi government has planned to give Rs 2,500 per month to such children. The DCPCR had also launched an all-day functional helpline number -- 9311551393 -- for citizens to report any such case or seek any information pertaining to child rights.

An official statement said the Commission has used its helpline to undertake various well-being surveys and identification of children who have lost their parents due to COVID-19 using data provided by the Delhi government's health department.

## Delhi Police arrests 3 armed burglars after shootout

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Police on Wednesday arrested three armed burglars travelling in a vehicle after a shootout near Kashmere Gate area of the national capital. DCP South Delhi, Atul Kumar Thakur said that at about 12.35 p.m. a police team overtook a Wagon R car on outer ring road near Hanuman Nagar Kashmere Gate. He said that the accused persons tried to run away. "On being challenged, one of them identified as Anwar alias Anu took out a countrymade pistol and fired on police. In return, police also fired in defence injuring the accused in his leg," Thakur said.

The DCP said that Anwar 38, Manirul alias Saifuddin, 24, and Rafiq alias Luka, 24, all residents of Jahangirpuri were arrested. He said Anwar has been involved in over 70 cases while Saifuddin is involved in 23 cases and Rafiq has been involved in 30 cases.

## 4 killed in LPG cylinder blast in Farsh Bazar

NEW DELHI: Four people, including two women, of a family were killed after an explosion in a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder at a house in east Delhi's Farsh Bazaar area on Wednesday morning, Delhi Fire Service (DFS) said.

The DFS received a call about the blast around 12.14 a.m. on Tuesday night from

Bhikam Singh Colony in Farsh Bazar area in Shahdara district. Nine fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the fire was doused by 1.15 a.m.

Officials said that a portion of the roof of the house collapsed following the explosion and five people were removed from the house and were hospitalised.



## No relief from searing heat for Delhiites, temp at 41degrees

NEW DELHI

WITH the monsoon keeping away from Delhi and nearby areas, another hot day is likely to trouble residents in the national capital on Wednesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

A heat wave is predicted during the day as the maximum temperature is likely to settle around 41 degrees Celsius, Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre, said. As the monsoon continued to play truant, Delhi on Monday recorded the first heat wave this summer season with the mercury soaring to 43 degrees Celsius, the highest so

far this year. A severe heat wave seared Lodhi Road, Ridge and Pusa areas, where the mercury soared to 42.6 degrees Celsius, 43.4 degrees Celsius and 44.3 degrees Celsius, respectively, seven notches above the average temperature. Najafgarh (44.4 degrees Celsius), Pitampura (44.3 degrees Celsius) and Mungeshpur (44.3 degrees Celsius) also reeled under a severe heat wave.

For the plains, a "heat wave" is declared when the maximum temperature is more than 40 degrees Celsius, and at least 4.5 notches above normal. A "severe" heat wave is declared if departure from normal temperature is more than 6.5 degrees Celsius, according to the IMD.

"Usually, the capital witnesses heat waves till June 20 and cooler temperatures thereafter. The increase in the maximum temperature this time can be attributed to the delay in the arrival of the monsoon," Srivastava said.

There has been no rainfall in the last three days and warm westerly winds are blowing across a major part of northwest India, which has not been covered by the monsoon yet, he said.

After arriving two days late in Kerala, the monsoon had raced across the country, covering eastern, central and adjoining northwest India seven to 10 days earlier than normal.

The meteorological office had earlier predicted that the wind system

may reach Delhi by June 15, which would have been 12 days early. However, westerly winds have been blocking its advance into Delhi, parts of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana. Normally, monsoon reaches Delhi by June 27 and covers the entire country by July 8.

Last year, the wind system had reached Delhi on June 25 and covered the entire country by June 29. The wind system is not likely to cover the remaining part of northwest India, including Delhi, Haryana, parts of west Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and west Rajasthan in the next six to seven days, the IMD said. The last time the monsoon arrived so late in Delhi was on July 7 in 2012.





# Womenia

## Blame it on fatigue, not fat



Naini Setalvad

At can't be blamed for everything. Somethings are a result of excessive fatigue. This kind of fatigue comes with overwhelming number of symptoms such as aching muscles, constant exhaustion, irritability, headaches, sleepiness, poor concentration and memory, drop in appetite and ironically-increase in fat. Fatigue is not just tiredness it is your body's saying, "Stop. Repair. Resume". Boosting immunity is the key to relieving fatigue and here is how you do it.



**Water**  
My favourite beverage is water. It doesn't carry remarkable flavour or provide energy but is needed by the bodies' important functions. Dehydration also adds to fatigue. Have water to keep your body cool and optimally functioning.

**Vitamin vitality**  
Excessive fatigue can cause an inflammation storm within the body. In this situation, I insist you increase your intake of 'ACE' which are antioxidants. Vitamin 'A' from pumpkins, tomatoes; 'C' from lemon juice, seasonal fruits and 'E' from nuts and seeds. The sunshine Vitamin D is a must.

**Fat that beats fatigue**

Take my word for it, Good fats help

reduce fatigue. Healing fats like coconut and desi cow's ghee help soothe tired muscles and provide much needed energy; serving as a medium to dissolve phytochemically rich, reducing fatigue symptoms.

**Curing with whole carbs**  
I believe it is integral to re-emphasise carbohydrates are necessary as they contain B vitamins that jumpstart your nervous system. Potatoes, bananas or whole-grains give you a serotonin boost, putting you at ease and giving you the fuel to power through the day.

**Maintaining meal-time**  
I know, you get very busy and forget to eat on times or eat at all, but it is essential to eat at least four meals, at regular intervals in order to prevent fatigue and maintain constant energy levels throughout the day, without a spike or sudden dip in sugar levels. Planning meals in advance also help reduce stress,

thereby reducing fatigue.

**Sleep**  
I can vouch that for any form of repair, you need good sleep – both quality and quantity. Follow the biological clock to give rest to your mind and body. Every hour that you sleep before midnight is equivalent to two hours of sleep in terms of quality.

**Positive thinking**  
Words carry vibrations and these vibrations are connected to your subconscious mind. When good positive thoughts are fed in the subconscious mind, positive actions occur; one of the ways to beat fatigue is to feed your brain with positive thoughts.

**Lesser the better**  
Refined sugars and processed foods leach you of energy and increase inflammation in the body. Limiting alcohol and caffeine will pull you out of the fatigue trap.

### NEWS ROUNDUP

## Image should not dictate the work you want to do, says Tamannaah Bhatia

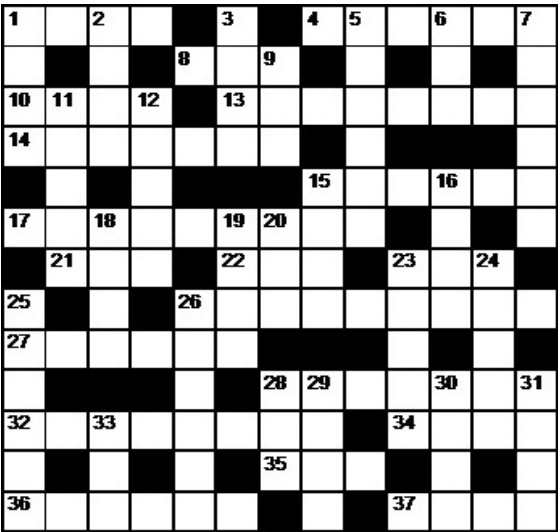
Actress Tamannaah Bhatia has been acting for 16 years now. She has won a large fan base as one of the top glam queens of the South, and has also impressed as an actress of substance with select roles. She feels her idea is to not let any particular image dictate the kind of work she wants to do.

Tamannah made her acting debut in 2005 at the age of 15 with the Hindi film "Chand Sa Roshan Chehra". The same year, she made her Telugu debut with "Sri" and the following year she made her Tamil debut with "Kedi".

"I have evolved as a person and at every different point of time. I have continuously worked, so for me, most of my life is divided into the films I have worked on. I enjoy it. For me, it is as new as it was on the first day," says Tamannaah.

She feels the process of breaking an image has become challenging now. "In fact, it is a lot more challenging now because I feel like there is a constant need of unlearning and you are making something that has already been created in terms of an image, and moving forward my idea is to not let an image take over the kind of work I want to do. I want the work to kind of precede that," she said.

Tamannah, who was recently seen in the web-series "November Story" on Disney+ Hotstar VIP, is now gearing up for the Telugu remake of the Hindi thriller "Andhadhun". The Telugu version is directed by Merlapaka Gandhi.



SOLUTION TO JUNE 30

### CROSSWORD

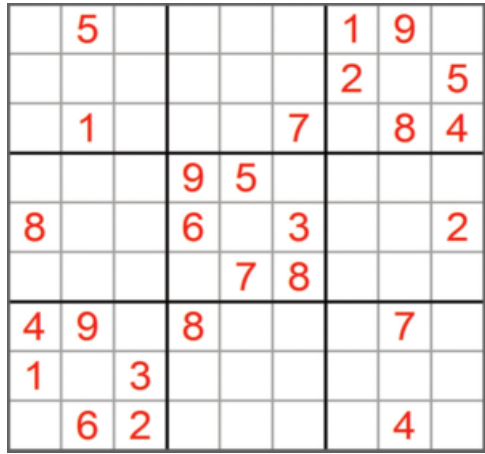
**Across**

- 1 Small hotels (4)
- 4 Part of speech (6)
- 8 Joke (3)
- 10 Basin (4)
- 13 Intermediate colour (8)
- 14 X-men in the comic world (7)
- 15 By word of mouth (6)
- 17 Gloomy (9)
- 21 Burdensome charge (3)
- 22 Boring tool (3)
- 23 Body of water (3)
- 26 Dominate or engress the mind (9)
- 27 Reverberated (6)
- 28 Infant's food (7)
- 32 Grow very fast (8)
- 34 River of Hades (4)
- 35 Jewel (3)
- 36 To resolve (6)
- 37 Electrical units of resistance (4)

**Down**

- 1 Weapon in a silo, for short (4)
- 2 Small salamander (4)
- 3 Monetary unit of Thailand (4)
- 5 Puts off or prevents (6)
- 6 One's individuality (3)
- 7 Au revoir (3,3)
- 9 Petrol in the U.S. (3)
- 11 Should (5)
- 12 Rubber juice (5)
- 15 Norwegian capital (4)
- 16 Stead (4)
- 18 Individually (4)
- 19 Frying fat (4)
- 20 Female sheep - "wee" change (3)
- 23 Rackets or frauds (5)
- 24 Ask for (5)
- 25 Appeared to be ? (6)
- 26 Looked with difficulty (6)
- 28 Impenetrable mist (3)
- 29 Augury (4)
- 30 Great Salt Lake state (4)
- 31 Chops (4)
- 33 Of wine, dry (3)

### SUDOKU



SOLUTION TO JUNE 30



TWEET PATROL

**PREITY G ZINTA**  
**@REALPREITYZINTA**

There is no substitute for hard work.  
#dailymotivation  
#dailyinspiration  
#thinkpositive



## Endorsing India's artisanal heritage

PUJA GUPTA

Designer Monica Shah founded the Chanakya School of Craft to empower women from underprivileged backgrounds with the right resources, knowledge, and skills, as well as to help sustain Indian arts and crafts. She hopes to pass unique arts and crafts to the future artisans of India, while also helping them sustain it and forge viable livelihoods out of it.

