THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

VIJAYAWADA | FRIDAY | 2 JULY 2021





Forecast: Humid and Mostly Cloudy. Max/Min temp. 36/27 ^oC

ASTROGUIDE

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

Zeeqad 20,1442 AH **PRAYERS**

> Fajar: 5.10 am **Zohar:** 1.30 pm **Asar:** 5.15 pm Maghrib: 6.47 pm

Isha: 8.30 pm **SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.33 AM SUNSET TODAY 6.40 PM MOONRISE** TODAY 00.03 PM

MOONSET TOMORROW 13.12 AM





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

Cinematograph Act change

Mumbai: The government's proposal to amend the Cinematograph Act is another blow to the film fraternity and will potentially endanger freedom of expression and democratic dissent, says a letter signed by industry insiders such as Vishal Bhardwaj, Mira Nair and Pa Ranjith. The letter,

with over 3,000 signatories, will be sent to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Friday. The ministry has asked as

the general public to send their comments on the draft bill by July 2.

Ban animal sacrifice: PETA

New Delhi: Ahead of Eid al-Adha, during which animals such as goats and sheeps are sacrificed, PETA India has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to scrap a section of a law which allows killing of an animal as a religious ritual Section 28 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA) should be done away with as it says that nothing contained in this Act shall render it an offence to kill any animal in a manner required by the religion, PETA said.

130 nations back

global min tax

Frankfurt (Germany): Some 130 countries have backed a global minimum tax as part of a worldwide effort to keep multinational firms from dodging taxes by shifting their profits to countries with low rates. The agreement announced by the Organisation for **Economic Cooperation and Development on Thursday** also provides for taxing the largest global companies in countries where they earn profits through online businesses but may have no

Call rates must

physical presence.

rise, says Mittal New Delhi: Bharti Airtel chairman Sunil Mittal said

tariffs need to go up amid "tremendous stress" in the telecom sector, but Airtel will not hike rates unilaterally. The comments come when Vodafone Idea sought a one-year moratorium on payment of spectrum instal-

ment of over ₹8,200 crore.



WORLD 5

Xi warns against **bullying China**



SPORTS 8

Abhimanyu Mishra youngest ever chess Grandmaster

TABLOID

YS Jagan biopic on the anvil



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



nod to Covishield

More likely to lift travel restrictions

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, JUNE 1

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

to join in.

The European Union
Digital Covid Certificate framework, or the Green Pass, to facilitate free movement during the Covid pandemic, came into effect on July 1 under which persons vaccinated with vaccines authorised by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) will be exempt from travel restrictions within the

Individual member states have the flexibility to accept vaccines that have been authorised at the national level or by the

TS' e-pass plan gets SC approval

Vol. 33 No. 32 Established 1938 | 16 PAGES | ₹6.00

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, JULY 1

The Supreme Court on Thursday gave its nod to the e-pass mandated by the TS government for entering into its capital city of Hyderabad.

A bench of Justice Indira Banerjee and Justice V. Ramasubhramanian refused to entertain a plea

World Health Organisation. However, while Astra Zeneca's Vaxzevria is approved by EU, the fate of its Indian Covishield version remains under suspense as the EMA has approved only four vaccines so far --Pfizer-BioNTech's Comirnaty, Moderna's Comirnaty, Mod Covid vaccine, AstraZeneca shot manu-factured and sold in Europe as Vaxzervria, and Johnson & Johnson's

Janssen. India has already asked the EU member countries to individually consider by a law student against the state government's notification, saying it is a temporary measure and the validity of the notification has expired.

The petition accused the TS government of illegally

access to Hyderabad by mandating th e-pass midallowing Indians who have taken Covishield and

denving the the people of

AP the right of unimpeded

Covaxin vaccines and want to travel to Europe.
There has been appre-

hension in India that people who took Covishield and Covaxin jabs are unlikely to be eligible for travel to the European Union member states under its "Green Pass" scheme. The EU Digital Covid certificate or 'Green Pass' will be mandatory to travel to European countries and the document will serve as proof that a person is vaccinated against Covid-19.

Tension brims at N'sagar dam

TS police restrains an AP official from entering Telangana at Nagarjunasagar project. A large number of police per-

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 1

High tension prevailed at Nagarjunasagar Dam as the Telangana police did not allow officials from AP to meet their Telangana counterparts and the latter also refused to meet officials from AP following the water dispute between both AP and Telangana on

Thursday.
As Telangana authorities started hydroelectric power generation from Srisailam, Nagarj-unas-agar and Pulichintala projects in the last few days in violation of norms of the Krishna river manage-ment board and draining out Krishna water into the sea, AP water resources department officials went to Nagarjunasagar Dam

WHATSAPP HITS

ROUGH PATCH

FOR AN HOUR

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Popular messaging app

WhatsApp was paralysed

for some time on Thur-sday evening, which was purportedly caused by a

glitch in its server. Many

people have complained

that they could not down-

load photos or forwarded

videos at 10 pm. The issue got resolved after

According to IT experts, the problem

could have been caused

by some problem at the

WhatsApp server net-

Amar Daniel, a soft-

ware professional in

Hvderabad, "Popular

social networking sites will have the most high-

end servers with high-

Sometimes, these servers

might encounter some errors due to software

bugs, which don't allow

a user to download heavy

BASIC RIGHT

one hour.

KRMB CONVENES MEET ON JULY 7 TO **RESOLVE KRISHNA WATER DISPUTE**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JULY 1

sonnel were deployed at Nagarjunasagar and Pulichintala projects.

Amid heightened tensions between the two states, Krishna Management Board (KRMB) has decided to convene a meeting between TS and AP to resolve the dispute by

intending to meet TS Genco chief engineer and irrigation department superintending engineer to explain about how drawing of water would the interests of

However, the Telangana police did not allow the AF

July 7. The decision was taken after the AP government had lodged a com-plaint against the TS government taking up hydel generation at Srisailam Nagarjunasagar projects.

Page 2: KRMB objects to TS using more water

officials and when the latter wanted to meet the TS officials, they refused to meet them and instead asked them to send messages on social media platforms like WhatsApp.

Page 2: TS officials refuse to meet AP counterparts

JAGAN WRITES TO PM, WATER MIN **AGAINST TS ACT**

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 1

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union minister for Jalshakti, Gajendra Singh Shekawat, seeking Gajendra a Central government notification on the juris-diction of KRMB and a direction to Telangana to "illegal drawal" of stop water for power genera-

Report on Page 2

Modi govt may get 5 ministers

DC CORRESPONDENT

Speculation is rife that fle of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet could take place soon. The first reshuffle in the NDA 2.0 could see some more allies getting representations.

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

demise.
With crucial Assembly elections, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab lined up, these states could see more representation in the reshuffle of the Council of Ministers.

Sources disclosed that UP will be one of the states that will see adequate representation, including a Brahmin face as the community is said to be feeling disenchanted with the BJP under Yogi Adityanath's rule.

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

myths like it is the obese,

those who consume more

sugar, are the ones who get

the disease, or that it is

Jyotiraditya Scindia, former Assam chief minister Sarbanand Sonowal, former Bihar deputy CM Sushil Modi, Apna Dal's Anupriya Patel and former TMC leader Dinesh Trivedi, RS MP Anil Baluni are doing the rounds WITH CRUCIAL

NAMES OF BJP MP

Assembly elections, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab lined up, these states could see more representation in the reshuffle of the Council of Ministers.

Rane, both from Maharashtra where the BJP lost its ally Shiv Sena. Names of former Cong-

ress leader and now the BJP MP, Jyotiraditya Scindia, former Assam chief minister Sarbanand Sonowal, former Bihar deputy CM Sushil Modi, Apna Dal's Anupriya Patel and former TMC leader Dinesh Trivedi, RS MP Anil Baluni are also doing the rounds.

Page 4: JD(U), AIADMK too may join Modi team

ATTRACTION: MIN DC CORRESPONDENT

POLAVARAM TO

BECOME TOURIST

Tourism minister M. Srinivasa Rao announced that the sta ernment proposes develop an image park, restaurants and other facilities near Polavaram Project to attract tourists from within and outside the state to the scenic along Godavari.

Flagging off a tourism boat at Gandi Pochamma Temple in Devipatnam mandal on Thursday, he said the government is setting up command control centres at various places in the state including Gandi Pochamma temple, Pochavaram, Rajamahendravaram, Singampalli, Peratalapalli in East and West Godavari districts, Rishikonda in V i s a k h a p a t n a m, Nagarjunasagar Guntur Srisailam in Kurnool district, and Beram Park in Krishna district

Page 2: Polavaram has tourism potential: Min

COPS: ARRESTED L.E.T. TERRORISTS PLANNED BLASTS

NAVEEN KUMAR HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Two LeT operatives, Imran Malik alias Imran versal truth that health

Khan and his brother Mohammad Nasir Malik arrested by the National Investigation (NIA) in Hyderabad on Wednesday were part of a conspiracy to execute terror acts across India according to police.

