THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | MONDAY 12 | JULY 2021







Yamagandam: 10.30 am to 12 noon **PRAYERS** Fajar: 4.27 am Luhar: 12.18 pm **Asar:** 3.38 pm

Maghrib: 6.39 pm Isha: 7.58 pm **SUNSET TODAY 6.49 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.06 AM**

MOONRISE TODAY 7.55 AM

MOONSET TOMORROW 9.38 PM



CASES

(+35.446)

(+691)3,08,71,708 4.08,763

covid19india.org

DEATHS

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS (+2,775)

TN:25,18,786 | 33,418

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

18,75,01,030 **DEATHS** 40,46,629

COUNTRIES AREAS WITH 219 worldometers.info

> Chirag Paswan speaks to Lalu Yadav

Patna: Lok Janshankti Party leader Chirag Paswan met Rashtriya Janata Dal national general secretary Shyam Rajak on Saturday evening. The meeting comes amid the spat between Chirag Paswan and his uncle Union Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras over the claim of Ram Vilas Paswan's political legacy. Rajak's meeting with of Chairag joining hands with RJD high. "It was a courtesy meeting with Chirag Paswan. I went there to meet the Paswan family including Chirag Paswan," Rajak said.. However, Rajak's meeting with Paswan a day after his meeting with RJD chief Lalu Yadav on Friday holds political significance. Asked whether Chirag is welcome in RJD or not, Rajak said, "All those who want

to take forward the ideology of

Lohia and Ambedkar are wel-



Now only yogis and sadhvis will be eligible to contest polls!



STATE | 3 **Ex-AIADMK** minister 'Thoppu' joins DMK



WORLD | 5 China vows retaliation as **US** bans firms

SPORT | 8 Argentina win Copa America





NIA conducts raids in Kashmir valley, arrests six under UAPA

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

Agency books case against 'ISIS conspiracy to radicalise youth'

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC

National Investigation Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday conducted raids at multiple locations across Kashmir Valley and arrested six persons including head of an Islamic seminary in connection with a 'jihadi terrorism' case.

The agency said it had registered a case on June 29 this year under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, in connection with the "conspiracy of the ISIS (Islamic State) to radicalise and recruit impressionable youth in the country to wage violent jihad against the Indian state.'

This comes a day after the J&K government sacked its 11 employees including two sons of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen chief Muhammad Yusuf Shah alias Syed Salahuddin on charges of being involved in anti-India activities. The Hizb chief's sons were fired based on the investigations done by the NIA in an alleged terror funding case, the gov-The NIA sources said

DC CORRESPONDENT

PUDUCHERRY, JULY 11

WITH AGENCY INPUTS

was given the home port-folio in the AINRC-led

Puducherry on Sunday.

government

The exercise of cabinet formation was carried out

in over two months after

the alliance won the polls

and the cabinet members

other than Chief Minister

N. Rangasamy were sworn-in on June 27.

In its first representa-

tion in any cabinet in

has evacuated around 50

diplomats and security personnel from its con-

sulate in Kandahar in a

military aircraft in the wake of intense fighting

between Afghan forces and

Taliban militants who

seized control of new areas

around the key city, people familiar with the develop-

The ministry of external

ment said on Sunday.

BJP bags 'home'

in Pondy ministry

JAMMU AND KASHMIR UTTAR PRADESH The catch: Six persons The place: Kashmir

valley The case: Links to ISIS conspiracy to radicalise and recruit impressionable youth in the country to wage violent jihad against the Indian state. **Agency:** NIA

that its teams assisted by

J&K police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) raided 'Siraj-ul-

Uloom' seminary in Srinagar's Dalal Mohalla,

Nawab Bazaar area and

 $seized some \, of fice \, records$

and a laptop and also took

its chairman Adnaan Ahmad Nadvi into cus-

reportedly affiliated with

an Islamic seminary of

Uttar Pradesh. Soon raids

Pushroo, Sunsooma, and

Anantnag and five per-

sons identified as Javaid

Ahamad Mir, Umar Bhat,

Ovais Ahmad Bhat, Tanveer Ahmad Bhat and

Zeeshan Ameen Malik

protfolio while the chief

Minister would hold a

number of portfolios,

al administration, health

and family welfare and

Hindu religious institu-

will

sports and youth affairs and sainik welfare. **P4**

India says intense fighting

in Kandahar; flies out staff

closed and it continues to

operate through the local

The people cited above

said the aircraft brought

back the Indian diplomats,

officials and other staff

members, including a group of Indo-Tibetan

Border Police personnel, on Saturday evening as

situation around

deteriorated

staff members

Kandahar

home, Mr

handle

Namassivayam

electricity,

industries and

commerce, edu-

cation, including collegiate

education.

Besides

Achabal villages

institution

conducted in

The catch: Six persons The place: Kashmir val-

The case: Links to ISIS conspiracy to radicalise and recruit impressionable youth in the country to wage violent jihad against the Indian state. Agency: NIA

WEST BENGAL The catch: 3 suspected operatives of banned Jamaat-ul Mujahideen

The place: Kolkata The case: To raise funds and recruit young members for a module of the

The agency: Special task force of Kolkata police

Source: Police, security agencies

3 Bangladeshis with 'JMB links' arrested

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, JULY 11

Three suspected Jamaat-ul Mujahideen (JMB) operatives were arrested by the Special Task Force (SŤF) of the Kolkata police from the south western parts of the city in a secret operation early on Sunday.