In a conversation with Shah, co-founder of label Jade which recently opened a new store in Los Angeles shares her experiences of the new store.

Why did you think of opening a store in LA amid the pandemic?

We have always had an international clientele, mostly from the US. Over the course of the past few years, we realized there was a greater need to bring the JADE experience to these brides, closer to where they are, rather than having it entirely online or them having to fly down to Indian just for their bridal ensembles. It's one key step towards being a truly global brand. We felt like



Monica Shah

LA was a great location to start off. And we also found the perfect team in LA to represent our brand.

### How do you aim to support Indian craftsmanship?

Celebrating and sustaining Indian crafts and techniques have always been at the heart of all the work we do. We believe that each of us, no matter where in the world we are, are ambassadors of India's artisanal heritage and custodians of craft.

We make sure our ensembles are crafted using traditional techniques by hand and adapted to the modern perspective, to show that these crafts may be traditional but

they're still very relevant.

Tell us about Chanakya School and the work Jade does.

Two years ago we opened an NGO/a one-of-a-kind school called the Chanakya School of Craft to help empower women from underprivileged backgrounds with the right resources, knowledge, and skills, as well as to help sustain Indian arts and crafts. The school is a very special thing for us. We hope to pass the torch of our country's unique arts and crafts to the future artisans of India, while also helping them sustain it and forge viable livelihoods out of it.

### What's the theme and thought behind your latest collection?

JADE's latest collection is called 'Shubhra' and is inspired by heirloom silver. The ensembles carry a soft ethereal silvery sheen that's equal parts elegant and glamorous, without being too over the top. The collection is perfect for the modern bride as it brings together contemporary as well as traditional aesthetics. We've used regalet elegant colours like Blush Pink, Champagne Gold, Pewter, Aegean Blue, and Garnet Red. The inspiration behind the collection is silver and its versatility. We have always been fascinated by silver crafts done by the communities in Kutch and Rajasthan. So much so that it's become a part of our personal style too. We wanted to celebrate this magical beauty of silver through couture.

### Twelve years in the industry, how has your journey been?

It has been an incredible journey. We have learned so much, grown so much, adapted to and thrived through an unprecedented time, and still have a long way to go! We're very excited to see where this journey leads us!

## Kavitha Rajesh takes charge as the President of HMA

The Hyderabad Management Association (HMA) has announced its 3rd Women President for the year 2021-22. Kavitha Rajesh, proprietor of Om Sai Andhra Paints is the new president of the 57-year old association. The association believes that Kavitha brings to the position a wealth of knowledge and an array of experiences from the entrepreneur world and the management industry, on a provincial, national and global level.

Kavitha Rajesh is experienced in manufacturing of decorative industrial and specialized paints under the brand Gold Seal and also service industry. She is skilled in negotiation, business planning, entrepreneurship, team building and market research. She is the treasurer of ALEAP and also State President of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh Association of Business Women in Commerce & Industry. She is also one of the US Consulate Alumni steering committee member, supported by Public Affairs section of US Consulate of Hyderabad.



aband. She was one of the 400 entrepreneurs selected from India, for the Global Entrepreneur Summit (GES) held in Hyderabad which was addressed by Ivanka Trump and PM Narendra Modi.

## Joke Day

Joke Day is the perfect day to let out all of the guffaw producing, or groan-inducing jokes you've collected over the years, sharing them with friends or any passerby you can get to listen to you.

Joke Day is not just a day for you to prove to everyone how funny you are. It is the perfect day for you to share laughs and to put a smile on people's faces, including your own. Whether you prefer to share jokes or you like to listen to them, this is a day that is all about smiling, laughing, and having fun, and who wouldn't want to be a part of a day like this?

They say that laughter is the best medicine, and a lot of people would agree with this! After all, there are actually a lot of health benefits that are associated with laughing. Laughter draws people together in a manner that triggers healthy emotional and physical changes in the body.

Humor keeps you alert, focused, and grounded, as well as connecting you to others, inspiring hope, and lightening your burden. It also helps you to forgive sooner and release anger too.

Joke Day seems to have officially begun in the United States but whatever the origins of Joke Day, it is clear that jokes themselves pre-date by hundreds and hundreds of years. The first joke is often attributed to the Greeks, specifically Palamedes, who is also credited with the invention of many other things.





## ‘Aimed at you’: Sidhu replies to Sukhbir’s missile jab

CHANDIGARH

DISGRUNTLED Punjab Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu and Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal traded barbs on Wednesday. Badal called Navjot Sidhu a “misguided missile” and the former cricketer, who is rarely at a loss for words, shot back “guided and aimed to destroy you”.

“Sidhu is a misguided missile that is not under control, can hit in any direction including himself. Today, Punjab doesn’t

need a person who does acting but one who thinks about the development of the state,” Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal was quoted by news agency ANI.

Sidhu replied: “Guided and aimed at you to destroy your corrupt businesses ... Until your Sukh Vilas (which is) built on Punjab’s ruins is not turned into a public school and public hospital to serve Punjab’s poor, I won’t relent!”

The back-and-forth comes after Sidhu slammed Mr Badal

over his comment on a 2015 case involving the desecration of the Sikh religious text and police firing during peaceful protests.

Last week Mr Badal, who was Deputy Chief Minister and the Home Minister in the Akali Dal-BJP government that was in power at the time, was questioned by a newly-formed SIT. He accused current Punjab Chief Minister, Amarinder Singh, of implicating Akali Dal leadership in false cases.

Sidhu took the opportunity



for a double swipe - at Badal and Amarinder Singh, with whom he is locked in a feud that threatens to derail the Congress’ bid for re-election.

He said: “Six years since sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib... No Justice in two years of your rule. No justice in the following 4.5 years... Today, new SIT inches closer to justice for Punjab’s soul and you cry of political interference... Political interference was that which delayed Justice by six years.” Sidhu, who quit the Punjab

cabinet in 2019 after an alleged downgrade to his role, has been locked in a prolonged dispute with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh ahead of the 2022 election.

He is among a handful of state Congress leaders who have revolted against Singh’s leadership, with legal setbacks to the 2015 desecration and police firing case among the key triggers. Mr Sidhu and others have said the Amarinder Singh government did not do enough to ensure justice.

## Word ‘farmer’ maligned: Khattar

● Alleges rape, murder during movement against Farm Laws

CHANDIGARH

IN an aggressive stance on the ongoing farmer agitation, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday warned of the farmers against testing the government’s tolerance. The word ‘farmer’ has been maligned by anti-social activities like rape and murders during the farmers’ movement, he alleged.

“Farmer is a pure word but some sad incidents have happened with this movement due to which this word farmer is getting maligned,” Khattar said.

“In this movement, the honour of sisters and daughters is being robbed, crimes are being committed. But we are constantly exercising restraint whatever is said about us but we are tolerating,” he alleged.

Warning the protesters against trying the government’s patience, Khattar said, “But there is a limit to restraint, it is not in anyone’s



interest to cross this limit. The day there will be confrontation, restraint will be broken.”

Meanwhile, BJP workers and farm law protesters clashed in Ghazipur on the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border on Wednesday. The ruckus took place when the BJP workers were carrying out a procession on a flyway where the farm law protesters, chiefly supporters of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, have been camping since November 2020, according to eye-witnesses.

As the two sides came near each other on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway around 12 pm, a scuffle broke out and they fought with sticks which led to some injuries, they said.

Videos and pictures surfaced on social media, purportedly showing some damaged vehicles which were part of a cavalcade of a BJP politician, Amit Valmiki, for whose welcome the procession was being held. Farmer leaders, however, alleged that the episode was another “conspiracy by the government” to quell the protest against the three contentious farm laws and give it a bad name.

## Graft case: Cong demands arrest of RSS leader

JAIPUR

RAJASTHAN Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra on Wednesday sought the arrest of senior RSS leader Nimbaram in the graft case involving the alleged demand for Rs 20 crore “commission” from a firm engaged in door-to-door garbage collection here. Hitting back, the BJP said targeting the RSS will cost the state government dearly.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) had on Tuesday arrested suspended Jaipur Greater Municipal Corporation Mayor and BJP leader Sonya Gurjar’s husband Rajaram Gurjar and a representative of BVG company on corruption charges in the case. The case was registered on the basis of a video clip that surfaced on social media, in which Rajaram Gurjar and the company representative are allegedly seen engaged in a conversation related to the Rs 20 crore “commission” from the firm for getting its payment released from the municipal body. RSS regional pracharak



Nimbaram is also seen sitting with them in the video. Demanding Nimbaram’s arrest, Dotasra said the BJP and the RSS have been “fully exposed”. “They call themselves honest, nationalists and disciplined but under the guise of nationalism and in the name of religion, they are involved in rampant corruption, which has been exposed,” Dotasra told reporters here demanding the RSS leader’s arrest.

He said the RSS leader is visible in the video clip on the basis of which the ACB registered the case. Referring to the alleged cor-

ruption in the purchase of land for the Ram temple in Ayodhya, he said RSS functionaries have been exposed all over the country and called for their social boycott.

“Stern action should be taken against such people and they be arrested,” said Dotasra, who is also the state Education Minister. The ACB had registered the graft case against Rajaram, Nimbaram and company representatives Omkar Sapre and Sandeep after the video clip was sent for an examination to two laboratories, who confirmed that these were not doctored.

## No honest tehsildar in India, even upright ones take 2% bribe: Raj Min

KOTA

A Rajasthan minister has claimed that there are no honest tehsildars in the county and even the upright ones take 2 per cent kickback. Rajasthan Industries Minister Parsadi Lal Meena said taking 2 per cent bribe is a practice among the tehsildars, naib tehsildars and patwaris across the country.

“Nowhere in India, one can find an honest tehsildar, naib tehsildar and patwari. I have been a six-time MLA and thrice held ministerial posts... several tehsildars, naib tehsildars were deputed, they always take 2 per cent (bribe),” he said during a public hearing in Bundi on Tuesday. The minister’s response came after Pradesh Congress committee member Satyesh Sharma raised the issue of tehsil-



dar (revenue officer) Pritam Kumari Meena getting an Awaited Posting Order (APO). Meanwhile, Congress workers led by the party’s Bundi city president Devraj Gochar raised slogans against the minister for allegedly not hearing their complaints against district collector Ashish Gupta.