Imran Malik and Mohd

Nasir Malik, hail from Kairana in Shamli of UP "It was found an explo sion in a parcel on plat-form 1 of Darbhanga railway station was was booked in Secunderabad and arrived in Secunderabad-Darbhanga Express. On June 24, the NIA re-registered the

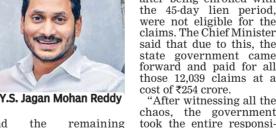
Jagan: YSR Bima revised. state to pay sum directly DC CORRESPONDENT this, around 12,039 families who lost someone, VIJAYAWADA, JULY 1 after being enrolled with

The YSRC government on Thursday revised the guidelines for the YSR Bima scheme enabling the government to directly pay the insurance amount to family of the deceased and make insurance claims easier. This was necessitated after the Centre, paying 50 per cent of premium, stopped paying its share from April 2020, forcing the AP government to step in. Apart from that the Centre also put more clauses and closed the existing group insurance system and made it mandatory that every person in the family has a bank account.

Chief Minister Y.S Jagan Mohan Reddy pointed that the state government had brought 1.2 crore families under the insurance coverage and paid premium to banks. However, only 62.5 lakh



Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy the accounts were yet to be opened by banks though AP had credited the insurance premium. He said that the banks which had to follow up about individual insurance claims with the insurance firms to process the registration, were unable to do so on time. This bottleneck led



forward and paid for all those 12,039 claims at a

to a severe delay in receipt of claims. In an additional clause 155214 for getting regisput by the Centre, a 45-day tered or to resolve their issues related," the Chief lien period from the day of account opening, meant that if someone dies with-

cost of ₹254 crore. "After witnessing all the chaos, the government took the entire responsibility of the scheme and shall clear the claims within one month of receiving the application. The responsibility for screening of insurance applications has been given to village/ward secretariats monitored by the Joint Collectors, Any eligi ble person who was left out from YSR Bima can

Minister said. Page 2: CM: YSRC gave priority for health

in 45 days, the insurance accounts could be opened will not be paid. Due to

Justice Ramana blames government for not giving priority to medical sector

toll free number

CJI calls for universal free healthcare in India

BALU PULIPAKA I DC HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said huge economic losses inflicted by the Covid-19 pandemic on India, and across the globe, "should wake us up to the reality that there is no substitute for a free and universal public healthcare system that focuses

on disease prevention."
"The government," the Chief Justice of India said, was "not giving priority to the medical sector or be successful, it needs to

Launching the 'Defeat Diabetes' campaign by the Research Society for the

issues of immediate con-

Study of Diabetes in India Thursday, Justice Ramana, in a virtual address, said if diabetes was to be battled effective ly, the state had to come up with a comprehensive policy framework in which awareness campaign became a part of diabetes eradication endeavours.
"For the programme to CJI Justice N.V. Ramana

be integrated into a free and universal public healthcare system. Left to

On the rising diabetes cases in India, he said, 'One must pause and wonder about the implications of this on the already strained healthcare system in the country. Formulating public healthcare policies based on intense scientific research is needed." Studies, Justice Ramana said, had shown that

knowledge and awareness

was negligible in rural

India on diabetes. The

knowledge gap leads to

individuals, we will never reach the goal," he said.

contagious and the one that says women are immune to the disease. "Where there is room for myths, there is room for quackery. Quackery is the biggest disease affecting India. Quackery begins where awareness ends,"

he said. Quoting the Telugu saying 'Aarogyamey mahab-hagyam', the Chief Justice of India said it was the uni

healthy nation can become a wealthy nation," he said. Here are a "few thoughts and facts for all stakeholders to ponder over," he said, adding, "Our doctors are being attacked while on duty. Why is it that our

was wealth. "Any invest-ment is justified to acquire

this wealth because only a

someone else's failure?'

medical professionals are

at the receiving end for

■ Page 2: CJI points out at insufficient medical infra

SHORT TAKES

PIL CHALLENGING AP DEVELOPMENT CORP ACT FILED IN HC

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 1

A petition was filed in the High Court challenging the AP Development Corporation Act,

Visakhapatnam East MLA from Telugu Desam Velaga-pudi Ramkrishna Babu filed the public interest litigation in the AP High Court through his lawyer Y. Balaji.

The petitioner's contention was that mortgaging govern-ment assets in Visakhapatnam was unconstitutional and said that though the government's income was to be deposited in Consolidated Fund of the state as per articles 266 and 204 of Indian Constitution, sources of income like taxes, excise revenue and others were being diverted to the AP Development Corporation instead of depositing them in Consolidated Fund of the state.

HC: SUBMIT DETAILS ON BRAHMAMGARI MATAM HEAD

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 1

Kadapa-based Brahmamgari Matam late pontiff Veera-bhoga Vasanta Venkateswara Swamy's second wife Maruti Mahalakshmi moved the AP High Court claiming that her son Govinda Swamy should be declared as legal successor to the matam.

Mahalakshmi filed the petition on behalf of her son, asking the High Court to issue directions to set aside proceedings issued by the endowments special commissioner handing over management of the matam to the assistant commissioner.

Petitioner's counsel submitted that that as per will of Mahalakshmi's late husband and also traditions of the matam, her elder son should be made as the legal successor of the matam and said that as her son was a minor, she should be made as head of the matam until her son became a

The petitioner' counsel argued that the state government was not having any authority to appoint a special officer to the matam as only Dharmika Parishad was empowered to take any decisions pertaining to management of the matam.

The court asked the state government whether matam's Dharmika Parishad permitted selection of matam's head and directed it to file an affidavit with all details and posted the next hearing to July 5.

AP TO SUPPLY RICE TO 59L NON-NFSA RICE CARD HOLDERS

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 1

The Andhra Pradesh government to bear additional cost of ₹2,100 crore to distribute rice free of cost to 59 lakh non-NFSA rice card holders who are not being covered under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana-III and IV under National Food Security Act, 2013. The state government to supply sortex rice under public distribution system from July onwards and will also supply non-sortex rice under through

Corporation of India. However, following variation in quality of both sortex and non-sortex rice, the state government intends to distribute sortex rice from July to November in two phases every month from then on first day through mobile vehicles along with sugar and toor dal.

AP'S FIRST SMART POLICING SYSTEM OPENED IN VIZAG

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 1

Visakhapatnam district superintendent of police B. Krishna Rao inaugurated E-Malkhana, a first of its kind smart-policing project in the state at Narsipatnam town model police station on Thursday.

The Narsipatnam additional SP Tuhin Sinha initiated a project for smooth interactive and easy to use by everyone. The digitalisation of all the case properties in the coding package and arrange in order

in proper shelves. After digitalisation, it would be easy to retrieve the case property and would also save valuable time and synchronisation of functioning of e-Malkhana in all police stations of the district, the SP said.

Jagan wants PM to restrain TS from "illegal" drawal of water

CM alleges Telangana state taking water without release orders from KRMB

DC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursd-ay wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union minister for Jalshakti, Gajendra Singh Shekawat, seeking a central notification on the jurisdiction of KRMB and a direction to Telangana to "illegal drawal" of water for power genera-tion. The Chief Minister alleged that Telangana was doing this "without water release orders from

Jagan also sought central control of all off-takes of common reservoirs with CISF protection and safeguarding of the inter-

The CM said the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) that came into existence as per Section 85 of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, is responsible for the administration, regulation, maintenance and operation of such projects as may be notified by the central government from time to

According to the water sharing pact, AP and Telangana agreed to share

From page 1

Nagarjunasas 811tmc of water allocated to the erstwhile state of AP by KWDT-1 at 75 per cent dependability, in the ratio of 512tmc and 299tmc respectively. The states of AP and Telangana are sharing water in the ratio of 66:34 on ad hoc basis by deducting minor irrigation utilizations, evapora-tion losses and Godavari diversions. The decision taken by KRMB shall be implemented as per the inflows observed into the reservoirs, available storages and pro-rata entitlements from time to time.

Jagan said, "Unauthorised actions of Telangana are putting AP into tremendous disadvantage. Srisailam Reservoir having a gross storage capacity of 215.8tmc at FRL +885 ft and +834 ft is the Minimum Draw Down Level (MDDL) for power generation and +854ft is the MDDL for irrigation needs. The status of the reservoir as on June 1was +808.40 ft with a storage of Nagarjunasagar and 33.39tmc, which is well Pulichinthala - for power below the MDDL for power generation and a huge generation. Hence, power generation should not be generation should not be generation should not be generation amount of water is getting drained into the sea. At done at this level.'