The rare catch of the JMB operatives has prompted the central and state security agencies to investigate the possibility of a sleeper cell formation by the banned terror outfit. The accused are Naziur Rahaman,

Sheikh Sabir and Rabiul Islam. All of them are from Bangladesh and belong to JMB functionary Master Zia's camp, the STF has learnt. Their job was to raise funds and recruit young members for a mod-ule of the JMB quietly, according to preliminary investigation.

Originally hailing from Gopalganj in the neighbouring country, they allegedly forged documents and entered West Bengal through the India-Bangladesh

Serbia's Novak Djokovic kisses the Wimbledon trophy as he celebrates his victory over

Lucknow, July 11: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

on Sunday unveiled a pol-

icy aimed at stabilising

the population in Uttar Pradesh and reducing

maternal and infant deaths in a time-bound

manner as he termed ris-

ing population a "hurdle

The Uttar Pradesh Population Policy 2021-

2030, unveiled on the occa-

sion of World Population

in development".

Italy's Matteo Berrettini in the final on Sunday.

2 AL-QAEDA MEN WITH BLAST PLAN **HELD: UP POLICE**

Lucknow, July 11: Two terrorists of the Al-Qaedasupported Ansar Ghazwatul Hind were arrested from the outskirts of Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow on Sunday and explosive materials were seized from them, a senior official said.

Minhaz Ahmed and Maseeruddin, both resi-dents of the city, were apprehended by the state police's anti-terrorist squad (ATS) and they were planning to "unleash terror activities on August 15 (Independence Day) in different cities of the state," including Lucknow, additional director-general of police (law and order) Prashant Kumar told reporters.

The ATS has arrested two active members belonging to Al-Qaeda-supported "Ansar Ghazwatul Hind". Minhaz Ahmed, a resident of Lucknow's Dubagga area, and Maseeruddin, a resident of Lucknow's Madiaon area, have been arrested, he said.

PEUGEON

rate among women to 2.1 by 2026 and to 1.9 by 2030.

A few days ago, a draft

bill on population control

was put up on the website of the Uttar Pradesh law

commission inviting sug-

gestions from the public

It says people having more than two children in

Uttar Pradesh will be

debarred from contesting

local bodies polls, apply-

ing for government jobs

till July 19.

UP unveils policy to

reduce fertility rate

Chennai has zero death; tally down

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JULY 11

Not a single death was recorded in Chennai in the 24-hour period over the weekend giving room for optimism that the second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic is indeed waning, certainly in the capital.

The state recorded less than 3,000 fresh cases again on Sunday, with the figure coming down to 2,775 after Friday's 3,039 cases. The number of active cases in Chennai is 1,661 with 171 fresh cases being added on Sunday. It was only on Saturday

that the number of cases in Tamil Nadu had fallen below the 3,000 mark to go down to 2,913. Around the state, 47 fatalities were

seven of them occurring in Coimbatore, five in Cuddalore and four in Vellore. The active cases in Coimbatore are still over 4,000, making the western city a hotspot.

The dip in cases does, however, justify government action in further relaxing restrictions in a new phase of the lockdown. Barring pubs, bars, theatres and zoos, nearly everything has opened up in the state. While bus services to Puducherry are to resume in the first interstate movement of public transport by road allowed since a strict lockdown had been put in place on May 10, restaurants, tea shops and eateries can remain open an extra hour, up to 9 pm.

COVID NUMBERS DECREASE ACROSS INDIA AS KERALA BATTLES ZIKA

DC CORRESPONDENTS WITH AGENCY INPUTS

NEW DELHI/ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

India witnessed a slight decrease in the number of Covid-19 infections and deaths in the last 24 hours with 41,506 people testing positive in a day, the total tally of the viral infections has gone up to 3,08,37,222. The death toll has now climbed to 4,08,040 with 895 fresh fatalities.

While many countries like UK, Russia, Australia and Bangladesh are dealing with the resurgence in daily infections, the cases in India seem to be under control with daily infections being less than 50,000 for the past two

However, rising Covid-19 cases in Kerala, coupled

of the Zika virus, is causing concern to the health authorities as the southern state battles to bring down the fresh infections.

After winning accolades for its "Kerala model" of combating the contagion about a year ago, the state is now seeing daily fresh cases between 12,000 to 15,000 with no end in sight to the 'prolonged surge', as some experts put it.

The state had reported 14,087 fresh Covid infections on Saturday and 109 deaths taking the total caseload to 30,39,029 and toll to 14,380. The active cases touched 1,13,115.

Health minister Veena George had recently said the virus numbers spiked due to certain unlock measures and that they were expected to go down. on June

Kerala reported year, 19,760 cases, there was a slight decline for a week.

