THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI | MONDAY 12 | JULY 2021

**WEATHER** Max: 35°C Min: 27°C



Pilava: Aani 28 **Tithi:** Dhuvidhiyai **Star**: Ayilyam Rahukalam: 7.30 am to 9 am Yamagandam: 10.30 am to 12 noon

> **PRAYERS** Fajar: 4.27 am Luhar: 12.18 pm **Asar:** 3.38 pm Maghrib: 6.39 pm **Isha:** 7.58 pm

**SUNSET TODAY 6.40 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.50 AM MOONRISE TODAY 7.38 AM MOONSET TOMORROW 9.27 PM** 



CASES

(+35.446)

(+691)3,08,71,708 4,08,763

covid19india.org

**DEATHS** 

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS (+2,775)

TN:25,18,786 | 33,418

**WORLD CONFIRMED CASES** 

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

COUNTRIES AREAS WITH 219

worldometers.info

Chirag Paswan speaks to Lalu Yadav

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

to take forward the ideology of

Lohia and Ambedkar are wel-

come, be it Chirag Paswan or



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



CITY | 2 **Ex-AIADMK** minister 'Thoppu' joins DMK



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

Argentina win Copa America



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### **NIA conducts raids in Kashmir** valley, arrests six under UAPA

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

### Agency books case against 'ISIS conspiracy to radicalise youth'

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC

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

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

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

DC CORRESPONDENT

PUDUCHERRY, JULY 11

WITH AGENCY INPUTS

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

Puducherry on Sunday.

government

The exercise of cabinet formation was carried out

in over two months after

the alliance won the polls

and the cabinet members

other than Chief Minister

N. Rangasamy were sworn-in on June 27.

In its first representa-

tion in any cabinet in

BJP bags 'home'

in Pondy ministry

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

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

that its teams assisted by

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

Uloom' seminary in Srinagar's Dalal Mohalla,

Nawab Bazaar area and

 $seized some \, of fice \, records$ 

and a laptop and also took

its chairman Adnaan Ahmad Nadvi into cus-

reportedly affiliated with

an Islamic seminary of

Uttar Pradesh. Soon raids

Pushroo, Sunsooma, and

Anantnag and five per-

sons identified as Javaid

Ahamad Mir, Umar Bhat,

Ovais Ahmad Bhat, Tanveer Ahmad Bhat and

Zeeshan Ameen Malik

protfolio while the chief

Minister would hold a

number of portfolios,

al administration, health

and family welfare and

Hindu religious institu-

will

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

home, Mr

handle

Namassivayam

electricity,

industries and

commerce, edu-

cation, including collegiate

education.

Besides

Achabal villages

institution

conducted in

The catch: Six persons The place: Kashmir val-

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

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

The place: Kolkata The case: To raise funds

and recruit young members for a module of the

**The agency:** Special task force of Kolkata police

Source: Police, security agencies

### 3 Bangladeshis with 'JMB links' arrested

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, JULY 11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Chennai has zero deaths; tally down

**DC CORRESPONDENT** CHENNAI, JULY 11

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

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

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

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

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

### **COVID NUMBERS DECREASE ACROSS INDIA AS KERALA BATTLES ZIKA**

**DC CORRESPONDENTS** WITH AGENCY INPUTS

NEW DELHI/ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

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

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

However, rising Covid-19 cases in Kerala, coupled

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

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

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

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

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

#### **KUMAR REPLACES GOPAL AS RSS' BJP POINTSMAN**

DC CORRESPONDENT **NEW DELHI, JULY 11** 

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

The decision, sources

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



### **PERSONS FOR** PADMA AWARDS, **PM TELLS PEOPLE** New Delhi, July 11:

Prime Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to nominate their choice of persons, who are doing exceptional work\_at the grassroots, for Padma awards. "India has many talented people, who are doing

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

the link of the website.
The Padma awards,
namely, Padma Vibhushan, Bhushan and Padma Shri are amongst the highest civilian awards of the country.
In the last few years,

the Modi government has been honouring scores of unsung heroes with the Padma awards for their life-long contributions to the society and achievements in dif-

### India says intense fighting in Kandahar; flies out staff

has evacuated around 50 diplomats and security personnel from its consulate in Kandahar in a military aircraft in the wake of intense fighting between Afghan forces and Taliban militants who seized control of new areas around the key city, people familiar with the development said on Sunday. The ministry of external

closed and it continues to operate through the local staff members The people cited above

said the aircraft brought back the Indian diplomats, officials and other staff members, including a group of Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel, on Saturday evening as situation around Kandahar deteriorated affairs (MEÅ) said the with Taliban fighters con-Indian consulate in tinuing their offensive.

craft avoided entering the Pakistani airspace. However, there is no official confirmation about it.

Italy's Matteo Berrettini in the final on Sunday.

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India-based personnel have been brought back for the time being in view of the intense fighting near Kandahar city and that New Delhi is closely monitoring the evolving security situation Afghanistan.

### UP unveils policy to reduce fertility rate

Lucknow, July 11: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday unveiled a policy aimed at stabilising the population in Uttar Pradesh and reducing maternal and infant deaths in a time-bound manner as he termed rising population a "hurdle in development".

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

The Uttar Pradesh Population Policy 2021-2030, unveiled on the occasion of World Population Day, also aims at bringing down the gross fertility

rate among women to 2.1 by 2026 and to 1.9 by 2030. A few days ago, a draft bill on population control was put up on the website of the Uttar Pradesh law commission inviting suggestions from the public till July 19. It says people having more than two children in

PEUGEON

Uttar Pradesh will be debarred from contesting local bodies polls, applying for government jobs or receiving any kind of

#### Branson enters space in his own ship, glides back home safely Branson became the first person to blast off in Sir Richard Branson Galactic sleek white ship, named

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Unity, took just under 15 minutes. Branson, the flamboy-

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

INDIAN IN TEAM:



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

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

The ongoing pandemic is based on an airborne disease that attacks the respiratory system, causing inflammation in the nose, throat, sinuses, and lungs. The dual strategy is to block the microbial passage from the oral cavity, deactivate it and additionally modulate the gut microbiota to enhance Alniche launched a novel product range

under the brand name of Virobind, mouth spray and AB capsules to address both strategies to handle microbial infec-

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



#### **AR Rahman** becomes brand ambassador

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

### **MOBILE DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC TO CONDUCT RURAL HEALTH**

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

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

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

Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

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

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

### **Ex-AIADMK** minister 'Thoppu' joins DMK

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JULY 11

In scenes of political enthusiasm with a few hundred supporters thronging the venue, for-mer AIADMK minister Thoppu Venkatachalam joined the DMK in the presence of chief minister M.K. Stalin

and other senior party leaders like Duraimurugan, T.R. Baalu

**DC CORRESPONDENT** CHENNAI, JULY 11

Residents are questioning

Aavin's bid to collect data

of its regular milk card

holders. Following the

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

that consumers were sup-

posed to fill up and submit

to Aavin units, T. Nagar Residents' Welfare

Association sent a com-

plaint to the Additional

Chief Secretary, Dairy Development asking him

Venkatcahalam had served as a minister in Jayalalithaa's regime but may have fallen out of favour with her successor Edappadi **Palaniswami** 

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

Residents question Aavin's

bid to collect personal data

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

type of milk they buy.

Among the customer iden-

tification details, it seeks

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

ing licence, Aadhaar card,

Pan card, Voter ID or bank

Aavin had conducted the

same kind of exercise in December 2018 to create a

customer database. "Since

already submitted the required information

pass book.

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

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

Aavin? How can the con-

sumers repose faith in organisations which are

unable to safe-keep their

the association is ask-

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

cational qualification, oc-

cupation and monthly sa-

lary of the consumers.

"Why does it need these

details and how does it matter? While the details

such as the name, address,

telephone number are en-

ough to create a database

of consumers, seeking more than what is requi-

information?'

private

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

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

### **Puducherry** schools and colleges to reopen on July 16: CM

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

on July 16.

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

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

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



DC CORRESPONDENT

Relieving a shortage of

Covid19 vaccines that

crippled the vaccination

programme last week, the

state received 3,62,410 Covishield doses on Sunday, besides a consign-

ment of five lakh doses on

Saturday night, which

Tiruchy SP

transfers 16

cops after

inspection

surprise

CHENNAI, JULY 11

Sunday.

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

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

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin visits DMDK leader Vijayakanth at his residence on Sunday.