But Telangana started power generation "unilaterally through its power house located on the Left side without placing any indent before KRMB."

The CM said, "Every day, 2 TMC is being drawn by Telangana for power generation, restraining AP from drawal of water through Pothireddypadu head regulator for drinking and irrigation as +854 ft level is required in the reservoir." This regulator caters to the needs of chronically drought-prone areas of four Rayalaseema districts, SPSR Nellore district, Prakasam district and the drinking water supply for Chennai City.

He said: "The issue of unauthorised drawals by Telangana State was brought to the notice of KRMB by AP on June 10. In turn, the KRMB has, in its letter on June 17, requested the Telangana Genco Authorities to stop further release of water immediately through the Srisailam left side power house and follow the water release orders issued by KRMB. As Telangana is



TS officials refuse to meet AP counterparts

Nagarjunasagar right main canal superintenright engineer Ganga Purushottama Raju said, "When we were stopped by the Telangana police as we were proceeding to meet TS Genco CE and irrigation SE near the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, I requested TS Genco CE to allow us to meet him to submit a representation and also explain how AP's interests will be affected due to drawing of water by TS at three projects for power generation. The official refused to meet me and instead asked me to send messages on social media platforms. So was the case with irrigation SE from TS as he also refused to meet me and asked for sending messages when I spoke to them over phone. I have informed our senior offi-

cials on the issue 'Our concern is that the Telangana government is drawing water from three Srisailam, present, water level at Nagarjunasagar dam is 534 ft with storage of 174.05 tmc ft of water in the reservoir against the dead storage of 131.66 tmc ft of water. If there is any forecast of floods to the Krishna resulting in huge

inflow of water into proj-

Vijayawada: YSRC MLC Dokka Manikya Varapra-sad Rao on Thursday ha-

iled the welfare schemes

taken up by the state gov-

ernment and flayed the TD

for creating chaos in the

state for the sake of politi-

He demanded that TD

drawing

chief and former CM N.

water without caring the

KRMB orders, the issue

was again brought to the

notice of KRMB through

letter on June 23 and 29,

asking it to stop the water

noted, "Telangana is uni-

laterally drawing water

for power generation vio-

lating the standard operat-

Chief Minister

drawal by Telangana.'

cal mileage.

continuously

'TD MUST CLARIFY STAND ON SEEMA PROJECTS'

KRMB OBJECTS TO TS USING MORE WATER

From page 1

The river board convened its decision to the TS government through a letter

on late Thursday. In its letter, the KRMB raised objections over the TS government utilising water Nagarjunasagar than its allotted share.
The KRMB also asked

the TS government to deduct 9.9 tmc from its share that was used for

power generation.

The river board has also directed the TS government to submit a report on water used for hydel power generation immediately.

ects, the TS government can draw water. But at present, there is no such situation," he said.

"Under Nagarjunasagar RMC, there is nearly 12 lakh acres of command area located in parts of Prakasam districts and farmers are getting ready to raise paddy, chillies, cotton and other crops for the ensuing kharif season. People living in parts of these three districts also get drinking water from RMC. If the TS government drains out water, the

Chandrababu Naidu to speak on the Rayalaseema Projects and the TD stand

Rao said that TD leaders

are intentionally playing

spoilsport with sheer jeal-

ousy after witnessing the

good governance of Chief

ing protocol and agreements. Such actions of

Telangana are not in the

interests of inter-state

relations and are adverse-

ly affecting the interests of

the lower riparian state of

Andhra Pradesh, further

putting the drinking and

irrigation needs of four

Rayalaseema districts,

SPSR Nellore and Prakasam districts and

Nellore

Jagan

on TS remarks.

Minister Y.S.

Mohan Reddy.

drinking water requirement of Chennai city into

interests of our farmers

and the general public will be severely affected with

no availability of water.

The intention and motive

of the Telangana govern-

ment in drawing water unauthorisedly are very unfair," the official said.

authorities say that the TS

government started power

generation from Srisailam

project some four days ago

and from Nagarjunasagar

project, it was doing so for

the last two days and it

also started at Pulichintala project from

Wednesday onwards. They raised objections for rop-

ing in the Pulichintala

project also as it is result-

ing in draining out water

into the sea. The AP officials were asked to meet the TS police initially at

when they wanted to meet the officials. However, though AP officials infor-

med them that they were not going to create any law

and order issue, they

refused to meet even to

submit a representation.

norms, water from the

projects are to be used

firstly to meet drinking needs of the people fol-

lowed by irrigation needs

and the last priority is to

use water for generation of power. They have

turned critical against the

TS government for accord-

ing priority for power gen-

eration at the cost of

affecting the interests of

They say that as per

Nagarjunasagar

water resources

serious trouble. Jagan requested the Centre that a direction be given to Telangana to stop illegal drawal of water for power generation that is being done without any water release orders from

KRMB. He pleaded with the prime minister that the unauthorised drawals should be accounted for as 'utilisation by Telangana' against the agreed allocation of 299tmc of water. He pleaded with the PM and the Jal Shakti minister that immediate action be taken by the Centre to notify the jurisdiction of KRMB and take over all off-takes of common reservoirs with CISF protection and safeguard the interests of Andhra Pradesh.

POLICEMEN AT NAGARJUNASAGAR DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, JULY 1

AP DEPLOYS 140

Amid the tense situation prevailing at power generation utilities on the bank of river Krishna, the Andhra Pradesh police had also deployed a police force to ward off any untoward incidents. Telangana state has deployed sufficient force at its hydel generation units near Srisailam, Jurala and Nagarjunasagar dam across the Krishna river.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Guntur rural SP Vishal Gunni said that about 140 police personnel (APSP and special force) had been deployed at Nagarjunasagar dam. The SP, who had visited the contentious site on Thursday, said, "The situa-tion is peaceful and the force is on high alert."

Srisaialm left bank hydel unit of TSGenco has also stepped up the police force and had been continuous-ly harnessing inflows into Srisailam for power generation. The Srisailam police said for two weeks, the police force had been building up near the power utility.

NETTEMPADU LIFT DRAWS MORE KRISHNA WATERS

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, JULY 1

With the Telangana state government drawing as much water as possible from the Krishna river, the TS officials are putting Nettempadu lift irrigation project to work overtime to pump water and ensure that there is sufficient supply for agriculture operations. From the Jurala project, Nettemapadu drew 1,789 cusecs of water on Thursday. The project is located in Jogulamba Gadwal district. Telangana state Chief Minister K. Chandrashe-

kar Rao had pressurised irrigation officials draw water, and the ENC (O&M) Nageshwara Rao had visited Nettempadu recently and supervised the lifting works. At present, two pumps are working and the engineers are working on getting two more pumps to work and draw at least 2.250 cusecs of Krishna water daily. The CM is said to have told them to make lifts work at full capacity for at least 60 days during the rainy season to fill the reservoir. Only then will it be possible to provide water for irrigation at satisfactory levels.

The Jurala project received inflows of 21,877 cusecs on Thursday, out of which the powerhouse alone used 17,239 cusecs. Nettempadu lift drew 1,789 cusecs, Bhima Lift 650 cusecs. Koilsagar lift 315 cusecs. The total outflow from the Jurala project was 20,986 cusecs and there was no spillway out-

From the Jurala project, Nettemapadu drew 1,789 cusecs of water on



Tourism minister Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao goes on a ride after performing puja to mark the resuming of Papikondalu boat services at Gandipochamma temple in East Godavari on Thursday.

Polavaram has tourism potential, says minister

The minister said officials of water resources, tourism and police departments will be available at these centres to attract and regulate tourists in their respec-tive areas. He advised that boat operators should allow tourists as per the boat capacity, which could otherwise lead to a tragedy like in the past.
He maintained that

there is great tourism potential near Polavaram project in the two Godavari districts. This would also provide employment to tribal people living along the river,

Corporation chairman and Rajanagaram MLA Jakkampudi Raja wanted the government to develop Purushothapatnam, Ramavarapu Yenugukonda and other areas as tourism spots.

Those who participated in the function included

Rampachodavaram MLA Nagulapalli Anantha Lakshmi, tourism corporation managing director S. Satyanarayana, Rajamahendravaram MP M. Bharat, DCCB former chairman Anantha Babu,

ITDA project officer C. V. Praveen Adithya, and Rampachodavaram sub-

CJI points out at insufficient medical infra

From Page 1

This, the Chief Justice said, was because of an 'insufficient number of medical professionals, insufficient infrastruc-ture, lack of medicines and outdated technologies." The government The government was not giving priority to the medical sector or issues of immediate concern, he said.