KUMAR REPLACES GOPAL AS RSS' BJP POINTSMAN

DC CORRESPONDENT **NEW DELHI, JULY 11**

Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), it was learnt, has decided to replace its pointsman for the BJP, with Arun Kumar to succeed Dr Krishna Gopal for the post.

The decision, sources

said, was taken by the RSS top brass at the ongoing meeting at Chitrakoot. Both Dr Gopal and Kumar are joint general secretaries in the Sangh. Dr Gopal, who had succeeded Suresh Soni in 2014 - the year BJP came to power at the Centre — to over-see the coordination between the BJP and the Sangh, it was learnt, had not been keeping well and had been infected with the Covid-19 twice.



PERSONS FOR PADMA AWARDS, **PM TELLS PEOPLE**

New Delhi, July 11: Prime Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to nominate their choice of persons, who are doing exceptional work_at the grassroots, for Padma awards. "India has many talent-

ed people, who are doing exceptional work at the grassroots," Mr Modi said in a tweet. "Often, we don't see or hear much of them. Do you know such inspiring people? You can nominate them for the #PeoplesPadma.
Nominations are open till 15th September. http://padmaawards.gov in," he tweeted, sharing

the link of the website.
The Padma awards,
namely, Padma Vibhushan, Bhushan and Padma Shri are amongst the highest civilian awards

of the country.
In the last few years, the Modi government has been honouring scores of unsung heroes with the Padma awards for their life-long contributions to the society and achievements in dif-

affairs (MEÅ) said the with Taliban fighters con-Indian consulate in tinuing their offensive. ty situation Afghanistan. Day, also aims at bringing or receiving any kind of down the gross fertility Branson enters space in his own ship, glides back home safely

craft avoided entering the

Pakistani airspace. However, there is no official confirmation about it.

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said

India-based personnel have been brought back

for the time being in view

of the intense fighting near

Kandahar city and that

New Delhi is closely moni-

toring the evolving securi-

Truth or Consequences (US), July 11: Swashbuckling entrepreneur Richard Branson hurtled into space aboard his own winged rocket ship Sunday in his boldest adventure yet, beating out fellow

billionaire Jeff Bezos. The nearly 71-year-old Branson and five crewmates from his Virgin Galactic space tourism company reached an altitude of about 88 km (53 miles) over the New Mexico desert enough to experience three to four minutes of weightless-



Galactic SpaceShipTwo space plane Unity and mothership separate flying way above Spaceport America, near Truth and Consequences, New Mexico on Sunday

ness and see the curva-"Seventeen years of ture of the Earth and then safely glided back hard work to get us this a jubilant Branson home to a runway landsaid as he congratulated his team on the trip back.

Branson became the first person to blast off in his own spaceship, beating Bezos by nine days.
With about 500 people watching, including Branson's wife, children and grandchildren, a twin fixeled a nine of the state of

twin-fuselage aircraft with his space plane attached underneath took off in the first stage of the flight.

The space plane then detached from the mother ship at an altitude of about 13 km (8.5 miles) and fired its engine, reaching the edge of space. The entire flight

sleek white ship, named Unity, took just under 15 minutes.

Branson, the flamboy-London-born founder Atlantic Airways wasn't supposed to fly until later this summer. But he assigned himself to an earlier flight after Bezos announced plans to ride his own rocket into space from Texas on July 20, the 52nd anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon land-

INDIAN IN TEAM:

Sir Richard Branson speaks on stage with other crew members, after they flew into space aboard a Virgin Galactic vessel, a voyage he described as the 'experience of a lifetime' — and one he hopes will usher in an era of lucrative space tourism. Spaceport America, near Truth and Consequences, New Mexico on Sunday. -AP



OTHER STORIES To block viruses and **boost immunity**

Chennai: The second wave of the pandemic may seem to be diminishing but scientists and medical experts keep warning the public of a third wave soon. From sanitisers to masks and immunity boosters, a huge number of products hit the market in the last two years

The ongoing pandemic is based on an airborne disease that attacks the respiratory system, causing inflammation in the nose, throat, sinuses, and lungs. The dual strategy is to block the microbial passage from the oral cavity, deactivate it and additionally modulate the gut microbiota to enhance Alniche launched a novel product range under the brand name of Virobind, mouth spray and AB capsules to address both strate-

gies to handle microbial infec-

The mouth spray, which forms a barrier in the oral cavity against the accumulation of pathogens, has an enzyme with effects on symptoms of sore throat, nose congestion, common cold, and other microbial infections. The spray can be used in the early stages of infection to recover and relieve sore throat, cough, rhinorrhoea, and other common cold symptoms. The AB (Veg. capsule) is a probiotic formulation for the treatment of respiratory infections. It improves the immune response and enhances the



AR Rahman becomes brand ambassador

Chennai: Oscar, Grammy and Bafta winner AR Rahman has been roped in as the brand ambassador by a company that makes specialty coatings among a range of paints it man-ufactures. Sheenlac says Rahman will promote the company's range of wood, protective, floor industrial and automotive coating products that have air purifying and self-cleaning properties. Rahman said he was glad to represent a brand that had transformed itself and grown over decades. "A R Rahman is a natural fit for our brand, which is committed to innovation, transformation, nd tech adoption." said Sudhir Peter, MD, Sheenlac Paints

MOBILE DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC TO CONDUCT RURAL HEALTH

Chennai, July 11: Madras Medical Mission (MMM) inaugurated a Mobile Diagnostic Clinic (MDC) unit for cardiac screening purpose which was sponsored by Johnson Lifts. The mission behind the launch of the mobile unit is to provide easy access to cardiac facility in rural areas.