Talking to reporters, Health Minister Ma. Subramanian said that the health department was sent to various districts where vaccination was stopped due to nonavailability of vaccines. was fully prepared to deal The State's Department of Public Health and with the possible third wave of Covid19. "As part

TIRUCHY, JULY 11

Loan collection staff harass

R. VALAYAPATHY I DC

Tiruchy superintendent of police P. Moorthy has ordered the transfer of 16 police personnel attached to

the Lalgudi police station to

the armed police wing for dereliction of duty on

Saturday.
Police said Moorthy made a

surprise inspection at the Lalgudi police station last

night and went through the station records. He found

concentrators consider-ing the possible third that registers were not main-

wave, oxygen production capacity of the state was

built up to 900 metric tonnes. When the DMK

government took office on

May 7, the oxygen production in the state stood at

230 MT. In the last two

months, the production

has increased three fold

with almost all govern-

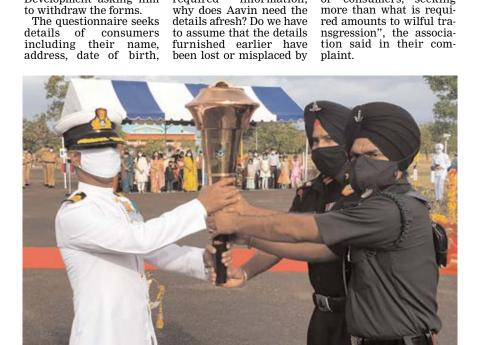
ment medical colleges and private hospitals setting

up oxygen generators and

tained properly and a few of the duty police personnel were absent. Following this, Moorthy transferred 16 police personnel including a special sub-

inspector and five head constables including a woman head constable to the armed police wing, Tiruchy, and asked them to report for duty on Sunday.

Moorthy replaced the vacancies from the armed



The Victory Flame received by Indian Naval Station Kattabomman.

### 1971 war Victory Flame reaches Tirunelveli

Chennai, July 11: The ebrations to commemora-Victory Flame, symbolising India's triumph over Pakistan in 1971 war, reached the Indian Naval Station (INS) Kattabomman near Tirunelveli on Sunday with a ceremonial guard of honour held to mark the occasion. Station Commander Captain Aashish K Sharma along with defence personnel, civil administration and veterans received the flame, an official release

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

te the triumph of armed forces commenced in December last year. A wreath laying ceremony and two minutes silence was observed to pay homage to the sacrifices made by the veterans, the release said.

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

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

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

### women with microfinance OP ARULN I DC CHENNAI, JULY 11 Women in rural Tamil

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

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

repay EMIs. S Ka Kalaivani of

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

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

A borrower ends up paying a total of ₹61,000 including interest.

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

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

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

protect them from loan

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

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

# A licence to take offence at everything



R. Mohan

### **Namma Chennai Diary**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

as guilty since he had



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OTHER STORIES

### **Anganwadi staff**

hold demo

D C CORRESPONDENT PUDUKKOTTAI, JULY 11

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

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

#### **Insurance subsidy** for 4,800 head of cattle

**DC CORRESPONDENT** TIRUCHY, JULY 11

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

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

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

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

#### Welcome art



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

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

M. ARULOLI I DC TIRUNELVELI, JULY 11

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

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

three-digit mark

towards the second half of

the past week, with the hill residents fearing they

may face another lock-

The end of the e-pass

regime for the TN resi-

dents to visit the hills saw

a good inflow of outsiders

since last Monday bring-

ing cheer to the tourism

stake-holders. Though the

tourist spots are still

closed in Nilgiris, the

tourists were seen moving

around the hills and

enjoying taking a stroll

along the roadsides to

enjoy the monsoon cold

down soon.

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

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

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

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

Thoothukudi

leader.

'Kongunadu' issue after paying her tribute to free-Muthu Kon on his 311st birth anniversary at his memorial Kattalangulam near Kovilpatti, said that Tamil Nadu is safe in the hands of M.K. Stalin, and "nobody needs to dream of bifurcating Tamil Nadu, which is an impossible task". The DMK MP also asserted that her party would continue to call India a Union of states, which is not against the integrity of the nation as

the country is described

Kanimozhi Karunanidhi,

### 79 works worth ₹72.74 cr underway in Perambalur

DRDA, highways depart-

DC CORRESPONDENT PERAMBALUR, JULY 11

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

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

grandparents Mani and

Nallammal at Perambalur.

However, drunk Ramesh

continued to torture her.

When the neighbours questioned Ramesh, he

quarrelled with them.

Today the neighbours

videographed the torture

and forwarded it to the

Perambalur superinten-

dent of police and district

child protection officer.

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

She said a check dam across the river Kallaru is coming up at a cost of Rs

Within 30 minutes a police

team led by Perambalur

all-woman police station

inspector Chitra and town

Senthilkumar came and

The girl was handed over

Police said efforts were

made to bring the girl's

mother from Pudukkottai

and they will hand over

grandparents.

inspector

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

Nabard district development manager Naveen Kumar, PWD executive engineer Ravichandran

and others participated. the girl to her mother on Monday. Police said if anyone lodges a complaint against Ramesh, a case

will be filed against him

and he will get suitable

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

#### **Villagers protest** in front of police station with dead body

DC CORRESPONDENT ARIYALUR, JULY 11

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

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

13

14

19

Across

Down

6.Groyne (10)

8. Spiteful (5)

14. Astute (5)

10. Fear attack (5)

17. Be worthy of (5)

13. Fireplace shelf (11)

19. Copy out in full (10)

1. Arguments for (4)

**Word Mine** 

GOOD; 13 OUTSTANDING

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

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

words and proper names are

### Tourism picks up in Nilgiris

Though the daily count

had come down to 74 last

Sunday, from Monday, the

more relaxations and end

of e-pass regime to Tamil

Nadu residents, the situa-

tion began to change as

rate once again began to

day of Unlock 3.0 with

more relaxations and end

of e-pass regime to Tamil

the daily test positivity

day of Unlock 3.0 with

**B. RAVICHANDRAN I DC** OOTY, JULY 11

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

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

**Girl rescued** 

from drunk,

torturing

father

Nadu residents, the situation began to change as the daily test positivity rate once again began to climb. The tally crossed

weather. R. Valayapathy I DC Nagar at Perambalur, hav-Perambalur, July 11

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

Police said Ramesh, 35, a coolie residing at Dheeran

ing two daughters aged 8 and 5, used to quarrel with his wife after getting drunk.

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

elder daughter The back with her

### CALVIN AND HOBBES | Bill Watterson

police

to her

rescued the girl.







#### THE WIZARD OF ID|Parker and Hartsd







#### ARCHIE|Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman







#### BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



#### ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



#### AMAZING SPIDER-MAN | STAN LEE







#### Your day today By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam **QUICK CROSSWORD** Aries: On this day you will stand up for your rights and fight against injustice. Make sure you don't neglect any important works or your physical and mental health. **Faurus:** Today the situation at professional front will get better. Transactions

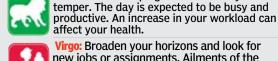
**COFFEE-BREA** 

pertaining to land will be favorable.

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



Cancer: You'll remain inspired by past contacts or ideas. Increase in income from past investments is foreseen. Overall a pleasant day ahead awaits you. eo: Focus on keeping a control over your



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

#### You share your b'day with

Sundar Pichai is an Indian-American business executive. He is the chief executive officer of Alphabet Inc. and its subsidiary Google. Pichai earned his degree from IIT Kharagpur in metallurgical engineering.



Libra: Expressing yourself in an explicit way will open up some new avenues for you. Share your problems with close relatives, as they will be Scorpio: An auspicious function may take

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



distress. Promotions are likely to get delayed. Avoid confrontations with superiors. Property matters may develop problems. Capricorn: Don't get involved in disputes between

close associates as your efforts could backfire.

jittarius: Your spouse can add to your



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



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

es: Avoid eating unhealthy food. Your bank

to control your expenses and invest wisely.

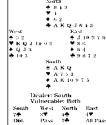


WHICH **OPPONENT DO YOU BELIEVE?** 

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

The declarer had conflict ing evidence in this deal from a Bridge Base Online duplicate. It was played at 16 tables. At most of them, West overcalled two hearts, bled and lost at least 800

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



bidding higher might have made it impossible for his opponents to reach the right contract. the heart ace and ruffed a

Yesterdays Jumbles: SUNNY Answer: The young

2. Undulating (4)

3. Exchange (4)

7. Bad blood (9)

15. Slighty open (4)

11. Crop up (5)

16. Nosegay (4)

18. Polishes (4)

12. Tree (3)

5. Produce offspring (9)

9. Private teacher (5)

17. Gloomy darkness (4)

jumble

**RUGDO** 

CCIKL

GNNINI

**TDOSED** 

4. Astound (4)

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

then shifts to his trump, South covering East's card as cheaply as possible. Also, of course, seven no-trump is hopeless!)
West's bid strongly suggested that he had seven hearts. So, South won with

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

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

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

Down: 1. Case, 2.

heart with the club jack down one! However, would East have raised with a sin-gleton? Copyright United

(Asia Features)

SHORT TAKES

### **U.P. CM TERMS RISING POPULATION**

Lucknow, July 11: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday unveiled a policy aimed at stabilising the population in Uttar Pradesh and reducing maternal and infant deaths in a time-bound manner as he termed rising population a "hurdle in develop-

**HURDLE IN GROWTH** 

The Uttar Pradesh Population Policy 2021-2030, unveiled on the occasion of World Population Day, also aims at bringing down the gross fertility rate among women to 2.1 by 2026 and to 1.9 by 2030.