Justice Ramana also said it was "saddening to see how a well-qualified doctor cannot start a hospital on his own and survive. Why is profiteering by corporators being blamed on doctors? After years of learning, doctors struggle to get decent

The medical bodies and concerned agencies in the government should put their heads together to address these concerns, he added.

"Only then," the Chief Justice of India said, "can we sincerely greet the doctors on the first of July every year."

Calling doctors "living Gods," Justice Ramana said no other professional could render sacrifices as valuable as those made by doctors. IMA data suggested that more than 798 doctors lost their lives in the second wave of pan-demic, he said, adding that his heartfelt sympathies were with the families of medical professionals and health workers who lost their lives while saving the lives of patients during the pandemic.

Jagan: YSRC gave priority for health

The Chief Minister launched the 'YSR Bima' scheme with the new guidelines on Thursday. He said that in order to support 1.32 lakh families through the scheme, the state government had allocated ₹750 crore for the year 2021-22. In the last two years, the state government had spent ₹1,307 crore for YSR Bima.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the government has prioritised public health care soon after forming the government. The annual income for being eligible under Aarogyasri scheme was fixed at ₹5 lakh and the number of treatments increased to 2,450.

He recalled that as per promises made during elections, the government had launched YSR Bima.

an insurance scheme to support those families who lost their bread winner. He further stated that about 1.30 lakh families have been brought under the insurance coverage.

Under the scheme, an insurance amount of ₹1 lakh will be paid if the beneficiary aged between 18 to 50 years, who is a breadwinner of the family, succumbs to natural death. A sum of ₹5 lakh will be paid if the benefi ciary in the 18 to 70 age group dies in an accident. Minister for labour and

e m p l o y m e n t Gummanuru Jayaram, Special Chief Secretary, Labour, G. Anantharamu, Special Chief Secretary Ajay Jain, Principal Secretary (PR&RD) Gopalakrishna Dwivedi, Special Commissioner (Labour) Rekha Rani, SERP CEO Rajababu and other offici-

Associations of doctors are against joint-collectors having health-related powers DOCTORS' DAY

Doc fraternity boycotts celebrations, want GO 64 to go

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 1

Doctors at both government and private hospitals boycotted Doctors' Day celebrations, for the first time on Thursday, to press their demand for withdrawal of a government order, GO 64, dealing with delegation of some health-related

powers to joint-collectors. Associations of doctors stated that if the GO was implemented, it would affect the day-to-day functioning of technically qualified DMHO/DCHS in the districts and affect the

overall functioning of the health and medical staff working in the districts.

The doctors had formed into a joint action committee with representatives from IMA, APNGO, APGEA and APGDA to express their concern to the state government on this issue.

The health, medical and family welfare department issued GO 64 on June 21 delegating the powers of district collectors to the ioint collectors in charge of village/ward secretariat and development. These J-Cs have been given the power to regulate and implement the PC and PNDT Act, Clinical Establishment Act and Food Safety and Adulteration Prevention Act. The joint-collectors have

also been entrusted with several executive functions including sanction of funds, as also executive functions especially for implementation of several national and state-level health programmes like pulse polio and routine immunisation, the national tuberculosis control programme, the malaria and filaria control programme, national diseases control programme, sea-

sonal disease control programme, maternal and child death review, among

With regard to service matters, the J-Cs have been asked to act as chairperson of selection committee for district level recruitments of health department under DMHO/DCHS/Principals

of government medical colleges and superintendents of teaching hospitals. The J-Cs have also been the reporting made authority for all annual

confidential reports of sub

district level officers of

health; the disciplinary

cadre posts and also for establishments, individuals and organisations violating government acts and orders under the Food Adulteration Regulation and Clinical

Establishment Acts. The AP government doctors association had written a letter to Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, seeking his intervention to

cancel the GO 64. They said that though the GO mentioned about delegation of some powers from district collectors to J-Cs, fact was that district

collectors themselves were

not enjoying such powers. Service matters and technically monitored day-tofunctions DMHOs/DCHS were

entrusted to JCs and the JCs were also empowered to review daily activities of superintendents who are in additional director cadre or under-secretary cadre at state-level, doctors said.

The Andhra Pradesh government doctors' association joint action committee state convener Dr Jayadheer said, "For the first time, all doctors working in both government and private sectors

Day celebrations. We seek withdrawal of GO64 as it will derail the entire medical and health administration.

Non-medical officials are being delegated with more powers by divesting these from district level senior medical and health officials.'

On Doctors' Day, the Chief Minister tweeted, expressing his deepest gratitude to the medical fraternity for their dedicated and unparalleled service to humanity especially during the trying times of Covid19.

POLICE SEIZES ₹10 CRORE WORTH RED SANDERS LOGS

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, JULY 1

In a huge haul, the Chittoor district police wing has seized red sanders logs and vehicles worth ₹10.25 crores from a location in Tamil Nadu and arrested seven persons in connection with this case.

With the instructions of SP S. Senthil Kumar and under the direction of SEB ASP Rishanth Reddy, the police have intensified vehicular checking in the district. As part of this, under the direct supervision of DSP N Sudhakar Reddy, a police team led by Gudipala SI Prasad conducted vehicular check at Golla Madugu sand check post on the Chittoor-Vellore highway, when they arrested seven red sanders smugglers.

Presenting the seized booty before the media, SP Mr Senthil Kumar said that the police team, acting on a tip-off, lay in wait near the checkpost, when the seven accused was sighted ferrying six red sanders logs in a Tata Sumo. The police arrested them and seized the vehicle.

348 RED SANDER LOGS SEIZED IN SADASIVAKONA

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, JULY 1

The AP Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) personnel seized a huge quantity of red sanders logs, which were dumped at a location in Sadasivakona forest area, situated 35 km far from Tirupati, on Thursday.

Disclosing the case details to media persons at the task force office on Thursday, RSASTF DSP D. Muralidhar said that their personnel have conducted combing for the last two days in the forest area located between Vadamalapeta and Puttur, when they tripped on a dump of 348 red sanders logs.

"Acting on the instructions of DIG (Anantapur range) Kanthi Rana Tata, we have formed two teams led by RI Bhaskar and CI Venkat Ravi to comb the forest area. During the operation, which continued for almost two days, our teams tripped over the dump and found the logs. In all, 348 logs have been seized during this operation", he said.

MAN 'SUSPICIOUSLY' **DIES AFTER GETTING JAB**

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 1

A 33-year-old Uggina Yallaji Naidu suspi-ciously died on Thursday after taking the first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine at a vaccination centre in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. The family

lodged a complaint with the Sabbavaram police in Visakhapatnam rural. The Sabbavaram sub-inspector B. Satish said that they registered an FIR and filed an 'unnatural death' case. The body sent post-mortem Visakhapatnam.

The autopsy would be carried out by a team of doctors, as it is a sensitive case, on Friday. "Naidu died within eight hours after taking his first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine," sub-inspector Satish said.

up for sale in Vizag

Hotels and restaurants sector worst affected by Covid-19

Hotels, restaurants

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 1

After losing huge chunks of money due to the two spells of Covid-19, the hotel and restaurant business owners gave up hopes of revival and planned to dispose of their enterprise for a song. According to travel and tour operators, the hotels and restaurants was one sector which suffered heavy losses due to Covid-19 that put people at homes since the breakout in

January 2020. The industry which picked up business with the establishment of steel plant and other private sector undertakings in the mid 1980s never

be executive capital.

"The virus dashed all our hopes and most of us are now planning to shift to other businesses for self sustenance," said Visakhapatnam Hotel Welfare Owners Association president K. Satyanarayana.

Talking to Deccan Chronicle on Thursday, Deccanhe said with the third wave looming large over the horizon, the owners felt the industry would have to be shut for some more time. He said many entrepreneurs unable to manage the loan liabilities have decided to dispose of the establishments for less than half

of making it bigger after the YSRC government announced Vizag would cations are being circu-lated among the hotel and restaurant entreprethrough social

media.
"Not single sale has been reported so far and we are waiting to see who are the takers of this sick Satyanarayana said. He said there were around 600 stand alone

restaurants, food parlors and mobile food vans across Gajuwaka Madhurawada. Only those selling take away Only parcels were surviving and others have shut

down their shops.
Among the 1,000 odd hotels and lodges, the present occupancy was

going at ten per cent for

the show, he said.

Satyanaryana said he owned a hotel in the heart of the city having 51 rooms and only ten occupied Thursday.

"During shutdown I paid the power bill-80 percent of the load which comes to ₹1.5 lakh per month," Satyanarayana said. Another hotelier said people stopped eating outside on the advice of medical professionals and conducting all the meetings online and stopped visiting Vizag for

business meets.
He said that the pandemic also caused huge unemployment in the

3,841 Covid cases, 38 deaths in AP

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 1

Andhra Pradesh has reported 3,841 fresh Covid-19 infections and 38 deaths in the last 24 hours.