The mobile unit (Bharat Benz bus) will travel across Tamil Nadu and Kerala with an aim to provide quick diagnoses of patients with cardiac ailments and advise them on the next course of medical and surgical

The unit is well-equipped to provide detailed Cardiac Screening with equipment for blood investigations like random sugar, BP, ECG, ECHO and Treadmill. The camp will be held in rural pockets all over

Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Commenting on the launch, Mr. M. M. Philip, Hon. Secretary, The Madras Medical Mission said, "Preventive cardiac care can help one to reduce the risks of heart disease by identifying the risk factors at an early stage and providing them with the guidance and care to improve cardiovascular health. This camp will facilitate the detection of various heart ailments, such as high blood pressure, coronary artery disease, valvular heart disease, and congenital heart disease among the general population, and patients in requirement of follow-up treatment will be treated at MMM."

The mobile unit (Bharat Benz bus) will travel across Tamil Nadu and Kerala with an aim to provide quick diagnoses of patients with cardiac ailments and advise them on the next course of medical and surgical

Ex-AIADMK minister 'Thoppu' joins DMK

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JULY 11

In scenes of political enthusiasm with a few hundred supporters thronging the venue, for-mer AIADMK minister Thoppu Venkatachalam joined the

DMK in the presence of chief minister M.K. Stalin and other senior party leaders like Duraimurugan, T.R. Baalu

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JULY 11

Residents are questioning

Aavin's bid to collect data

of its regular milk card

holders. Following the

handing over of forms by the Tamilnadu Co-opera-tive Milk Producers' Federation Ltd [TCMPF]

that consumers were sup-

posed to fill up and submit

to Aavin units, T. Nagar Residents' Welfare

Association sent a com-

plaint to the Additional

Chief Secretary, Dairy Development asking him

to withdraw the forms.
The questionnaire seeks

including their name,

of consumers

Sunday was also the former MP and MLA, P.R. Sundaram of Namakkal, who like Venkatachalam and A. Raja on Sunday. comes from the western Shifting parties on region of Tamil Nadu.

Residents question Aavin's

bid to collect personal data

qualification, occupation, monthly salary, mobile or landline number, e-mail, family members, and the

type of milk they buy.

Among the customer iden-

tification details, it seeks

from the consumers, a copy of ration card, driv-

ing licence, Aadhaar card,

Pan card, Voter ID or bank

Aavin had conducted the

same kind of exercise in December 2018 to create a

customer database. "Since

already submitted the required information

why does Aavin need the details afresh? Do we have

to assume that the details

furnished earlier have been lost or misplaced by

pass book.

Venkatcahalam had

served as a minister

in Jayalalithaa's

regime but may

favour with her

Palaniswami

have fallen out of

successor Edappadi

served as a minister in Jayalalithaa's regime but may have fallen out of favour with her successor Edappadi Palaniswami. Miffed over being denied

a ticket to stand in the 2021 Assembly elections, the two-time MLA from Perundhurai constituency in Erode district, Venkatachalam stood as a rebel candidate but lost after having been expelled from the party. He changed party affiliation

Aavin? How can the con-

sumers repose faith in organisations which are

unable to safe-keep their

the association is ask-

In the new questionna-ire, Aavin has sought edu-

cational qualification, oc-

cupation and monthly sa-

lary of the consumers.

"Why does it need these

details and how does it matter? While the details

such as the name, address,

telephone number are en-

ough to create a database

of consumers, seeking more than what is requi-

red amounts to wilful tra-

nsgression", the associa-tion said in their com-

information?'

private

along with a number of his old party cadre while promising to bring many more to the ruling DMK fold. He mentioned a figure of 25,000 cadre cross ing over in a month's time.

The western region may have vote AIADMK+ voted more Assembly polls but more defections are not to be ruled out after the verdict in the State was in favour of DMK+. 'Thopu' claims that many are waiting to

Puducherry schools and colleges to reopen on July 16: CM

Puducherry, July 11: (PTI) After months of closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic, schools colleges Puducherry will reopen

on July 16.

"Colleges will reopen
on July 16. Schools
would also reopen partially and classes for ninth to 12th standards alone would resume that day," Chief Minister N Rangasamy said on Sunday.

He was speaking to reporters after submit-ting to Lt Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, the list of portfo-lios for allocation to his newly inducted five min-

isterial colleagues.
The Chief Minister said the government took the decision as the situation was now improving in the Union

Territory. No Covid-19 death was reported in Puducherry on Sunday, while the number of fresh cases



DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JULY 11

Relieving a shortage of Covid19 vaccines that crippled the vaccination programme last week, the state received 3,62,410 Covishield doses on Sunday, besides a consignment of five lakh doses on Saturday night, which was sent to various districts where vaccination was stopped due to nonavailability of vaccines.

