



# CLASSIFIEDS

## FOR SALE PROPERTY

## COMMERCIAL

**COMMERCIAL COMPLEX** For Sale, Including 2Ac Movie Theaters, 2Ac Function Halls, And 2Floors Retail Space, 115,000 Sqft. Including Central Air Conditioning. Located On NH 16, ChikkaKurru, Bangalore. Contact: Ph: +919901838 / 9849013340 (Use) (HYMM/2122/C01908)

**COMMERCIAL BUILDING** For Sale/ Lease, Gachibowli mainroad, Opposite Central mall, Bestilled glass & Metal Building. Total 12700sqft area, 9000 commercial area, G+3 plus 2BHK/ office space. Ready to use. 2sides roads, &Entrance, Lift, 430sq.yds land, 9car+10 Wheeler parking. Suitable Restaurants, Software, Furniture, Lights, Jewellery showroom/ concept, Hospitals, Clear title. Ph: 9550232226. (HYMM/2122/C02210)

**A NEWLY Constructed Building** for Sale at Kotur on 811 Sqyds. G+4 Each floor. 2100 Sqft, Total 16 Flats. 2100 Sqft. Suitable for School, College, Hospital & Hotel. Genuine Buyer may contact by Phone & WhatsApp 8666173447. (B/2122/C00242)

## FLATS

## DOUBLE BEDROOM

**MANIKONDA, 2BHK** Flat, 1200sqft fully furnished, 1st floor North face, 66 khms. HMDA approved. Ph: 897820567 (HYMM/2122/C02205)

## THREE & MORE

**CHERLA PALLY, READY** to occupy 3 BHK 3BHK flat, located with club house & swimming pool. No GST Must see! Just Rs 3749/- per sqft. Call: 9849007111. (S/2122/C00569)

**4BHK 2714SF** Flat E/ on the 25th Floor in Financial District ready for interiors servant room. 24 hrs water and security along with covered Car parking. Ameert. Ph: 9347514121, 9986365067. (HYMM/2122/C02197)

**3BHK FLATS** Area 2460sqft Each, Flat no.101 & 601, Sri Ram Builders, Survey no.9P, White field, Kondapur, Hyderabad - 500084, Telangana. Ph: 7730022224. (HYMM/2122/C02174)

**3BHK SEMI** Furnished 1436sqft apartment with one car park for sale besides SD Eye Hospital, Mehdipatnam. Call: 9347514121, 9986365067 (HYMM/2122/C02196)

**WEST MAREDPALLY** 1730 Sft. 3 Furnished flat for sale East facing and 100% Vastu compliant and with one covered car Parking Asking Price 1cr must sell soon as other abroad Cntct: 9963066966 (S/2122/C00567)

**SOMAJOGUDA RAJABHAWAN** Road 2800 sft New Flats for Sale, for details contact: 9652869247. (HYCL/2122/C00635)

## LAND

**FARM LANDS** For sale 1Acre, 2Acre and 5Acres. 20kms from Appa Junction, Clear Title. Well Developed Lands @ Moinabad and Chevella, East, North, West Facing Lands Available. Price 1.5CR to 2CR Per Acre. Ph: 9986295516, 8317676805. (HYCL/2122/C00640)

## MULTIPLE

**PROPERTY FOR** Sale At Prime Locations Secunderabad, Rte X Road, Punjagutta Pls Contact Ph: 6304851467/ 8247356315 (HYMM/2122/C02203)

## PLOTS

**VILLA PLOTS** for sale @ Mumbai Highway facing venture near Sadashivnagar. Residential and Commercial. Ready to go construction. Cell 886851116 (W/2122/A00304)

**KOTTUR HMDA** Gated community plots, 1km from Bangalore highway with all developments, inaugural offer Villas also available. Ph: 9182854242. (A/2122/C00174)

**MADHUPAR, NEAR Vikram Hospital, 867 Sq.yds Open Plot Sale, (Size: 77X110 Ft, Wt: 100% Clear Title, At 1.5 Lakh/ Sq.yd. Ph: 0080121221, (HYCL/2122/C00638)**

**PLOTS FOR** Sale in Chevela, 1)Pammelli Village Commercial 10Guntas, 2)Malakupur 12Guntas, 3)Malakupur 20Guntas, 4)Omer Colony 32Guntas 5)Nata 30Guntas. Contact: 7670821341, 9765927729, 9986131073. (HYMM/2122/C02177)

**NALLAGANDLA HUDA Plot 260 sqyards for sale, Clear title, North Facing Second plot from main road good for development contact: 900149111 (HYMM/2122/C02180)**

**PREMIUM PLOTS** 12Lakhs on words. DTCP/ RERA 2009 Developed Gated Community Ready for Construction Near Nadhagar Toll Plaza 7382096759 (HYMM/2122/C02218)

**OPEN PLOTS** Meenakshi County @Shankarpally 101 Acres- Approved Layout, 300 Feet Mainroad Facing, 100% Layout Development Work Completed, Premium Landscaping, Drive to a Financial District in Just 25mins. Bank and Facility Available. Contact: 8143206034/ 8143253787. (HYMM/2122/C02209)

**MAIN ROAD** Facing Commercial Plots at Shankarpally Main Road, Size 100x100, 2000 Sqyds. Land Conversion & Interlocked Registered Suitable for Investments & Commercial Buildings. Queries Pls Ph: 9705695487, 8688525025. (HYCL/2122/C00612)

**OPEN PLOTS** Near Yacharam Main Road Somada Golden Gate Phase-2, DTCP/ RERA 2009. New Pharmacy, Low Price Ph: 9391123929. (HYMM/2122/C01708)

**"NAVYA GARDENS"** Gated Farms Plots @Zaheerabad 303yds) to 1Acre with Guest House/ Fruit Plantation. Per Sq.yd@18/-, ph: 9885390149 (HYMM/2122/C02091)

## REAL ESTATE

## LAND REQUIRED

**LAND REQUIRED** 20years. Reputed Real Estate Company Looking For 10 to 100Acres of Sagar highway and Srisailam highway Land Residential Layout for Development joint Venture/ Export/ Import. Marketing, Business Note: Genuine Deals Only. Ph: 9383494949. (HYMM/2122/C02196)

## RENTALS

**HIMAYATHNAGAR MAIN** Road, Ground C Shop 600 Sft for Rent, Nkrm Grand, Taj Krishna road, Banjara Hills. Call: 9000166605. (HYMM/2122/C02206)

**SRINAGAR COLONY** Road Kamalapuri Colony phase 3rd Srinam Chambers Building 3rd-floor 2500 Sft/5000 Sft. Contact: 900006457, 9849318695. (S/2122/C00571)

**1250SF GROUNDFLOOR** shop, ground space 1000-8500sf commercial space in upper floors can be divided in portions above central bank adjacent ESI Metro station, accessible to heavy vehicles. Facing Bombay. Ph: 9059357760, 9849182434. (HYMM/2122/C00209)

**2055SF, SEMI-FURNISHED** Office for rent, La palazzo Building, opposite Durgam Cheruvu, Madhapur Call: 9001666020. (HYMM/2122/C00207)

**LEASE/ RENT** S.P.Road- Independent Building 5000 Sq.Ft. Fully furnished, ACS with 120 workstations, Conference room, Cabins, Server room, Reception, Parking, Ready to Occupy. Ph: 88491-88393/910936633. (S/2122/C00029)

**800 SF** east facing office space furnished at 6-3108/2-Somajiguda Vlly, Mary College lane, Hyderabad. Ind floor. Rent Rs.20,00/- PM. Contact: 9885322280. 9246337361, 900545522. (A/2122/C00169)

**A NEWLY Constructed Building** for Sale at Kotur on 811 Sqyds. G+4 Each floor. 2100 Sqft, Total 16 Flats. 2100 Sqft. Suitable for School, College, Hospital & Hotel. Genuine Buyer may contact by Phone & WhatsApp 8666173447. (B/2122/C00242)

**FLATS**

## DOUBLE BEDROOM

**2BHK 5TH** floor well maintained apartment open terrace with 24hr water supply and security. Shanti Souha agents. Entry 2000/- for family only. Ph: 9963475174, 770277907 (W/2122/A000308)

**3 BHK Duplex flat for rent** at Road no 12 Banjara Hills. Spacious rooms and Hall with private terrace in a gated community. 24 hrs water and security along with covered Car parking. Ameert. Ph: 8885113355 (W/2122/A003030)

**REQUIRED**

**WANTED 1500-** 2000sf commercial building. Banjara Hills and Kukatpally or long lease for a reputed wellness clinic. Preferably on the first floor. Should have enough parking, lift, water, power. Contact: 9701979760 (HYMM/2122/C02208)

**LEASE**

## COMMERCIAL

**✓ OFFICE SPACE** Ready For Lease. To Corporate It's Mnc's Long Lease In Grade-A Property 4000Sft To 8000Sft InLandmark Building At Basheerbagh Liberty TRI Junction Hyderabad Fully Furnished With Airconditioned Other Occupants Are Mnc's Interested. Call: 9391008502, 9866172628 Or manish@gmail.com (HYMM/2122/C02176)

**STAFF REQUIRED** for restaurant at Habsiguda. Stewards, Waiters, Chefs. Applicant should have Relevant & suitable experience in their field. Ph: 9177546488 (HYMM/2122/C02167)

**LECTURERS**

**WANTED PRINCIPAL** (Junior/ Degree) & Lecturers in Mathematics, Commerce, English, Sanskrit, PRO & Sales-Callers For No. Degree College, Dilsukhnagar. ECA from WESI/QAS/ ICAS. Experience: 5 Years. Send CVs on [info@mirrorsluxurys@gmail.com](mailto:info@mirrorsluxurys@gmail.com) (HYCL/2122/C00630)

**MEDICAL**

**HFF & SEED** are looking for General Physician (MBBS), JIMS (General Physician & Gynaec), Pathologist (DLO), Radiologist & Sonologist, MLT A.M & G.N.M. Send CVs on <http://www.helpinghand.org.in> or Contact 9603540864. (B/2122/C00248)

**WANTED FERTILITY** Specialists. Fertility Centre @ Himayathnagar & Srinagar Colony with minimum 1-2 yrs experience. Ph: 880104455, 996634300. (A/2122/C00168)

**TEACHERS**

**KMHS** requires well experienced and qualified teachers fluent in English for Pre-Primary, Primary and High School for all Subjects including Computer, Art, Craft, Music and Yoga teachers can send their applications immediately to the Email: [keshav.mohamedali@gmail.com](mailto:keshav.mohamedali@gmail.com) (HYCL/2122/C00627)

**INFINITY WORLD** School invites applications from trained and experienced female candidates for pre-primary and primary teachers post for all subjects also require Admissions/IT Admin. Walk-in interview from 10 to 2pm @ KSR Enclave, Chandanagar, Hyd. call 8464001100, 8465001100. email: [schoolinfinityworld@gmail.com](mailto:schoolinfinityworld@gmail.com) (W/2122/A00306)

**ACADEMIC HEIGHTS** Public School invites application from trained and experienced female candidates for High School Maths, Social science and Hindi. Economics and Accountancy for 11th and 12th part time. walk-in from 10 to 12pm @ Dilsukhnagar. 9246246401 and Shamshera. 9246246403. email: [a\\_h\\_p\\_s\\_c\\_h\\_a\\_r\\_m\\_i\\_n@yahoocom](mailto:a_h_p_s_c_h_a_r_m_i_n@yahoocom) (W/2122/C00202)

**WANTED ACCOUNTANT** Cum Cashier (Male) for Chiranjeevi Eye & Blood Bank. With Minimum 2years Experience. Interested candidates are attend walk-in Interview. Or mail Your Resume to: [admin@cfonline.in](mailto:admin@cfonline.in) (or) [admin.cfonline@gmail.com](mailto:admin.cfonline@gmail.com) (Road No. 1 Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-33. Ph: 9866012456, 9440055777. (HYCL/2122/C00632)

**AMIS ENGINEERS**, established Industrial Supply company is looking for Accounts & HR Executives to be a part of our firm. Pls apply: [hr@amisengineers.com](mailto:hr@amisengineers.com) (HYMM/2122/C02190)

**WE ARE** into Medical Equipment business for 45 years. We need Accountants with minimum 5 years experience knowledge of Tally, Accounting package, GST is must. Please apply immediately to [vishalhy@vishalsurgical.co.in](mailto:vishalhy@vishalsurgical.co.in) (S/2122/C00584)

**WANTED ACCOUNTANTS** for Robo Touch, ECIL with 4-10 yrs Experience in manufacturing & E-commerce. Contact: 8640040455 (HYMM/2122/C00200)

**REQUIRE ACCOUNTANTS** skilled in Tally and Excel. Need to be able to speak Hindi and Telugu efficiently. Contact: 996588637 for interview at Hyderabad. (HYMM/2122/C02177)