The state has been registering slight dip in fresh infections in the last three days as it reported 3,797 on June 30, 3,620 on June 29 and 2,224 on June 28 unlike earlier days of reporting more than 4,000 cases daily on an average.

The state health authorities reported on Thursday that out of 90,574 samples tested, 3,841 persons were

found infected with confirmed Coronavirus. Out of a total number of 2,20,84,192 samples tested so far in the state, 18,93,354 persons were found infected with the virus and of them, 18,42,432 were recovered in the course of treatment while 38,178 are still active with the virus.

East Godavari continues to lead the state with highest number of 760 daily fresh infections followed by 616 in Chittoor, 504 in West Godavari, 350 in Krishna, 313 in Guntur, 296 in Prakasam, 261 in Nellore and 171 in Kadapa.

FEW VIZAG-MUMBAI TRAINS WILL BE **CANCELLED TILL AUG 2**

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 1

The service of a pair of Vizag-Mumbai trains will be cancelled till August 2 due to the ongoing safety works at Solapur Division of Central Railway.

PARADIP PORT TRUST e-Tender Call Notice NO.TD/TM/GEN-235(Vol-V)/21/1199 Dt. 29.06.2021

Dt. 29.06.2021
Name of the Work: "Allotment of 04 (Four) nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore/Iron Ore Pellet plots at IOHP". License fee: ₹ 2,81,92,560/-, 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 https://eprocure.gov.in eprocure/app Sr. Asst. Traffic Manage

PPT/PR/51/21-22

"Vijayawada to turn into green city soon"

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 1

Minister for municipal administration Botsa Satyanarayana stated that the government is developing Vijayawada into a clean and green city restraining pollu-tion and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy giving top priority for Vijayawada city development. The minister inaugurated the renovated C h e n n u p a t i Ramakotaiah municipal stadium at Patamata with ₹8.91 crore in Vijayawada Thursday.

Minister Satyanarayana asserted the need for beautification of the city and asked people to cooperate with VMC towards improving greenery on all roads of the city. He said that Vijayawada is State hence CM Jagan is giving top priority towards development of **SATYANARAYANA**

asserted the need for beautification of the city and asked people to cooperate with VMC towards improving greenery on all roads of the city. He said that Vijayawada is the main city of the State hence CM Jagan is giving top priority towards development of the city in all aspects. He stated that already six divisions of the city had been selected as model divisions.

the city in all aspects. He stated that already six divisions of the city had been selected as model divisions under Clean Andhra Pradesh project and asserted the need towards bringing awareness among the masses about practice and promotion of cleanliness in the city.

Minister for endow-nent Vellampalli

Srinivasa Rao said that the earlier government Vijayawada city's development but CM Jagan immediately sanctioned ₹600 crore for city development showing YSRC government dedication. He said that the whole World is facing severe troubles due to pandemic Covid-19 crisis and only the AP government is implementing welfare schemes and continuing development activities amidst Covid-19 reflecting capabilities of CM

assured about implementing more welfare schemes and development activities in the city in the coming days by the YSRC government. The duo minister planted saplings in the stadium and said that yoga and gymnasium facilities have started in the renovated stadium besides provision for and outdoor indoor

Tahsildar, deputy in ACB net

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 1

Tahsildar of Chodavaram in Visakhapatnam rural district B. Ravi Kumar and deputy Tahsildar M. Raja landed in ACB on

The officials said tiles business owner S. Venkata Rama Krishna lodged a complaint with the additional SP of ACB in Visakhapatnam that the both the officials demanded a bribe of ₹4.5 lakh for mutation of 1.65 acres of land in survey no 113 of Narasapuram village of Chodavaram mandal which is in the name of J. Venkata Ramana, who entered into an agreement with the complainant. He also applied for conversion of 41 cents of land in survey

THE ACCUSED were arrested and produced before the ADJ-cum special judge for ACB cases.

353-2A Narasayyapeta village under the same mandal. The bribe demand was for both the cases.

The officials said a trap was laid on Thursday following verification of the complaint and Tahsildar Ravi Kumar and deputy Tahsildar M. Raja were caught red handed when they were demanding and accepting the bribe amount of ₹4.5 lakh through Tahsildar's driver from the complainant Rama Krishna.

The accused arrested and produced before the ADJ-cum special judge for ACB cases in Visakhapatnam.

ape-Procurement - Tender Notice NIT No.GVSCCL/ Projects /202(Jalaripeta)/2021-22/ Dt:29-06-2021 Laying of damaged CC & BT roads from End to End in Jalaripeta in ABD area under Smart City under Smart City Last date of Submission of bid: 15-07-2021 @ 4.00 PM For further details visit http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in E-Mail: visakhapatnamsmartcity@gmail.com MD & CEO, GVSCCI

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)

(Phone No. : Mobile 9646106022)

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specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 30.06.2021 Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at

https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. RO: 76155/12/338/2021/5676

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Property House site in an extent of 170.0 sq. House site in an extent of 170.0 sq. yards or 142.0 sq. metres in RS No. 122/2B, CHEVURU village, Sriharipuram grama panchayat, Mudinepalli Mandal, Krishna District being bounded by: East: Property of Kotti Veera Venkata Subba Rao. South: Bandi passage. West: panchayat bazaar. North: Property of P. Ramakrishna & Koth Satyavathi.

P Ramakrishna Paramahamsa Door No. 30.10.19, Durga Agraharam

Vijayawada-2. Date: 01-07-2021

Capital value-based property tax opposed

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JULY 1

The protesters demanding rollback of the Capital value based property tax staged a dharna in front of Vijayawada municipal corporation office here on Thursday. The protestors tried to barge into the VMC office but the police foiled the attempts. The leaders of AP Urban Citizens Forum (APUCF) in the innovative act tore the GO copies of capital value based property tax and tax on garbage and dumped the pieces into

garbage bins. APUCF state convener Ch. Babu Rao said that the government is giving lakhs and crores of subsidies to the private and corporate companies but showing reluctance to annulment of property tax for one year to people who were badly affected due to the Covid-19 crisis. He deplored that further the government is trying to rob people through Capital value based prop-

erty tax which is severely

objectionable. Recalling the verdict of Supreme Court that paying compensation to kin of victims who died due to the Covid-19 is the responsibility of the governments, he deplored that sadly the government is forcing people into more financial difficulties in the Covid-19 times with hiked taxes. Mr Babu Rao objected to

the silence of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy about the Capital value based property tax and garbage tax and demanded CM Jagan to break his silence by announcing cancellation of garbage tax and Capital value based property tax system. He said that people in large numbers led by APUCF staged protests in front of Municipal Corporation and Municipal offices on Thursday across the State and submitted memorandums to concern Mayors, Commissioners Chairmen Chairpersons. He added that a state level meeting would be held on July 3.

Agency to operate TTD counters

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, JULY 1

services to visiting pilgrims, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has begun to operate counters, which have a pilgrim interface in Tirumala, in a more professional way. TTD Additional EO A.V. Dharma Reddy opened gates for the new counters management system at Srivari laddu counters, beside Tirumala temple

on Thursday.

To offer more transparent

have the pilgrim interface in Tirumala including Laddu counters, Vaikuntam queue complex. Special entry darshan and Slotted Sarva darshan at Tirupati and Alipiri toll Speaking on the occagate will also be operated sion, the Additional EO by this agency.

said that the TTD

called for tenders towards

the supply of manpower

for the operation of

counters in a professional

way and KVM Info from

Bengaluru has come

forward quoting the low-

He said, henceforth all

the 164 counters which

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K'TAKA TO BUILD

COVID WARRIORS

Bengaluru, July 1: A first-of-its-kind grand Covid Warrior

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 memo-

rial to pay homage to those doctors who laid down their lives due to

Covid while rendering

their services on our Arogya Soudha premis-

es. 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

way in memory of doc-

tors and paramedics, which will be on par with the War Memorial

in New Delhi where any-

one can go and pay their

The memorial will be a place where everyone can come and pay trib-

IIT-M PROFESSOR

ALLEGES CASTE

respects.

MEMORIAL FOR

SHORT TAKES

MP MINISTER FALLS FROM DAIS DURING EVENT

DC CORRESPONDENT

Madhya Pradesh energy min-ister Pradyumna Singh Tomar on Thursday fell from the dais during a programme in Gwalior in MP and twisted his

The incident happened when the minister was going to address the function organised on the occasion of inau-guration 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

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 coaccused 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 antigraft 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 simulta neously 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 suspi-cion 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

NIA COURT ACQUITS AKHIL GOGOI, OTHERS IN SEDITION CASE

MANOJ ANAND | DC

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 Observations' the court otservations 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 with-out the foundations of the State being impai-red. 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.