The State's Department of Public Health and

Preventive Medicine had of preparation to face the allotted 45,000 vaccines to wave, oxygen production Chennai; 24,000 to Coimbatore and the rest to other districts. According to data published by the department, 27,922 doses of vaccines were administered to take the total vaccination in the State to 1.61 crore by Saturday.

Talking to reporters, Health Minister Ma. Subramanian said that the health department was fully prepared to deal with the possible third wave of Covid19. "As part

wave, oxygen production capacity of the state was built up to 900 metric tonnes. When the DMK government took office on May 7, the oxygen production in the state stood at 230 MT. In the last two months, the production has increased three fold with almost all government medical colleges and private hospitals setting up oxygen generators and concentrators consider-ing the possible third

Tiruchy SP transfers 16 cops after surprise

inspection

R. VALAYAPATHY I DC TIRUCHY, JULY 11

Tiruchy superintendent of police P. Moorthy has ordered the transfer of 16 police personnel attached to the Lalgudi police station to the armed police wing for dereliction of duty on

Saturday.
Police said Moorthy made a surprise inspection at the Lalgudi police station last night and went through the station records. He found

Loan collection staff harass

that registers were not maintained properly and a few of the duty police personnel were absent.

Following this, Moorthy transferred 16 police personnel including a special subinspector and five head constables including a woman head constable to the armed police wing, Tiruchy, and asked them to report for duty on Sunday.

Moorthy replaced the vacancies from the armed



The Victory Flame received by Indian Naval Station Kattabomman.

1971 war Victory Flame reaches Tirunelveli

Victory Flame, symbolising India's triumph over Pakistan in 1971 war, reached the Indian Naval Station (INS) Kattabomman near Tirunelveli on Sunday with a ceremonial guard of honour held to mark the occasion. Station Commander Captain Aashish K Sharma along with defence personnel, civil administration and veterans received the flame, an official release

The Victory Flame commemorates India's victory in the 1971 Indo-Pak War and the golden jubilee cel-

Chennai, July 11: The ebrations to commemorate the triumph of armed forces commenced in December last year. A wreath laying ceremony and two minutes silence was observed to pay homage to the sacrifices made by the veterans, the release said.

The Victory Flame would be taken to Kanyakumari to felicitate the veterans by the district civil administration and it was also planned to take it to the houses of 1971 war heroes, including late sepoy Kasimani and late Naik Sangili Chelliah, who sacri-ficed their lives during the

After INS Kattabomman, the Victory Flame would be received by the Coast Gaurd in the presence of NCC cadets and later it would be handed over to INS Parundu.

Commemorating Golden Jubilee celebrations in December 2020, Four Victory Flames were lit from the eternal flame of the National War Memorial and one each was being carried to the four cardinal directions through the cities and villages of 1971 war veterans and veernaris (war widows), the release added.

women with microfinance OP ARULN I DC

CHENNAI, JULY 11

Women in rural Tamil Nadu have been taken for a ride by micro finance companies offering microcredit As the banks are reluctant to offer loans to women self help groups, they rush to these compa-

The goal of microfinance is to give impover-ished people an opportunity to become self-sufficient. However, the object of creating microfinance has been defeated as the company staff are involved in collecting the dues without fail. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown period the women were forced to repay EMIs. S Ka

Kalaivani of

woman in the presence of other members of the family and community if she defaults. Fearing such abuse, women again borrow from known persons and repay the amount regularly

Kaveripattinam, Krishnagiri district said micro finance companies offer mini loans of ₹50.000. The staff will come to the villages to hand over the amount after deducting the first week's EMI of ₹580. They will visit every Monday for 104 weeks to collect ₹580.

A borrower ends up paying a total of ₹61,000 including interest. Rain or shine, the com-

pany staffers reach the village to collect the amount

every week. After the sharks. amount is repaid, they will disburse similar Agriculture loans to keep the women under a cycle of fear as anxiety would descend on a household when the due date nears. Women were forced to repay amount even when they were deprived of any work

during the lockdown. S. Revathy of Cuddalore said chief minister M.K. Stalin had distributed loans and revolving funds to the women self help groups in the State when he was Deputy CM in the DMK

DMK government between 2006 and 2011. Similarly, the present government, under his leadership, should revive SHGs and distribute loans to them in a big way to protect them from loan

State Secretary, All India Union, K. Packrisamy said the microfinance companies have made the women who obtain mini credit into slaves. Once a woman takes the credit, she will not come out from the web. They have to repay EMIs whether they face any emergencies such as death at home or a natural calamity.

The collectors will abuse the woman in the presence of other members of the family and community if she defaults. Fearing such abuse, women again borrow from known persons and repay the amount regularly. As a result of such abuse, many women have attempted to commit sui-

A licence to take offence at everything



R. Mohan

Namma Chennai Diary

summer of sport in Europe and the Americas. It's that time of year again when sports commentators become a part of living rooms. They wax eloquent at times over great sporting moments and at most times they do try to relieve us from the tedium in prosaic passages of play. But it is in the time of banality that they tend to trip and leave themselves open to criticism. And a lot of such criticism is around because the world has changed somewhat.