**WANTED ACCOUNTANT** Cum Cashier (Male) for Chiranjeevi Eye & Blood Bank. With Minimum 2years Experience. Interested candidates are attend walk-in Interview. Or mail Your Resume to: [admin@cfonline.in](mailto:admin@cfonline.in) (or) [admin.cfonline@gmail.com](mailto:admin.cfonline@gmail.com) (Road No. 1 Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-33. Ph: 9866012456, 9440055777. (HYCL/2122/C00632)

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**REQUIRED ACCOUNTANT** For Accounts, Get Filling Minimum 3Years Experience, At Apaz India Sultanpur, Patancheru ORR-4 Contact: 8686003814, 9542132324/ 9246411917 Mail Id: [a\\_d\\_m\\_i\\_n@a\\_p\\_a\\_z\\_i\\_n.d\\_o\\_m](mailto:a_d_m_i_n@a_p_a_z_i_n.d_o_m) (HYMM/2122/C02175)

**ADVT. SALES & MKTG.**

**WANTED SALESMAN/ sales girls/ helpers for readymade garments shop, sonsa children wear abids.** Ph 9989491588 (HYMM/2122/C02021)

**LEADING CNC wirecut edm machine manufacturer from bangalore looking for Sales Engineer for A.P and Telangana. Qualification: Diploma/ B.E (Mechanical) experience: 2 to 4 years in machines industry (preferably) location: Hyderabad send detailed resume to [sales.c@concordulated.com](mailto:sales.c@concordulated.com) (W/2122/A00290)**

**REQUIRED FOR** Marketing Professionals for Real Estate Company. Job: Marketing Directors and Property Advisors. Salary: 15k-20k. Post: Contact: 7675810129 (HYMM/2122/C02166)

**GRADUATES WITH excellent communication skills in Eng/ Telugu/ Hindi/ Oriya Required. Minimum 1-year experience in callcenter must. Age to 30years. Experience having a Laptop Interested?** contact: 981313600 weekdays between 10 to 5 for telephonic interviews (HYMM/2122/C02187)

**REAL ESTATE**

## LAND REQUIRED

**LAND REQUIRED** 20years. Reputed Real Estate Company Looking For 10 to 100Acres of Sagar highway and Srisailam highway Land Residential Layout for Development joint Venture



IN BRIEF

## Kavitha Rajesh is new HMA prez

**Hyderabad:** B. Kavitha Rajesh has been elected as the president of Hyderabad Management Association (HMA) for 2021-22. According to HMA here on Wednesday, she becomes the third woman president of the 57-year-old association. Kavitha Rajesh is the proprietor of Om Sai Andhra Paints. Incidentally, the COO is also a woman, Geeta Mallikarjunan. Office-bearers: K. Chandrashekhar, G. Jaywant Naidu, Prof Mahesh Kumar Soma, Peddi Rajendra Krishna Prasad, V. Ramchander, Dr Ravi Kumar Jain, Sandhya Sri-pada, Sanka Venkata Krishna Prasad, and Vijay Vedantam.

## No water supply in parts of city

**Hyderabad:** There will be no water supply for 24 hours from 6 am July 5 to 6 am on July 6 due to shutdown because of junction works on 1600 mm dia MS Main of KDWSP Phase-II Ring Main-II coming under alignment of SRDP flyover from Maruthi Suzuki showroom to Durga Wines at Nagole junction. Due to the shutdown, there will be no water supply to Balapur, Maisaram, Barkas, Mekalmandi, Bholakpur, Tarnaka, Lalapet, Boudhanagar, Marredipally, Control Room, Railways, MES, Cantonment, Prakashnagar, Patigadda, Hasmathpet, Ferozguda, Gouthamnagar, Vaishali Nagar, B.N. Reddy Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, Auto Nagar, Maruthi Nagar, Mahindra Hills, Elugutta, Ramanthapur, Uppal, Nacharam, Habsiguda, Chilkanagar Beerappagadda, Boduppal partial, Meerpeta and Badangpet.

# Green drive on Doctors' Day

**Everyone should plant trees and give back to society: Dr Nageshwar Reddy**

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

A large number of eminent doctors from the city joined together on Thursday to celebrate National Doctors' Day and the launch of the seventh phase of Haritha Haram programme and planted saplings at the Children's Park near Saibaba Temple in Filmnagar.

Green India Challenge founder and chairman and Rajya Sabha member J. Santosh Kumar after greeting the doctors who gathered at the park, said it was a happy occasion to see 60 eminent doctors and specialists coming together on one for planting trees, and called Thursday's event the first of its kind. "This initia-



Saplings being planted at the Children's Park near Saibaba Temple in Filmnagar in Hyderabad on the occasion of Doctors' Day on Thursday.

tive by the doctors is inspirational. Everybody should make it their responsibility to plant saplings and the Green

India Challenge should be passed on to the next generation," Santosh Kumar said. Everyone has realised the importance of

oxygen and understood the importance of protecting the environment, in these pandemic times, he added.

Among those who planted saplings were director of medical education Ramesh Reddy, public health director G. Srinivasa Rao, CM's OSD Gangadhar, Gandhi Hospital superintendent Raja Rao, Nims director Manohar, Padmaja, doctors and specialists from Asian Institute of Gastroenterology, ANU Hospitals, Apollo, Continental, Kims, Medicover, Rainbow, Sunshine, Virinchi and Yashoda Hospitals.

Yashoda Hospitals MD Surender Rao said plants are life support to all the living beings. He said MP Sri Santosh Kumar is

doing a great service to the country through his Green India Challenge programme. AMG MD Dr Nageshwar Reddy said everyone should plant trees and give back to society. He said Green India Challenge is a role model to the world. Star Hospital MD Gopichand said it is a happy coincidence that doctors are participating in this programme on the Doctors' Day. Also planting saplings were Nims director Nagender, Kims MD Bhaskar Rao, Rainbow MDs Ramesh Kancharla and Dinesh Kancharla, Sunshine MD Guruv Reddy, well-known doctors Sanjay Kaluvakunta, Ms Preeti K. Shukla, Sastry, Umesh, Rita and Rajalingam.



Some of the eminent specialists of Apollo Hospitals receive honours from the staff on National Doctors' Day, hosted by Apollo Health City in Hyderabad on Thursday.

## Apollo celebrates Doctors' Day

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

ments, holding placards, banners and applauding the initiative of doctors.

Speaking on the occasion, Y Subramanyam, regional CEO, Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad, said, "Only a doctor is blessed with the magical powers to treat a life, bring health in our lives and be there with us when we lose all hopes. But for patient's, every day is a Doctors' Day as during their moment of distress and trauma no one else can be their saviour."

The hospital staff from different departments participated in the march past and greeted the doctors present on the podium. They appreciated the unparalleled commitment and dedication to patient care in the most trying times by doctors on the occasion.

Security personnel led the march to the melodious tunes of the police band. The other marching contingents included bike ambulances, critical care ambulances and staff from different depart-

ments, holding placards, banners and applauding the initiative of doctors.

## GOVERNOR LAUDS DOCTORS, SAYS THEY ARE TRUE GLOBAL SAVIOURS

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

lost their lives while fighting the deadly Covid-19. They are the true saviours of life and the world now. The medical fraternity is working in highly challenging times," she said.

The Governor spoke at a virtual event, organised by Indian Medical Association (IMA), Hyderabad branch, on the occasion of National Doctors' Day.

## Prof. Pillutla takes over as ISB dean

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JULY 1



Prof. Madan Pillutla

Professor Madan Pillutla has taken over as 6th Dean of Indian School of Business (ISB) from Professor Rajendra Srivastava, who will continue to be at the school as Novartis Professor of Marketing Strategy and Innovation.

Professor Madan Pillutla has researched on how individual biases interact with organisational structures, affecting decisions and interpersonal outcomes. As an award-winning teacher, he has held several leadership positions in the years he had been at the London Business School.

Professor Pillutla. "I am delighted to have this opportunity to serve ISB — a school that has been close to my heart since its inception," said the new dean.

● **AS AN** award-winning teacher, he has held several leadership positions in the years that he has been at the London Business School.

Professor Pillutla. "I am delighted to have this opportunity to serve ISB — a school that has been close to my heart since its inception," said the new dean.

## Some TS districts remain vulnerable to Covid-19

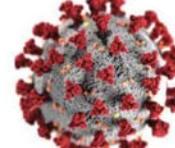
**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

The decline of Covid-19 positive cases is rather slow and there have been reports of sporadic bursts, which imply that safety protocols of masks, hand washing and social distancing cannot be given up, as of now. Experts state that even if 50 per cent of the population wears masks properly, it would go a long way in containing the spread of Coronavirus.

It should be noted that districts like Khammam, Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Suryapet, Bhadravati Kotagudem, Ranga Reddy and Medchal Malkajgiri continue to report more than 50 cases everyday.

The alarming trend would continue in those districts and only a clear

### DAILY COVID BULLETIN DATA



#### Update: Cases | Deaths

Fresh Cases	869
Deaths	8
Tests Done	1,05,123
Active Cases	13,052
Total Cases	6,24,379
Total Deaths	3,669

#### Lowest New Cases

Adilabad, Jogulamba Gadwal, Kamareddy, Komarambheem Asifabad	4
Narayanpet	5
Medchal Malkajgiri, Narayanpet	6
Nirmal, Nizamabad, Vikarabad	8
Wanaparthy	9

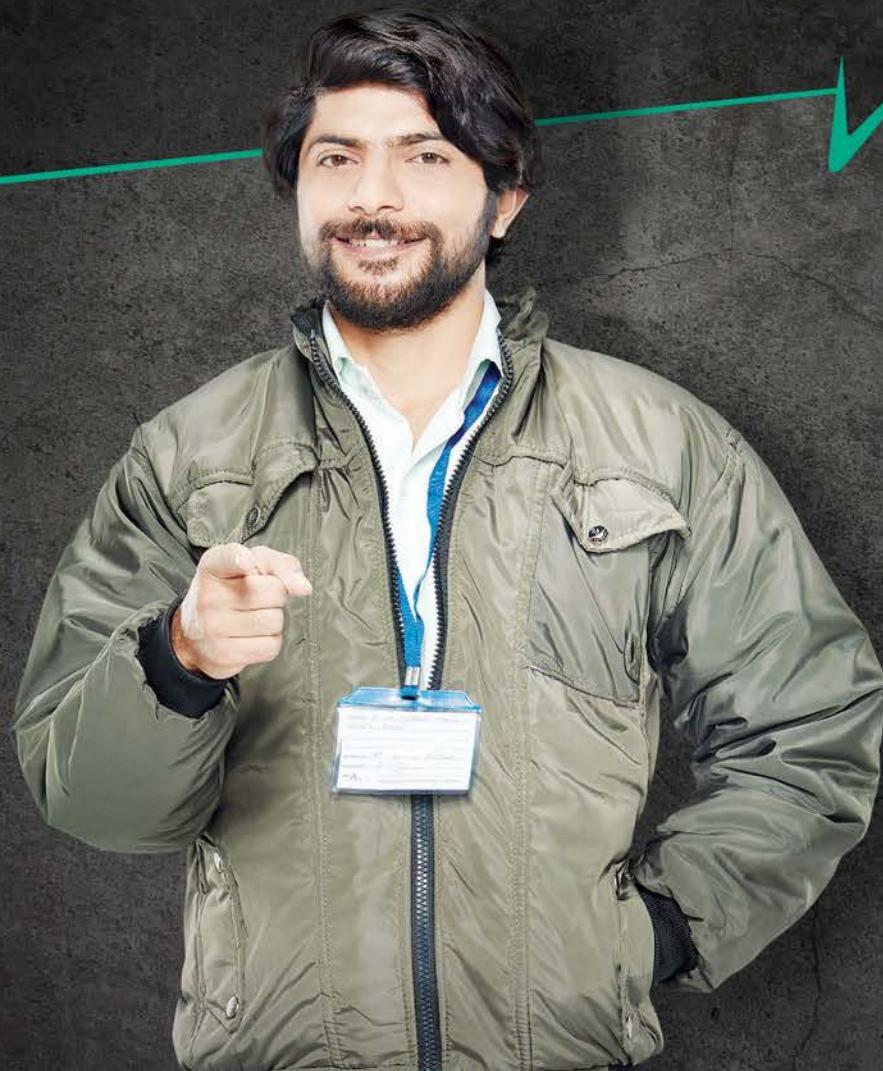
#### Highest New Cases

monitoring for variants can help assess the situation.

At a workshop under the aegis of the Union ministry of health and family welfare, speakers urged

everyone to opt for the vaccine to stay safe from infections. The government has urged all stakeholders to go in for measures that can achieve maximum vaccinations.