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 judici-

 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 lim-



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

Modi urges IMA to undertake studies on benefits of Yoga

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.

Losing even one life is saddening, Modi said in his address at an Indian Medical Association event on National Doctors' Day and then emphasised that India saved lives of lakhs of its people and has fared better than more developed and prosperous countries in terms of the Covid infection and mortality

per lakh population.

A big credit for that goes to doctors, healthcare and frontline workers, he said.

On the occasion, he also urged the IMA to undertake evidence-based stud-

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

Speculation is rife that a

couple of BJP ministers

could be sent back to the

organisation. Ever since

the second wave of Covid-

Modi government.

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 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 treat-

Highlighting "limitations" of the medical infrastructure that was ies on the benefits of yoga created in the country "Our government has in "mission-mode" and over several decades and given maximum priority

Sarbananda Sonowal

ters and BJP president J.P.

Nadda, giving rise to spec-

ulations of a rejig in the

Parliament's Monsoon session is likely to begin

from the third week of

Modi government.

JD(U), AIADMK too may join Modi team

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

tries. "Losing the life of even one person is very saddening but India has also

saved the lives of lakhs of its people from coron-avirus. 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.

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 facili-

ties, Modi said. "Our government is committed to safeguarding our doctors. Last year, we brought in several proviagainst crimes versaries fall on July 1. sions

DISCRIMINATION O.P. ARULN | DC CHENNAI, JULY 1

An accomplished faculty member in the country's 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 UTM in the 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 pursu-

ing 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

one small step at a time, or do they?", He wrote while sayin that he is leaving for another insti-

North India has to wait longer for rains

New Delhi, July 1: The unending wait for rains and respite from searing 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 cau-

tioned that the break in the monsoon could impact agricultural opermonsoon ations 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.

against doctors," he said.

We are also providing free insurance cover to

our Covid warriors, Modi

The way our doctors have served the country is

an inspiration in itself, he

said and expressed grati-tude to all doctors on behalf of 130 crore

Today, when the country

is fighting such a big war against Coronavirus, doc-

tors have saved millions of lives by working hard day and night, he said.

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, who-

se birth and death anni-

added.

Indians.

Normal to above normal rainfall is most likely to be experienced over parts of central India and adia cent areas of peninsular Gangetic India and 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.

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

19 started ebbing, a series this month and the expecof physical meetings have tation is that the Cabinet taken place between the reshuffle could take place PM, senior Cabinet minisbefore that.

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

Covid toll underreported, says Kerala Opposition

Jyotiraditya Scindia

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

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.

George maintained that the government was fol-lowing 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 or However, the Opposition challenged the government claim of complying with WHO and ICMR guidelines. It pointed out that many people with comorbidity who died of Covid were not reported as Covid related deaths. The actual death toll was much higher than what has been shown by the government.

Opposition leader V.D. Satheeshan asked the government to shed it's false prestige. "The government is not responsible for the spread of Covid. Therefore they should not make it a prestige issue. The government should come out with 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 discrepencies 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 statereported 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.

Covid mortality data in Odisha has been fudged: BJD leader

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, JULY 1

vice-president Soumya Ranjan Patnaik on Thursday kicked off a storm in Odisha politics after he raised some serious questions over the number of Covid-19 related deaths in the state.

data manipulation Patnaik said that due to Patnaik, son-in-law of ormer chief minister administrative failure and

Janaki Ballav 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

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 illattempt of hiding the data is ruining the sanctity of administrative machinery, he said.

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 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 79page 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 Chinamade VT-4 battle tanks into its armoury. Produced by Chinese state-owned armoured vehicle manufacturer, Norinco, the delivery of VT-4 tanks from the manufacturer began in April last year. Pakistan is the third country to have bought these 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

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 Wedn esday 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 Tr ump's company surrendered Thursday to New York authorities planning to indict him, possibly with tax-related offen-

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

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

No foreign force can bully China: Xi

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

Beijing, July 1: Any "foreign force" trying to "bully" China will encounter a "great wall of steel" erected by over 1.4 billion Chinese people and its powerful military, President Xi Jinping warned on Thursday, as the ruling Communist Party 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 balco-ny 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 CenCHINA HAS repeatedly accused the US of trying to curb its "peaceful rise", amidst concern in the neighbourhood about the growing assertiveness of the Chinese military in the strategic Indo-Pacific region and elsewhere.

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

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

on and elsewhere.

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

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

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

people," he said.

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

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



Gholamhossein Mohseni

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

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

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

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

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

Raisi, the previous judiciary chief and a protege of Khamenei, was sanctioned by the 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 announce ment 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 Unions sanctions lists over allegations of severe human

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

Delta shadow over EU Covid travel pass Brussels, July 1: An EUwide Covid certificate for easier travel came into force on Thursday, just in

time for Europe's busy summer vacation period — but the highly infec-tious Delta variant is already threatening to cur-

The EU document essentially a QR code available on smartphones or on paper — shows whether the bearer is vaccinated with one of the EU's approved jabs (from BioN-Tech/Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson), or whether they have recovered from an infection or recently test-

ed negative.
Under EU law, the certificate is meant to do away with the need for quarantines or further testing when travelling between the EU's 27 countries or four associated European nations (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein). All EU member states were connected to the digital certificate system on Thursday except Ireland, which was hit by a cyber-attack targeting its health service in May and plans to have it operatio-

nal on July 19. But a surge in the Delta variant, first detected in India and now quickly gaining ground elsewhere, could trigger an "emergency brake" provision suspending the certificate's acceptance.

Already Germany has a ban on incoming travellers from Portugal, where the Delta variant has become dominant. Only its own citizens or residents are allowed in from Portugal, and they must quarantine for two weeks upon arrival. Berlin's decision has raised Brussels' ire, with EU Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders saying on Wednesday that we should avoid travel bans" within the EU and stressing that Germany should have consulted with its partners first.

The startling rise in Delta cases in former EU member Britain, with a rolling two-week infection rate more than seven times that of the bloc, is generating deep concern on the continent.

This week, Portugal, Spain and Malta all abruptly increased restrictions for travellers from the UK, although the three said they would accept fully va-

ccinated Britons. The World Health Organisation added to the une-

control Delta variant: EMA The Hague, July 1: Two doses of Covid vaccine appear to provide protecspreading Delta variant of the coronavirus, the European Medicines Agency said on Thursday.

The upbeat assessment came as the World Health Organization warned that the variant first spotted in India could fuel a new wave of cases in Europe.

The EMA's head of vaccine strategy, Marco Cavaleri, said the Amsterdambased watchdog was "aw-

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

EU Justice Commissioner

ase by warning Thursday that Covid case numbers in Europe were on the rise once again, up 10 percent after two months of decline, because of a loosening 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, A4E, 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

MARCO CAVALERI, Head, European Medicines Agency

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

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 "until we end the pandemic everywhere, we will

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

Asserting that when some countries cannot

vaccinate, it's a threat to all countries, 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

protecting against all the

strains circulating in Europe, including the Delta

"Emerging data from real world evidence are sh-

owing that two doses of

vaccines are protective against the Delta variant."

Four vaccines are current-

ly approved for use in the EU: Pfizer/BioNTech, Mo-

derna, AstraZeneca and

Johnson & Johnson.

variant," he said.

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

Double Covid jab seems to Study: Viral load less in re-infected "Right now it seems the Washington, July 1: Pefour vaccines approved in the European Union are ople who contract Covid-19

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

Researchers noted that while Covid-19 vaccines are proving to be highly effective in preventing in fection, 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 were identified in five participants who were fully vaccinated and 11 who

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

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

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

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

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

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

Russia booster shots amid spike

Moscow, July 1: Russian recommend having boosthealth 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 fol-"In view of the difficult epidemiological situation today, doctors

er 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

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

nths after their first vacci-

nation. Health authorities

said that the more conta-

Sputnik Light version.

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

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

Berlin to vote on bid to combat housing crisis

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

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

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 sent prices soaring by nearly 85 percent between 2007 and 2019.

Berlin's city-state government already moved to like to see more than 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

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 spoke-

sman 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.

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 affect-

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

ed by disaster, which shall include ex gratia assistance on account of loss of life. The government cannot run away from its responsi-

bility, 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 trans-

gress the boundaries that separate the two branches of government.

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

Fuel price paradox

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

per cylinder on Thursday.

The cascading effect of the fuel price rise is reflected in price escalation in goods as milk to cement prices spiral and services. The effect was visible in

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

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 lakh crores, with the take from fuel tax was a phenomenal ₹5.6 lakh Centre taking a lion's 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

KAUSHIK MITTER

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Subhani



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



Patralekha Chatteriee

Dev 360

and a mother really mean for the vast of Indian majority 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 rayaged by the plague, there is an obvious response: Neither of them had child-care responsibilities.