The protestors also said that they would not allow Parsadi Lal Meena, who is in-charge of Bundi district, to visit the district in the future.

## Rajasthan Cong to hold protests against rising inflation, fuel prices

JAIPUR

THE Rajasthan Congress on Tuesday said it will hold a series of programmes, including statewide cycle rallies, from July 7 to 17 to protest the rising inflation and fuel prices in the country.

At a meeting of the party’s state office-bearers and presidents of frontal organisations, PCC chief Govind Singh Dotasra blamed the Centre’s “wrong” economic policies for the rising fuel prices.

He also gave necessary instructions about organising the protest programmes and sought feedback from the participants to strengthen and expand the party organisation in the state. Various activities will be organised across the state from July 7 to 17 to protest the rising inflation and the hike in petrol and diesel prices, Dotasra said.

All senior Congress leaders, including MLAs, will participate in 5-km cycle rallies that will be held across districts on July 16. On July 17, a march will be held



in Jaipur to demand the reduction of fuel prices, he added.

Dotasra said, “Due to the wrong economic policies of the central government, the prices of petrol and diesel are skyrocketing in the country and this has

increased the prices of all essential commodities like foodgrains, vegetables and fruits.” He said the common man has been hit hard by inflation and the central government should take steps to control it.

## Cop killed, 6 injured in road accident

JAIPUR

A police constable was killed and six others injured when an SUV in which they were travelling overturned in Beawar area of Ajmer on Tuesday, police said. The incident occurred on

Udaipur road when the police team was going for investigation of a case in a private vehicle which overturned due to tyre burst, Circle Officer Beawar Hiralal said.

The deceased has been identified as Sukhram, a constable of

Gotan police station, the CO said. A team from Gotan police station had come to Beawar for investigation of a case. The team was accompanied by a head constable and constable of the Beawar Sadar police station, he said.



## UP STF arrests driver of Ansari’s ambulance

BARABANKI

THE Special Task Force (STF) of Uttar Pradesh Police has arrested the driver of the ambulance which was used to ferry gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari from a Punjab jail to a Mohali court recently, officials said on Wednesday.

Salim, a resident of Ghazipur, was arrested from Lucknow on Tuesday while another accused involved in the ambulance case, Shoaib Mujahid, who hails from Mau district, was apprehended from Barabanki on Wednesday. Superintendent of Police Yamuna Prasad said. The Barabanki and Ghazipur Police had declared cash rewards of Rs 25,000 and Rs 20,000 respectively on the duo, police said.

On March 31, Ansari was produced before the court in Punjab in an extortion case. The documents of the Uttar Pradesh registration number ambulance used to transport the gangster-turned-politician

were found to be fake. During investigation, police found that Alka Rai, the operator of Shyam Sanjeevani Hospital in Mau, and some of her associates had registered the ambulance in the year 2013 on the basis of fake documents and a case was registered at Nagar Kotwali of Barabanki, in which Ansari was made an accused of conspiracy and forgery.

Six accused, including Rai, Sheshnath Rai, Rajnath and Anand Yadav, have been arrested in the case so far, they said. During interrogation, Salim told the STF that he was associated with Ansari’s gang for the last several years. He is facing several cases in Ghazipur district and action has been taken against him under the Gangsters Act, police said. Salim also told police that three others -- Surendra, Ramesh and Firoz -- would ferry Ansari in the ambulance during his imprisonment in Ropar Jail in Punjab and even before that.

## NTPC says it adopted best relief measures after Chamoli disaster

DEHRADUN

THE state-run NTPC on Wednesday told the Uttarakhand High Court that it has adopted best relief measures on a par with international standards to help the families of its 140 workers killed in the flash floods in Chamoli district in February.

In a counter-affidavit filed in the high court, the company said out of the 140 workers at the Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project killed in the disaster, 84 have already received compensation. Payment of compensation to the rest is underway, it said. “NTPC is a responsible

government company which has made best relief efforts at par with international standards for the families of its workers affected by the tragedy,” the company submitted.

Hearing a PIL on the the flash floods in the Rishi Ganga and Dhauri Ganga rivers, the high court had on a previous date directed the company to file a counter-affidavit giving the causes of the disaster, damage to human life and property and the remedial measures taken, counsel for NTPC Kartikey Hari Gupta said. Many NTPC workers were at work inside one of its tunnels at the project site in



Tapovan on February 7 when the disaster struck with a huge volume of slush gushing into it following a flash flood in the Dhauri Ganga after a glacial burst.

There was an unprecedented rock burst at the peak of Nandaghunti Glacier which

caused a sudden flood in the Dhauri Ganga of the kind that strikes once in one thousand years, the NTPC said in the affidavit. The company has a run-of-the-river sustainable project at Tapovan-Vishnugad and till date there is no available technology to predict or

forecast such natural disasters, it said. However, the National Disaster Management Authority as well as the Ministry of Power has constituted a committee of experts for the study of the causes of the flash floods in the Rishi Ganga and Dhauri Ganga and also to explore the possibility of any early warning system to be put in place in the hilly regions, it said. The high court bench comprising Chief Justice R S Chauhan and Justice Alok Kumar Verma has posted the matter for next hearing after two weeks. It has also given two weeks to the central government to file its counter affidavit.

**CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION**  
1, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines Prayagraj-211001  
E-Tender Notice No. ST215006A Date : 30.06.2021

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager Central Organization Railway Electrification, Prayagraj, invites following E-TENDER. (Two Stage Reverse Auction):-

E-tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Tender Due Date
ST 215006A	24 Fibre Armoured Optical fibre cable as per RDSO Specification No. IRS : TC-55/2006 (Revision 1.0) with Amendment-3 or latest.	987 Kms	29.07.2021

Note: 1) The complete information of above E-Tender (Two Stage Reverse Auction) and Tender document are available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Only E-Bids shall be accepted against above Tender. The e-bids may be submitted before 11.00 hrs on tender opening date.

No.PR./60/21  
Satya Adv.

PCMM/CORE/PRAYAGRAJ  
FOR & ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT OF INDIA

**“SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE”**

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# Is the financial package a mirage?

JUST as the economy was limping back towards normalcy, the second wave of Covid-19 had derailed the process which led to a fresh wave of uncertainty. There has been hue and cry from different sectors. Even the RBI recommended fiscal support. The centre finally announced a fresh package of Rs 6.29 lakh crore. Together with previously announced Rs 93,869-crore spending on providing free food grains to the poor till November and additional Rs 14,775 crore fertiliser subsidy, the stimulus

package, which is mostly made up of government guarantee to banks and microfinance institutions for loans they extend to Covid-hit sectors, totalled up to 6.29 lakh crore. The Finance Minister provided Rs 23,220 crore of additional funding to set up children and paediatric care at hospitals to prepare healthcare infrastructure to deal with any emergency arising due to COVID-19 wave hitting children. With the tourism sector being hit hard by the pandemic, the Finance Minister had announced a financial support to

over 11,000 registered tourists, guides, travel and tourism stakeholders, in addition to free one-month tourist visa to first five lakh tourists. But it seems while addressing the problems of tourism sector, the Centre conveniently ignored the travel agencies and tour operators in States. There is strong criticism from the Travel Agents Association of India that the Centre's announcement would benefit only 900 agents who are recognised by the Ministry

of Tourism. It left out the real stakeholders of Tourism sector which includes hotels, bus operators etc. Travel agents contribute about 10 per cent of GDP and 90 per cent of business is done by agencies. Other announcements included an additional Rs 19,041 crore to provide broadband internet cover to all village panchayats, an extension of tenure of a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for large-scale electronics manufacturing by a year and 88,000 crore of insurance cover for

goods exporters. The central government's policy assumes that the banks will extend easy loans to the Covid affected sectors since the loans are backed by government guarantee. But this does not seem to be happening. We have seen this trend soon after the first wave was over and even now there are serious apprehensions in the trade sectors that the announcement looks great in terms of figures but at the ground level, it may not be so easy to get the bank loans. Already some firms have closed, and many have lost employment. Urban poor need immediate fiscal support.

# Minimising misery of the common man



**TALKING OF MANY THINGS**  
**Dr Mohan Kanda**

DESPITE my disinclination, I spent a considerable time in the offices of high dignitaries during my service. My first such stint was in the Raj Bhavan at Hyderabad, where I worked with two Governors, Sharda Mukherjee and K.C. Abraham. One afternoon, when Sharda Mukherjee was due to leave for a function, she received a call from a friend, saying that she (the friend) would like to drop in to say hello to her. She wished to come at once as she was catching a flight. The Governor turned to me and asked whether it would be alright for her to delay her departure by 15 minutes. I firmly advised her that it would be most undesirable. Hundreds of police constables would have been lined up on either side of the route, to provide security to her convoy, and an extra 15 minutes in the blistering sun be a punishment we could well do without inflicting upon them, I told her. The wife of the first Indian Air Chief of Staff, Mrs. Mukherjee was, a highly polished and well brought up person, apart from being an experienced grassroots political leader. She quickly grasped the point and declined her friend's request. Such empathy, and ability to appreciate the consequences of a decision, so common among the leaders of those days unfortunately seems to be a thing of the past nowadays. Another aspect of the security arrangements associated with the movement of the VIP convoys is the inevitable but, acute, inconvenience caused to the general public, on account of traffic hold-ups occasioned by the need to enable smooth passage of the convoy. The 'aam admii' is subjected to no end of harassment in the name of security, doing little to enhance the image of the government of the day. In one gory incident recently

in Kanpur, an ailing woman, needing urgent medical assistance, and on her way to the hospital, died, allegedly on account of being stuck in traffic in a hold up caused by the passage of the convoy of the President of India. Though, the Police Commissioner did apologise for the incident, it can hardly be denied that there are lessons to be drawn from the tragic occurrence. Little wonder, then, that a road block caused by the convoy of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu compelled the Madras High Court to direct the police to ensure that such movements caused no inconvenience to the public in the future. The Court, in fact, wondered whether such a high degree of security was, in fact, called for. While conceding that the Chief Minister should have the right of way, keeping in view the demands of his office, the Court also directed that the police officers concerned should minimize the discomfort caused to the common man in the process. In a decision that is bound considerably to redound to the credit of Prime Minister Modi, no roads were blocked as he made his way to and from the AIIMS last week. It is also to be noted with regret that while (as clarified the Ministry of Home Affairs to a query under the RTI act recently), stoppage of traffic on roads is strictly to be restricted to the movements of the President of India, the Vice President and the Prime Minister, it has become a common thing to impose them for the convoys of all manner of political leaders and high officials, in utter disregard of the instructions in force. Another point to be noted with concern in this context is the fact that police constables, and those supervising such arrangements at the higher levels, all have other important duties to attend to. Those include important areas such as maintenance of law and order, detection and investigation of crime, gathering of intelligence, communications etc., on important matters apart from keeping an eye on possible terrorist activities. Quite apart from the fact that police officials, particularly those at the level of constable are diverted away from such important duties, to attend to security related matters, there is also the practice (widely prevalent also in many other depart-