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You will always be a Hero to the innumerable lives you touched  
- be it through your progressive vision, your hard work or compassion.  
Your unwavering commitment towards social change is an inspiring legacy  
that will continue to enrich our lives forever.

**Hero**

Hero MotoCorp celebrates the 72nd birth anniversary of

**MR. RAMAN KANT MUNJAL**

2nd July, 1949

**IN BRIEF**  
**Training module for Urdu journos**

Hyderabad, July 1: Urdu Academy is organising a five-day national online training workshop for Urdu journalists from July 13. According to Urdu Academy director-cum-Secretary Dr Mohammed Ghouse, senior journalists and media experts will deliver lectures and share their experiences. Urdu journalists can register their names on <https://bit.ly/3jtVY4C>. Eligible and registered candidates will be informed about the passwords prior to the inauguration session to be held at 10.30 am on July 13.

**COVID TOLL IN TS IS 1.5 LAKH: DASOJU**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

AICC official spokesperson Dasoju Shravan on Thursday demanded the state government to declare the actual number of Covid-19 deaths in Telangana state.

"If the government fails to declare the actual figures, then the kin of those who succumbed to the virus would be denied ex gratia", he said. The TRS government has declared only 3,651 deaths in the state while a Congress party survey showed that 1.50 lakh people had lost their lives to coronavirus, he said.

Shravan was speaking to the media along with TPCC general secretary Sangheth Jagadish, OBC cell chairman Nithi Srinivas and fisheries department chairman Mettu Sasi here on Thursday.

He reminded the state administration that the Supreme Court had directed the government to pay Rs four lakh ex-gratia to the kin of Covid dead. The AICC leader said that the government was trying to shield its own inefficiency by reducing the Covid toll and also to deny payment of compensation to the Covid-hit families.

**ARGUMENTS CONTINUE OVER RAJU'S BAIL**

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Arguments continued on Thursday before the CBI court on a petition filed by Raghurama Krishnam Raju, YSRCP rebel MP, who has requested the court to cancel bail granted to AP Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in the latter's disproportionate assets case.

Counsel for Raghurama Krishnam Raju argued that accused Jagan Mohan Reddy has been violating bail conditions imposed at the time of bail, including appearing before the CBI court. He also maintained that there is a probability of witnesses being influenced, as the accused is Chief Minister of AP. So, the bail deserves to be cancelled.

Opposing these arguments, S. Niranjana Reddy, appearing for the AP Chief Minister, submitted that bail had been granted in 2013. Since then, there has not been a single allegation of any witness being harassed or influenced by Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Further, the AP CM has been cooperating in expeditious disposal of the matter. He has never obtained any stay on proceedings or sought adjournments. It is only the complexity of the matter that is taking this length of time.

**CAUTION NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that my clients B. Srinivas Rao and another both resident of Hyderabad are the General Power of Attorney holders on behalf of N. Narshimha Reddy, S/o Kishna Reddy who is the Mortgagee of Property Bearing Doc No.63-1218/6/21 Part of survey No.199/2 Corresponding to New Number 199 Adm 4200 sq yards known as Vilayath Mandir situated at Begumpet Hyderabad which belongs to late Smt. Basavaraju Begum. It is informed by my clients that one Syed Abdul Rub brought into existence of forged Sale Deed bearing Doc No.2409/74 subsequently he made another forged deed Doc. No. 3057/78 in favour of Moizuddin and another. On the basis of it M/s Gehra Projects Rep. by Sukesh Gupta and M/s Vasav Nirman Pvt Ltd by Verry Jay Kumar and Potti Venkateshwari purported to have purchased the same and have commercial construction of Residential complex.

In this regard a Civil Suit in OS No.952/2014 on the file of XXV Addl. Civil Judge, City Civil Court is pending for which my client is one of a party to the case and OSN 50/2021 on the file of II Senior Civil Judge is pending for performance of contract initiated by my clients. Apart from it criminal proceedings for cheating, impersonation, forgery and is pending on the file of IV Addl. CMM Court, Namely, Hyderabad. Therefore in this regards general public is cautioned to restrain from entering in to any contract to purchase or create charge etc., in an over the said property lest they will not conferred with any lawful rights as it attracts Lendency, and they will pursue litigation.

M/S. ARMAN LAW CONSULTANCY  
SAFAR MIRZA, H. Munawar Khan  
Advocate, #115-174, 5th Floor,  
A.R.Towers, Red Hills, Hyd. Cell: 98493 82625

# KTR starts 7th phase of Haritha Haram

10 per cent of local body funds for 'green budget'

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) minister K.T. Rama Rao on Thursday inaugurated the seventh phase of state government's greening programme—Haritha Haram.

Launching the programme dovetailed with Pattana Pragathi in Hyderabad, he said reports submitted by Forest Survey of India, a central government agency, contain evidence of Haritha Haram being a success in the country. He said he was happy to see 129

seedlings, it is important to take care of them," he said. He pointed out that 10 percent of local body funds are earmarked as green budgets. Further strict rules have been put in place to disqualify public representatives of local bodies if 85 percent of the plants sown do not survive.

Rama Rao and forest minister A. Indrakaran Reddy also inaugurated an urban forest park built at Pedda Amberpet Kalan in the city. The park has been developed with facilities, such as gazebo, medicinal and flower plantations, walking

track, yoga centre, and children's play area.

Indrakaran Reddy said ₹5,900 crore is being spent on the green belt programme. He maintained that forest cover in Telangana has increased by four per cent because of Haritha Haram.

According to forest department special chief secretary A. Shanti Kumari around 1.6 lakh acres of forest land in the state is close to urban areas. She said ₹660 crore have been earmarked for setting up of parks of which 59 have been completed so far.

parks being developed to enhance greenery in rural as well as urban areas. HMDA is setting up 59 urban parks in an area of 1.60 lakh acres, he pointed out. "Apart from planting

quarters here on Thursday, Sanjay Kumar said that it was the BJP's rising popularity that was forcing Rao to go on district tours and attend Dalit empowerment meetings. He demanded the Chief Minister to declare TRS candidate for Huzurabad by-elections. He said that it was because of a fear of failure that Rao was talking of Telangana sentiments.

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Alleging that TRS ministers and legislators were buying their own party leaders least

they switch-over he said that BJP was ready to overcome every challenge posed by the ruling party.

He demanded fulfillment of promises made to Mid Manor settlers. He said youth were ready to join politics but Rao destroyed such aspirations while BJP would stand by them and encourage them to take the plunge.

He said that people were gearing up to give a befitting reply to Rao and TRS in the ensuing Huzurabad by-elections.

## KCR desperate for survival, says Bandi

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

BJP state president Bandi Sanjay Kumar hit out at Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao for provoking Telangana sentiments to ensure his own political survival. He said that Rao would disappear from the political stage in the coming days.

He was speaking after former president of YSRCP Telangana Gattu Srikanth Reddy joined BJP at the party's state head-

quarters here on Thursday.

Sanjay Kumar said that it was the BJP's rising popularity that was forcing Rao to go on district tours and attend Dalit empowerment meetings. He demanded the Chief Minister to declare TRS candidate for Huzurabad by-elections. He said that it was because of a fear of failure that Rao was talking of Telangana sentiments.

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## SHORT TAKES

## IMD ISSUES RAIN ALERT FOR STATE TODAY

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Moderate rains lashed parts of the state on Thursday even as moderate to heavy rainfall lashed parts of Hyderabad. Heavy rains lashed the Qutubullapur area which had received 139.3 mm of rainfall (till 10 pm). Similarly, certain pockets of the state witnessed moderate rainfall to the tune of 84 mm (till 10 pm) at Kollur in the Mancherlai district.

Meanwhile, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a heavy rain fall warning for the state on Friday.

"Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are very likely to occur at isolated places in all districts of Telangana. Heavy rain very likely to occur at isolated places in the districts of Peddapally, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu and Badradri Kothagudem."

## FARMER CONNED, LOSES ₹1 LAKH IN CYBER FRAUD

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

A farmer from Shankarpally in Chevella was conned to the tune of ₹1 lakh by a cyber fraudster, who lured him using a phishing message on a lucky draw.

According to police, the scamster sent an SMS to the victim's mobile phone with a link informing that the mobile number had won a lucky draw worth ₹10 lakh.

The victim clicked on the link to claim the prize money and filled in his personal and bank details. Within a few minutes, the money was deducted in installments from his account. He received messages from the bank and only then did he realise that he was cheated," police said.

Based on his complaint, Cyberabad cyber crime police booked a case and took up investigation.

## SOFTWARE BUGS CAUSE GLITCHES, SAY EXPERTS

From Page 1

Amar Daniel, a software professional in Hyderabad, "Popular social networking sites will have the most high-end servers with high-security firewalls. Sometimes, these servers might encounter some errors due to software bugs, which don't allow a user to download heavy files."

He also added, "Though companies like WhatsApp take utmost care, it could become the target of malware attack. Even if it happens, the errors are rectified within no time, but it gets noticed by some users."

Rajesh Agnoor, an executive producer in a film production house, said, "I found it difficult to download videos or photos for one hour beginning from 10 pm. But I thought it was a problem with my phone."

**RAJESH AGNOOR**, an executive producer in a film production house, said, "I found it difficult to download videos or photos for one hour beginning from 10 pm. But I thought it was a problem with my phone."

## DOCTORS' DAY

720 docs died in 1st wave, 790 in second, says IMA

## Fraternity sees hope in vaccine

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

There were other doctors who died after attending to patients in Covid-care wards.

Dr Deepak Reddy, rejuvenation specialist, died in the second wave while treating Covid patients in Hyderabad. Madhusudhan Reddy, her husband and a software engineer says, "Despite all the precautions, we lost her."

"The zeal to be a doctor and serve the people is what sets these doctors apart. The same spirit and zeal has been inherited by our daughter who is all set to study medicine. For doctors, it is a tough call and yet they are there fighting this infectious disease for all of us," he said.

The medical fraternity says doctors and other hospital staff are 10 times more at risk of dying from Covid19 than the general population. The rate of

their death has increased by 15 times in these Covid times, doctors say.

While vaccination gives protection, there still were many who have suffered from the infection in the second wave.

Infection after vaccination is called breakthrough infections. These infections were mild in 85 per cent of health-care workers. In fraction of them, these proved fatal. With studies still ongoing, data is still emerging on the impact of infection on people post-vaccination.

While Doctor's Day was celebrated across hospitals in a toned down manner, young doctors believe the attitude of the people towards doctors must change.

Dr Arjun Raj, senior resident at Gandhi Hospital and a member of IMA, says, "Doctor's

Day must be celebrated by people. That will show the respect that they have for us. Now, we are struggling to explain to them that we are working hard to save their lives. Trusting your doctor is as important as the treatment you seek from them."

With doctors remembering their deceased colleagues, their friends and associates reaching out to their families on this day has been an emotional experience.

There is also concern among doctor's associations on their medical and life insurance, as many of them do not have these facilities. With the second wave subsiding, these associations have become active urging all to opt for better planning of their financial resources due to the high-risk and uncertainty.

## UK 'graduate route' to benefit Indians

Students can stay back for at least 2 yrs for work

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Great Britain has opened a new graduate immigration route for applications on Thursday, giving Indian students an opportunity to stay longer in the UK even after finishing their studies.

The graduate route provides an opportunity for talented international students, who were awarded their degree, to stay in the UK and work, or look for work at any skill level for at least two years.

For the first time, the vast majority of applicants to the Graduate route will be able

to apply in a fully digital way, using the UK Immigration ID. Check smartphone app. Successful applicants will be issued an eVisa, and be able to conveniently access this status whenever needed to prove their rights in the UK, the British Deputy High Commission in the city said.

Britain's Home Secretary, Priti Patel who opened the programme said, "Under the UK government's points-based immigration system, talented students from India and across the globe now have the opportunity to kick-start their careers in the UK at the highest levels of busi-

ness, science, technology and the arts. Once they've received their world-leading qualification from one of our fantastic educational institutions, this new visa will give them the freedom to fulfil their aspirations and advance their careers."

According to the British Deputy High Commission, this change stands to benefit tens of thousands of students from India. Last year, more than 56,000 Indian nationals were granted student visas – a 13 per cent increase on the previous year and almost a quarter of all student visas the UK issued.

## TWO HELD FOR RUNNING BROTHEL HOUSE

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

KPHB police arrested two men who were running a brothel house by trafficking victims at a rented place in the area.

Mekala Krupakar (29) and Manamolla Anand (22) were pre-

viously absconding when the police nabbed other men involved in the racket, said the police. Based on credible

information, a raid was conducted on Thursday and the two were caught with a victim. They were placed under arrest and sent to judicial remand while the victim was sent to a rehabilitation centre.

Two more accused in the case are reportedly absconding.