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

In 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 Pand-emic, 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

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 Their participation in paid employment was found to be around 57.3 per cent, compared to women, whose participation rate was only 18.4

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 presenta-tions: according to OECD (2014) data, women in Ìndia 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 - it means inwomen creased 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, means entrenching the sexual division of labour, furthering inequalities and creating an intergenerational cycle of "unpaid work" for girls and women. The bottomline — it leaves women with fewer options and choices in life, with all attendant

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

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

centres, etc., during the pandemic has made things much tougher.
In an article in the
Economic and Political

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRACTOR SCHEME

As most of our state population is dependent on agriculture, the state government is providing so many sops to farmers. It is highly appreciable that the government purchased nearly 16,000 tractors for each village to plough for free as small farmers end up paying approximately ₹1,000 every single time to private persons. Farmer need to plough a minimum of four times a year. If this scheme starts, the government can provide employment to 16,000 drivers.

K. Murali Mohan Visakhapatnam

COVAXIN DEAL

Ever since Covaxin got emergency use authorisation before completing the mandatory three phase testing, it has attracted controversy within the country and abroad (Brazil suspends Covaxin deal, DC, July 1). Yet a lot of people all over the country are administered this vaccine without any significant side effects. However, by suspending the deal, Brazil did the right thing under the circumstances. The probe should throw light on all aspects of the deal and either prove or disprove the allegations.

Govardhana Myneedu Vijavawada

WATER DISPUTE It is disconcerting and unsettling

to read the water dispute between Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh. Water issues have always been sensitive and give rise to strong emotions. Instead of resorting to blame games, the Chief Ministers or their representatives must sit together and make an earnest effort to resolve the issue amicably. Putting the ball in Centre's court will lead to rigmarole and zilch.

Dr C. Ghanshyam Visakhapatnam

50 YEARS AGO IN **DECCAN** • hronicle China can make 40 N-bombs

China is now capable of producing about 40 nuclear boms of 20 hig about 40 fittlean boins of 20 kilo ton capacity annually, according to "an estimate" the Defence Ministry said today in its annual report for 1970-71.

NEW DELHI, JULY 1

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



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

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

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

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

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

their main support base. The Taliban have overrun many

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

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

a more committed enemy. The Taliban's success in the north

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

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

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

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

By arrangement with **Dawn**

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



■ All sellers in the network have to register with DPIIT

Registration must for direct selling players

CHENNAI, JULY 1

Direct selling entities like Amway, Avon, Herbalife and Modicare as well as millions of sellers operating in their networks will now have to register with Department 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

Zydus Cadila has applied for emergency use authori-sation to the DCGI for its

three-dose Covid vaccine,

which has achieved pri-

mary 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

The company plans to manufacture 10-12 crore

for use in the country.

doses annually.

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, JULY 1

Wednesday, every direct entity intends to operate in India and every direct seller

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

operating in the network

ing entity. In India there are more

which produces the spike

protein of the Sars-CoV-2

Primary efficacy of 66.6

per cent has been attained

for symptomatic RT-PCR

positive cases in the inter-

im analysis and 100 per

cent accuracy for the third

The company conducted the clinical trial for its vac-

cine in India in over 50 cen-

tres and has tested in ado-

lescent population in the

12-18 years age group.

dose on moderate disease.

when injected.

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 net-work also will have to reg-

ister with the DPIIT.

According to the World

Federation of Direct Selling Associations, India had 5.7 million direct sellers in 2018-19. Rajat Banerjee, chairman, Indian Direct Selling Association (Idsa), welcomed the govern-ment's move. "However,

and the vaccine was found

erated.

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

Proveda Marketing India, said, "Registering with the DPIIT will increase the trust customers have with the company and individual participants." No direct selling entity or

direct seller should promote a Pyramid Scheme or Money Circulation Scheme in the garb of doing direct selling business. In such schemes there is transaction of money without sales of goods and services.

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

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

Cadila applies for Covid vaccine approval Around 1,000 subjects were crore vaccine doses per enrolled in this age group from August

onwards and 5 crore doses

to be safe and very well tolby December this year. Our target is to produce 10-12 "As the first ever plasmid DNA vaccine for human crore vaccine doses in a year," Patel said. Once the use, ZyCoV-D has proven vaccine gets approval, the its safety and efficacy procompany plans to launch file in our fight against Covid-19. The vaccine when approved will help not only adults but also ZyCoV-D in 45-60 days. The vaccine has to be adolescents in the 12 to 18 years age group," said managing director of the

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.

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 rev-enue) dues and the inability of the operations to generate the required cash in a predatory pricing situation".

As per the letter, seen by PTI, the company requested the Depart-ment Telecom to grant it another year of the moratorium to pay this instalment in April 2023 and has made it clear that "it is almost inevitable" that the firm

will not be able to pay the amount in April VIL has also said that while it is working on raising new funding for the last six months, "investors are not willing to invest in the combecause they believe that unless there

is a significant improvement in consumer tar-iffs, the health of the industry will not recover and they will incur a loss on their invest-

RBI Guv flags rising cyber-attacks as risk

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.

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

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

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

He said capital and liquidity buffers at financial institutions are "reasonably resilient"

BANKS TOLD TO TRACK RETAIL, **MSME LOANS**

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

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

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

withstand future shocks. 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,

Jet Airways creditors to recoup just 5% money

RAGINI SAXENA

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 increasingly accustomed to paltry recoveries.

The new owners of Jet Airways -- Dubai-based businessman Murari Lal 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 tribunal 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 zerocoupon bonds. The new owners have also offered the lenders a 9.5 per cent stake in Jet Airways and a 7.5 per cent interest in Jet Privilege, the carrier's loyalty and rewards man-

agement company. In India, recoveries for financiers from resolved

insolvency cases dropped to 39 per cent of dues as of March from 46 per cent a year earlier, Macquarie Capital data show. If the top nine cases by recoverv are excluded, lenders received just 24 per cent

Jet Airways was India's biggest private carrier before it went belly up in 2019 under mounting

Even though Airways is closer to flying again now that its rescue plan has been approved, there are many challenges ahead for the grounded carrier. Jet Airways was planning to operate all its historic domestic slots, which went to other airlines in the time it wasn't flying. but the bankruptcy court didn't agree to restore

"The allotment of slots and their usage is like a constantly changing jigsaw puzzle," the order "A single slot therefore could not be left or kept idle. Besides, other airlines have utilised those slots for all these — Bloomberg years.

MANUFACTURING PMI DIPS IN JUNE

"We expect to produce 1

company Sharvil Patel.

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO

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

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

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

June car sales in high gear; demand rises **MICHAEL GONSALVES**

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

personal transport. In fact, reopening of dealerships and a low base of

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

In June last year, around 1.15.000 units were sold by 15 passenger vehicle makers due to partial reopenrestricted production.

Most automakers are expected to start manufacturing in all three shifts this month, with steep production targets at Maruti Suzuki, Hvundai Motor

India and Tata Motors. In the fourth quarter of FY21, most of these compa-

nies reported sustained recovery in retail sales. But supply constraints due to a shortage of microchips led to a long waiting period for some vehicles. month,

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

Passenger vehicle sales at

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

Maruti Suzuki jumped 142

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

Crypto exchanges flounder as banks cut ties

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

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

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

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

Options being resorted to include tying up with smaller payment gateways, building their own payment processors, holding back on immediate settlements or offering only peer-to-peer transactions, the heads of five crypto exchanges said.

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

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

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

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



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

According to a regulatory filing by Coffee Day Global Ltd (CDGL), parent firm Coffee Day Enter-prises 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.

new customers, vending vage value. "In this situa-

DROPS I 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 smallbusiness owners are able to launch effective cam-

Regulation on crowdfunding, in which companies raise capital from investors via governmentmonitored online plat-forms, 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,

Covid has been a massive boon to this market, Lustrino says. When the pandemic dis-

rupted traditional financing options, more smallbusiness owners began looking for alternative funding sources; that made them more open to the ideas of crowdfunding and of capital as a commodity, he says. More investors got comfortable with crowdfunding 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 private companies online,



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

Although crowdfunding is often associated with raising capital for new businesses, months of lockdowns have many small businesses exploring crowdfunding as a way to get back to normal operations, according to Sherwood Neiss, a principal at Crowdfund Capital What we're seeing is a

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

crowdfunding paign: Crowdfunding may not be a good fit for small-business owners who are strapped for time or energy. Small businesses launching recovery-oriented crowdfunding cam-

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

of how big their investor base might be. **Don't skip** Keys to an effective the legal work: This isn't people just giving money to support someone...vou have to file disclosures for investors. Templates and boilerplate language can go a long way, but have a paigns should keep three lawyer review the final documents, says Neiss.