Clearly there is a case for taking a holistic look the entire question of deployment of government officials for duties other than those that they are meant to discharge. Such an exercise, of revisiting the while issue, will need to take into account developments of recent times such as the advent information technology, and the increased use of social media platforms for communication, apart from the easy availability of state-of-the-art services, such as home delivery of goods and services through agencies such as Flipkart, Amazon apart from restaurants, medical shops etc

ments) of the lowest rung people being used for menial domestic purposes, and running personal errands by senior officials. No doubt, to a large extent, such practice is understandable, especially when an officer is posted in the field, (whether civil, police or technical professionals such as doctors and engineers), where the need arises to maintain a camp office which often attracts visitors at all sorts of odd hours. Therefore the help at home becomes necessary for the due discharge of official duties. Entrusting to domestic help tasks involving purchase of things is fraught with complications. In several departments involving dealings with the merchant community it is not unknown for help to misuse the name of the master of the house, and his official position, to engage in extortion. It is therefore best personally to handle such

errands. As an Assistant Collector under training in Krishna district, I still recall, with great pleasure, and satisfaction, how R Prabhakara Rao the Superintendent of Police of the district, and his wife, would walk to the market to buy vegetables. I also recollect, in my first posting at Ongole how, inexperienced as I was, I toyed with the idea of engaging a personal servant as a daily wage employee paid by the government. The Collector at that time, Doraiswamy, made me realise that it would not be fair to transfer my financial burden to the government, and I desisted. The best thing would, of course, be for the government to recognise this need, and deal with it appropriately. In the army, for instance, you have a system of a 'batman' - a soldier assigned to a Commissioned Officer as a personal servant. A similar arrangement could very well be thought of on the civil

side also, whether for the uniformed forces, or the others, including the judiciary. The government of Andhra Pradesh did, for some time, introduce a system of peon allowance as an incentive to officials not to resort to diversion of staff to domestic duties. This discussion, obviously, precludes the use of government officials for duties other than primary ones such as being drafted for special duties connected with exercises such as the conduct of a population census or a general election. Clearly there is a case for taking a holistic look the entire question of deployment of government officials for duties other than those that they are meant to discharge. Such an exercise, of revisiting the while issue, will need to take into account developments of recent times such as the advent information technology, and the increased use of social media platforms for communication, apart from the easy availability of state-of-the-art services, such as home delivery of goods and services through agencies such as Flipkart, Amazon apart from restaurants, medical shops etc. The increased use of appliances such as vacuum cleaners, microwave ovens, mixers and cookers etc., has also reduced the need considerably for assistance in the kitchen. Therefore, the need for details to perform such chores has practically been eliminated. (The writer is former Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

## Today is Doctors' Day

### Indian doctors lag in online reputation management: Study

LESS than 10 per cent healthcare practitioners in India use online reputation management tools and social media tools to spread awareness about themselves and their work, reveals a study by Hyderabad Healthcare, a healthcare knowledge startup. An assessment of online behaviour patterns of Indian doctors found that they lag way behind in online reputation management. Out of 500 doctors' profiles examined from across six



metro cities in the country, less than 50 individuals have a focused approach towards building their online footprint. While more than 80 per cent healthcare professionals in urban locales of United States of America have online presence, it hovers around 70 per cent among doctors from leading European nations. Hyderabad Healthcare released its findings on the eve of National Doctor's Day 2021, to create awareness on the need for online reputation management for healthcare professionals. India is among the fastest growing countries in the world to adapt internet, and more and more Indians are depending on online resources to meet their information and knowledge needs. Youth often found doing an online search to know which doctor is ideal to health needs of theirs and their loved ones. "While people have moved on to internet to search for information, most Indian doctors still depend on word-of-mouth publicity to gain more traction instead of using online tools to spread awareness. Covid-19 pandemic has motivated few and forced many doctors to increase their online impressions to spread awareness about ailments and attract patients' attention towards themselves. Increased presence of doctors in the digital world will make internet a better, knowledgeable, and safe place for its users," said Tekmal Sreekar Reddy, Co-Founder, Hyderabad Healthcare. Doctors use internet to up their understanding of healthcare developments from around the world, and even to upgrade their skills. Many surgeons are seen using internet even in the middle of a surgical procedure to assess if the process being followed is apt. However, they lag behind when it comes to using internet to widen their reach. "More and more people, especially from rural parts of India experience online world and depend on online means for their needs. There is humungous scope for doctors to use internet to serve a wider audience, and in the process gain more patients base for themselves. Online increases the reach of a doctor and especially non-surgeons must use various available tools for themselves and for the benefit of the society," said Lahari Kasarla, a tech entrepreneur. Dr. Rahul Medakkar, COO, CARE Hospitals, feel that building a strong image online will be rewarding in the offline space. "Hospitals care for the brands' online presence and reputation; and of the individual doctors working there. Hospitals constantly strive to increase its footmarks in the digital world, and we as administrators encourage our doctors to use internet to connect with their audience. Digital space cannot be ignored any longer by anyone, because building a strong image online will be rewarding in the offline space," he said. (IANS)

### Taj city's mega plantation drive despite water-space issues

BRIJ KHANDELWAL

WHILE there is more than enough space for paper trees planted in official files, there is hardly any space left on the ground for planting crores of saplings during the special tree plantation fortnight that begins from July 1 in Uttar Pradesh. Come July, all the state government agencies, NGOs, green-warrior-outfits and nature lovers join the ritualistic tree plantation drive with pompous claims about the number of saplings planted. If you add up all the claims of tree plantation work each year since 1990 by successive state governments, there would be hardly an inch of space left for planting new saplings. UP's green cover is hardly 10 per cent and with new mega projects coming up everywhere, film city, International Airport, expressways, residential urban clusters, shopping complexes, the space for extending green cover is severely limited, say retired horticulturists in Agra. A group of green activists in Agra has demanded an independent audit of the greening work done so far. This year too, the Yogi Adityanath government in UP has set ambitious targets for all government departments which will be supported by countless number of voluntary agencies. Cynics are however asking where is the space left and who will take care of the tender saplings planted. The crude reality is that despite crores of saplings being planted each year, the survival rate is dismally poor. "They will come with all fanfare, plant saplings, get photographed and then forget," lamented Surendra Sharma, president of the Braj Mandal Heritage Conservation Society. The fact is that these are paper trees to be found in government files, he added. In 2016, former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav set a Guinness world record for planting 50 million saplings in a day. The green cover in Uttar Pradesh remains a dismal 9 per cent, against the national target of 33 per cent. Experts say that for 90 million saplings, we need 2,25,000 hectares of land, if the distance between two saplings is kept 5 metres. The Akhilesh Yadav government planted 50 million. So now where's the space? Even if the saplings are planted, who will take care of them? One alternative is to use the riverbanks, suggests Agra's passionate tree lover Vinita Mittal. The road dividers could be used, as also the two sides of the roads along pavements, if there is space and provision for regular watering for a few years. "By creating green belts along rivers, any number of saplings can be planted. The survival rate of such saplings too can be high as the plants will get the required moisture from the nearby river-bed," says Mittal. The eco-sensitive Taj Trapezium Zone, spread over 10,400 sq km, has seen continuous denudation of forest cover due to massive construction activity. Actually thousands of acres of fertile land which had a green cover have been gobbled up by newly constructed expressways and highways. The Yamuna and Agra-Lucknow expressways, dozens of flyovers, the inner city ring road and widening of the National Highway to Delhi have gobbled up acres of green cover, exposing the Taj Mahal to dust-laden winds from Rajasthan desert, says environmentalist Devashish Bhattacharya. "On the one hand they plant saplings, and on the other hand they are destroying green foliage along the Yamuna bank, to lay pipelines. We have complained to all but there is no response, Bhattacharya complained. Bhattacharya said that the Supreme Court had directed that a green buffer zone be created to insulate the historical monuments, but new road construction projects are being promoted by vested interests in the dense forests along the Agra Delhi highway, in the Keitham reserve forest area. It is a sad fact that despite continued focus on controlling the ecological apocalypse, there has not been much improvement over the years. Last year, the state government had fixed a target of some 20 crores. The volunteers hastily planted saplings everywhere recklessly. The result was that after two days most either got uprooted or died. The Agra municipal Corporation planted thousands of saplings on the Yamuna river bed, and they were all swept away when the water level went up during the monsoon rains. "The real problem with such over-hyped campaigns is that these are not backed by adequate support services that can take care of the plants for three years at least," activist Ranjan Sharma added. (The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS

### Honour PV with Bharat Ratna

THE rightful demand for Dr P V Narasimha Rao to be nominated for Bharat Ratna is sadly getting delayed, despite exemplary work by PVN as Prime Minister of India, during Congress rule in the country. PVN was undoubtedly an outstanding person, with vision and wisdom about the country that was the asset and quality with him, unlike many people in the Congress. Indira Gandhi recognised the calibre and talent of Narasimha Rao; and the latter was loyal to Mrs Gandhi and the party throughout, even when the UPA was not in power. The coterie surrounding Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, sadly did not fully appreciate the potential and political skills of Narasimha Rao, to treat him badly when PVN had died; by failing to grant the minimal respect and reverence the individual was expected of. Telangana cannot forget its great son and patriot, and what the TRS has been doing in this regard, cannot be thought to be an extraordinary act in honouring

P V Narasimha Rao, by erecting a life-size statues in his honour, and demanding Bharat Ratna for him by passing a unanimous resolution in the Assembly, asking the Centre to confer on him the ultimate title of national recognition for his all-round achievement as a chief minister of AP, and Prime Minister of India. It is sad that Congress did not think this necessary in case of PVN, while it missed no chance to confer this title on all past members of the Gandhi family. It is time for BJP-led NDA government to correct the situation, looking things in perspective to confer the National honour of Bharat Ratna on Dr P V Narasimha Rao, along with other great personalities in the sporting arena, like Milkha Singh, who passed away, last week, due to Covid. The title is meant for every great son and daughter of India, who had to contribute in terms of the social, cultural, political arena of the country.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

### Is Spelling Bee contest important?

THE year-after-year U.S. Spelling Bee Contest (The Hans India, June 30,

2021) reminds me of Agatha Christie late 1950s film "Witness for the prosecution" with famous Sir Charles Laughton and Marlene Dietrich as main cast. The question therefore arises: Is an expertise in knowing spellings of all the words necessary, especially words of foreign origin, rare words? We have dictionaries, google searches. Up to some level of school/college, it is alright. Beyond that it is "huge" stress on children who many a times are virtually forced to enter such contests. Health in any game, sports, or academic exercises is the most important. Practicing spellings is highly strenuous and it does not help enhancing IQ either. Some of the readers may be remembering a detailed news-report a few years ago that appeared about a USA-based young husband-wife literally forcing their 11 year old son to compete in it when the boy was begging he is not interested he would rather like to study and learn many other subjects of his interest. Parents did not listen. The child broke down on the test date and was later under psychiatric treatment for 5 years. We do not know how many such cases are there in USA among NRI children. No wonder native Americans don't care for trivial contests, whereas we feel proud about our children. All I am trying to say is parents must not force on children their likes and dislikes.