A few days ago, a draft bill on population control was put up on the website of the Uttar Pradesh law commission inviting suggestions from the public till July 19. It says people having more than two children in Uttar Pradesh will be debarred from contesting local bodies polls, applying for gov-ernment jobs or receiving any kind of subsidy.

It also seeks to prohibit promotions in government jobs for such people, while offering incentives to those limiting their children to two.

Unveiling the population policy on Sunday, Adityanath said, "Across the world, concerns have been raised from time to time about increasing population being a hurdle in development. Discussions on it have been going on for the four decades.'

#### **AMIT MITRA LIKELY TO STEP DOWN AS WB FINANCE MIN.**

Kolkata, July 11: Noted economist and senior TMC leader Amit Mitra is likely to step down as the West Bengal finance minister and even retire from active politics due to ill health, party sources said

on Sunday.
Mitra, 73, who has been the state finance minister since 2011 when the TMC came to power after ending the 34-yearlong rule of the Left Front, had refrained from contesting this

year's Assembly elections. "Amit Da will not continue as the state finance minister as he will be completing six months in the post without being elected on November 4. He has already informed the party leadership that he doesn't want to continue in politics and administration due to ill

"But, due to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's insistence, Mitra had taken charge as the finance minister of the state after the party returned to power for the third time in May this year," a senior TiMC leader said on condition of

After Mitra steps down, the Chief Minister will keep the ministry with her for some time before appointing the next finance minister, another TMC leader said, confirming the development.

Mitra was a two-time MLA from Khardah constituency in North 24 Parganas since 2011.

#### **SC ISSUES NOTICE TO NGO CHIEF FOR CONTEMPT**

New Delhi, July 11: The Supreme Court has issued contempt notice to the chairperson of an NGO as to why he should not be proceeded against and sentenced for his endeavour to scandalise the

The apex court had in February issued bailable warrants against chairperson of NGO Suraz India Trust, Rajiv Daiya, for not depositing the cost of Rs 25 lakh for filing 64 PILs over the years without any success and "repeatedly misusing" the jurisdiction of

A bench headed by Justice S. K. Kaul in an order passed on July 9 said all kinds of pleadings are being made and letter written by Mr Daiya only to scandalise the court.

the top court.

'On perusal of the record, we find that while the issue is simply of recovery of costs from the Trust/Daiya in terms of judgment of this court, all kinds of pleadings are being made, letter written only to scandalise the court and prevent the court from taking action to ensure recovery of costs. It is clearly an endeavour to browbeat the court and this court will not countenance the same.

The top court on December 5, 2017, had refused to modify its earlier order against the NGO

for filing 64 PILs. It had dismissed the plea filed by the NGO to modify the apex court"s May 1 order which also barred the organisation from filing any plea before any court across the

### NIA conducts multiple raids in Kashmir, 6 persons held

Arrests made in connection with 'jihadi terrorism' case; Islamic seminary head held

FROM PG 1

The NIA in a statement here said the searches were conducted at seven locations in Anantnag and Srinagar districts in "ISIS voice of Hind case" registered by it in New Delhi under sections 124A, 153A, and 153 B of IPC and sections 17, 18, 18B, 38, 39 and 40 of UA(P) Act 1967.

"In order to execute its nefarious plan, an organised campaign has been launched over the cyber space which is supplemented by on ground (militant) fina activities," it said. The statement read, "ISIS operating from var-"

"ISIS operating from var-"

"India to arouse a feeling of alienation and communal hatred" financing

Party chief Sharad Pawar

on Sunday refuted reports

which claimed that the newly-formed Ministry of

Cooperation at the Centre

may 'hijack the coopera-

tive movement' in Maharashtra.The concept

is not new, but the Centre

cannot interfere in the state's cooperative sector,

Pawar told reporters in

Mumbai.

Nationalist

July 11: Congress

with ISIS cadres in India, by assuming pseudo-online identities, have created a network wherein ISIS related propaganda material is disseminated for radicalising and recruiting members to the fold of ISIS." It added, "In this connection an India-centric online propaganda maga-zine 'the Voice of Hind' (VOH) is published on a monthly basis with an aim to incite and radicalise impressionable youth by projecting a skewed narrative imagined injustices in

Baramati town in Pune.

"As per the Constitution,

cooperative institutions

registered in a state come

under the (jurisdiction of that respective) state," he

formed ministry is about

multi-state cooperative

institutions, the former

Union minister said. "A state cannot control a

cooperative

Centre's newly-

institution

### Three suspected terrorists from B'desh held in Kolkata

Al Ameen, whose contact

number among others

was found in a diary.

the Centre's Ministry of

Cooperation may hijack

movement

FROM PG 1

Disguised as hawkers selling fruits and mosquito nets, they started living over the last two months at a rented house in Haridevpur using it as their shelter. While taking the house on rent, Naziur, who was the leader among the three, posed as Joyram Byapari

registered in more than

one state, which is called

multi-state, and the cen-

tral government has con-

trol over it," said Pawar, whose party shares power with the Shiv Sena and

Congress in Maharashtra.

on such a multi-state coop-

erative institution comes

under the central govern-

ment's

department.

cooperation

He said taking a decision

Nesakumar said, "A handto avoid suspicion. He earlier served in jail written diary containing

in Bangladesh where he is believed to have met another JMB functionary, Important JMB members was found from them. Besides, some are

Sabir, who was active in social networking, used the medium for radicali-Joint commissioner of police (STF) V. Solomon on Monday and seek their

Jihadi literatures and cellphones were also seized. Their Facebook

accounts scanned." The STF is interrogating the arrested trio at Lalbazar, the city police headquarters, and will produce them at the court

### **NEW MINISTRY WON'T AFFECT MAHA COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT: PAWAR**

"This is not a new deciwhich earlier was a small sion as such. It was there department when I was in the central government. But, unfortuand Farmers Welfare. nately, the media is painting a different picture that

or end the cooperative Maharashtra," he said. recently carved out a new ministry for cooperation,

Ministry of Agriculture

Union minister Amit Shah, who has been given the charge of the newlycreated ministry, on Saturday said the government is determined to make cooperatives and all The central government cooperative institutions more empowered.

# BJP bags 'home' in Pondy ministry

FROM PG 1

AINRC's Lakshminarayanan has been given public works department, tourism and civil aviation, fisheries and fishermen Welfare, law and information technology. C. Djeacoumar is agriculture minister and will also be handling, among others, animal husbandry and animal Welfare, forests and wild

Chandira Priyanga (AINRC), the first woman to be inducted in a cabinet in the UT in the last 40years, is the transport minister with additional responsibilities of Adi Dravidar welfare, housing and labour and employment, art and eulture and economics and statistics.

A.K. Sai J Saravanan Kumar has been given civil supplies and con-sumer affairs, consumer welfare, community development, urban basic services, fire services and minority affairs. While Mr Lakshminarayanan, mr Djeacoumar and Ms Priyanga are AINRC members in the ministry, the others---Mr Namassivayam and Mr Saravanan Kumar belong

Hours after the Chief Minister submitted the list of portfolios to Lt Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Sunday morning, a gazette notifi-cation of the confidential



and cabinet department said she "is pleased to allocate to the ministers the business of the govern-ment in consultation with the Chief Minister."

Mr Rangasamy was sworn-in on May 7 after the NDA won the April 6 polls beating the Congress-DMK combine. The other five cabinet members, three from AINRC and two from the BJP were inducted into the cabinet on June 27, took oath on June 27 and got their portfolios allocated on July 11.

Nearly two weeks after the ministers were sworn in, a list containing their portfolios was handed over by the Chief Minister to the Lt Governor on Sunday when he met the Lt Governor at her office. In UT history, various chief ministers have held

the home portfolio except Then chief minister V. Narayanasamy helmed the department in the previous Congress govern-ment, which fell in February this year due to lack of majority

#### **DELHI ALLOWS ACADEMIC GATHERINGS FROM TODAY**

DC CORRESPONDENT **NEW DELHI, JULY 11** 

Unlocking Delhi further from next week, the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government on Sunday, announced the seventh phase of unlocking for the Capital city. In this phase, the government has allowed academic gatherings and meetings at schools colleges Monday.

However, students will not be able to attend educational institutions physically and only teachers and professors will be allowed to attend schools for holding online lectures and other administrative work.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) issued a notification on Sunday which read that only teachers and professors will be allowed inside educational institutions for online lectures and administrative work," the notification stated. However, Spas, social, political, cultural, religious, and other such gatherings continue to remain prohibited.

It further read, "Delhi government allows auditoriums/assembly halls in schools and educational institutions for educational training to capacity." Exemption has also been given for Delhi Police and Army personnel to attend skill training classes.

They will no longer require permission from the DDMA to attend these programmes.