PARADIP PORT TRUST	
e-Tender Call Notice	
NO.TD/TMGEN-235(Vol-V)21/1199	Dt. 26/06/2021
Name of the Work: "Allotment of 04 (Four) nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore/Iron Ore Pellet plots at IOHP".	License fee: ₹ 2,81,960/-, Wharfage Charge: ₹ 15,28,690/-, Last date & time of Bid Submission 19.07.2021, 1600 Hrs., Bid Opening Date and time: 19.07.2021, 1700 hrs. Refer our website for details: <a href="https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app">https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app</a>
Sr. Asst. Traffic Manager	PPT/PR/51/21-22 Dt. 01.07.2021

## NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice

Email: cos@ner.railnet.gov.in Website: www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in Fax No: 0551-2200721

TENDER NOTICE No. 05 Date 01.07.2021

## Invitation of Tenders through e-Procurement system

Principal Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur, and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Item No.	Tender Number	Due On	Brief Description of Stores	Reserved to be procured from	Qty. Required	Earnest Money (Rs.)
1	30211254	26.07.2021	Diesel locomotive starter lead Acid Battery 8V/450AH etc.	---	120 Nos.	131790/-
2	29211021	26.07.2021	Contactor Unit Assembly etc.	---	3148 Nos.	380790/-
3	29211025	26.07.2021	Set of Main Gear Assembly etc.	---	3870 Nos.	1213620/-
4	22211677	26.07.2021	140 KN Air Spring etc.	RDSO	70 Nos.	201490/-
5	22201756	26.07.2021	Air Spring Assembly etc.	RDSO	29 Nos.	63940/-
6	2219050E	28.07.2021	Foot Step Argt. To ICF Drg. etc.	---	3604 Nos.	123550/-
7	29211037	28.07.2021	Cover for Q Type Relay etc.	---	44822 Nos.	73020/-
8	22211097	29.07.2021	Set of Asbestos based organic etc.	RDSO	6000 Nos.	423500/-
9	2220151A	30.07.2021	Inside SS Dustbin etc.	---	2300 Nos.	66700/-
10	23210109	30.07.2021	Steel Round Bar 32mm etc.	---	120925 Kgs	127600/-
11	2220119A	30.07.2021	Rubber Spring to RCF Drg etc.	RCF	2500 Nos.	118140/-
12	22201160A	30.07.2021	Axle Box Pivot Bush for flat etc.	RCF	700 Nos.	126040/-
13	22201106	02.08.2021	Yaw Damper for Flat type bogies etc.	RDSO	245 Nos.	57640/-
14	26190347	02.08.2021	Brush (Flat) for paint & varnish etc.	---	553 Nos.	60720/-
15	22201081B	04.08.2021	Pad for secondary suspension etc.	ICF	3150 Nos.	78950/-

CPO/R/S-18 Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955

Never travel on roof and foot boards

RAMAGUNDAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION										
PDDAPALI DISTRICT			Email: rmc@ramgundamcorp.com							
TENDER NOTICE (2nd CALL)										
SI. No.										
NIT No.										
1. Tender Notice No. 194/SE/VD/RMC/2021										
Construction of Vaikunta Dhaman in Sy.No.81 of Perichalpet (V) and Sy.No.209 of Maredupaka Village (SCGL land) in Ramgundam Municipality.										
Schedule of Tender Process: Bid Submission Start Date: 03.07.2021, Bid submission Closing Date & Time: 12.07.2021, 3.00 PM, Technical Bid opening date : 12.07.2021, 4.00 PM, Price Bid Opening : 13.07.2021, 5.00 PM.										
Further details can be seen at e-Procurement @ <a href="https://tender.telangana.gov.in">https://tender.telangana.gov.in</a> . S/o: Commissioner, Ramagundam Municipal Corporation, R.O.: 13402/PP/CL/Advt/1/2021-22										

## GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

Department for Welfare of Disabled and Senior Citizens, Telangana

Vikalangula Sankshema Bhavan, Nalgonda X Roads, Malakpet, Hyderabad - 500 036. Ph.040-24559048

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from eligible retired persons temporarily on contract basis for the posts of Administrative Consultants, Administrative Officers, Account Officer, Superintendent, Senior Assistant and Junior Assistants in this office. The Application Form, Eligibility Criteria, remuneration and other details are available on website [www.wdsdc.telangana.gov.in](http://www.wdsdc.telangana.gov.in) along with supporting documents shall be mailed to wdsdc2021recruitment@gmail.com within 7 days from the date of advertisement published in newspaper. The Director has every right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reasons and no other correspondence in this matter will be entertained.

RO No. 34-DP/CL/AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22

Sd/- Director

## KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of India Undertaking)

## NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Chief Commercial Manager, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., invites Open tender in Two-pocket Bid system through E-Tendering on IRPS portal from eligible parties for the following contract. Tender Notice No.: CO-16/6/2015-COMM dated 02/07/2021.

Name of Contract : Construction and Management of Pit Mounted Electronic Weighbridge at Kolad and Suratkal stations. Period of Contract : Five years.

# DECCAN Chronicle

2 JULY 2021

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

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

The court's decision has come against the government's position that it did have the money but its focus is on providing food, medical care, oxygen, vaccination and on supporting the economy and not to pay compensation to the kin of four lakh odd people who have lost their lives due to the pandemic. The court, however, did not buy the argument and told the government that the relevant section of the National Disaster Management Act, 2005, says that the NDMA shall recommend guidelines for the minimum standards of relief to be provided to persons affected by disaster, which shall include ex gratia assistance on account of loss of life. The government cannot run away from its responsibility, the court reminded it.

The government's argument not only sounded specious but also revealed its disdain for the legal responsibilities when it comes to bringing succour to the most vulnerable sections of people during a national disaster. The government conveniently forgot the fact that it had invoked the appropriate sections of the Act while dealing with the pandemic but chose to ignore those that talked of compensation. The court refused to accept the government interpretation of the law dealing with compensation as "recommendatory"; it is instead mandatory and statutory, the court said.

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

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

## Fuel price paradox

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

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

In the last 12 months, the government's take from fuel tax was a phenomenal ₹5.6 lakh crores, with the Centre taking a lion's share as most recent increases were in the form of cess and surcharge among many other levies.

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

DECCAN CHRONICLE

K. SUDHAKAR  
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**Hyderabad:** 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256  
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patamatna, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234  
**Visakhapatnam:** Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kailasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P.), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285  
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**Anantapur:** Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904  
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**Cochin:** 77, Vivekananda Road, Rammagai, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255  
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KAUSHIK MITTER  
Editor

Subhani



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



Patralekha Chatterjee

Dev 360

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

For millions of people in many parts of the world, things have not changed that much. But when we talk about women's "natural" role in the context of unpaid work, what is traded off, and at what cost?

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

According to the study, which draws on published data from multiple sources including Unesco and OECD, the estimated additional unpaid childcare burden per woman because of pandemic-related care burdens between January and October 2020 in India was 360 hours. The corresponding figure for men was 33 hours. The unpaid childcare burden per woman in India in a "normal" year is estimated to be 2,380 hours.

None of this should

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

after children or adults, women were way ahead. Every day, women spent nearly five hours in unpaid domestic work; for men, the corresponding figure was one hour and 37 minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LETTERS

### NOBLE INITIATIVE

It will be a noble initiative and rare gesture by the Centre if it extends ex gratia to families of Covid-19 victims (SC seeks ex gratia for Covid-hit, DC, July 1).

In most of the affected families, the victims were the sole bread winners. The bereaved families find it hard to fend for themselves. The Centre must speed up this fiscal relief for the affected families.

Syed Ali Karimnagar

### MYSTERY PACKAGE

Even as no one knows who benefited from the ₹20 lakh crore package announced by the Centre when Covid-19 hit India in 2020, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has come out with a new scheme (Nirmala gives ₹6.2L-cr boost, DC, June 29). These beneficiaries are also likely to remain a mystery.

Satya Brahmapur Hyderabad

### WATER DISPUTE

The Modi government keeps a studied silence over the Krishna water dispute between TS and AP (TS to step up fight against AP's illegal projects, DC, July 1). When the Indus Water Treaty was able to end conflicts between arch rivals India and Pakistan, why can't Telugu states not be able to reach a consensus?

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao Hyderabad

### VAX BOOKING

Booking vaccination slot on WWW.COWIN.GOV.IN web application is a big problem. Either it shows NA or completely booked leaving no chance to book the slot. If we try to book a slot for next day it shows NA, but if we merely check for the same slots, it shows as completely booked. I wonder who is booking the slots and from where?

Damodar Joshi Secunderabad

### 50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

#### China can make 40 N-bombs

NEW DELHI, JULY 1. China is now capable of producing about 40 nuclear bombs of 20 kilo ton capacity annually, according to "an estimate" the Defence Ministry said today in its annual report for 1970-71.

The report did not disclose the origin of the estimate.

It said China may now have stock-piled about 150 nuclear bombs and a small number of thermo-nuclear bombs.

Zahid Hussain



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The changing ethnic profile of the group was evident in the fact that non-Pakhtuns now constituted a quarter of the Taliban leadership council and its various commissions. Members of eth-

nic minorities were also handed out senior positions as provincial and district shadow governors and zonal commanders. By inducting Shia Hazaras, the Taliban wanted to make themselves more acceptable by presenting themselves as a multiethnic, multi-sect force. As an example, the Taliban appointed a Shia ethnic Hazara as its shadow district chief before the intra-Afghan peace talks. The hard-line Sunni Taliban had been previously blamed for persecuting the minority group during its stint in power. The Hazaras largely inhabit the central Afghan provinces.

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

By arrangement with Dawn



## SHORT TAKES

## MP MINISTER FALLS FROM DAIS DURING EVENT

DC CORRESPONDENT  
Bhopal, July 1

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

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

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

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

He twisted his ankle, but his condition was normal, doctors said.

Gwalior district superintendent of police Amit Sanghi said the minister underwent a check-up in the hospital and he was normal now.

The minister left for Bhopal to attend an important meeting after he was discharged from the hospital, police said.

## HC: JOURNALISTS NOT EXPECTED TO DRAMATISE NEWS

**Lucknow, July 1:** The Allahabad High Court has rejected the bail plea of a reporter accused of abetting a suicide, saying a journalist is not expected to dramatise sensational incidents and create news by putting a person's life in danger.

A Lucknow bench of Justice Vikas Kunvar Srivastav made the observation while rejecting the plea of city journalist Shamim Ahmad, co-accused of abetting a man's suicide and filming it outside the Uttar Pradesh assembly complex last year.

In an order, the judge said, "A journalist is not expected to dramatise a sensational and horrifying incident and make news by putting his actor in pitiable condition and in danger of death."

The journalist keeps an eye on anticipated or sudden events happening in society and brings them to the information of all people through various news media without any tampering. This is his business, the judge observed on June 21. The order in the case was uploaded on the court's website on Thursday.

Journalists Shamim and co-accused Naushad Ahmad had allegedly contacted a man who was facing eviction from his house and induced him to set himself ablaze in front of the state assembly so that they could film the incident and telecast it on television as it could save him from being thrown out of the premises where he was staying.

## ACB RAIDS SR. IPS OFFICER'S PROPERTIES

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC  
RAIPUR, JULY 1

The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Chhattisgarh police on Thursday conducted raids on at least ten premises linked to ADG-rank IPS officer G.P. Singh in the state.

This was the first time an IPS officer was raided by the anti-graft wing of Chhattisgarh police for allegedly amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Incidentally, the 1994 batch IPS officer headed the ACB and the Economic Offences Wing of Chhattisgarh police a year ago before being shifted as director of state police academy in June last year.

Sources in the ACB said the raids were conducted following complaints that the police officer had amassed disproportionate assets at several places and also unaccounted money.

"The raids started simultaneously at ten places at around six in the morning. The raids are still continuing," sources said. The IPS officer had served as inspector general of police in Raipur, Bilaspur and Durg, considered coveted postings for an IPS officer in Chhattisgarh.

Ten teams of ACB conducted raids in different premises linked to the cop.

Sources said his computer system was seized on suspicion of his alleged involvement in recording the phones of some influential people.

Sources said the ACB sleuths were looking into complaints that the IPS officer has made investments in the mining sector.

## NIA COURT ACQUITS AKHIL GOGOI, OTHERS IN SEDITION CASE

MANOJ ANAND | DC  
GUWAHATI, JULY 1

In what led to release of noted RTI activist turned MLA Akhil Gogoi languishing in judicial custody for the last 18 months, the NIA court on Thursday acquitted him and three others in a sedition case along with other charges.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday had filed an additional chargesheet against Gogoi who has been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, (UAPA) for his alleged role in violent anti-CAA protests and possible links with the Maoist elements.

The NIA court judge, however, in its judgment observed that it is necessary for the NIA to note that the "ambit of sedition does not get stretched beyond permissible limits."

The 120-page judgment of the NIA judge Pranjal Das had some observations on sedition too.