It appears it's anyone and everyone's turn to take offence at what is being said publicly by persons who have a reason to speak in public to the public. The

is an action-packed age of political correctness may be far behind us but now it is the age of taking offence at everything. One of our own fell into this trap of having to say something when play is interrupted, as it often is for injuries, equipment check or change.

The wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik, who has been making quite an impression behind the mike in his debut season as a comments man in UK's summer of cricket, ran afoul of feminists and a host of others when he compared a bat to the 'neighbour's wife' while alluding that the latter always seemed more attractive. He had to be profusely apologetic about it after the broadcaster

inundated adverse comments on a sexist remark like that. It might be said that

Karthik may indeed have crossed a line when he said something that seemed funny at a moment when nothing was happening on the field save a change of bats. Locker room humour is, however, not so welcome in these days of "offendedness", which is the term Salma Rushdie invented for this modern phenomenon of taking offence at just about anything said or done in the public sphere. The tennis legend Boris

Becker found himself at ism row after describing a tennis player's fiancee as "very pretty", which indeed she was. The former Wimbledon champion "They do say they have the most beautiful women in Hungary" as the TV coverage cut to Márton Fucsovics's partner Annette. But Boris' fellow commentator John Inverdale may have been

as guilty since he had



pointed out. "That's Fuscovics' fiancee. Her name Annette Boszormenyi. If you're a tennis player, always good to have a partner called Annette.

Once again, let us say that they were way over the line in describing a lady thus on live TV and diversity campaign groups

descended with full fury on Becker for objectification" of women, which is what riles the women and feminists the most. The BBC had declined to criticise a light-hearted comment that was not intended to cause offence and that would have been the end if not for women critics piling on men commentators for talking about what women look like.
All this had come on top derline and sometimes of the day on which John

McEnroe was pulled up for uncharitable comments about UK's latest budding tennis star Emma Raducanu. The tennis champion with a rage for perfection who was hardly the darling of the Establishment because of his prediction towards demonstrative behaviour on court and his constant run-ins with match officials, McEnroe was cruelly critical of what he saw as quitting because the play-er could not take the heat of competition when the national focus was on her.

Naomi Osaka, who could not stomach having to appear before the media in compulsory press conferences on days she was feeling too shy or diffident, was also dragged into it, which made it all seem so much more explosive. McEnroe was not seen apologising for his comments. Nor was Becker, known for his flamboyant lifestyle and his flings

over the border and that he takes chances, which is because that is who he is.

The two tennis champion-celebrities could get away with it without having to trot out a grovelling apology but poor Karthik who is just starting out on this road to fame behind a mike on television and he had to come out and say sorry. Perhaps, that was the best route out at this time when all it takes is one unguarded comment to unravel an entire career as commentator, as it happened to Dean Jones who made an unfair comment on the bearded Hashim Amla. Commentators are skating on thin ice when they stray from the banal. Such scrutiny comes as part of the baggage these

> (R. Mohan is the Resident Editor of the Chennai and Coimbatore editions of Deccan Chronicle)

OTHER STORIES

Anganwadi staff hold demo

D C CORRESPONDENT PUDUKKOTTAI, JULY 11

A section of employees of the Pudukkottai district unit of the Anganwadi employees association, led by their district vicepresident Padma, wore black badges and staged a demonstration at Pudukkottai on Sunday in protest against the Union Government for enacting legislation to enable the handing over the anganwadi schemes to the private sector.

They were demanding that the union government give up this move and not to reduce the allocation for anganwadi schemes. Among others, the association's State general secretary Daisy treasurer Devamani and district secretary Pachaiyammal spoke at the demonstration.

Insurance subsidy for 4,800 head of cattle

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUCHY, JULY 11

The Tamil Nadu Government has fixed a target of 4,800 head of cattle in Tiruchy district to cover the subsidised cattle insurance for the current fiscal, according to Tiruchy Collector S.Sivarasu.

He said in a press release at Tiruchy on Sunday that under the scheme cattle owners can have subsidised cattle insurance of upto ₹35,000 per cattle and 50 per cent subsidy for the above poverty line people and 70 percent subsidy for those below the poverty line and Scheduled caste and Scheduled tribe people. A family can avail this subsidised cattle insurance scheme for maximum 5 cows or

Those who wish to benefit from this can approach their nearest veterinary hospital, Mr.Sivarasu added.

A family can avail this subsidised cattle insurance scheme for maximum 5 cows or **buffaloes**

Welcome art



Interior walls of Omandurar multi super speciality hospital in Chennai have been adorned with colourful paintings.