The notification issued stated that public transport, including Delhi Metro, will continue to operate with 50 per seating



### India sees a slight decrease in Covid cases

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 11

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

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

comprise 1.47 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has increased to 97.20 per cent. The daily positivity rate, which stands at 2.25 per cent, has been less than three per cent for 20 consecutive days. The weekly positivity rate has also

declined to 2.32 per cent. Sunday's case figures were 1,260 less than that of Saturday's, when 42,766 people were detected with Covid-19 infection. Even the toll count on Sunday was 311 less than that of

Saturday's, when 1,206 deaths were recorded.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 2,99,75,064 and the case fatality rate stands at 1.32 per cent. As many as 18,43,500 tests were conducted on Saturday taking the total cumulative tests conducted so far for detection of Covid-19 in the country to 43,08,85,470.

Cumulative number of vaccine doses administered so far has reached 37.60 crore under the nationwide vaccination drive. The Union health ministry said that over 1.44 crore balance and unutilised Covid vaccine doses were still available with the states, UTs and private hospitals to be administered.

Over 38.60 crore vaccine doses have been provided to states and UTs so far through all sources and a further 11,25,140 doses are in the pipeline. Of this, the total consumption including wastage is 37,16,47,625 doses. The new phase of universalisation of Covid-19 vaccination is to commence from June 21.

The country's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.It Bengal and 16,177 Punjab.

went past 60 lakh on Sept-ember 28, 70 lakh on Oct-ober 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23.

Of the 895 new fatalities reported in the last 24 hours, 494 were from Maharashtra and 109 from Kerala. A total of 4,08,040 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,25,528 Maharashtra, 35,779 Karnataka, 33,371 Tamil Nadu, 22,693 Uttar Pradesh, 17,903 West

### **ARUN KUMAR REPLACES GOPAL AS RSS' BJP POINTSMAN**

DC CORRESPONDENT

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

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

Kumar, who was the prachaar pramukh of the Sangh, was elevated to the post of joint general secretary in March secretar,
year When
Hosabale
Curesh Dattatreya replaced Suresh Bhaiyya Joshi as the RSS general secretary.

The RSS has also over hauled its West Bengal team by replacing the Prant prachaarak, kshetra prachaarak and sah-kshetra prachaarak. This decision, sources said, was taken after the BJP failed to dislodge Mamata Banerjee-led TMC despite the entire BJP central leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union ministers campaigning in the

• THE DECISION, sources said, was taken by the RSS top brass at the ongoing meeting at

Chitrakoot.

#### POLICE | KILLINGS |

### Delhi-based advocate from Assam lodges formal complaint with NHRC against Assam police

### Assam cops on 'encounter spree', NHRC urged to take note

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, JULY 11

The issue of ongoing frequent encounters of Assam police with criminals have reached National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) as a Delhi-based advocate from Assam on Saturday lodged a formal complaint with the commission against the Assam police "on an encounter spree" since the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government took charge two months ago.

In his complaint which was lodged with the NHRC on Saturday, Advocate Arif Jwadder alleged that Assam police was shooting down criminals frequently and the reason cited for such "fake encounters" was that they tried to "flee from police custody snatching pistols".

Pointing out that more

than 20 such encounters had taken place so far and most of the persons at the receiving end were alleged drug dealers and cattle smugglers with a few havTHE LAWYER points out in his complaint that more than 20 such encounters had taken place so far and most of the persons at the receiving end were alleged drug dealers and cattle smugglers with a few having died on the spot.

ing died on the spot, he also referred Assam Chief Minister's remark at the police conference where in

the Chief Minister said that police should shoot at alleged criminals at legs which is permitted by the

"Following the statement of the Chief Minister, now police are staging fake encounters with impunity," Jwadder alleged in his complaint. He also listed 10 cases of encounters where the alleged criminals were either killed or injured. It includes Bubu Konwar, wanted for several crimes including murder, and

sacked Railway Protection Special Force sub-inspector Kanwaldeep Singh Sidhu wanted for abducting a businessman. They were gunned down on May

23 and July 3. Alleged cattle smugglers Shah Jamal, Mozammil Haque and Sorangi Chinnai were shot in the leg between May 31 and

Alleged drug dealer Jaitul Kabir and Syed Ali, a 65-year-old arrested for rape and murder of a minor, met a similar fate

on May 31 and July 2 respectively. Jwadder argued, "all the injured or dead persons

were not militants and hence not trained to use pistols and it is very unlikely that they could use the pistols after snatching them from the police who outnumbered them and were heavily armed.

In his complaint the Advocate said, "It also cannot be believed that the petty criminals could snatch a pistol from a

trained whose pistols/guns are normally tied to the waist believed that any Army or police officer could not stop the alleged criminals from fleeing from cus-

Pleading before the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to take cognisance of these cases, Jwadder said that the actions of the Assam police were denying the rights of the alleged criminals to a fair trial.

SHORT TAKES

#### **TURKEY BUS ACCIDENT LEAVES 12 DEAD**

Ankara: Twelve people died and 26 others were injured when a bus carrying migrants crashed in eastern Turkey on Saturday night, local media reported, quoting authorities in the prefecture of Van.

Among the dead were 11 migrants and a person who helped organise their illegal transport, the authorities were quoted as saying on

The injured were taken to hospital and the owner of the bus was detained, they added. Situated near Turkey's eastern border with Iran, the city of Van is used as a crossing point for migrants on their long journey to reach Europe, with many coming from Afghanistan.

In July 2020, a boat carrying up to 60 migrants sank on Lake Van.

#### TWO IS-LINKED **MILITANTS KILLED** IN C. INDONESIA

Palu (Indonesia): , Indonesian security forces on Sunday killed two suspected militants with ties to the Islamic State group who were believed to be connected to the killing of Christian farmers on Sulawesi island, the coun-

try's military said. The two men, identified as Rukli and Ahmad Gazali, were fatally shot during a pre-dawn raid by a five-man team of military and police in Central Sulawesi province's mountainous Parigi Moutong district, said Maj Gen Richard Tamp-ubolon, who heads the joint operation. Parigi Moutong borders Poso district, considered an extremist hotbed in the province.

Security operations in Central Sulawesi have intensified in recent months to try to capture members of the East Indonesia Mujahideen network, particularly targeting Ali Kalora, the group's leader and Indonesia's most wanted

#### **EXPLOSION IN SUDAN PORT CITY KILLS FOUR**

Khartoum: An explosion has killed four people in a Sudanese Red Sea port city, officials said Sunday, the latest in a series of violent incidents

Tensions have been simmering in recent days in Port Sudan, where anti-government protesters nave reported ly blocked roads over rising

Local media have linked the unrest to rejection by the Hadendoa tribe of an October peace deal between rebel groups and the government.

The Hadendoa, the largest subdivision of the Beja people in the region, fear their tribe will be under-represented in regional legislative and executive bodies under the agree-

Saturday's blast took place late in the evening at a busy sporting club in Port Sudan, the provincial capital of the Red Sea state and the country's main port, and also involved an armed attack.

"An explosive device went off at Al-Amir club... killing four people," the Central Committee of Sudan Doctors said in a statement. Three others were wounded after being shot or stabbed, it added.

#### **GEORGIAN TV** CAMERAMAN **KILLED IN ATTACK**

Tbilisi: A Georgian TV cameraman has died after being badly beaten by far-right assailants during a protest against an LGBTQ Pride march, his station said Sunday, as pressure mounted on authorities

over attacks on journalists. Alexander Lashkarava, a 37year-old cameraman working for independent TV station Pirveli, was found dead in his bed in the early hours on

Sunday, the channel reported. On Monday, he was assaulted by a violent mob of anti-LGBTQ protesters and sustained fractures to his facial bones. More than 50 journalists were attacked that day by anti-LGBTQ groups protesting the planned Pride march, which was cancelled over safety fears.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) condemned the attacks, saying journalists "sustained injuries that included concussion, chemical burns and broken arms." It accused authorities of "culpable passivity" and said police had failed to protect journalists.

### Sirisha, 3rd Indian woman to fly to space

Sirisha Bandla on Sunday American woman to fly into space when she joined British billionaire Richard Branson on Virgin Galactic's first fully-crewed successful suborbital test flight from the US state of New Mexico. Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity, as the spaceplane is called, took off for the 1.5-hour mission above New Mexico from the Spaceport America launch facility at 10:40 a.m. ET following a 90minute delay due to bad weather. Bandla joined Branson and four others on board Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo Unity to make a journey to the edge of space from New

desert - enough to see the future commercial passen-

Houston, July 11: curvature of the Earth.
Aeronautical engineer The crew experienced a few minutes of weightlessness before making a gliding descent back to Earth. Branson, speaking into a camera in the plane's cabin during the glide, called it "an experience of a lifetime." "Nothing can prepare you for the view of Earth from space," Branson said following his flight to suborbital space.