Prof B R Sant, Hyderabad

### Stringent punishment, a must

IT was shocking to see the CCTV footage of an Audi car being driven recklessly and hitting the auto rickshaw from behind resulting in death of the passenger and full damage of auto. It was only a miracle police escaped death.. It is good that police have taken quick steps to nab the Father and son duo for reckless driving and killing an auto rickshaw passenger. I think based on the CCTV footage and statement given by the auto driver, the duo should be booked for murder and not even culpable homicide. I don't think the court should seek more evidence which would only prolong the case. Apart from sentencing the duo for murder they should be asked to compensate the driver to purchase new auto and family of victim should be compensated to the tune of Rs one crore or more. This may sound like a bizarre suggestion. However, unless a tough call is taken, such reckless acts would be continued by affluent family members. However, I doubt whether affluent families and even others would learn from such reckless drunken driving and only stringent punishment would help.

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com



# Hey Krishna! AP slams TS over water row

# Strengthen food processing units to benefit farmers: KTR

16-yr-old  
donates O2  
concentrators  
to OGH

# AP's failure to spend funds puzzles Centre

CENTRAL RAILWAY							
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW							
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, Central Railway, Byculla, Mumbai - 400027. <b>Walk in Interview on 15/07/2021.</b> followed by <b>every Wednesday at 9:00 am.</b> till vacancies gets filled.							
Sr.	Speciality	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	Total
1	Pediatrics	-	1	-	-	-	1
2	Orthopedic	1	-	-	-	-	1
3	ENT *	-	-	-	1	1	2
4	Obst & Gynecology *	-	-	1	-	1	2
5	Medicine Oncology	1	-	-	-	-	1



# Canada sees record 49.5 degrees, 233 dead in heat wave

‘Vancouver has never experienced heat like this, and sadly dozens of people are dying because of it’

VANCOUVER: More than 200 people have died in Canada since Friday as temperatures hit a record high of 49.1°C in the past four days. These deaths in Vancouver area are likely linked to a grueling heat wave amid scorching conditions that have extended to the US Pacific Northwest.

Officials told Reuters that at least 233 people died in the West coast province of British Columbia between Friday and Monday, about 100 more than the average for a four-day period. They added that the number was expected to rise as more reports were filed.

Environment Canada has issued alerts for British Columbia, Alberta, and parts of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon and the Northwest Territories, saying the “prolonged, dangerous

and historic heat wave will persist through this week.”

The deaths came as Canada set a new all-time high temperature record for a third day in a row on Tuesday, reaching 49.5 degrees Celsius in Lytton, British Columbia. The heat wave has forced schools and Covid-19 vaccination centers to close in the Vancouver area.

“Vancouver has never experienced heat like this, and sadly dozens of people are dying because of it,” a police official told AFP.

“Since the onset of the heat wave, the BC Coroners Service has experienced a significant increase in deaths reported where it is suspected that extreme heat has been contributory,” the investigative service said in a statement on Monday. It



added that investigators were gathering information to determine the cause and manner of deaths and whether heat played a role.

Environmental heat exposure can lead to severe or fatal results, particularly in older people, infants and young children and those with chronic illnesses, chief investigator said in the statement.

People cool off in Alouette Lake during the scorching weather of a heatwave in British Columbia, Canada June 28. (Reuters)

British Columbia Premier John Horgan told a news conference, said, “We are in the midst of the hottest week British Columbians have ever experienced, and there are consequences to that, disastrous consequences for families and for communities.” “How we get through this extraordinary

time is by hanging together.”

He urged “checking up on those people we know might be at risk, making sure we have cold compresses in the fridge or we’re staying in the coolest part of our homes, and making sure that we’re taking steps to get through this heat wave.”

Temperatures in the US Pacific Northwest cities of Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington reached levels not seen since record-keeping began in the 1940s: 46.1 degrees Celsius in Portland and 42.2°C in Seattle on Monday, according to the National Weather Service. The US National Weather Service has issued a warning, urging people to “stay in air-conditioned buildings, avoid strenuous outdoor activities, drink plenty of water, and check on family members/neighbors.”

## WINDOWS

### Amul hikes milk prices across India

SURAT: The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCIMMF), which markets and sells different categories of milk and other products under the Amul brand, said that it has raised milk prices by Rs 2 per litre across India. Different categories of milk sold under the Amul brand will become costlier by Rs 2 per litre from July 1. The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCIMMF), which markets and sells different categories of milk and other products under the Amul brand, said that it has raised milk prices by Rs 2 per litre across India. The dairy cooperative cited higher input costs as the reason behind the milk price hike. It said the hike will be applicable across all cities where Amul sells its fresh milk. After the hike, the price of Amul Gold will be Rs 29 for 500 ml, while Amul Tara will cost Rs 23 per 500 ml and Amul Shakti will be available at Rs 26 per 500 ml.

### 2 terrorists killed in encounter

SRINAGAR: Two terrorists are killed in an ongoing encounter between militants and security forces in South Kashmir’s Kulgam district on Wednesday, officials said. “Two unidentified terrorists killed during Kulgam encounter, operation is in progress in Chimmer area,” police said. As the security forces zeroed in on the hideout, they came under a heavy volume of fire, triggering the encounter.

Meanwhile, hours after the Ministry of Home Affairs handed over the probe into the drone attack at an Air Force Station (AFS) in Jammu to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the NIA registered a case to probe the matter. An NIA spokesperson said that the anti-terror probe agency, in pursuance of the MHA order, has re-registered the case under several sections of the Explosive Substances Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the IPC. The official said that the NIA has been working with the other agencies since immediately after the incident



A man assists a patient facing difficulties in breathing at the Medical College Hospital in Rajshahi, 254 kilometers (158 miles) north of the capital, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Rajshahi has become one of the latest hotspots for the deadlier delta variant of the coronavirus; (Right) 11-year-old girl Tushi Kumari attends online class through her new smartphone which she purchased after selling mangoes for Rs. 1,20,000, at her residence in Jamshepur district, Wednesday. A Mumbai based businessman came to know about Tushi’s struggles and bought 12 mangoes from her @ Rs 10,000 each.



### Brazil suspends Covaxin deal over graft charges

RIO DE JANEIRO: Amid a probe into accusations of irregularities against President Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil’s health minister has announced that the country will suspend a \$324 million contract to buy 20 million doses of Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin.

Addressing a press conference with Health Minister Marcelo Queiroga, the head of the Federal Comptroller General (CGU) Wagner Rosario, said that the agency will investigate the process of purchasing the vaccine.

“We suspended the deal as a simple preventive measure, since there are complaints that could not be explained well by the complainant, so we opened a preliminary investigation last week,” said Rosario, as quoted by CNN Brazil.

“We have put in a reinforced team for the verification. We hope to be very quick in this process, and we hope that in no more than 10 days we will already have an answer for this analysis.”

Brazil’s Health minister Queiroga said his ministry is going to carry out an administrative investigation to verify all aspects of the issue that are being raised.

“As soon as we have more concrete data, we will communicate.” The contract for the acquisition of the Covaxin vaccine was signed by the two sides in February for the import of 20 million doses of vaccine by Bharat Biotech.

Bharat Biotech emphatically denied any wrongdoing amid a huge controversy in Brazil over a \$324 million contract for Covaxin shots.

In a statement, Bharat Biotech said it had followed a “step-by-step” approach towards contracts and regulatory approvals with Brazil.

“In the specific case of procurement of Covaxin by the Ministry of Health, Brazil, since the first meetings during Nov 2020 until June 29, a step-by-step approach has been followed towards contracts, and regulatory approvals, during this eight-month-long process,” Bharat Biotech said.

According to the company, reports in the media over the past few weeks had “misrepresented” the procurement process of Covaxin in Brazil and other countries.

# Vaccine shortage in many States

NEW DELHI

### India adds 45,951 cases, 817 deaths

NEW DELHI: India logged 45,951 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 3,03,62,848, while daily fatalities remained below 1,000 for the third consecutive day, according to the Health Ministry data. The death toll rose to 3,98,454 with 817 fresh fatalities, the lowest in 81 days. Cumulatively 33.28 crore vaccine doses have been administered so far under the Nationwide Vaccination Drive. The active cases further declined to 5,37,064 comprising 1.77 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has improved to 96.92 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed. As many as 19,60,757 tests were conducted on Tuesday taking the total cumulative tests conducted so far for detection of Covid-19 in the country to 41,01,00,044.

### Naseeruddin Shah admitted to hospital

MUMBAI: Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah has been diagnosed with pneumonia and admitted to a hospital here, actor-wife Ratna Pathak Shah said on Wednesday. Naseeruddin Shah, 70, was admitted to Khar Hinduja hospital. The actor has a “small patch” of pneumonia in his lungs and is currently undergoing treatment. “Yes (he has a) small patch and all under control. (He is) Responding well to treatment so hope he’ll be discharged soon,” Ratna Pathak Shah told PTI. Naseeruddin Shah made his on-screen debut with Shyam Benegal’s “Nishant” in 1975 and became an influential figure of the parallel cinema in the 70s and 80s. The actor went on to feature in several acclaimed films, including “Spash” (1979), the cult 1983 satirical black comedy “Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro”.

### ‘Covid vaccines don’t cause infertility’

NEW DELHI: The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday said that there is no scientific evidence suggesting COVID-19 vaccination can cause infertility in men and women and asserted the vaccines have been found to be safe and effective. It further said that the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) has also recommended Covid vaccination for all lactating women, terming it as safe with no need to stop or pause breastfeeding before or after the inoculation. The statement by the ministry comes in the wake of media reports expressing concerns regarding infertility due to COVID-19 vaccination among population of reproductive age and whether the vaccination is safe for lactating women.