BJP projecting 'Kongunadu' to counter DMK's 'Ondriyam'

M. ARULOLI I DC TIRUNELVELI, JULY 11

The BJP leaders said the 'Kongunadu' issue is nothing but the training of guns on the DMK, which has been "testing the water for secession from India using its 'Ondriyam' narrative'

MLA Nainar Nagendran, reacting to the controversy over a sudden demand for a separate Kongunadu state, said neither the Tamil Nadu BJP nor the BJP-led Union government had any idea of creating a new state bifurcating Tamil Nadu. "It is they (the DMK and

towards the second half of

the past week, with the hill residents fearing they

may face another lock-

The end of the e-pass

regime for the TN resi-

dents to visit the hills saw

a good inflow of outsiders

since last Monday bring-

ing cheer to the tourism

stake-holders. Though the

tourist spots are still

closed in Nilgiris, the

tourists were seen moving

around the hills and

enjoying taking a stroll

along the roadsides to

enjoy the monsoon cold

down soon.

weather.

the opposition parties in Tamil Nadu) who created a ruckus revealing their narrow-mindedness against national integrity by calling Indian government 'Ondrivam'. explained Nagendran. who added that if the people of a region have such a demand it was the responsibility of the constitu-

leader Nagercoil MLA M.R. Gandhi clarified in the party's district functionary meeting in Tirunelveli on Sunday that the BJP does not harbour any intention to

A Nagercoil-based BJP's advocate wing functionary, however, said that the 'Kongunadu' issue was

just a political strategy

against the DMK's 'Ondriyam" narre' against "Ondriyam" narrative.
"We are well aware that DMK and its political including Congress have taken up the "Ondriyam" issue to irritate the BJP and the tionally-powerful central government to fulfil that. nationalist forces in the and state and to give them a fitting reply, we are doing the Kongunadu camsaid the BJP

paign,

Kanimozhi Karunanidhi,

'Kongunadu' issue after paying her tribute to free-Muthu Kon on his 311st birth anniversary at his memorial Kattalangulam near Kovilpatti, said that Tamil Nadu is safe in the hands of M.K. Stalin, and "nobody needs to dream of bifurcating Tamil Nadu, which is an impossible task". The DMK MP also asserted that her party would continue to call

India a Union of states,

which is not against the

integrity of the nation as

the country is described

leader. Thoothukudi

79 works worth ₹72.74 cr underway in Perambalur

DRDA, highways depart-

DC CORRESPONDENT PERAMBALUR, JULY 11

As many as 79 structural works in nine departments, at an estimated cost of Rs 72.74 crore aided by the National Bank for Agriculture and Development (Nabard), are going on in Perambalur district.

Perambalur Collector Venkata Priya reviewed the works along with the officials of

grandparents Mani and

Nallammal at Perambalur.

However, drunk Ramesh

continued to torture her.

When the neighbours questioned Ramesh, he

quarrelled with them.

Today the neighbours

videographed the torture

and forwarded it to the

Perambalur superinten-

dent of police and district

child protection officer.

ment, water resources department, PWD (buildings) TWAD, THADCO, agriculture engineering, agriculture marketing and town panchayats at Perambalur. She said that under this scheme the establishment of seed banks, rural area bridges and check dams are going

across the river Kallaru is coming up at a cost of Rs

The girl was handed over

Police said efforts were

made to bring the girl's

mother from Pudukkottai

and they will hand over

grandparents.

12.0 crore and another one across river Chinnaru at a cost of Rs 5.6 crore. Once these two check dams are completed, 1,454 acres will get irrigation facility besides the groundwater table of 320 open wells and borewells increased in the area, she added.

Nabard district development manager Naveen Kumar, PWD executive engineer Ravichandran

She said a check dam and others participated.

Within 30 minutes a police the girl to her mother on team led by Perambalur Monday. Police said if anyall-woman police station one lodges a complaint inspector Chitra and town against Ramesh, a case will be filed against him inspector and he will get suitable Senthilkumar came and punishment.

The social activists of Perambalur wanted the Human Commission to take suo motu action against Ramesh.

Villagers protest in front of police station with dead body

DC CORRESPONDENT ARIYALUR, JULY 11

Tension prevailed for a while after a section of villagers placed the dead body of a farmer in front of the Thoothoor police station near Ariyalur on demanding immediate arrest of a group of persons who allegedly murdered him.

Police said the farmer was identified as Kannan (46), hailing from Vaipur village. He had a dispute with one Ajithkumar of the same village over his daughter's marriage. He lodged a complaint against Ajith and others at the Thoothoor police station. When Kannan went to the local fish market, Ajith and his brothers stabbed him after a quarrel and he died on the spot.

Tourism picks up in Nilgiris three-digit mark Though the daily count

had come down to 74 last

Sunday, from Monday, the

more relaxations and end

of e-pass regime to Tamil

Nadu residents, the situa-

tion began to change as

rate once again began to

day of Unlock 3.0 with

more relaxations and end

of e-pass regime to Tamil

Nadu residents, the situa-

tion began to change as

the daily test positivity

the daily test positivity

day of Unlock 3.0 with

B. RAVICHANDRAN I DC OOTY, JULY 11

After an initial falling trend last week, since unlock 3.0 last Monday, the Covid-19 positive daily count in the Nilgiris began to show an increasing trend. Though it has brought a scare to the hill residents, this weekend saw a good influx of tourists due to the end of e-pass regime for Tamil Nadu residents, though the tourist spots are still closed in the hills here.