"I have dreamt about this moment since I was a child, but going to space was more magical than I ever imagined," said Branson, who became the first billionaire to travel into space. After landing back in New Mexico, he said this is the beginning of a "new space age".
"Welcome to the dawn of a new space age #Unity22 @virgingalactic," he They reached an altitude of about 88 kilometers over the New Mexico tweeted. The primary objective for Unity 22 was to serve as a test flight for

#### **BOLDEST ADVENTURE**

• The nearly 71-year-old Branson and five crewmates from his Virgin Galactic space-tourism company reached an altitude of about 53 miles (88 kilometers) over the New Mexico desert \_ enough to experience three to four minutes of weightlessness and see the curvature of the Earth \_ and then safely glided to a runway landing.

• The brief, up-and-down flight \_ the rocket ship's portion took only about 15 minutes, or about as long as Alan Shepard's first U.S. spaceflight in 1961 \_ was an splashy and unabashedly commercial plug for Virgin Galactic, which plans to start taking paying customers on joyrides next

Branson became the first person to blast off in his own spaceship, beating Bezos by nine days. He also became only the second septuagenarian to go into space. Astronaut John Glenn flew on the shuttle at age 77 in 1998.

ger flights by Virgin of a company whose mis-Galactic. "I am so incredibly honoured to be a part of the amazing crew of old Bandla tweeted days

#Unity22, and to be a part before the flight.



Virgin Galactic founder Richard Branson carries crew member Sirisha Bandla on his shoulders while celebrating their flight to space at Spaceport America near Truth or

### Pak braces to fight fourth wave

Pakistan is bracing to battle the fourth wave of the Coronavirus pandemic as the country saw a threefold increase in number of people being tested positive everyday in less than three weeks. Health experts are blaming the reopening of businesses and tourism sector for the resurge in cases and have urged the government to announce a lockdown so that Eidul Azha is cele-brated with the obser-vance of strict healthrelated restrictions.

The country detected 1,980 new cases in the last 24 hours at the positivity rate of 4.09 per cent, according to the official data released on Sunday. On June 21, the tally of new cases was only 663. It is for the first time that the positivity rate crossed 4 per cent since May 30 when 4.05 per cent was recorded, according to the Ministry of National

Health Services.
Positivity rate is the percentage of people who test positive for the virus compared to the total number of people who have been tested. A high value of positivity rate suggests high Coronavirus infection rate, implying greater

prevalance of the disease. The national tally of confirmed cases reached 9,73,284 while the death toll touched 22,582 as 27 more atients died in the last 24 hours. The data showed that 9,13,203 people have fully recovered so far but still some 2,119 were in critical condition, meaning the death toll may rise. The government is banking on vaccination and so far has administered over 19.067 million doses. — PTI



People stand with empty oxygen canisters as they wait to fill them up outside a factory in Yangon on Sunday, amid a surge in Covid-19 cases. -AR

### Myanmar caught off guard as cases surge, O2 dwindles

Win stood in line at a plant to buy oxygen for his grandmother, who is struggling with Covid-19 symptoms. "I have been waiting since 5 in the morning until 12 noon but I'm still in line. Oxygen is scarcer than money," said the resi dent of Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon. Consumed by a bitter and violent political struggle since the military seized power in February, Myanmar has been slow to wake up to a devastating surge in cases since mid-May.

It has left many of the

Bangkok, July 11: Soe sick like Soe Win's grandmother to suffer at home if they cannot find a bed at an army hospital, or prefer not to trust their care to the widely disliked gov-

ousted by the military Myanmar had weathered its second Coronavirus surge beginning in August last vear by severely restricting travel, sealing off Yangon, and curbing election campaigning in virus hot spots where lockdowns were imposed. Suu Kyi appeared fre-

quently on television with stern but empathetic entreaties to the public on how to deal with the situation. Vaccine supplies were secured from India ernment. and China. Her ouster Under Aung San Suu Kyi, the civilian leader after the first jabs were given to health workers

Suu Kyi's removal by the military sparked widespread protests, and medical workers spearheaded a popular civil disobedience movement that called on professionals and civil servants not to cooperate with the military-installed government.

### Kabul airport gets missile system as Taliban advance

**Kabul, July 11:** Afghan authorities said on Sunday they have installed an anti-missile system at Kabul airport to counter incoming rockets, as the Taliban pressed on with a blistering offensive across the country.

Washington and its allies are due to end their military mission in Afghanistan at the end of August, even as the insurgents say they now control 85 percent of the country — a claim that could not be independently verified and is disputed by the government.

The Islamic fundamentalist group's rapid gains in recent weeks have raised fears about the security of the capital and its airport, with Nato keen to secure a vital exit route to the outside world for foreign diplomats and

aid workers.
"The newly installed air defence system has been operational in Kabul since 2:00 am Sunday," the interior ministry said in a statement. "The system has proven useful in the world in repelling rocket and missile attacks." Ministry spokesman Tariq Arian said it had been installed at the airport, while security forces spokesman Ajmal Omar Shinwari said the system was given

by "our foreign friends".

"It has very complicated technology. For now our foreign friends are operating it while we are trying to build the capacity to use it," Shinwari said, adding that in the past week 1,177 Taliban fighters were killed in fighting

### 'Not a guarantor' of Afghan peace: Pak

Islamabad, July 11: Pakistan is well prepared to deal with the spillover effect it may face in case of a civil war in neighbouring Afghanistan, the country's Army spokesman has said, insisting that Islamabad is only a facilitator of the Afghan peace process, not a guarantor. Major Gen Babar

Iftikhar's comments came as Taliban officials said the group had taken control of 85 per cent of territory in Afghanistan.

'Pakistan is only a facilitator of the Afghan peace process, not a guarantor," Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar said. "Pakistan has no favourites among the Afghan stakeholders. The Afghans have to choose

their leadership," he said. He said Pakistan was well aware of the spillover effect it may face in case of a civil war in Afghanistan and measures had been taken to deal with it.

He said the security on the border was tight. More than 90 per cent of the 2,611 kilometre-long border has been fenced.

Pakistan is "very well prepared" and the current border security mechanism was "much better", he said. The spokesperson also said that there was fear of a fresh wave of Afghan refugees and the interior ministry has already put together a contingency plan to deal with the situation.

with government forces. The Taliban have regu-

larly launched rockets mortars at government forces across the countryside, with the jihadist Islamic State group (IS) carrying out similar strikes on the cap-2020. claimed responsibility for a rocket attack this year at Bagram Air Base, the biggest US military facility in the country, which was recently handed over to Afghan forces.

Over the years, the US military installed several C-RAMs (Counter Rocket,

coerced sterilization as it

allegedly seeks to assimi-

late Muslim ethnic minor-

ity groups. The US Commerce Department

Artillery and Mortar Systems) across its bases. including at Bagram, to destroy incoming rockets targeting the facilities, a foreign security official and media reports said.

The C-RAMS includes cameras to detect incoming rockets and alert local

forces.
"The Taliban do not have any organised capacity but have demonstrated that they can fire modified rockets from vehicles and create panic, especially if aimed at an airport," a foreign security official

### US swelters as 30M under heat warning

million people across the western United States after the region's second heat wave in weeks brought another round of record-equalling high temperatures.

Sweltering conditions have hit much of the Pacific seaboard and as far inland as the western edge of the Rocky Mountains over the weekend, with more to come on Sunday. Las Vegas matched its Francisco.

Los Angeles, July 11: all-time record of 117 Hot weather alerts are in degrees Fahrenheit (47.2 place for more than 30 Celsius), according to the National Weather Service recorded in the desert entertainment city once in 1942 and three other times since 2005.

Forecasters issued an excessive heat warning for the city along with several other urban centers including the south-ern city of Phoenix and San Jose, the center of the Silicon Valley tech industry south of San

on Sunday said it will take 'necessary measures" to respond to the U.S. blacklisting of Chinese companies over their alleged role in abuses of Uyghur people and other Muslim ethminorities. Commerce Ministry said the US move constituted an "unreasonable suppres-

international economic and trade rules." China will "take necessary measures to firmly safeguard Chinese companies' legitimate rights and interests," the ministry's statement said.