Vaccination Centres in Ranchi wear a deserted look due to vaccine shortage. Locals waited outside centres to get the inoculation done. “I request govt to make proper arrangements for the vaccination of people. There’s no information available here,” said a resident. “There is a shortage of vaccines in the state. We’ve requested the Government of India to give vaccines so that we can inoculate our people and save them from the potential third wave,” said Jharkhand Health Minister Banna Gupta.

In Gujarat, a vaccination centre in Ahmedabad wore a deserted look due to the shortage of vaccines. “There is nobody to assist us. I’ve taken the dose but I’m here for the vaccination of my wife. We’ve no idea when will we get the vaccine,” said a local. In Maharashtra, a vaccination centre in Nagpur is closed due to the vaccine shortage. People are waiting outside the centre to get the jab. “I’m still waiting for my second dose. It has been 86 days since I’ve taken my first dose,” says a cancer patient Shobha.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee flagged vaccine shortage in her state. “We got 1.99 crores vaccine doses and we have administered 1.90 crore doses. Today we don’t have vaccines so we are giving only second dose in Kolkata.

The Indian Medical Association said that

798 doctors died during the second wave across the country of which maximum 128 doctors lost their lives in Delhi, followed by Bihar at 115.

As per the official note by the IMA, the number of doctors who lost their lives in the pandemic in Delhi stands at 128, followed

by Bihar at 115 and Uttar Pradesh at 79.

The Bombay High Court said the Maharashtra government must stop any political rally, which flouted COVID-19 protocols, from being carried out in the state amid the ongoing pandemic. Starting July 1, private hospitals in the country will no longer be al-

lowed to directly procure Covid-19 vaccines from manufacturers and have to place orders on the Centre’s CoWIN portal. All private hospitals have to register on CoWIN as a Private COVID Vaccination Centre (PCVC) to participate in the aggregation mechanism.

## First-ever Israeli embassy opens in UAE

ABU DHABI: The first-ever Israeli embassy in the United Arab Emirates opened on Tuesday.

The embassy was inaugurated by Israel’s Foreign Minister Yair Lapid in the presence of Noura Al Kaabi, Emirati Minister of Culture and Youth in Abu Dhabi reported Gulf Today.

Lapid is on a two-day visit to the UAE, the first-ever by an Israeli cabinet minister.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Lapid said Israel is interested in peace with all its neighbours. “We are not going anywhere. The Middle East is our home. We are here to stay and we

call on all countries in the region to realise this.”

“This is a historic moment. And it is a reminder that history is created by people. People, who understand history but are willing to change it. People who prefer the future to the past,” Lapid said later at the press conference.

The high-rise office in Abu Dhabi will serve as a temporary embassy. In Tel Aviv, the Gulf country officially inaugurated its embassy, located in the Israeli stock exchange, reported Gulf Today.

The new Israel’s foreign minister said the Abraham Accords will bring peace to the region.



## Kansal inspects Ambedkar Hospital

ALOK Kansal, General Manager, Central Railway carried out inspection of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial Railway Hospital, Byculla. Keeping in mind the improvement of the healthcare facilities at the hospital, several machines have been procured in the last couple of months and installed for the benefit of the railway employees.

Kansal inaugurated the fully air conditioned and well equipped “Heart Station” dedicated to OPD Cardiologist services with state-of-the-art “Computer Assisted Stress Exercise Electrocardiography System (TMT Machine)”. Kansal also inaugurated Super Specialty OPD services dedicated to Seven super specialties like Rheumatology, Endocrinology, Pulmonology, Nephrology, Neurology, Gastroenterology & Hematology. He also inaugurated the renovated and upgraded fully air conditioned Department of Dental, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery equipped with modern state-of-the-art equipment like Advanced Dental Chair Unit, a high end OPG machine (upgradable for CT Scans), Glass Bead Sterilizers etc. He inspected the high output well equipped fully air conditioned procedural OPDs of Eye, ENT & Skin as well as the Oxygen Manifold Room of the Hospital along with the hospital kitchen.

### Navjot Sidhu meets Priyanka

NEW DELHI: Punjab Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu met party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday morning, and is learnt to have discussed his role in the revamp in the party’s state unit ahead of assembly polls.

Sidhu had said on Tuesday that he was slated to meet Rahul Gandhi but the latter denied that there was any scheduled meeting with him. The former Punjab minister is at loggerheads with Chief minister Amarinder Singh and has gone public against him. Sidhu said he had a long meeting with Vadra. “Had a long meeting with @priyankagandhi Ji,” Sidhu tweeted, along with a picture with Vadra.

# Face mask developed by MIT, Harvard can detect Covid infection

Researchers at MIT and Harvard University have designed a new face mask that can diagnose if the wearer is infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes Covid-19, within 90 minutes.

The mask design, described in the journal Nature Biotechnology, has embedded tiny, disposable sensors that can be fitted into other face masks, and could also be adapted to detect other viruses. The researchers showed that the sensors could be incorporated into not only face masks but also clothing such as lab coats, potentially offering a new way to monitor health care workers’ exposure to a variety of pathogens or other threats.

“We have demonstrated that we can freeze-dry a broad range of synthetic biology sensors to detect

virial or bacterial nucleic acids, as well as toxic chemicals, including nerve toxins,” said James Collins, a professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US.

“We envision that this platform could enable next-generation wearable biosensors for first responders, health care personnel, and military personnel,” Collins, the senior author of the study, said.

The face mask sensors are designed so that they can be activated by the wearer when they are ready to perform the test, and the results are only displayed on the inside of the mask, for the privacy of the user.

Covid-19 infection has the potential to significantly change the size and stiffness of red and white blood cells, a team of German scientists has found.



In some cases, the effect may continue for months, a possible reason why some affected people continue to complain of symptoms long after an infection (also called long covid).

During Covid disease, blood circulation is often impaired, and dangerous vascular occlusions can occur, and oxygen transport is limited. These are all phenomena in which the blood cells and their physical properties play a key role.

To investigate this aspect, a team of scientists from the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light (MPL), the Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg and the German Centre for Immunotherapy measured the mechanical states of red and white blood cells.

“We were able to detect clear and long-lasting

changes in the cells -- both during an acute infection and even afterwards,” reports Professor Jochen Guck, managing director of MPL. The team has published their results in the Biophysical Journal.

The team examined more than four million blood cells from 17 patients acutely ill with Covid-19, from 14 people who had recovered and 24 healthy people as a comparison group, using a self-developed method called real-time deformability cytometry (RT-DC). In this method, the researchers send the blood cells through a narrow channel at high speed. In the process, the leukocytes and erythrocytes are stretched. A high-speed camera records each of them through a microscope, and custom software determines which cell types are present, and how big and deformed they are.



## TODAY's QUOTE

### Bring norms after interacting with startups

“Startups are breaking away from the past. Regulations, if not always, are based on what has happened in the past. So, you are regulating the past while the startup ecosystem is breaking away from the past. Therefore, that's a problem. Don't bring regulations based on old ideas, but by interacting with the startups


- Suresh Prabhu, former Union Minister



## AUTOMOBILE

### Hyundai India rolls out 10 millionth car

Korean auto major Hyundai Motor on Wednesday rolled out its 10 millionth car from its manufacturing facility at Sriperumbudur marking its 25 years of service in India. The company's premium sports utility vehicle ALCAZAR formally rolled out of the assembly line making it the 10 millionth car from the manufacturing unit

FOREX (buy rates in ₹)				
US Dollar	75.32		South	
Euro	89.6		African Rand	5.51
UAE Dirham	20.66		Hong Kong Dollar	10.06
Thai Baht	2.44		Japanese Yen	0.77
British Pound	104.21		New Zealand Dollar	52.6
Australian Dollar	56.53		Saudi Riyal	21.81
Canadian Dollar	60.67		Swedish Krona	9.27
Swiss Franc	81.67		Singapore Dollar	56.28

DELHI THURSDAY 1 JULY 2021

## BIZ BRIEFS

### Axis Bank unveils offer

Axis Bank has announced the launch of its first edition of the Grab Deals Fest, a mega sale event, for its credit and debit card customers, who can avail an offer of 15 per cent cashback on two of its biggest online shopping partners, Amazon and Flipkart. The offer will run on Grab Deals digital platform till July 4, 2021 and will provide the customers with an opportunity to avail cashback of up to Rs 5,000. Sameer Shetty, President, Head, Digital Business and Transformation, Axis Bank, said: "The receding pandemic has incidentally accelerated the shift towards a more digital world. To ensure that our customers do not miss out on benefits, we have launched the very first edition of Grab Deals Fest, which will allow the cardholders to enjoy cashback offers."

### Takeda's initiative

Takeda has announced Illuminate, a rare disease diagnosis programme, to support improved clinical results for patients with Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSD). It is independently run and managed by PerkinElmer and sponsored by Baxalta Bioscience India. This programme will support improved diagnostic pathways for patients with LSDs such as Gaucher disease, Fabry disease, and mucopolysaccharidosis Type II. Simon Gallagher, Interim General Manager, Takeda India, said: "We are committed to bringing better health and a brighter future to people, including patients living with a rare disease with unmet medical needs. The programme will enable faster diagnosis, bridging infrastructure gaps to enable timely treatment and management of the disease. We will continue working towards improving the standard of care for rare disease patients through strategic partnerships"

### Mondelez backs recycling efforts

Mondelez India has announced a grant to Hasiru Dala, an NGO that will recycle multi-layered plastic (MLP) waste to create sustainable furniture boards for creating tables, benches and for other uses. The pilot project will use the technology purchased from startup TrashCon, to convert 600 tonnes of MLP waste per annum into WoW Boards. The project was facilitated by Ubuntu2, a global environment solutions company. "One of the key challenges in India, is recycling of multi-layered plastics given infrastructure constraints. While on the one hand, we continue to work with the government to support collection, segregation and recycling, we felt it was critical to experiment and support enterprising technologies and initiatives that can recycle multi-layered plastics," said Deepak Iyer, President India, Mondelez International.

### Little Millennium unveils programme

Little Millennium has launched an all-new concept in learning named as Blended Learning, an uninterrupted learning programme, virtual today and physical tomorrow. The programme is for those parents who wish to engage their children in productive activities but limit their screen time as it engages children through both synchronous and asynchronous teaching strategies. This means that when children learn and do face-to-face classroom activities they are assisted with computer mediated activities. Raman Bajaj, Chief Executive Officer, Little Millennium, said: "Parents are worried about their children's education as the lockdown and pandemic has resulted in the closure of preschools."