Under the sub-title 'Some General Observations' the court stated, "Though the law of sedition continues in our statute book, its colony (colonial) legacy cannot be overlooked."

He made reference to a 1950 case, Tara Singh v/s State where it was stated, "India is now a sovereign democratic State. Governments may go and be caused to go without the foundations of the State being impaired. A law of sedition thought necessary during a period of foreign rule has become inappropriate by the very nature of the change which has come about."

He also observed, "Nevertheless, as long as it remains on the statute book in the present form, for enforcing the law on sedition, it is desirable for the investigating authorities to be continually trained to conform to the parameters of the law of sedition laid down by the Supreme Court in Kedar Nath Singh (Supra). This is to ensure that while enforcing this penal law by police and other investigating agencies, the ambit of sedition does not get stretched beyond permissible limits imposed by the Supreme Court."

Gogoi, newly elected from the Sivasagar constituency, had been in jail for the last 18 months. More than 12 cases were slapped on him by Assam police following protests led by Gogoi and his organisation, the Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti, against the Citizenship Amendment Act in 2019.

Two of these cases were taken over by the NIA which accused him of having 'Maoist' links and being involved in 'seditious activities'.

Gogoi who was released from judicial custody, soon after the order of the court on Thursday said that the judgement of the NIA court has reaffirmed public faith in the judiciary.

It remains to be seen whether or not the BJP's another ally from Bihar — LJP, which is witnessing heavy infighting — finds representation in the Modi government.

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

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

**THE NIA court judge, in its judgment observed that it is necessary for the NIA to note that the "ambit of sedition does not get stretched beyond permissible limits."**

The health minister said her government's top priority was to ensure that families of Covid victims get the compensation announced by the SC. "We will take a stand that helps people to get any compensation that the government decides," she said.



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

— PTI

## K'TAKA TO BUILD MEMORIAL FOR COVID WARRIORS

**Bengaluru, July 1:** A first-of-its-kind grand Covid Memorial in honour of doctors and paramedical staff who 'martyred' themselves in the fight against Coronavirus would be built in Bengaluru, Karnataka health minister Dr. K. Sudhakar said on Thursday.

"We will build a memorial to pay homage to those doctors who laid down their lives due to Covid while rendering their services on our Arogya Soukha premises. I believe this is the first memorial in the country," Sudhakar said during a function to celebrate National Doctors' Day.

The minister said his department has decided to build it in a unique way in memory of doctors and paramedics, which will be on par with the War Memorial in New Delhi where anyone can go and pay their respects.

The memorial will be a place where everyone can come and pay tribute, he added.

## IIT-M PROFESSOR ALLEGES CASTE DISCRIMINATION

O.P. ARULN | DC  
CHENNAI, JULY 1

An accomplished faculty member in the premier Indian Institute of Technology-Madras cited caste discrimination in the Department of Humanities and Social Science at the institute. A letter sent by him to his faculty members went viral in the social media and kicked up a storm.

In the letter, Assistant Professor Vipin P. Veetil stated that "One of the primary reasons for my leaving the IIT-M is the caste discrimination I have faced at Department of Humanities and Social Science since joining in March 2019."

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

One of the curious phenomena I have observed at the Institute is that the Bayesian prior among many is that caste-discrimination is a rare occurrence. However, my own experience, and conversations with members of SC and OBC communities, suggests that the Bayesian prior is far from true".

Suggesting to set up a committee to study the experiences of the SC and OBC faculty members he said that such a committee should have members of the SC/ ST Commission, OBC Commission, and psychologists. "Furthermore, I do believe people who face the discrimination may benefit by filing complaints with the grievance committee at the Institute and with courts. Societies progress one small step at a time, or do they?", He wrote while saying that he is leaving for another institution.

Normal to above normal rainfall is most likely to be experienced over parts of central India and adjacent areas of peninsular India and Gangetic plains, it said.

IMD Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said rainfall is not expected to be good in the first week of July and the precipitation activity is likely to pick up in the second half of the second week of the month.

— PTI

## Prime Minister hails contribution of doctors in saving lives from Corona

New Delhi, July 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hailed the contribution of doctors in saving lives from Coronavirus and said his government has given maximum thrust on augmenting the healthcare infrastructure in the country.

commended the medical fraternity for spreading awareness about its helpful role in dealing with post-Covid complications.

The Prime Minister said work for its propagation that should have been done in the last century is being done now.

He also suggested that studies on yoga could be published in international journals.

Noting that there is not much documentation available about the last century's pandemic, he urged doctors to undertake research and studies in their dealing with Covid and its various aspects, including benefits of vaccines, early diagnosis and various treatments.

Highlighting "limitations" of the medical infrastructure that was created in the country over several decades and

how it was neglected in earlier times, he added, "In our country, population pressure makes this challenge even more difficult. But despite this, India's per lakh population rate of infection and death rate has still been manageable compared with more developed countries."

"Losing the life of even one person is very saddening but India has also saved the lives of lakhs of its people from coronavirus. A big credit for it goes to our hard working doctors, healthcare workers and front line workers," he said.

Noting that the virus is new and is mutating, the prime minister said India's doctors, with their knowledge and experience, are fighting the challenges posed by the virus.

"Our government has given maximum priority

to healthcare. Last year, during the 1st wave, we had allotted ₹15,000 crore to improve our health infrastructure. This year, allocation of budget for healthcare is over ₹2 lakh crore," he said.

Till 2014, where there were only six AIIMS in the country, work on 15 new AIIMS has already started in the last seven years, he pointed out.

The number of medical colleges has also increased by about one and a half times, he said.

Now, the government has come up with a Credit Guarantee Scheme of ₹50,000 crore to strengthen the health infrastructure in such areas where there is a lack of health facilities.

Modi also paid tributes to doctors who lost their lives while combating the Covid pandemic and expressed condolences to their families.

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.

## JD(U), AIADMK too may join Modi team

From Page 1

The BJP's ally JD(U) could also see two of its leaders in Team Modi while the AIADMK could also see a representation in the Modi government.

It remains to be seen whether or not the BJP's another ally from Bihar — LJP, which is witnessing heavy infighting — finds representation in the Modi government.

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

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



Sarbananda Sonowal



Jyotiraditya Scindia



Sushil Modi

## North India has to wait longer for rains

New Delhi, July 1: The unending wait for rains and respite from searing heat in north India, including Delhi, is likely to stretch a bit longer as there are no favourable conditions for advancement of the Southwest Monsoon till July 7, the IMD said on Thursday, forecasting an overall normal precipitation in the country for July.

The IMD has also cautioned that the break in the monsoon could impact agricultural operations like sowing and transplantation of crops, irrigation scheduling, power requirement.

Although the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the coun-

try as a whole will receive normal rainfall in July, it has a forecast of below normal to normal rainfall probability over many areas of northwest India and some parts of south peninsula, central, east and northeast India.

Normal to above normal rainfall is most likely to be experienced over parts of central India and adjacent areas of peninsular India and Gangetic plains, it said.

IMD Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said rainfall is not expected to be good in the first week of July and the precipitation activity is likely to pick up in the second half of the second week of the month.

— PTI

## Minister says govt's top priority is to ensure that kin of Covid victims get compensation

## Covid toll underreported, says Kerala Opposition

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 1

Faced with criticism over alleged underreporting of Covid-19 deaths, Kerala health minister Veena George on Thursday said the government was willing to review Covid death toll in the state.

The health minister said her government's top priority was to ensure that families of Covid victims get the compensation announced by the SC. "We will take a stand that helps people to get any compensation that the government decides," she said.

WHO maintained that the government was following the protocol laid down by WHO and ICMR for determining and declaring Covid deaths. As of now the hospital confirms the death first through the duty doctor or medical superintendent. The data is provided online to the district authorities who consolidate the figures. "We are having a highly transparent mechanism. A software was developed for this purpose and staff was also trained," she said.

The minister said the government was willing to follow fresh guidelines, if any, issued by the ICMR and

the exact number of Covid deaths. It should stop the practice of underreporting deaths to gain credit for infection containment," he said.

There are major discrepancies in Covid data compilation, he added.

Meanwhile, Kerala reported 12,868 new cases. The state continues to report the highest number of cases in the country. The state reported 124 Covid deaths on Thursday taking the death toll to 13,359.

The Centre has directed the chief secretary to scale up disease containment activities in at least five districts.

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC  
BHUBANESWAR, JULY 1

Janaki Ballav Patnaik, son-in-law of former chief minister Biju Patnaik, said that the data regarding the Covid mortality in the state has been fudged and concealed. The senior BJD leader said that desperate race to be on the top and the attempt to cling onto past glory seem to have resulted in such factual death data manipulation.

Patnaik said that due to administrative failure and negligence, a controversy has erupted over the Covid-19 toll in the state which is further affecting the image of the Odisha government. Had the actual number of deaths been revealed, there would not have been much loss of face. The ill attempt of hiding the data is ruining the sanctity of the administrative machinery, he said.

## SHORT TAKES

**BIHAR MINISTER THREATENS TO RESIGN**

**Patna, July 1:** Bihar social welfare minister Madan Sahani on Thursday threatened to resign in protest against high-handedness of bureaucrats in his department.

Sahani, who belongs to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD (U), alleged that he was disengaged over officers concerned putting on hold transfers and postings he had approved in his capacity as a cabinet member.

"If the officers have the temerity to do so, what is the point of my remaining in my chair? I do not want to remain a minister just to enjoy some facilities", Sahani told reporters at his residence.

Interestingly, when asked if he had shared his grievances with the Chief Minister, Sahani replied "why should I do so? He would think I am taking recourse to blackmail".

Sahani is known to be a trusted aide of Kumar. He was inducted into the cabinet in February this year despite having lost his Bahadurpur assembly seat in Darbhanga district in the elections last year.

**POWER CRUNCH: PUNJAB REDUCES OFFICE TIMINGS**

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

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

So far, there is no decision on banning the use of air conditioners (ACs) in government offices, which will function from 8 am to 2 pm from Friday till further orders, an official spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said Chief Minister Amarinder Singh appealed to all government offices to make judicious use of electricity, adding that the situation is dire as the peak demand in the state has touched a whopping 14,500 MW.

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

Amid rising demand and prolonged dry spell, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) also appealed to government and public sector offices in the state to use electricity judiciously and switch off ACs up to July 3.

**NCP: ASSEMBLY SPEAKER WILL BE FROM CONG.**

**SONU SHRIVASTAVA | DC**  
MUMBAI, JULY 1

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday said that though the new Maharashtra assembly Speaker will be from the Congress party, the candidate will be decided by all three ruling parties in Maharashtra.

The Maharashtra government has decided to hold an election for the speaker's post during the monsoon session which is scheduled to begin from July 5. The decision came after the Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari asked Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray to take "appropriate action" regarding holding the election of speaker.

Speaking with the reporters, Mr. Pawar said that when the MVA (Maha Vikas Aghadi) government was formed, it was decided to give the speaker's post to the Congress party. If an election of the Maharashtra Assembly speaker would be taken, it would be decided by all the parties.

The Congress party is contemplating over Prithviraj Chavan, Sangram Thopate, Suresh Wadudkar and Amin Patel for the Assembly speaker's post.

According to the sources, in a coordination meeting on Thursday among all three Constituents of MVA, it was also discussed to field a senior most legislator for the speaker's post.

In the first week of February 2021, senior Congress leader and legislator Nana Patole had resigned from the post of Maharashtra Assembly Speaker. And later Mr. Patole was appointed as Maharashtra Congress president.



A doctor treats a military dog inside a government veterinary hospital in Srinagar. The number of patients coming to the hospital have increased after restrictions to check the spread of the Coronavirus were lifted by the government. The team of doctors have been giving telemedicine to most of the pet owners during lockdown. — AP

**Delhi High Court says stray dogs have a right to food**

Court says feed them without causing nuisance, harassment to others

**Odisha achieves milestone in saving newborn pythons**

**AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC**  
BHUBANESWAR, JULY 1

Odisha forest department officials and Snake Helpline personnel on Thursday successfully released 27 newborn pythons into the wild at Niala in Khurda district.

The newborns were hatched through artificial incubation following abandonment of the eggs by the mother python after 18 days of natural incubation in a small cave.

Any person having compassion for stray dogs can feed them at their private entrance or driveway of their house or any other place not shared with other residents but no one can restrict the other from feeding of dogs, until and unless it is causing harm or harassment to them, it said.

Community dogs (stray/street dogs) have the right to food and citizens have the right to feed community dogs but in exercising this right, care and caution should be taken to ensure that it does not impinge upon the rights of others or cause any harm, hindrance, harassment and nuisance to other individuals or members of the society, Justice J.R. Midha said in a recent 86-page verdict.

The court's order came in a case of dispute between two residents of a locality on the issue of feeding stray dogs. One of them sought direction to restrain the other from feeding street dogs near the entrance of a property.