Researchers warn of global public health risk in range of raw dog food

sion of Chinese enterpris-

es and a serious breach of

No details were given, but China has denied allegations of arbitrary detention and forced labor in the far western region of Xinjiang and increasingly responded to sanctions against companies and officials with its own bans on visas and financial

The US Commerce Department said in a statement Friday that the electronics and technology firms and other businesses helped enable "Beijing's campaign of repression, mass detention and high-technology surveillance" against Muslim minorities in

Xinjiang.
The penalties prohibit Americans from selling equipment or other goods to the firms. The United

China vows retaliation as US bans firms

States has stepped up financial and trade penalties over China's treatment of Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities, along with its crackdown on democracy in the semiautonomous city of

The Chinese government since 2017 has detained a million or more people in Xinjiang. Critics accuse China of operating forced labor camps and

added to its Entity List over their dealings in Xinjiang, and another five for aiding China's armed

#### CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS 🥮 **E-TENDER NOTICE** Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/ Dankuni/E-Procurement/21-

22/19 Dated:09-07-2021, PCMM/CLW/DKAE on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tender/ is/are for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in. These are E-Tenders; manual offers bid for these tenders will not be accepted under any circumstances; only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. For detailed instructions please refer to website. SI; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Oty.; Duo On; Tender Cost: [81]; 34212761; TIME RELAY FOR M.R.BLOWER WITH AUX CONTACTS CONSISTING OF (i CONTACTOR / RELAY (01 No.), (ii) TIME DELAY MODULE (0 No.) ALL TO SPECN, No. CLW/ES/3/0012/E or latest; As Per Tender Doc.;23.08.21;0.00. [82]; 34212768; 1)RELAY FOR CONTROL ELECTRONIC OFF / TEMPERATURE to SPECN, NO CLWES/3/066/B or latest, 2) RELAY FOR CONTROL ELECTRONICS "ON" ALONG WITH ACCESSERIES to speen. No CLW/ES/3/066/B or latest; As Per Tender Doc.; 25.08.21; 0.00.

Principal Chief Materials Manager,

Study finds superbug link to man's best friend

iotic-resistant "superbugs" — which the Health Organisation calls one of the top global threats to public health — usually conjure images of hospi-

tal settings. But new research may point to a lessobvious source: the

family dog. Researchers warned Sunday of "an international public health after finding antibiotic-resistant bacteria in a range of different types of raw

"The trend for feeding dogs raw food may be fuelling the spread

of antibiotic resistantresearchers said in a press release for their study, to be presented at the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology Infectious Diseases.

Separate research to be presented at the same conference found resistance to a lastresort antibiotic may be passing between pet dogs and their owners. Antibiotic resistant

able to live harmlessly in human and animal intestines but can be dangerous in other parts of the body and can be resistant to antibiotics.

bugs can render minor injuries and common infections potentially deadly. Resistance

grown in recent years due to overuse of such drugs in humans and In the dog food study,

team from

University of Porto analysed 55 samples of dog food from 25 brands including 14 raw frozen types, looking for Enterococci bacteria. The bacteria is able

to live harmlessly in human and animal intestines but can be dangerous in other parts of the body and can be resistant to antibiotics.

Researchers found that all of the raw dog samples tained antibioticresistant Enterococci, including bacteria

resistant to the lastresort antibiotic line-zolid. Genetic sequencing

revealed that some of ant bacteria in the raw dog food were the same kind found in hospital patients in the UK, Germany and the Netherlands.

"The close contact of humans with dogs and the commercialisation of the studied brands in different countries poses an international public health risk,' said researcher Ana

Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways குழுகிய கால ஒப்பத்தப்புன்ளி அறிவிப்பு எனர் மநு2/10102/2021 மதுரை மாநகராட்சி கொது சுகாதாரம் மீரிவு பொது அதிகார அமைப்பிற்கு மத்தியப்பட்ட நாள்கு மண்டல பகுதிகளில் 100 வார்டுகளுக்கு திறந்த வெளியில் மலம் சுழித்தல் குறித்த விழிப்பணர்வு சற்படுத்துதல் நியித்தமாக திடக்கழிவுகளை குறைத்திடும் வழி முறைகளை நாற்படுத்துதல் தொடர்பாக 50 பரப்புறையாளர், மண்டி மேற்பார்களையாளர் 4 தயர்கள் மற்றும்

ஒருங்க <b>கணைப்பாளா 1 நபாகணை</b> வெள்கே செகானாவு முறைப்படி (out sourcing Mighthod) சபனை பசைய வரும்படுள்ள மனிதங்ள நிறுங்ளங்களிட்டுருந்து (Men Power Agency ) கீழ்களை, மீர்கற்படி நேரடியாக குறுகிய கால ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளிகளை ஆணையாளர் அவர்களைய் கோப்பு என்பபடு.2/10102/2021 நாள் 09.07.2021 ரர் 19.6 டெண். ரீ வரகேற்கப்படுகிற்கு						
<u>ंश्वीत</u> का. संस्कृत	டணியின் செயர்	மதிப்பீட்டுத் தொகை	நிணைய வைப்புத் தொகை	ஒப்பந்தம் காவம்		
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மதுனா யாநகாட்சி ஆஞ்குச் அண்ணா யாஙிகை, மதுனா என்ற முகவியில் www.tenders.tn.gov.in நேடியாக ஒப்பந்தப்சுள்ளியை பதிவிறக்கம் 22.07.2021 -ம் தேதி பே 3.00 வணவில் வசப்பிக்கலாம். தகவல் ஒப்பந்தபுள்ளிகளை மெறுதல், சமர்பித்தல், தொழில்நூட்ப தருதி பற்றிய விவரங்கள் மற்றும் திறப்பதத்கால விவரங்களை www.tenders.tn.gov.in என்ற இணையதளத்தில் தெரிந்து கொள்ளலாம். உடைதொ.து. 2030 /தப்பத்தப்புக்கி/2021

INDIAN PETROL



## Chronicle

### India must make clear its Afghan role after US exit

he pressure on India to delineate its future path in Afghanistan becomes apparent after the announcement by US President Joe Biden last week that US forces will be out of Afghanistan by August 31, sooner than the September 11 deadline indicated earlier.

The US leader also made it amply clear that sorting out the politics of that benighted country and its way forward in the world was for its people to decide. Putting a lid an old debate, Mr Biden was clear that "nation-building" in Afghanistan was not America's mandate.

The sense of drama has grown in light of practically daily news reports in recent weeks of rapid military gains made by the Taliban. Western media reporting has also amplified the Taliban claim that the insurgent group controls as much as 85

per cent of the country.

Is this true? Do the Taliban really have the capacity to hold territory? Is the Afghan military weak, helpless, and inadequately equipped? International reporting is practically silent on these crucial aspects of the situation. Nor has it shed any light on the internal political scenario in Afghanistan? In the event, a general

scare seems to have been created about the Taliban storming Kabul in the not too distant

**External affairs** minister S. Jaishankar has lately been in Tehran and Moscow, **New Delhi's traditional** allies in the Afghan context. It has to be extent Iran and Russia are changing.

If the past military performance of the Taliban is any guide, it will be surprising if it can storm to power in Kabul in the next year or so, although this is exactly what senior US Army officials have put out, feeding scare-mongering. While Afghanistan's Army is trained and context. It has to be ascertained to what ascertained to what tent Iran and Russia equipped essentially as a counter-terrorism force (it does not have artillery and armour, for example), it is a first-rate fighting body. Numerous times in the past it has shown the capacity to recover lost ground from the Taliban,

who have repeatedly displayed the inability to hold ground. At suitable levels, India has opened channels of communication with the Taliban. New Delhi should not be left without options in an evolving scenario. But it needs to be appreciated that the Taliban are but a small part of the political spectrum, especially in light of the noteworthy fact that a new generation of Afghans has taken shape in the past 20 years (the period since the US intervened) which is far from extremist in outlook and looks toward a modernist, democracy-oriented

India is reasonably well-grounded in the non-Taliban political spaces, unlike arguably any other country. This is an enviable position to be in. Much depends on how New Delhi seeks to leverage itself politically. External affairs minister S. Jaishankar has lately been in Tehran and Moscow, New Delhi's traditional allies in the Afghan context. These power centres had been anti-Taliban in the past. It has to be ascertained to what extent Iran and Russia are changing.

Regardless of this, however, India will have to decide its stance without equivocation if it wishes to be seen as a serious player. Standing by Pakistan's side, resource-rich China has emerged as a new — and open — factor in Afghanistan. New Delhi has to bear this in mind while being conscious that Beijing and Islambled will act in tendent the standard trial. Islamabad will act in tandem, though Pakistan remains deeply unpopular in Afghanistan. Since the dice is rolling, India cannot indefinitely delay taking a posture. If this is to be to stand by the people of Afghanistan, in whom this country has invested much in the past two decades, the first charge on New Delhi is to ensure that non-Taliban factions mutually build a functional understanding even if they have differences with the leader of their government, President Ashraf Ghani.

### Stem poll violence in UP

he Uttar Pradesh unit of the BJP, and its national leadership, exult over the results of the block panchayat elections in the state. The party claims that it has won elections in 685 of the 825 block panchayats. This comes close on the heels of the party claiming victory in 66 of the 75 posts of district panchayat chiefs for which elections were held last month. Given that the state Assembly polls are hardly a year away, the party has gone out of the way to present it as a precursor to the big fight. While chief minister Yogi Adityanath and the party's state unit chief were attributing the win to the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the latter has commented on the chief minister's leadership for the win.

The Opposition parties will, however, have none of it. They allege widespread violence by the ruling party in the polls, which include instances of stopping their people from filing the nomination papers to threatening their candidates. They say the BJP wants to paint a rosy picture after it lost the gram panchayat elections. Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav has reminded the BJP that his party had made similar claims after the polls five years ago but lost the Assembly comprehensively.

claims anart violence has emerged as a key player in th aims and cou elections in the state this time around. It is not just the Opposition that complains about hooliganism on the part of the ruling party; the message of the police officer to his boss that BJP workers slapped him could be the reflection of the reality.