## LOW-BASE EFFECT

# Core sectors' growth zooms 16.8% in May

NEW DELHI

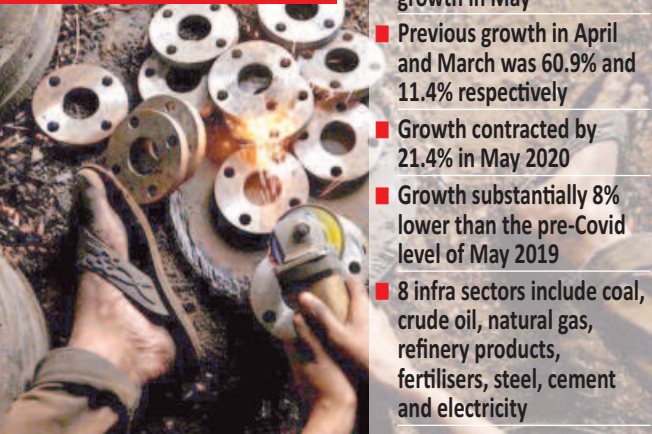
THE output of eight core sectors grew by 16.8 per cent in May, mainly due to a low-base effect and uptick in production of natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement and electricity, official data released on Wednesday showed. The eight infrastructure sectors of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity had contracted by 21.4 per cent in May 2021 due to the lockdown restrictions imposed to control the spread of the Covid-19 infections. In March this year, these key sectors had recorded a growth of 11.4 per cent, and 60.9 per cent in April.

Commenting on the numbers, Sanjay Aggarwal, president, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said: "The growth in May 2021 is majorly supported by the growth of steel, natural gas, refinery products, cement and electricity. However, sequentially, the growth of core infra has been decelerated by (-) 3.7 per cent in May 2021 due to lockdown conditions and curfews in many states."

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Icria, adds: "With the base becoming less distorted and the widening of state-wise restrictions, the core sector expansion expectedly flattened in May from the high 61 per cent in April. The core index in May was a substantial 8 per cent lower than the pre-Covid level of

## Natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement & electricity support output

### BEATING FORECAST



- Experts predicted flat growth in May
- Previous growth in April and March was 60.9% and 11.4% respectively
- Growth contracted by 21.4% in May 2020
- Growth substantially 8% lower than the pre-Covid level of May 2019
- 8 infra sectors include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity

May 2019, led by all the components except natural gas. Based on the core sector data as well as the performance of other high-frequency indicators such as auto production, exports and generation of GST (goods and services tax) e-way bills, we expect the IIP (index of industrial production) growth to moderate substantially to 20-25 per cent in May 2021 from the high 134.4 per cent in April 2021."

According to the commerce and industry ministry data, production of natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement and electricity jumped by 20.1 per cent, 15.3 per

cent, 59.3 per cent, 7.9 per cent and 7.3 per cent in May, as against (-) 16.8 per cent, (-) 21.3 per cent, (-) 40.4 per cent, (-) 21.4 per cent and (-) 14.8 per cent in May 2020, respectively.

Coal output too rose by 6.9 per cent during the month under review as against a negative growth of 14 per cent in the same month of the previous year. Fertiliser and crude oil segments recorded a negative growth during the month under review. During April-May this fiscal, the eight sectors grew by 35.8 per cent compared to a negative growth of 29.4 per cent in the same period last year.

## Brightcom posts ₹483 cr net in FY21

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

BRIGHTCOM Group, the global Internet brand, reported a net profit of Rs 483 crore for the financial year ended in March 2021 against Rs 440.10 crore in the preceding financial year (FY20).

The city-based company's consolidated revenue increased by 6.07 per cent to Rs 2,855.79 crore in FY21 from Rs Rs 2,692.32 crore in FY20. The profit before tax in FY21 stood at Rs 660 crore and the digital segment revenues grew by 11.68 per cent. The annual consolidated earnings per share (EPS) in FY21 was Rs 9.51, according to a company statement.

The company's Board of Directors recommended a bonus issue in terms of one bonus share for every four equity shares at 1:4 ratio held by the shareholders of the company as on a record date to be set by the board. This issuance is subject to the approval of the shareholders through a postal ballot. The Board also recommended that a dividend of Rs. 0.05 per share on a fully diluted basis, which will be distributed for the financial year ended on March 31, 2021, subject to approval of the shareholders in the ensuing Annual General Meeting.

## TS women entrepreneurs focusing on handlooms

### Food processing, IT& ITes also fueling entrepreneurship among women: Report

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

THE three emerging sectors of food processing, handloom & stitched apparel, and IT & ITes are significantly driving women-led entrepreneurship in Telangana, according to the 'Women-led Micro Entrepreneurship: An Analysis of Value Chains and Opportunities' report by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The GIZ released the report as part of the project "Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Startups by Women (Her&Now)" in India. It is implementing the programme on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and in partnership with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India. Project Her&Now is being run in Telangana in partnership with WE Hub.

The GIZ's report is to identify and capitalize on the key sectors involving the women-led micro-enterprises in various geographical areas of India, and the top interventions that may be introduced to support and/or catalyse women entrepreneurship ecosystem in these sectors and regions.

Based on the findings of the



report, it has been observed that the three emerging sectors fueling women entrepreneurship in Telangana are handloom & stitched apparel, food processing and IT & ITes.

Project Her&Now has supported several women entrepreneurs of the State from these 'emerging' sectors, through its flagship Entrepreneurship Support Programme.

Mudunuri Varalakshmi, a Her & Now entrepreneur and Founder of Fruitful (an enterprise that processes figs to produce and sell jams and desserts) said: "We have been facing problems in acquiring marketing connections, as supermarkets usually charge high commissions for rack space.

However, being a part of Her&Now enabled me to explore avenues for product diversification and implement the same into our business model, to facilitate wider outreach and business growth. After completing the programme, I am now able to think in different directions to improve my business."

## Ajio offering fashion sale from today



HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

Ajio, online fashion e-retailer known for its on-trend, freshest styles and high-on fashion aesthetic, has announced Big Bold Sale during July 1-5, 2021. The sale offers with discounts in 50-90 per cent range on the widest catalogue comprising over 6 lakh styles from 2,500 brands.

Customers can avail of reduced prices, special hourly deals, rewards and reward points across the country. The e-retail has on offer with brands such as Nike, Puma, Adidas,



Levis, United Colors Of Benetton and more at hard-to-miss prices.

Actress Sonam Kapoor, one of the most celebrated fashionista, and popular icons - Guru Randhawa, Shruti Haasan, Kajal Aggarwal and Mouni Roy will be seen raising the fashion quotient of the sale. One can find products at slashed prices ranging from 50 to 90 per cent off and unmatched deals on popular categories such as t-shirts, jeans, kurtas and sneakers. Besides discounts, Ajio is also making bold moves in terms of launching many international brands during this sale.

## Bombay HC upholds TRAI's tariff order

On Jan 1, 2020, TRAI issued new tariff rules, lowering television channel fees

MUMBAI

THE Bombay High Court on Wednesday upheld the constitutional validity of a tariff order passed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) last year, but struck down one condition which said the price of a single channel cannot be more than one-third of the highest priced channel in that bouquet.

However, the court has struck down one condition which said the price of a single channel cannot be more than one-third of the highest priced channel in that bouquet



Zee Entertainment Ltd and Sony Pictures Network India. On January 1, 2020, the TRAI issued new tariff rules by which the Network Capacity Fee (NCF) price was lowered, benefitting consumers. Previously, a sum of Rs 130 was applicable for all free-to-air channels and consumers needed to pay more in order to watch additional channels. After

the amendments to the broadcast sector tariffs, consumers will pay Rs 130 as NCF charge, but will be entitled to get 200 channels. Changes were also mandated to be made in the price of individual channels.

The petitions said the new regulations were "arbitrary, unreasonable and violative of their fundamental right". On Wednesday, the high court disposed of the petitions and said, "The challenge to the constitutional validity of the 2020 rules and regulations of TRAI fails." "One condition related to the average pricing of a channel in a bouquet is arbitrary and hence is struck down," the court said in its judgment.

As per this condition, the a-lacarte rates of each pay channel (MRP), forming part of a bouquet, shall in no case exceed three times the average rate of a pay channel of that bouquet.

## Lee Health launches tablets for osteoarthritis

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

LEE Health Domain, a Hyderabad-based pharma company, has launched 'Smoothwalk' tablets as a preventive treatment for the Osteoarthritis patients. The tablet has been developed by combining natural bionutritional with potent phyto nutrients.

Smoothwalk tablets contain collagen type II, natural egg shell membrane, boswellia and curcumin with vitamin D3, which mainly acts on joint and connective tissue disorders to increase cartilage in joints and thereby reduces inflammation and stiffness.

"The drugs that are being used in the treatment of Osteoarthritis are NSAIDs and analgesics that only gives temporary symptomatic relief. We have observed that administration of Smoothwalk tablets in arthritis patients for 2 to 3 tablets a day will get a fast relief within three weeks from the pains.

## Indian banks face systemic risk

2nd wave of Covid impairing performance: S&P

NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings on Wednesday said Indian banks face a systemic risk as the second Covid wave will impair the performance of financial institutions in the April-September period.

Stating that economic recovery remains highly vulnerable to setbacks due to Covid, particularly if fresh outbreaks trigger new lockdowns, S&P said the banking sector's weak loans will likely remain elevated at 11-12 per cent of gross loans in the next 12 to 18 months. "The second wave has front-ended weakness in asset quality," said S&P Global Ratings Credit Analyst Deepali Seth Chhabria.

"Financial institutions face a strained first half amid weak collections and poor disbursements." Indian banks face systemic risk as the country sorts through the aftermath of the Covid second wave. Lenders struggled with a high level of weak



loans well before the pandemic struck and clearly, conditions have deteriorated, S&P said in a statement.

The government has announced support for the microfinance and tourism sectors that should help struggling borrowers. This support comes on top of the recently extended loan guarantees to Small and Mid-size Enterprises (SMEs). S&P said it expects the second wave to impair the performance of Indian financial institutions in the first half of fiscal year 2022, with much resting on the effectiveness of government measures to address this problem.

## Investors' wealth soars ₹25.46L cr in Q1

### BSE Sensex rises 6% this fiscal so far; Mcap at record ₹231trn on June 15

NEW DELHI

EQUITY investors have grown richer by a whopping Rs 25,46,954.71 crore in the first three months of the current 2021-22 fiscal, driven by upbeat market sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex zoomed 2,973.56 points or six per cent this fiscal so far. The BSE benchmark index reached its all-time high of 53,126.73 on June 28. It registered its record closing of 52,925.04 on June 25. Mirroring the optimistic sentiment, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies reached its lifetime peak of Rs2,31,58,316.92 crore on June 15 this year. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms touched the \$3 trillion mark (about Rs 220 lakh crore) on May 24.