The court formed a committee, comprising the Director of Animal Husbandry Department or his nominee, senior officers of all municipal corporations, Delhi Cantonment Board and certain advocates, to

Later, a settlement took place between the two and a designated place was fixed for feeding the canines.

The verdict also discussed dog categories based on the roles they play service, therapy, rescue, hunting, tracking, cadaver, detection, police, and cancer detection dogs.

The court said there is a need to spread awareness that animals have a right to live with respect and dignity and asked the AWBI to carry out an

● **THE NEWBORNS** were hatched through artificial incubation following abandonment of the eggs by the mother python after 18 days of natural incubation in a small cave.

support by the Snake Helpline and logistical system provided by the state forest department, an artificial incubation system was developed.

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

"While Wednesday's spectacle of newborns emerging out of the eggs

was overwhelming and awesome, today's scene was nonetheless breathtaking. We released the hatchlings near a shallow water body in Chandaka forest. They merrily crawled into the water body and disappeared. Our 38 days of hard work has finally borne fruits. What is more satisfying is that the success rate of hatching is 100 per cent," said Mr Mallick.

This is not for the first time Subhendu Mallick and the forest officials have shown their expertise in artificial incubation of python eggs.

In June 2016, 22 python eggs found from forest were hatched successfully through artificial incubation in Rairakhol area of Sambalpur district under the guidance of Subhendu.

Later, a settlement took place between the two and a designated place was fixed for feeding the canines.

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● **THE HIGH COURT** said street dogs perform the role of community scavengers and also control rodent population in the area thus preventing spread of diseases like Leptospirosis.

Implement the guidelines and asked it to hold its first meeting within four weeks.

The court said there is a need to spread awareness that animals have a right to live with respect and dignity and asked the AWBI to carry out an

awareness campaign in association with media.

Animals have a right under law to be treated with compassion, respect and dignity. Animals are sentient creatures with an intrinsic value. Therefore, protection of such beings is the moral responsibility of each and every citizen including the governmental and non-governmental organisations.

We have to show compassion towards all living creatures. Animals may be mute but we as a society have to speak on their behalf. No pain or agony should be caused to the

animals. Cruelty to animals causes psychological pain to them. Animals breathe like us and have emotions. The animals require food, water, shelter, normal behaviour, medical care, self-determination, it said.

The high court said street dogs perform the role of community scavengers and also control rodent population in the area thus preventing spread of diseases like Leptospirosis and they also provide companionship to those who feed them and act as their stress relievers.

**SC seeks Centre's reply on poll violence in WB**

**PARMOD KUMAR | DC**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

The Supreme Court on Thursday sought response from the Centre, West Bengal government and Election Commission on a plea seeking an SIT probe into the causes and reasons of post-poll violence in West Bengal.

A bench comprising Justice Vineet Saran and Justice Dinesh Maheshwari sought responses from the Centre, West Bengal government and the poll panel on the plea which also sought compensation for the victims of post-poll violence and their families. The plea, which also sought an SIT probe under the supervision of the top court, has asked

that the people responsible for the violence be identified and action be taken against them.

The plea filed by Hindu Front for Justice, advocate Ranjana Agnihotri and one Jitendra Singh has alleged that thousands of residents of West Bengal are being terrorised, penalised and tortured by workers of the Trinamul Congress for supporting the BJP during Assembly elections.

It sought direction that the Central government and state government take steps for rehabilitation of the people who have been forced to migrate to Assam or any other place in India due to violence that erupted after May 2, when election results were announced.

The High Court also upheld the trial court order acquitting Kumar's business rival Ramesh Taurani.

Gulshan Kumar, the founder of T-Series, was shot dead while coming out of a temple in Mumbai on August 12, 1997.

The trial court had passed judgment on April 29, 2002. The state government had filed an appeal challenging acquittal of

accused Ramesh Taurani of Tips Industries.

The division bench of Justice S.S. Jadhav and Justice N.R. Borkar however dismissed the appeal as it couldn't prove charges against him beyond reasonable doubt.

The High Court partly allowed State's appeal against acquittal of Abdul Rashid Merchant, brother of Abdul Rauf, and held him guilty of murder and criminal conspiracy.

The court directed him to either surrender before Sessions court or the DN Nagar police station. A non-availability warrant would be issued against him if he failed to surrender as per High Court order.

The high court denied him remissions looking at his past conduct in absconding twice.

Kumar was killed by three hitmen outside Shiv

Temple in Andheri on August 12, 1997. Kumar tried to escape through the bylanes of the slum but the assailants, who fired in the air to disperse the crowd first, fired 16 bullets to kill him on the spot.

Abdul Rauf from sections 392 (punishment for robbery) and 397 (robbery, or dacoity, with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt) but didn't grant him any remissions.

The high court denied him remissions looking at his past conduct in absconding twice.

Kumar was killed by three hitmen outside Shiv

**Finding ways to jam drones tops NTRO's agenda**

**RAJNISH SHARMA | DC**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

The National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) has started work on ambitious project to jam or freeze the frequency of a drone and its "mother station or control unit on the ground."

Once developed, this technology will completely disable drones which fly into Indian territory to carry out subversive activities like the one witnessed at an Air Force Station in Jammu.

The NTRO is the technical intelligence and surveillance agency of the Government and is involved in counter-terror operations.

Sources said apart from the NTRO project, the Centre is also examining technical surveillance equipment and jammers available in other countries that can freeze or intercept the frequency or signals of a drone flying into Indian territory.

Meanwhile, the Home Ministry has already handed over the investigations into the drone attack to the NIA. Initial investigations have already confirmed the involvement of terror outfit Lashkar-e-Tayyaba.

"We are working on a two pronged strategy to deal with future drone attack. One is to devise a technology to freeze the frequency of these flying objects and secondly deploy special radars that can detect hostile drone coming into Indian territory from across the border," a senior security official pointed out.

**Army chief says character of warfare changing**

**PAWAN BALI | DC**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

to prevent any attacks on critical facilities by drones and their use, whether by state or non-state actors," he said.

The Army Chief's remarks come in the backdrop of the first-ever drone attack on a military base on Indian soil, when two drones were used to drop low-intensity improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on the Jammu Air Force Station on the night of June 26-27.

Gen. Naravane said the character of warfare has been changing continuously and the advent of drones and counter-drone systems "has radically altered the way we think in the future".

On Jammu and Kashmir, the Army Chief said that since the ceasefire agreement between the DGOs of India and Pakistan in February this year, the situation in the UT had seen a marked improvement, especially regarding terrorism. "There has been little or no infiltration from across the Line of Control. And the number of incidents, terror-related incidents in the Valley have also seen a considerable decline," said the Army Chief.

We are seized of this problem and have put in place certain measures... all our troops on the ground have been sensitised to this evolving threat. We are developing capabilities to deal with that, whether by state-sponsored (elements) or by states themselves," he said.

The Army Chief said capabilities are being developed to deal with the drone threat, both in the kinetic and in non-kinetic realms. "We are catering for both the offensive use of drones, (and) also focusing on defensive measures on the counter-drone systems or measures that we need to adopt

Don Dawood Ibrahim. It was also claimed that gangster Abu Salem and music composer Nadeem Saifee were also present at the meetings.

Police had alleged that Kumar was murdered due to business rivalry and that music baron Ramesh Taurani had paid ₹25 lakh contract money to Salem to kill Kumar.

However, police could not prove the charges and Taurani and 17 other accused were acquitted by a trial court.

Nadeem was in London at the time of Kumar's murder and has not returned since then. The government had sought extradition of Nadeem but lost the case in United Kingdom court.



**SHORT TAKES**  
**BILL COSBY  
RELEASED FROM PRISON**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further details were not immediately available.

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

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

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

**DEADLY HEAT WAVE SLAMS CANADA, U.S.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

— AP

# No foreign force can bully China: Xi

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

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

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

Xi, who is also the General Secretary of the CPC and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, warned that any foreign force will be allowed to bully China, an apparent reference to the US.

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

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

— PTI



Balloons fly during the celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China in Beijing on Thursday. — AFP



Gholamhossein Ejehi  
Ejehi

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

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

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

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters in Iran, announced Ejehi's appointment, urging him to advocate for justice and fight corruption.

In a decree, he praised Ejehi's valuable experience, shining records and legal competence.

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

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

Thursday's announcement was widely expected as Ejehi, considered close to Khamenei, had served as deputy judiciary chief after a long history in the branch, including as prosecutor general.

In that post, from 2009-2014, he pushed to further limit access to the internet and popular social media apps, sparking worries among his opponents over the rise of social oppression.

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

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

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

— AP

## Delta shadow over EU Covid travel pass

### Double Covid jab seems to control Delta variant: EMA

The Hague, July 1: Two doses of Covid vaccine

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

MARCO CAVALERI,  
Head, European Medicines Agency

are of concerns caused by the rapid spread of the Delta variant.

We should avoid travel bans" within the European Union.

— DIDIER REYNEDERS  
EU Justice Commissioner

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

The darkening context could limit the effects of the EU certificate.

"There is no doubt that the tourist industry could do with a boost in time for the summer season," economic research consultancy Capital Economics said in a note.

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

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

— AFP

"Right now it seems the four vaccines approved in the European Union are protecting against all the strains circulating in Europe, including the Delta variant," he said.

"Emerging data from real world evidence are showing that two doses of vaccines are protective against the Delta variant."

Four vaccines are currently approved for use in the EU: Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson.

— AFP

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

London, July 1: Voicing concern over many countries failing to vaccinate their people, WHO chief Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Thursday called for vaccinating at least 10 per cent of the population of every country by September as he warned that the end of the year, and at least 70 per cent by the middle of next year.

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

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

Asserting that when some countries cannot

vaccinate, it's a threat to all countries, Ghebreyesus called for a global effort to vaccinate at least 10 per cent of the population of every country by September, at least 40 per cent by the end of the year, and at least 70 per cent by the middle of next year.

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

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

— PTI

### Study: Viral load less in re-infected

Washington, July 1: People who contract Covid-19 even after vaccination are likely to have a lower viral load or quantity, experiencing a shorter infection time and have milder symptoms than unvaccinated individuals, according to a study of mRNA preventives in the US.

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

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

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

Among the participants, SARS-CoV-2 infections were identified in five participants who were fully vaccinated and 11 who were partially vaccinated, as well as in 156 unvaccinated participants. The research found that participants who were partially or fully vaccinated with the Pfizer and Moderna messenger RNA vaccines at the time of infection had a viral load that was 40 per cent less than that of unvaccinated participants.

— PTI

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

— PTI

gious Delta variant of the virus has accounted for the bulk of recent new infections in Moscow and some other regions.

The nation's chief sanitary doctor, Anna Popova, confirmed Tuesday that the authorities also registered the first contagion with the Delta Plus variant. The new guidelines come as infections in Russia soar and vaccination rates lag behind many other nations.

— AP

## Russia booster shots amid spike

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

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said he had received a booster shot and urged city residents to follow suit. "In view of the difficult epidemiological situation today, doctors

recommend having booster shots six months after vaccination," Sobyanin said on his blog. "I'm pleading with you not to miss a chance to get additional protection from the virus, which is particularly important amid the spread of a more aggressive delta variant."

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

Sputnik Light version.

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

berlin election supervisor said. Local officials must now set a date for the vote, which is widely expected to be held on September 26, the same day as elections for a new federal parliament and Berlin government.

The "Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co." initiative, named after Berlin's biggest property group, targets companies with more than 3,000 apartments in their portfolios.

The movement would like to see more than 240,000 homes placed under a public agency to be administered "democratically, transparently and in the public interest". In a city of 3.7 million residents where more than 80 percent rent their homes, the capital's attractiveness to investors and structural lack of housing send prices soaring by nearly 85 percent between 2007 and 2019.

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

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

"Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co." bases its claims on Article 15 of the German constitution, which stipulates that "land, natural resources and means of production may... be transferred to public ownership" in the public interest in return for compensation. Adopted in 1949 with the founding of the

West German state, the article was long forgotten during the Cold War with its tensions between capitalist West and communist East.

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

It sharply criticised the initiative's aims as counterproductive "because it doesn't create a single square metre of additional living space". "We need more housing built to ease the market pressure, that is why we will be stepping up building in the coming years in Berlin," a company spokesman said.

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

— AFP

### Court had ruled government policy to freeze rents for five years as illegal

## Berlin to vote on bid to combat housing crisis

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

A grassroots petition campaign fuelled by anger over surging housing costs submitted 183,711 valid signatures, "more than the total required" of around 172,000 to put the question to a general ballot, the Be-

rlin election supervisor said. Local officials must now set a date for the vote, which is widely expected to be held on September 26, the same day as elections for a new federal parliament and Berlin government.

The "Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co." initiative, named after Berlin's biggest property group, targets companies with more than 3,000 apartments in their portfolios.