The picture the nation gets from Uttar Pradesh is that the Election Commission of India will have to go the extra mile and ensure that none gets to blame violence as a key factor in the election to the state Assembly. It must open its eyes and take early steps to meet its constitutional responsibilities.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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SIRISHA

## India-China: Bhai-bhai to buy-buy to bye-bye



Sanjaya Baru

Sanjayovacha

■his is a historic month for China. The Communist Party of China came into being 100 years ago, in July 1921. Communist China entered the international mainstream a half century ago, in July 1971, when the United States decided to come to terms with the reality of its existence. China's spectacular rise over the past quarter century, as a global trading superpower, the "factory of the world", and as Asia's most powerful nation, ready to challenge America's global dominance, is the stuff of legend.

Yet, even as China celebrates these landmark events, large parts of the world have become increasingly concerned about its assertion of newly acquired hard power — economic and military. In looking back at China's rise a large part of the public discourse in India has been dominated eign policy, security and defence. Regrettably, very little has appeared in print on the social, cultural and human dimensions of China's transfor-

mation and rise. In his recently published pithy narration of the events at Beijing's Tiananmen Square in the summer of 1989 (Tiananmen Square: The Making of a Protest, A Diplomat Looks Back), former foreign secretary and a former Indian ambassador to China Vijay Gokhale observes in passing: "Indians can no longer afford to have a superficial understanding of events involving their largest neighbour and to-be-hegemon, other than at their own peril".

Mr Gokhale is spot on. Yet so much about what appears in print in India about China is about foreign affairs and the economy, written mostly by Westerners or Indians

living in the West, and so little from Indians with a first-hand knowledge and experience of life and people in China. For most Indians China is an adversary, a source of

cheap products or the

home of chow mien.

At one level this is not surprising. The fact is that the interaction between the neighbours has been limited through most history. More important, people-to-people interaction between the two republics over the past three quarters of a century has been even more limited. Little wonder then that even today we depend so much on retired diplomats to educate us about contemporary China. Only a couple of bright Indian journalists and a handful of scholars have been able to bridge the public awareness gap between

the two.

This worryingly low level of social and cultural interaction between ina and India has dipped further thanks to renewed tensions between the two and the post-Galwan and post-Covid freeze in bilateral interactions. The China-India relationship has moved from the honeymoon days of "Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai", and the post-Cold War phase of increased economic and business interaction —"India-China buy-buy", as someone put it — to the current "Cold War" phase of "India-China bye-bye". This is not a satisfactory state of

Whatever the differences between the two countries, and there are many, there ought to be both a better understanding of each other within societies and increased people-to-people interaction. For over a century Indians fought Western imperialism and colonialism and yet not only acquired an intiWestern culture, science, literature, music and so on, but also benefitted from such knowledge. India's attitude towards

China today should not

be very different from the view that Mahatma Gandhi famously expressed of the kind of relationship that he sought with Britain and its people in the midst of the national movement for Independence. asked by a Briton in that period "How far would you cut India off from the Empire?", Gandhiji replied: "From the Empire, completely; from the British nation, not at

all, if I want India to gain and not to grieve. The British Empire must go and I should love to be an equal partner with Britain, sharing her joys and sorrows. But it must be a partnership on equal terms.

Even as India rejects China's hegemonic ambitions, as it did the hegemony of the West, and disapproves of its authoritarian political system, Indians must acquire a better understanding and appreciation of Chinese society, culture and its knowledge-creating institutions. China is not merely an authoritarian, militarised Communist regime, which it is, but it is also a highly creative and productive knowledge-based society and economy. China has risen on the foundations of its human capabilities. Indians ought to have a better appreciation of

that.
The Xi Jinping regime is itself to blame for the acute focus in Indian public discourse on China's negative attributes. However, it is in India's inter-

The Xi Jinping

regime is itself to blame for the focus in Indian public discourse on China's negative attributes. It is in India's interest to balance that with a better understanding of life in China.

The demise of veteran Ayurveda

better understanding of life in China. The Chin-

ese too should realise that

Indians are a proud peo-

ple with their own memo-

ry of their civilisational

inheritance and can be

The history of Indian nationalism is in many

ways greater than the

history of Chinese nat-ionalism. Mahatma Gan-dhi and the Indian Nat-

ional Congress did not

fight for India's libera-

tion alone. They fought

for the liberation of all co-

lonised people and against imperialism and

colonialism in all its manifestations. What-

ever strategic and foreign

policy compromises Ind-

ia might make in the

short run cannot be a

deviation from its "tryst

In July 1971, when then

US national security adviser Henry Kissinger

met Chairman Mao

Zedong in Beijing and

proposed a US-China con-

dominium against the

Soviet Union, China did

not give up its civilisa-tional inheritance of

being an independent-

minded nation. It walked

a path that gave it the

strategic space for its own rise. India too seeks

that space for its own

development. Over the

past 50 years the people-

to-people contact between

the United States and

China has been intense

and extensive. It has cre-

ated the foundation for a

even when the two seek

today greater strategic

It is in the interests of

both China and India that

there is similar engage-

ment between their peo-

ple, even as the two states

jostle with each other for

strategic space within Asia and the world.

People-to-people relation-

ships must stand on their

own footing and not

always be subject to state-

The writer, an econo-

mer Prime Minister

mist and adviser to for-

Manmohan Singh, has

of essays titled A New

Cold War: Henry

recently edited a collection

Kissinger and the Rise of

to-state relations.

space for themselves.

relationship

durable

with destiny"

nobody's cat's paw.

physician and managing trustee of the Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala, Dr P.K. Warrier signals the end of an era in the field of medicine. A free-dom fighter in his early days, the doyen of the Ayurveda system of medicine who had just completed his centenary last month, was that ideal 'Karma Yogi' who epitomised the principles of selfless service, simple living, high thinking and wide reading. At a time when the medical field has become increasingly and the left by ingly commercialised, the late Dr Warrier whose career spanned nearly seven decades was that ideal physician and humanist who dedicated his entire life and services to the betterment of human society in keeping with the highest norms of medical ethics which endeared himself to people of all sections of society. The fact that Dr Warrier never accepted consultation fees either from the rich or the poor hold testi-

mony to the sad facts. **B. Suresh Kumar**, *Coimbatore* 

#### **BARTY PARTY**

Barty made history and celebrated in Wimbledon. She came, saw, conquered the Centre Court with her perfect service, good coverage of the court and deft placements that flowed freely from her racquet. It was Australian tennis renaissance on Saturday. Barty emulated her idol Evonne Goolagong who had claimed the second of her All En-gland Club titles in 1980. World number one Ash Barty became the first Australian woman to win the Wimbledon singles title in 41 years when she defeated Czech Karolina Pliskova 6-3 6-7(4) 6-3 in the final. The 25-year-old Barty, who won her maiden Grand Slam at Roland Garros in 2019, ten years after winning the girls' singles title at Wimbledon. Barty came to the final havshe had played against Pliskova.

M.R. Jayanthi, Coimbatore

#### WELCOME STEP

It is with reference to the news, UP to bar breakers of 2-child norm from local body polls. The population has crossed the optimum limit in India and has become a liability. So the problem of population explosion in India has proved to be a big hindrance to the success of economic planning and development. The large size of the population results in a large army of labour force and due to a shortage of capital resources, it becomes difficult to provide gainful employment to the entire working population. The rapid growth of the population accounts for the low standard of living and even the bare necessities are not available adequately. At this juncture, the proposed draft of the Uttar Pradesh Population Bill does not allow anyone who violates the 2-child policy from contesting local bodies elections, from applying for getting promotion in government jobs and receiving any kind of government subsidies is a welcome step. P. Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

A.G. Noorani

### Kashmir and the delicate activism of ensuring that delimitation fair

t is very unfortunate that at their very first test members of the People's Alliance of the Gupkar Declaration in Kashmir split on the issue of delimitation of assembly constituencies. Mehbooba Mufti of the People's Democratic Party refused to appear before the Delimitation Commission. All were agreed that the wrongs of Aug 4, 2019, should be undone first.

Delimitation is one of the most delicate and highly controversial problems in democratic governance. But it is also ignored until controversy catches up with it. The issue is simple. How do you draw up the boundaries of electoral constituencies in order to ensure fairness to all? Britain woke up pretty late to the problem. There is an electoral commission, a late entrant. It establishes boundary committees and evaluates its reports. Rules prescribe guidance.