In the entire 2020-21 fiscal, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies zoomed Rs 90,82,057.95 crore to Rs 2,04,30,814.54 crore. The 30-share BSE benchmark rose 20,040.66 points or 68 per cent

than-expected Q4 FY21 earnings performance of companies have supported the market's uptick. The 30-share BSE index settled 66.95 points or 0.13 per cent lower at 52,482.71 on Wednesday.

Also, better performance of companies have supported the market's uptick. The 30-share BSE index settled 66.95 points or 0.13 per cent lower at 52,482.71 on Wednesday.



# England beats Germany 2-0 to reach Euro 2020 quarterfinals

LONDON

ENGLAND is unburdened by the weight of agonising history: Germany has finally been beaten in a tournament again. No need to endure more penalty heartache or disallowed goals this time. Just like in the 1966 World Cup final, England triumphed over a German team at Wembley Stadium on Tuesday,

winning 2-0 to reach the European Championship quarterfinals.

And just like in England's two group wins, Raheem Sterling was on the scoresheet, breaking the tense deadlock in the 75th minute in a move he started and completed. The round of 16 finally saw England net more than once at Euro 2020, and for Harry

Kane to shed the pressure on his shoulders by finally scoring. The striker headed in Jack Grealish's cross in the 86th minute. "With all the expectation and pressure," Kane said. "We delivered."

It was England's second-ever win in the knockout stage of the European Championship. The last such triumph came on penalties against Spain at Euro '96 before the hosts were denied a place in the final by Germany in a shootout at Wembley. It was on penalties that Germany also beat England in the 1990 World Cup semifinals. Then there was the English goal wrongfully disallowed as Germany knocked the English out of the 2010 World Cup.

Now England will play either Sweden or Ukraine in the Euro 2020 quarterfinals on Saturday in Rome, eyeing a return to Wembley for the semifinals and the final on July 11. There will still be questions about England coach Gareth Southgate's team selection and persistence with Kane when he managed only one touch in the opposition penalty area in the first half. And it was a bad one, taking a ball too far past Manuel Neuer while trying to go around the goalkeeper. But while Sterling's goals are spearheading England's progress at

this largely-home tournament, the saves of Jordan Pickford are proving vital, too, including using one hand to push over Kai Havertz's shot at the start of the second half. "We had to be brave on and off the ball," England defender Harry Maguire said. "It was really important." The clamour to introduce Grealish was growing in the second half. It's what got fans chanting inside Wembley with a crowd of about 40,000 the biggest in Britain since the pandemic began in March 2020.

The winger finally entered with about 20 minutes to go and played a role in the opening goal. Sterling first took on the defenders, going past Antonio Rüdiger before passing to Kane, whose layoff to Grealish then went to Luke Shaw. And it was the left back's cross that Sterling connected with, shooting past Neuer with his right boot. For all the experience in Germany's side compared to the youth of England, it was World Cup winner Thomas Müller who squandered a chance to equalize in the 81st minute.

Clean through with only Pickford to beat, Müller put the ball wide to leave him still without a goal at his three European Championships. England has yet to concede in its four games at Euro 2020. "It's a moment none of us will ever forget," said Kane, who scored his 35th international goal. "The perfect afternoon." <sup>AP</sup>

England's Harry Kane celebrates after scoring his side's 2nd goal during the Euro 2020 soccer championship round of 16 match between England and Germany, at Wembley stadium in London on Tuesday



# WTC final title makes up for 2019 World Cup heartbreak: Ross Taylor

AUCKLAND

THE 2019 World Cup final heartbreak against England at Lord's was the turning point for New Zealand cricket, and the win against India in the inaugural World Test Championship final at Southampton recently has made up for that disappointment, said Black Caps batsman Ross Taylor during a virtual media interaction on Wednesday.

During the 2019 World Cup, the final ended in a tie with both England and New Zealand scoring 241 runs. It was followed by a 'super over'. England lifted the trophy on the boundary count --back rule after the 'super over' too finished level.

"Over the last few years, the team has built into a fantastic consistent side and after the heartbreak of the 2019 World Cup, this is definitely the highlight and I think probably makes up for that," said Taylor referring to the disappointment they suffered two years ago. New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson and Taylor remained unbeaten on 52 and 47, respectively as they guided the team to an eight-wicket victory against India in the World Test Championship final.

"Once the winning runs were hit, walking off with him (Williamson)

and the discussions afterwards, it's something that I'll never forget. It was still touch and go when I went out there to bat; to get through that hard period and Kane's been a fantastic captain and ambassador for the game and our country.

"And for him (Williamson) to be out there and on that last ball before, he sort of gave me a stare: 'hurry up and finish it' so that he doesn't have to. So it was nice to hit the boundary and celebrate what was a tough match with a lot of hard work over the last two or so years," said Taylor, a veteran of 108 Tests and 233 ODIs who has scored over 16,000 runs in the two formats.

On the picture-perfect photograph of the two (Williamson and Taylor) walking back to the pavilion in Southampton after completing the job on the reserve sixth day, which has now been immortalised, the 37-year-old Taylor

said, "It was just nice to have been there. But, I think, I've seen the photo a lot. A lot of people have sent it to me and I think the photo of Kane and I coming off probably speaks louder than words.

"The photo says it all, I think. Obviously, we were very happy with what we had achieved but also there was

a little bit of relief in there too that we were finally able to get one across the line. After the heartbreak of 2019, it was nice to finally be out there and be there with Kane and go and celebrate it with a lot of guys - BJ (Watling), Boult (Trent Boult), Tim (Southee), a lot of guys who have been in this team and experienced a lot of highs and lows over a long period of time."



# Alize shows fifth seed Bianca the door in opening round

LONDON

FRANCE'S world No. 58 Alize Cornet caused a major upset when she beat world No. 7 Bianca Andreescu of Canada 6-2, 6-1 in their delayed first-round match at Wimbledon on one hour and 22 minutes on Wednesday.

This is the second time in three weeks that Alize has beaten the 21-year-old Bianca, seeded fifth here.

The Frenchwoman had won their second-round clash in Berlin a fortnight ago, going on to reach her first grass-court semi-final.

Alize will meet the winner of the match between Greet Minner of Belgium and Alja Tomljanovic of Australia.

Alize, 31, is playing her 14th Wim-

bledon, having competed in every main draw since 2007, while Bianca was playing her third, having qualified in 2017 and lost in the first round to Kristina Kucova of Slovakia. She had fallen in the 2018 qualifying to German Antonia Lottner.

Alize mixed her powerful, flat forehand strokes with near-perfect net play to thrash her opponent. Bianca, meanwhile, was increasingly unsure of her footing, which Alize took advantage of by playing the drop shot whenever the former US Open champion slipped on fresh Wimbledon grass.

The first set was much closer than the scoreline suggests, with Bianca playing some great slices and drop shots. But from 2-2, Alize won four

close tussles in a row as consistency deserted Bianca.

No.16 seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia and No.19 seed Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic both won their delayed first-round matches on Wednesday. Anastasia, the French Open finalist this year, defeated Ana Bogdan of Romania 6-2, 6-2, while Karolina eased past Nottingham runner-up Zhang Shuai of China 6-3, 6-3.

Both are former quarter-finalists at Wimbledon -- Anastasia reached that stage in 2016, while Karolina upset compatriot Karolina Pliskova in a fourth round clash here in 2019. They remain on course to clash in the third round this year. <sup>AP</sup>

# 'Sad story': An injured Serena Williams is out of Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON (ENGLAND)

SERENA Williams bit her upper lip. She held her left hand over her mouth and tried to hold back tears while getting ready to serve. It was the first set of her first-round match Tuesday at Wimbledon, and Williams knew this stay at a tournament where she has won seven of her 23 Grand Slam singles titles was about to end because she hurt her right leg when she lost her footing behind a baseline. Moments later, her legs buckled as she tried to change directions to chase a shot by her opponent, 100th-ranked Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus. Williams dropped to her knees, her head down on the grass. She used her racket to help her stand, but only so she could limp to the net to concede -- just the second mid-match retirement at any Grand Slam tournament of her career and first since 1998.

"I was heartbroken to have to withdraw today," Williams said in a statement released by the tournament. "Feeling the extraordinary warmth and support of the crowd today when I walked on -- and off -- the court," she said, "meant the world to me." Said Sasnovich: "She's a great champion, and it's (a) sad story." Roger Federer surely articulated a common sentiment when told by a reporter what happened to Williams. "Oh, my God," he said. "I can't believe it."

Williams was serving while leading 3-1 at Centre Court -- where the retractable roof was shut because of rain that forced the postponement of two dozen matches until Wednesday -- when her left shoe seemed to lose its traction while she was hitting a forehand. Williams winced and stepped gingerly between points, clearly troubled. After dropping that game, she asked to visit with a trainer and took a medical timeout. She tried to continue playing.

The crowd tried to offer support and encouragement. Eventually, the 39-year-old American couldn't continue. The chair umpire climbed down to check on her, and they walked together up to the net; the score



Serena Williams of the US waves as she leaves the court after retiring from the women's singles first round match against Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus on day two of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on Tuesday

# Cornet upsets No. 5 Andreescu at Wimbledon

LONDON

ALIZE Cornet upset Bianca Andreescu for the second time in two weeks by beating the fifth-seeded Canadian 6-2, 6-1 in the first round at Wimbledon. Cornet broke the former U.S. Open champion five times and sealed the victory by chasing down a shot and hitting a lob that landed just inside the baseline on match point. Cornet also beat Andreescu in Berlin two weeks ago. French Open runner-up Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova cruised into the second round with a 6-2, 6-

2 win over Ana Bogdan.

The 16th-seeded Pavlyuchenkova took advantage of 16 unforced errors from Bogdan to win in under an hour. She reached her first Grand Slam final at Roland Garros before losing in three sets to Barbora Krejickova. Camila Giorgi and 19th-seeded Karolina Muchova also advanced to the second round. They were among 27 first-round matches that had not been started or completed during the first two days because of rain delays. <sup>AP</sup>

was 3-all, 15-30 when Williams stopped. Williams, who began the match with her right thigh heavily taped, raised her racket with right arm and put her left palm on her chest. Then she waved to the spectators. Officially, this goes in the books as only the second first-round Grand Slam exit of Williams' career. The other came at the 2012 French Open, where she was beaten by Virginie Razzano.

Williams' departure makes a wide-open women's draw even more so. As it was, defending champion Simona Halep and

four-time major champ Naomi Osaka withdrew before the tournament started. And so, even as her 40th birthday approaches in September, Williams was among the top contenders. With her best-in-the-game serve and stinging groundstrokes, she had made it to the past four finals when she entered Wimbledon -- winning in 2015 and 2016, missing the tournament while pregnant in 2017, then finishing as the runner-up in 2018 and 2019 (it was canceled last year because of the pandemic). <sup>AP</sup>





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