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

According to CDGL, in the earlier year, to attract division of the company used to install custommade cabinets at customers' locations. Custombuilt cabinets are fixtures and cannot be removed and do not have any saltion, 29,996 cabinets are discarded," it said. -PTI SHORT TAKES

Humpy nominated

for Khel Ratna

New Delhi: Reigning women's world rapid chess champion Koneru Humpy has been nominated for the prestigious Khel Ratna award by the All India Chess Federation, Humpy is already a recipient of the Arjuna award and Padma Shri. Olympic-bound shuttler B. Sai Praneeth and Kidambi Srikanth have been nominated for the Khel Ratna award by the Badminton Association of India, which has also recommended three players - HS Prannoy, Pranav Jerry Chopra and Sameer Verma — for the Arjuna award. Praneeth won a bronze medal at the 2019 Worlds. Also, seven other players -Vidit Gujrathi, B. Adhiban, S. P. Sethuraman, M. R. Lalith Babu, Bhakti Kulkarni and Padmini Rout have been nominated for the Arjuna award, chess federation secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan said. — PTI

12-yr-old Mishra is youngest **GM**

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

Jhajharia rewrites

own world record

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

Fifteen athletes qualify for Tokyo

New Delhi: Star sprinter Dutee Chand, javelin thrower Annu Rani and 400m hurdler M. P. Jabir qualified for the Tokyo Olympics through world rankings as 15 Indian athletes and two relay teams were confirmed for the Games by the sport's world governing body on Thursday. Twelve individual athletes, including star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, booked automatic quota for the Olympics by breaching the qualification mark, while the trio of Dutee, Rani and Jabir, as well as the men's 4x400m relay team made it to the Games through rankings Dutee was 41st and 50th respectively in the list of 56

athletes to compete in both the 100m and 200m events, while Rani was at 18th (out of 32) and Jabir at 32nd (out of 40). Long jumper M. Sreeshankar, shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor, discus

throwers Kamalpreet Kaur and Seema Punia qualified for the Olympics this year. — PTI

Live on TV

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

Quarterfinals: Peru vs Paraguay

Chile from 5.30 am (Saturday) on Sony Ten 2

Regd. No. AP/VJA/41/24/2000.

Printed and published from Viiavawada Vijayawada
by K.Sudhakar on behalf
of Decan Chronicle Holdings Limited
at Decan Chronicle Holdings Press,
No. C 3 & 4 Patamata,
Industrial Estate, VIJAYAWADA,
RNI Registration No. 45061/90
Editorial: 2555962, Fax: 2555234
Board: 2555284, 2555287, 2555185
Grams: CHRONICLE
Editor: Kaushik Mitter

BELGIAN BAFFLE

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

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

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

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

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

fielder De Bruyne is central to Belgium's hopes of reaching the semi-finals, where Spain or Switzerland would await next Tuesday.

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

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

midfielder Chelsea Jorginho, who faced De Bruyne's City in last month's Champions League final, has warned

his Italy teammates. With four dominant victories and three clean sheets so far at the Euro, the Belgians are living up to their billing as the world's top-ranked team.



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

France and prevailed on

penalties as 2018 World

Cup hero Kylian Mbappe

missed the decisive spot-

kick. Now the Swiss hope to spring another surprise

against a Spain team that

has scored 10 times in two

games after a slow start to

Alvaro Morata's redemp-

tive strike helped secure a

the group stage.

against

Swiss eye another big scalp

5-3 extra-time win over

Croatia, but Spain will

need to cut out the errors

if they are to contend for a

record fourth European

Championship.
The Juventus forward

and his family had been

subjected to abuse by fans

in Seville after he missed

a series of chances in the

group stage. History is on

side

against

much-fancied

50-50 CHANCE FOR KDB AND EDEN: COACH

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

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

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

Midfielder Thorgan Hazard said: "Italy will be the toughest opponent. They've had a good run of wins and it will be a nice challenge for us to end that sequence. Their style

Switzerland, having lost

just once in 22 meetings, a

that sparked their run to the 2010 World Cup title.

Sergio Busquets, the Spain captain, is the lone

survivor from that team,

while the Barcelona mid-

fielder and Jordi Alba are

the only two players in the

squad left from their Euro

2012 triumph.

1-0 defeat in South Africa

COPA | AMERICA



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

Neymar back for Chile clash

Rio de Janeiro, July 1: 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 Sánchez has recovered from a calf muscle injury ahead of the encounter at the Nilton Santos Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

The Seleçao spared a group of regular starters in the 1-1 draw with Ecuador on Sunday, resting Neymar, defender Thiago Silva and striker Gabriel Jesus. Others, including Casemiro, entered as sub-

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

last memorable match between Brazil and

16 at the 2014 World Cup. Regular time ended 1-1, with goals by David Luiz and Sánchez. The Chileans almost beat the hosts in extra time, with a strike by Mauricio Pinilla hitting the bar in the last minute.

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

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

Coach Martin Lasarte is yet to decide whether 32year-old Sánchez will start against Brazil or come off the bench.

-AP

Poland's Linette shocks Svitolina in straight sets

St. Petersburg, July 1:

Switzerland will try to fol-

low up their shock elimi-

nation of world champi-

ons France at Euro 2020

against Spain on Friday

after reaching the quar-

ter-finals of a major tour-

nament for the first time

Vladimir Petkovic's side

recovered from two goals

down to force extra time

in 67 years

London, July 1: No. 3-seeded Elina Svitolina became the latest upset victim in the Wimbledon women's draw when she lost in the second round Linette of Poland, who earned the biggest victory of her career, 6-3, 6-4.

Eight of the top 11 players in the WTA rankings are out of the tournament due to defeat, withdrawal or injury.

Linette had 28 winners to just eight for Svitolina, a semilians. Wimbledon two years semifinalist ago. Linette, ranked 44th, had never before beaten a top-15 player in a completed match.

French Open champion Barbora Krejcikova extended her winning streak to 14 matches by beating Andrea Petkovic 7-5, 6-4. Krejcikova seeks to become the first woman since Serena Williams in 2015 to win Roland Garros and Wimbledon back to back.

A former Wimbledon doubles champion, Kreicikova is making her tournament debut in the singles draw.

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

> SCRAPPY BARTY INTO THIRD ROUND

Wimbledon

Ashleigh Barty's bid to win the Wimbledon sintitle on the 50th



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

anniversary of fellow Australian indigenous Evonne Goolagong Cawley's first victory stayed on course on Thursday.

However, Barty produced a far from perfect performance in her 6-4, 6-3 win over Russia's Anna Blinkova as she progressed to a third round meeting with Czech Katerina Siniakova.

"She pushed me incredibly hard," said a relieved

COCO MAKES ANOTHER RUN

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

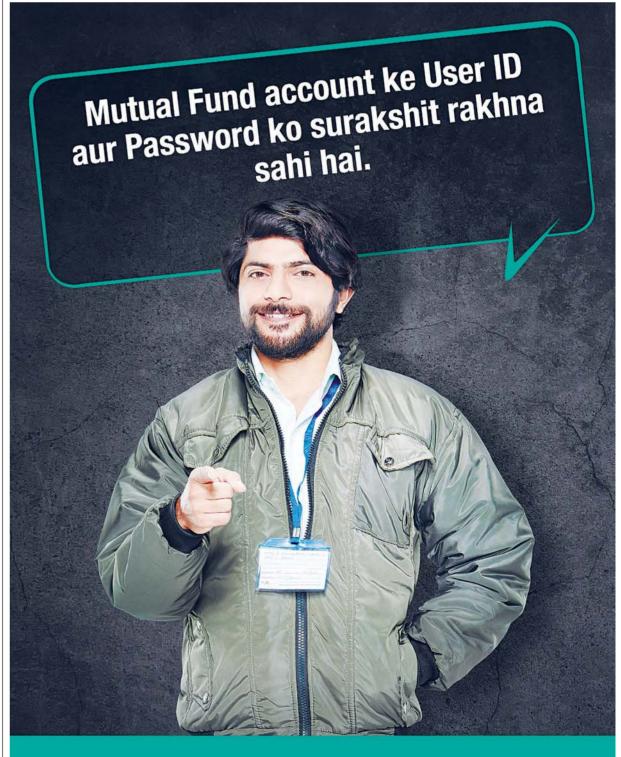
The 17-year-old American defeated 34year-old Russian veteran Elena Vesnina 6-4, 6-3 to keep her on track for making another run into the second week at the All England Club.

Agencies

THE RESULTS

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

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



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