Though the daily count had come down to 74 last Sunday, from Monday, the

Girl rescued

from drunk,

QUICK CROSSWORD

13

14

19

Across

Down

6.Groyne (10)

8. Spiteful (5)

14. Astute (5)

10. Fear attack (5)

17. Be worthy of (5)

13. Fireplace shelf (11)

19. Copy out in full (10)

1. Arguments for (4)

Word Mine

GOOD; 13 OUTSTANDING

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the

letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at least one nine letter word. Plurals, foreign

words and proper names are

torturing

father

rate once again began to climb. The tally crossed

R. Valayapathy I DC

Perambalur, July 11

police and the Perambalur district unit of the child protection committee on Sunday rescued a 7-year-old girl who was tortured by her father in an inebriated condition at Perambalur on Sunday.

Police said Ramesh, 35, a coolie residing at Dheeran

Nagar at Perambalur, having two daughters aged 8 and 5, used to quarrel with his wife after getting drunk.

As he did not go for work, his wife Saranya took her second daughter and went to her father's house at Pudukkottai a few months

elder daughter The back with her

police

to her

rescued the girl.

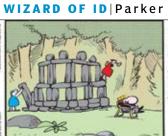






THE WIZARD OF ID Parker and Hartsd







ARCHIE|Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman







BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN | STAN LEE







pertaining to land will be favorable. You'll enjoy happiness and prosperity. Gemini: A change of job is indicated for some of you. Today your work will be appreciated and duly recognized but do not over estimate your capabilities.

Aries: On this day you will stand up for your rights and fight against injustice. Make sure you don't neglect any important works or your

Taurus: Today the situation at professional front will get better. Transactions

Your day today By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam

physical and mental health.

COFFEE-BREA

Cancer: You'll remain inspired by past contacts or ideas. Increase in income from past investments is foreseen.

Overall a pleasant day ahead awaits you. eo: Focus on keeping a control over your temper. The day is expected to be busy and productive. An increase in your workload can

affect your health. Virgo: Broaden your horizons and look for new jobs or assignments. Ailments of the eyes or headache can bother you today. Chronic patients must be alert to aggravating symptoms.

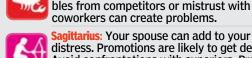
You share your b'day with Sundar Pichai is an Indian-American business executive. He is the chief executive officer of Alphabet Inc. and its

subsidiary Google. Pichai earned his degree from IIT Kharagpur in metallurgical engineering. Libra: Expressing yourself in an explicit way will



open up some new avenues for you. Share your problems with close relatives, as they will be Scorpio: An auspicious function may take

place at your house. A loss of position, trou-



jittarius: Your spouse can add to your distress. Promotions are likely to get delayed. Avoid confrontations with superiors. Property matters may develop problems.

Capricorn: Don't get involved in disputes between close associates as your efforts could backfire.



Spending some time on planning the future will enable you to take a concrete action today. quarius: Effective organizational skills and creatively deploying your resources will minimize problems at work place. Today you need

to control your expenses and invest wisely.



balance is likely to increase exponentially. Whatever you try today will lead you to success. Your health will be at it's best today.

es: Avoid eating unhealthy food. Your bank



WHICH **OPPONENT DO YOU**

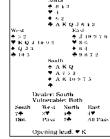
BELIEVE?

isa Alther, in "Kinflicks," wrote, "I happen to feel ■that the degree of a person's intelligence is directly reflected by the number of conflicting attitudes she can bring to bear on the same

The declarer had conflict ing evidence in this deal from a Bridge Base Online duplicate. It was played at 16 tables. At most of them, West overcalled two hearts,

responded three clubs, South rebid three diamonds south rebid three diamonds and North jumped to seven clubs. Real bridge robots do not need Blackwood!
At each of those tables, South took the first trick with the heart ace, ruffed a heart on the board (whew!), drew trumps and claimed. drew trumps and claimed.
At one table, though, West jumped to three hearts. He hoped that if he was dou-

bled and lost at least 800



Yesterdays Jumbles: SUNNY Answer: The young bidding higher might have made it impossible for his opponents to reach the right contract.

2. Undulating (4)

3. Exchange (4)

7. Bad blood (9)

15. Slighty open (4)

11. Crop up (5)

16. Nosegay (4)

18. Polishes (4)

12. Tree (3)

5. Produce offspring (9)

9. Private teacher (5)

17. Gloomy darkness (4)

jumble

RUGDO

CCIKL

GNNINI

TDOSED

4. Astound (4)

Over seven clubs, West contemplated sacrificing in seven hearts. He knew he could afford to go down seven: minus 2,000 versus minus 2,140. But he finally trump. (Note that sever North cashes two top clubs

then shifts to his trump, South covering East's card as cheaply as possible. Also, of course, seven no-trump is

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

Across: 1. Crazes, 3. Fret, 7. Scum, 8. Banner, 10. Pelican, 13. Javelin, 16. Lackey, 17. Safe, 18. Nits, 19. Defeat.

DOWN: 1. Case, 2. Acumen, 4. Rand, 5. Thrice, 6. Cadaver, 9. Minaret, 11. Stolen, 12. Visage, 14. Scot, 15. Text.

Down: 1. Case, 2.

hopeless!)
West's bid strongly suggested that he had seven hearts. So, South won with the heart ace and ruffed a heart with the club jack down one! However, would East have raised with a sin-gleton?

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