The movement would like to see more

## quick BITES

### INDICATORS %

Sensex	52,318.60	-0.31
Nifty 50	15,680.00	-0.26
S&P 500*	4,308.61	0.26
Dollar (₹)	4,305.76	0.19
Pound Sterling (₹)	1,466	0.022
Euro (₹)	88.38	0.004
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,310.526	1.13
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	75.76	1.53
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.039	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.456	0.012

\* As of 8:30 PM IST

### QR code printing on B2C invoices deferred till Oct.

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

### Special drive on to promote govt crop insurance



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

### Srei Infra board okays ₹2,500-cr fundraising

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

### Biocon official barred from mkt for 3 months

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

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## All sellers in the network have to register with DPIIT Registration must for direct selling players

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, JULY 1

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

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

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



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

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

In India there are more

than 450 registered direct selling companies and several others which are not registered.

As per the new rules, not just the entity, but the individual sellers who are part of the network also will have to register with the DPIIT.

According to the World Federation of Direct Selling Associations, India had 5.7 million direct sellers in 2018-19.

Rajat Banerjee, vice chairman, Indian Direct Selling Association (Idsa), welcomed the government's move. "However,

there are a few areas. Idsa needs to engage in discussion with the government," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

MOUMITA BAKSHI CHATTERJEE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

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

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

As per the letter, seen by PTI, the company has requested the Department of Telecom to grant it another year of the moratorium to pay this instalment in April 2023 and has made it clear that "it is almost inevitable" that the firm will not be able to pay the amount in April 2022.

VIL has also said that while it is working on raising new funding for the last six months,

"investors are not willing to invest in the company because they believe that unless there is a significant improvement in consumer tariffs, the health of the industry will not recover and they will incur a loss on their investment".

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

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

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

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

## RBI Guy flags rising cyber-attacks as risk

### BANKS TOLD TO TRACK RETAIL, MSME LOANS

Mumbai, July 1: The second wave of the pandemic took a "grievous toll" on India, but the dented economic activity has started recovering from late-May, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday.

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

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

Similarly, Hyundai Motor posted 90 per cent rise in sales to 40,496 cars, up from 21,320 units sold a year ago.

Sales at Tata Motors rose 111 per cent at 24,110 units against 11,419 units last year while sales at Mahindra and Mahindra doubled to 16,913 units in June as against 8,075 units last year.

Passenger vehicle sales at

## Cadila applies for Covid vaccine approval

SANGEETHA G  
CHENNAI, JULY 1

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

The company conducted the clinical trial for its vaccine in India in over 50 centres and has tested in adolescent population in the 12-18 years age group. "We expect to produce 1

Around 1,000 subjects were enrolled in this age group and the vaccine was found to be safe and very well tolerated.

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

"We expect to produce 1

crore vaccine doses per month from August onwards and 5 crore doses by December this year. Our target is to produce 10-12 crore vaccine doses in a year," Patel said. Once the vaccine gets approval, the company plans to launch ZyCoV-D in 45-60 days.

The vaccine has to be stored at 2 to 8 degrees Celsius but has shown good stability at temperatures of 25 degrees for at least three months, says the company. This makes it easier to transport and store.

## Jet Airways creditors to recoup just 5% money

RAGINI SAXENA  
JULY 1

Lenders to Jet Airways India Ltd stand to receive just about 5 per cent of what they're owed, another blow to banks in the nation that are growing increasingly accustomed to paltry recoveries.

The new owners of Jet Airways -- Dubai-based businessman Murari Lal Jalan and Kalrock Capital Management Ltd in London -- have proposed paying Rs 380 crore (\$51 million) of the Rs 7,810 crore they owe to financial creditors, according to a bankruptcy order tabled late Wednesday.

Some Rs 190 crore will be paid upfront within six months while the rest will come from the proceeds of issuing zero-coupon bonds. The new owners have also offered the lenders a 9.5 per cent stake in Jet Airways and a 7.5 per cent interest in Jet Privilege, the carrier's loyalty and rewards management company.

In India, recoveries from resolved

## MANUFACTURING PMI DIPS IN JUNE

MADHUSUDAN SAHAO  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

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

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

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

by major payment gateways has hit transactions, according to social media and users.

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

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

India and Tata Motors.

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

Last month,

Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai Motor, Tata Motors, Mahindra, Kia and Toyota Kirloskar Motor logged big jump in sales.

Passenger vehicle sales at

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



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

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

CDGL on Wednesday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 306.54 crore for the financial year ended March 31, 2021 and its revenue from operation was down 73.4 per cent Rs 400.81 crore.

According to CDGL, in the earlier year, to attract new customers, vending division of the company used to install custom-made cabinets at customers' locations. Custom-built cabinets are fixtures and cannot be removed and do not have any salvage value. "In this situation, 29,996 cabinets are discarded," it said. —PTI

## DROPS THAT COUNT Many businesses are going to customers for money and offering great yields

### How crowdfunding can revive small businesses

TINA OREM  
NEW YORK, JULY 1

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

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

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

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

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

There are so many angel investors and investors in general out there who had a lot of skepticism about putting money into

## SHORT TAKES

## ICC bans corrupt Emirates players

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

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

Both cricketers had taken 15,000 AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham totalling USD 4,083 approx) from an Indian bookie, identified as Mr 'Y' in the ICC chargesheet for fixing the qualifying round games. Hayat is a mediumpacer while Ahmed is a batsman. — PTI

## Handball player Srinivas dead

Hyderabad: Former Hyderabad handball player Dr N. Srinivas Rao passed away due to cardiac arrest on Tuesday. He was 60 and is survived by his wife, son and daughter. His last rites will be held on

Friday after his son returns from The Netherlands.

Srinivas represented Osmania University and the erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh at the Senior

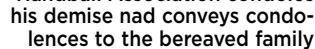
Nationals. He was a doctor by profession.

"The Hyderabad District Handball Association condoles to the bereaved family members," HDHA secretary S.

R. Sanjeev Kumar said in a statement.



Handball Federation of India president Arishnapanali Jagan Mohan Rao (left) signs the document for a professional women's league in Jaipur.



Arishnapanali Jagan Mohan Rao announced on Thursday.

The decision was taken at HFI's annual executive meeting here on Wednesday. "The Bluesport Entertainment company and the HFI had already entered into an agreement for the men's league last December and they now have joined hands for a women's league too," Rao said.

"The men's league is set to be organised at the SMS Stadium in Jaipur. The venue for the

women's league will be announced shortly. The Corona threat has delayed the men's league but as soon as it subsides you will see top stars in action," said HFI executive director Anandeshwar Panday.



Pro league for handball women

Jaipur: The Handball Federation of India will organise a separate professional league for women players along with the men's league that has been delayed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, HFI president

Arishnapanali Jagan Mohan Rao announced on Thursday.

The decision was taken at HFI's annual executive meeting here on Wednesday. "The Bluesport

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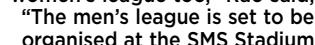
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sides you will see top stars in

action," said HFI executive

director Anandeshwar Panday.



Hummel, sponsor of Hyderabad kit

Hyderabad: Indian Super League side Hyderabad FC have entered into a partnership with Danish sportswear brand Hummel, signing them as the team's official kit partner for the upcoming 2021-22 season.

The Danish sports brand is looking at this partnership as an avenue to invest in Indian football and explore new paths to develop the sport in India.

"Football is ingrained in our brand DNA. We have global partnerships with multiple renowned clubs," Hummel India director Soumava Naskar said.



England women ease past India

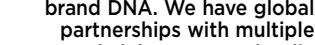
Taunton: Skipper Mithali Raj's second successive fifty went in vain as Sophie Dunkley produced a fighting half-century after Kate Cross' five-wicket haul to help England Women register a five-wicket win over India Women and grab an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series on Wednesday.

Chasing India's below-par 221, Dunkley (73 not out) and Katherine Brunt (33 not out) produced a 92-run partnership for the unconquered sixth wicket to take the team home.

**Brief scores:** India 221 lost to

England 225/5 (Dunkley 73,

Winfield-Hill 42, Pooman 2/63).



Feeding mums can bring babies to Games

Toronto, July 1: Canadian basketball player Kim Gaucher, who is breastfeeding her infant daughter, has won in her quest to bring the baby to the Tokyo Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee says nursing mothers will now be allowed to bring their babies to Tokyo.

The move comes after Gaucher made an emotional plea via Instagram to have 3-month-old Sophie travel with her to the Games.

Gaucher, a 37-year-old from Mission, British Columbia, said the IOC had stipulated that no family could travel

to Tokyo due to Covid-19

restrictions, but Gaucher pointed out that international media and sponsors may travel to Tokyo and a capped number of Japanese spectators will be allowed in venues.

"Japanese fans are going

to be in attendance, the arenas are going to be half full, but I will not have access to my daughter?" Gaucher asked.

"We've tried appeals.

Everyone says they're on

board, but nobody can do

anything. Let's see if we

can make a difference. It's

2021. Let's make working

moms normal."

Gaucher said that she

# RAISE THE BAR

Barty digs deep to enter Wimbledon second round

Wimbledon (England), July 1: Top-ranked Ashleigh Barty advanced to the third round of a Wimbledon women's draw depleted of other top contenders by beating Anna Blinkova 6-4, 6-3 Thursday.

No. 3-seeded Elina Svitolina became the latest upset victim, and eight of the top 11 players in the WTA rankings are out of the tournament due to defeat, withdrawal or injury.

Barty avoided an exit by overcoming an uncharacteristically unreliable serve. She committed nine double-faults, including three in the first game, and was broken three times. But she also hit 33 winners to 12 for Blinkova.

"Not my best serving day," Barty said. "I was just out of rhythm a little bit. Some days you feel like you're 8 feet tall and you can't miss the box. Other days, like today, you feel like you're 3-foot nothing. It's certainly nothing that will concern me over a longer period."

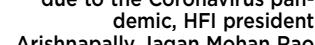
Barty, the 2019 French Open champion, needs two more wins to become a Wimbledon quarterfinalist for the first time.

Svitolina lost to Magda Linette of Poland, who earned the biggest victory of her career 6-3, 6-4. Linette, ranked 44th, had never before beaten a top 15 player in a completed match.

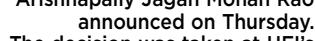
In men's play, fourth-seeded Alexander Zverev hit 13 aces, lost only 12 points on his serve and advanced to the third round by beating Tennys Sandgren 7-5, 6-2, 6-3. Zverev was the U.S. Open runner-up in 2020 and a semifinalist at last month's French Open, but he has never been past the round of 16 at Wimbledon.

Britain advanced three men to the third round for the first time in 22 years. Cameron Norrie received a standing ovation on Court 1 when he won to join Andy Murray and Dan Evans in the round of 32 by sweeping wild card Alex Bolt 6-3, 6-1, 6-2.

No. 7 Matteo Berrettini beat Botic van de Zandschulp 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5). No. 13 Gael Monfils lost to Pedro Martinez 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (6-5).



Men's singles second round: Pedro Martinez (ESP) bt Gael Monfils (FRA) x13 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5); Matteo Berrettini (ITA) x7 bt Botic van de Zandschulp (NED) 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4); Daniil Medvedev (RUS) x2 bt Carlos Alcaraz (ESP) 6-4, 6-1, 6-2; Christian Garin (CHI) x17 bt Marc Polmans (AUS) 7-6 (7-3), 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (7-5); Roberto Bautista Agut (ESP) x8 bt Miomir Kecmanovic (SRB) 6-3, 6-7 (3-7), 3-6, 6-3; Aljaz Bedene (SLO) bt Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN) 6-1, 6-6, 6-2; Alexander Zverev (GER) x4 bt Tennys Sandgren (USA) 7-6, 6-2, 6-3; Cameron Norrie (GBR) x9 bt Alex Bolt (AUS) 6-3, 6-1, 6-2.



Women's singles second round: Ashleigh Barty (AUS) x11 bt Anna Blinkova (RUS) 6-4, 6-2, 6-2; Katerina Siniakova (CZE) bt Coco Vandeweghe (USA) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2; Anastasija Sevastova (LAT) bt Marta Kostyuk (UKR) 1-6, 6-4, 6-3; Barbara Krejcikova (CZE) x14 bt Andrea Petkovic (GER) 7-5, 6-4; Jelena Ostapenko (LAT) bt Darya Kasatkina (RUS) x11 6-1, 3-6, 8-6; Magda Linette (POL) bt Elina Svitolina (UKR) x3 6-3, 6-4; Paula Badosa (ESP) x30 bt Yulia Putintseva (KAZ) 6-4, 6-1; Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (RUS) x16 bt Kristyna Pliskova (CZE) 6-3, 6-3; Coco Gauff (USA) x20 bt Elena Vesnina (RUS) 6-4, 6-3.



Ashleigh Barty of Australia returns to Russia's Anna Blinkova during their second round match of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on Thursday. — AP

## JABEUR SWEEPS ASIDE VENUS, CREATES RECORD

London, July 1: Ons Jabeur, the first Arab woman to win a WTA tournament, reached the third round of Wimbledon for the first time on Wednesday beating five-time champion Venus Williams 7-5, 6-0.

Williams follows her sister Serena out of the singles tournament although she will play with Nick Kyrgios in the mixed doubles. Serena limped off Centre Court in tears on Tuesday after injuring her right leg in the first set of her match.

"It was too much. I just couldn't watch it," said Venus who was unwilling to expand the seriousness of her sister's injury.

Jabeur, who made history in winning the Birmingham WTA tournament earlier this month, will play Spain's 2017 Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza for a place in the Last 16.

"Honestly I was so nervous, the first time I play a legend and not everyone was with me today but it was a great game," said 26-year-old Jabeur.

"My game slices etc goes well with the grass surface. I enjoy it here I can dive any time I like. Hopefully I can continue my journey."

"Muguruza is a tough player and plays amazing on grass." — AFP



## ABHIMANYU IS YOUNGEST GM

New Delhi, July 1: Indian-American prodigy Abhimanyu Mishra on Wednesday became the youngest ever chess Grandmaster after he scored his third GM norm in Budapest, Hungary, according to a report.

The 12-year-old from New Jersey in United States became a GM from International Master having crossed the required 2500 Elo rating barrier, chess.com website said.

Mishra broke GM Sergey Karjakin's record that has stood for 19 years.

On August 12, 2002, Karjakin, a world championship challenger in 2016, secured the Grandmaster title at the age of 12 years and seven months.

Mishra, born on February 5, 2009, took 12 years, four months, and 25 days to obtain the highest title in chess, the website said.

Mishra spent several months in Budapest, playing back-to-back tournaments, chasing the title and the record. — PTI



Devendra Jhajharia (right) interacts with PCI president Deepa Malik at the JN Stadium in New Delhi on Thursday.

## JHAJHARIA REWRITES WORLD RECORD EN ROUTE TO TOKYO

New Delhi, July 1: India's greatest Paralympian, javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia, rewrote his own world record once again as he punched his ticket for the Tokyo Paralympics during a national selection trial here.

The 40-year-old, who has won two gold medals in the men's F46 category at the Paralympics, sent the spear to a distance of 65.71m during the trial here on Wednesday.

With that effort, he not only sealed a spot for the Tokyo Paralympics but also bettered his own world record of 63.97m, set at the Rio Games in 2016.

"Today at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi, I qualified for the Tokyo Paralympics by setting a new world record of 65.71, breaking my older record of 63.97 in a qualifying event.

"This was possible because of my family's support, and the efforts of my coach Sunil Tanwar and fitness trainer Lakshya Batra," Jhajharia tweeted here.

The Tokyo Paralympics slated to begin on August 24, will be Jhajharia's third Paralympics.

He had won a gold at the 2004 Athens Paralympic Games, setting a new world record of 62.15 metres.

He then repeated the feat 12 years later at the 2016 Rio edition bettering his own record of 63.97m, set at the Paralympics.

"Today at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi, I qualified for the Tokyo Paralympics by setting a new world record of 65.71, breaking my older record of 63.97 metres and becoming the first Indian to clinch two gold medals at the Paralympics. — PTI

## HUMPY, PRANEETH JOIN KHEL RATNA NOMINEES

Chennai, July 1: Reigning women's world rapid chess champion Koneru Humpy has been nominated for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award by the All India Chess Federation (AICF).

The 34-year old Humpy, currently ranked number three in the world, has qualified for the FIDE Women's Candidates event next year and was also part of the Indian squad which won the Online Chess Olympiad in 2020.

Humpy is already a recipient of the Arjuna award and Padma Shri.

Also, seven other players — Vidit S Gujrathi, B. Adhiban, S.P. Sethuraman, M.R. Lalith Babu, Bhakti Kularki and Padmini Routh have been nominated for the Arjuna award, AICF honorary secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan said.

## Quick passes

### UEFA criticised for allowing more fans

Germany's interior minister says it was "absolutely irresponsible" for UEFA to allow more than 40,000 fans into Wembley Stadium to watch England play Germany in London at the European Championship.

The crowd of 41,973 at Tuesday's match was the biggest in Britain since the pandemic began and came while the more contagious delta variant is fueling a significant increase in new cases in the country. Interior Minister Horst Seehofer is also responsible for sports. He was asked about the attendance for the match and about the prospect of more fans attending the semifinals and final at Wembley. "I think this UEFA position is absolutely irresponsible," he said.

Seehofer adds that he thinks money is driving the decision "and commerce must not outshine the protection of the population against infection."

He also appealed to UEFA not to push this off on local health authorities and said the governing body of European football should say "we don't want it this way and we're reducing the numbers of spectators." —AP



England fans celebrate their team's victory in the Euro Round of 16 match against Germany in Piccadilly Circus, central London, on Tuesday. —AP

### WHO wants better monitoring of Euro

The World Health Organisation on Thursday said Covid cases were on the rise again in Europe and called for better monitoring of the movement of spectators attending Euro 2020 football matches.

"There will be a new wave in the WHO European Region unless we remain disciplined," WHO's regional director for Europe, Hans Kluge said.

"Noting that cases had declined for 10 weeks in the WHO's European region, Kluge said that "last week, the number of cases rose by 10 percent, driven by increased mixing, travel, gatherings and easing of social restrictions," he added.

Kluge cautioned this reversal came in the context of rising cases of the Delta variant, first spotted in India, which the regional director said "overtakes Alpha very quickly," referring to the variant that first emerged in Britain.

The WHO also called for vigilance around all major summer gatherings, not just around football. —AP

### Czech fans cancel charter flight

A plan for a charter plane to take Czech fans to Baku for the European Championship quarterfinal match against Denmark on Saturday has been cancelled.

There are no direct flights between Prague and Baku and there are strict Coronavirus restrictions in place in Azerbaijan. Fans also would have to isolate on arrival home. The Czech national team fan club says initially about 300 people wanted to make the trip to Baku despite the restrictions but in the end not enough were ready to go. —AP

### Live on TV

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

**COPA AMERICA**  
Quarterfinals: Peru vs Paraguay from 2.30 am (Saturday); Brazil vs Chile from 5.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 2



Belgium players take part in a training session at the team's base camp in Tubize, Belgium, on Thursday.

—AFP

# BIG BELL RINGS

## Belgium take on Italy in heavyweight clash

Munich (Germany), July 1: Belgium are anxiously waiting on the fitness of stars Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard for their Euro 2020 quarterfinal showdown against Italy on Friday.

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

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

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

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

Manchester City midfielder De Bruyne is central to Belgium's hopes of reaching the semifinals, where Spain or Switzerland would await next Tuesday.

Martinez is assessing his alternative options in attacking midfield.

Atletico Madrid's Yannick Carrasco could replace Hazard, while

Napoli forward Dries Mertens may step in for De Bruyne.

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

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

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

With four wins and three

clean sheets so far at Euro 2020, the Belgians are living up to their billing as the world's top-ranked team.

However, Italy are on a national record run of 31 games unbeaten after digging deep to seal a 2-1 victory over Austria following extra time in the Last 16. Second-half replacements Federico Chiesa and Matteo Pessina scored to send the Italians through.

"Italy will be the toughest opponent we've met so far," said Belgium forward Thorgan Hazard.

Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku has scored three goals at the tournament.

Italy midfielder Pessina

says the Inter star is a handful who "can take on three defenders by himself".

Meanwhile forward Ciro Immobile has answered critics' claims he only scores in the blue of Lazio, not the national team, with goals against Switzerland and Turkey in the group stage.

After 25 goals in 41 games last season for Lazio, Immobile has the confidence of Italy coach Roberto Mancini, but had a frustrating night against Austria, hitting the post with half an hour gone.

The striker says the Azzurri have a point to make to Italian fans at Euro 2020. —AFP



Spain's goalkeeper Unai Simon attends a training session at Petrovsky Stadium in Saint Petersburg on Wednesday. —AFP

## England goalkeeper makes his mark

London, July 1: England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford has silenced his critics at Euro 2020, proving an impressive last line of defence for a side yet to concede a goal as they prepare for a quarterfinal against Ukraine.

England's first success against the Germans in a knockout match for 55 years was secured by late goals from Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane at Wembley on Tuesday.

But it was the much-maligned Pickford who laid the foundation for the 2-0 win that secured a last-eight clash in Rome on

Saturday. The 27-year-old saved Timo Werner's first-half effort by taking up the perfect position to block his shot, then acrobatically tipped over Kai Havertz's fierce strike soon after the interval.

And with England holding onto a one-goal lead, Pickford came off his line and narrowed the angle just enough to distract Thomas Mueller as the German missed a golden opportunity to equalise.

"I train hard all week to be the best I can be when called upon. I thought I made two good saves. I felt I was in the moment," said

Pickford. "The atmosphere... was amazing. That just gives us the desire on Saturday. It is another opportunity. We will be prepared for what they put up against us," he added.

Pickford's judgement off the field was also questioned after he was involved in a street brawl when his fiancee was abused during a night out in his hometown of

Pickford's heroic moment for the keeper who has been under pressure over the past year because of a series of costly blunders for Everton.

Carlo Ancelotti, then in charge of Everton, warned he must improve and dropped him for a Premier League match against Newcastle in November.

Pickford's judgement off the field was also questioned after he was involved in a street brawl when his fiancee was abused during a night out in his hometown of

Sunderland in 2019. When Burnley's Nick Pope started all three World Cup qualifiers in March, it seemed Pickford might struggle to regain his England place as he battled with an abdominal muscle injury.

But he finished the season in better form and Pope was eventually ruled out of the European Championship due to injury.

"We have a magnificent keeper behind us. Every time he has put on the shirt for England he has been magnificent," said Harry Maguire. —AFP



Jordan Pickford

## Neymar returns for knockouts

Rio de Janeiro, July 1: Defending champion Brazil and Chile will have their star players back in action when they meet in the Copa America quarterfinals on Friday.

Neymar will return for Brazil and Alexis Sanchez has recovered from a calf muscle injury ahead of their quarterfinal match.

"I didn't programme myself to get emotional. It just happened," Silva told in a news conference on Wednesday.

"I was labelled negatively for that moment against Chile. It was very sad for me for a long time, but it was also a learning experience so I could prepare myself for other objectives, decisive matches," he added.

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

Coach Martin Lasarte will decide after Thursday's practice whether 32-year-old Silva will start against Brazil or come off the bench.

"To play against the host is always difficult, but Brazil is also the team who are possibly in best shape," Lasarte said.

Also on Friday, 2019 Copa America runner-up Peru will take on Paraguay at the Olímpico Stadium in Goiânia. The winner will face Brazil or Chile in the semifinals in Rio. —AP



Arturo Vidal (left) of Chile trains alongside his teammates during their practice session in Santiago on Wednesday ahead of their Copa America quarterfinal match against defending champions Brazil. —AP

## Thiago wants to emulate Maldini

Rio de Janeiro, July 1: Ahead of Brazil's Copa America quarterfinal against Chile on Friday, Brazil defender Thiago Silva has one particular player on his mind.

Italy great Paolo Maldini. "It is a bit distant to project the end of my career. I don't have control over that, but I want to follow what Maldini represented for AC Milan, playing until age 40, 41," Silva said at a news conference on Wednesday.

"I prepared myself for this. I remain at a high level, which makes me very proud," he added.

The 36-year-old Silva is also hoping to play at next year's World Cup. He continues to start matches for the Seleção, and lifted the Champions League title with Chelsea in May.

Silva arrived at AC Milan in 2009, the same year Maldini retired at age 41. The Italian club in 2012 for Paris Saint-Germain. After PSG reached the Champions League final in 2020 and lost to Bayern Munich, Silva signed for Chelsea and once more proved he was still one of

the best defenders in the game.

"From now on I have to live every season. We know that our fitness is not the same of two, three years ago. The time to recover between matches changes a lot. But I will continue to prepare to reach my dreams. The World Cup is still pending," he added.

Silva said that he feared he wouldn't get to the Copa America after being injured in the first half of Chelsea's 1-0 win against Manchester City in the Champions League final.

"I knew I couldn't carry on, I put my head down and covered it with the shirt ... I had lost last year's final, then I left with the score 0-0. I asked God to win it and that the injury wasn't serious so I could play for Brazil. It is impossible not to think of the World Cup," Silva said.

Silva said he will be in Brazil's squad for the World Cup in Qatar.

Brazil coach Tite seems certain that he wants Marquinhos and der Miltinho there. The other places for central defenders appear to be open, with the veteran as a front-runner. —AP