Within the constraints of the existing majority electoral system it is clearly desirable that votes should be, as nearly as possible, of equal value: a vote in A should be worth as much as a vote in B. If this is to be substantially achieved, the boundaries of constituencies should be drawn in such a way that their electorates do not differ too greatly in size. Other factors may also have to be taken into account in drawing the boundaries, but it is of the greatest importance that the process should not be influenced by considerations of party advantage. Another and a hugely neglected fac- $\begin{array}{lll} \text{tor in India} & -\text{ the Muslim seats.} \\ \text{They depend entirely on how} \end{array}$ Muslim majority areas are grouped.
India has a delimitation commis-

sion set up by an act of parliament. The commission is charged with the task of readjusting "on the basis of the latest census figures" the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha to the states, the total number of seats in state assemblies, and the division of each state into territorial constituencies for the purpose of elections to the Lok Sabha and to the assemblies. The electoral roll is common to both. A given number of assembly constituencies

are grouped to form a parliamentary constituency. Upon publication "every such order shall have the force of law". This is valid. Not so what follows: "And shall not be called in question in any court." No law can oust the powers of judicial review conferred by the Indian constitution on the Supreme Court and the high courts. Even an amendment to the constitution cannot do that, for judicial review is incontestably an integral part of the structure' Constitution.

Ouster clauses are strictly construed by the courts. It does not prevent the courts from reviewing a delimitation order. Drawing the boundaries of any constituency on the ground inter alia that it is grossly unfair or that the commission did not follow the rules of natural justice by giving a reasonable opportunity for a hearing to the political parties or interested citizens' bodies.

We owe to the research of Alistair McMillan details of the grossly unfair delimitation as it obtains now. He points out, for instance,

that "a vote in Calcutta North-West, with 698,009 electors, is worth roughly four times as much as one in Thane in Maharashtra, where there are 2,771,746 electors".

In 1962, the US supreme court carried through a political revolution by ordering that long under-represented urban and suburban areas be given their proper weight in state legislatures. It is not a 'political question' exempt from judicial review. Two years later chief justice Earl Warren carried the process further and delivered the famous quotes on the weightage to rural areas.

Chief justice Earl Warren said: "A predominant consideration in determining whether a state's legislative apportionment scheme constitutes an invidious discrimination violative of rights asserted under the Equal Protection Clause is that the rights allegedly impaired are individual and personal in nature. ... Undoubtedly, the right of suffrage is a fundamental matter in a free and democratic society. Especially since the right to exercise the franchise in a free

and unimpaired manner is preservative of other basic civil and political rights, any alleged infringement of the right of citizens to vote must be carefully and meticulously scrutinised.

.Legislators are elected by voters, not farms or cities or economic interests. If ours is a representative form of government, and our legis-latures are those instruments of government elected directly by and directly representative of the people, the right to elect legislators in a free and unimpaired fashion is a bedrock of our political system. ...

"And, if a state should provide that the votes of citizens in one part of the state should be given two times, or five times, or 10 times the weight of votes of citizens in another part of the state, it could hardly be contended that the right to vote of those residing in the disfavoured areas had not been effectively diluted."

Muslims have suffered because their leaders do not do the homework which a challenge requires.

By arrangement with Dawn

# # FINANCIAL

### Chronicle MONDAY | 12 JULY 2021 | CHENNAI

# quick BITES

INDICATO	%				
Sensex	52386.19	-0.35			
Nifty 50	15689.80	-0.24			
S&P 500*	4,369.55	1.13			
Dollar (₹)	74.63	0.12			
Pound Sterling (₹)	102.98	0.01			
Euro (₹)	88.47	-0.07			
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,844▼451	0.96			
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	75.56	1.94			
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.186	1.01			
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.343	0.055			
* As of Friday/Saturday					

### **Hero Electric** Vehicles to invest ₹700 cr

Hero Electric Vehicles will invest Rs 700 crore by 2025 to rev up its business expansion, including setting up a new unit, for which it has raised Rs 220 crore to part-fund the activities. The firm plans to set up a facility with 10 lakh units capacity, besides increasing production at its current plant at Ludhiana to 3 lakh units per annum from 75,000 units at present, as it targets to sell around 10 lakh units a year by 2025-26.

#### Amazon sees rise in sellers grossing over ₹1 crore biz



Amazon India said it has seen six-fold growth in the number of sellers grossing over Rs 1 crore in sales during three-day Small Business Days event. "During the three-day event, more than 84, 000 sellers received an order; 68 per cent of these sellers who received an order were from non-metro cities like Kodagu Karnataka). Dholpur (Raiasthan), Eta (UP), Giridh (Jharkhand), Una (HP) and Tinsukia (Assam), Amazon said.

### FPIs pull out ₹2,249 cr from equities in July

After a month of net inflows foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out Rs 2,249 crore from the equities market in the first seven trading sessions of July. This could be largely attributed to profitbooking by FPIs with markets trading near all-time highs and investors choosing to stay on the sidelines, said Morningstar India associate director (manager research) Himanshu

### Tea exports may decline by 15% this year

The tea industry is bracing for a decline in exports to the tune of 30-40 million kg this year as compared to 2020, due to the availability of low-cost varieties in the global market and trade restrictions in user countries, industry sources said. For January-March this year, exports fell by 13.23 per cent year-onyear and by 29.03 per cent compared to 2019, as per Tea Board India data. Altogeth-er, 45.86 million kg was exported.

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### **■ Rules restrict gas supply to PSUs**

### **BPCL LPG rights** new selloff snag

**AMMAR ZAIDI** NEW DELHI, JULY 11

A two-decade-old LPG supply order restricting supply of domestically produced LPG to only stateowned oil companies has stymied plans to allow Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) to continue selling subsidised cooking gas (LPG) after its privatisation.

A legal opinion has now been sought to ascertain if privatised BPCL will be eligible to receive liquefied petroleum gas produced by companies such as ONGC and Gail, two government officials with knowledge of

the development said.
Currently, BPCL has more than 8.4 crore domestic LPG customers, including 2.1 crore Ujjwala customers. The company does not produce enough LPG at its refineries to be able to cater to the requirement of all these.

It, like other oil marketing companies, buys LPG from state-owned firms like Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Gail (India) Ltd as well as private companies such as Reliance Industries Ltd.

The Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2020, known as LPG Control Order of 2000, restricts sale of indigenously produced cooking gas only to state-owned oil marketing companies, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan marketing Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and BPCL.



It restricts supply of LPG produced by firms such as ONGC and GAIL to private firms. Private LPG retailers, called parallel marketeers, have to use imported gas for supplying to cus-

The 2000 Control Order was issued as the nation is short in LPG production. Once BPCL is privatised, the 2000 order will bar ONGC and GAIL from sell-

cials said. "Post-divestment of the government's stake in BPCL, it shall cease to be a government oil company in terms of clause 2(g) of

ing LPG to BPCL, the offi-

LPG Control Order of 2000," an official said.
With no access to indigenously produced LPG, BPCL won't be able to serve its customers and it would not be possible to shift the customers to IOC and HPCL, as LPG cylinder equipment at customer end will need to be changed. Also, IOC and HPCL may not have the required infrastructure to cater to such a large customer base, the

As a way out, it is being considered to continue to treat BPCL as a government company for the purpose of the 2000 Control Order for three years, the officials said adding that a legal opinion has been sought to ascertain if such a move is tenable under the law.

The other alternative is to amend the LPG Control Order itself to allow private firms to access indigenously produced LPG. This would open up LPG retailing to other private

Officials said law ministry opinion has been sought to determine if the term government oil com-pany in the LPG Control Order necessary requires the company to be a gov-ernment company and if BPCL post-privatisation can be notified as a govern-

ment oil company.

To interpret the term 'government company', the opinion of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs (MoCA) has been sought, they said. —*PTI* 

### Six North-eastern states have no hallmarking centres

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JULY 11

Though mandatory hallmarking has come into force in the country, most of the North-eastern region will remain outside the purview of the rules, as six of the eight north-eastern states have no hallmarking centres.

Hallmarking for gold jewellery and artefacts has been mandated in districts which have hallmarking centres. However, a large part of the North-east will remain out of the man-date, as Mizoram, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Sikkim have no hallmarking centres. Further, among the eight districts in Tripura, only two--North Tripura

hallmarking centres. Even a bigger state like Assam, which has 33 districts, has hallmarking centres only in Barpeta, Cachar and Kamrup The story is no different

eastern region. Among the 28 districts in Chhattisgarh, only Raipur and Durg have hallmarking centres. The presence of such centres and West Tripura--have is limited to four districts

in Jharkhand.

Though the Northern region has a fairly large number of centres, smaller state Uttarakhand has hallmark centres only in two districts. Western and southern regions account in the small states of the for a major share of the hallmarking centres.

As per the recent government decision, the jewellers in all the districts with hallmarking centres have to sell only hallmarked jewellery and

get their entire inventory hallmarked by September 1. Till then. the government officials will not take any coercive action against the jew-

ellers.
In the rest of the districts, steps will be taken to set up hallmarking centres at a fast pace. As and when the centres are set up, jewellers will have to get a Bureau of Indian Standards licence and get their inventory hall-marked. The government will also provide subsidies to set up new centres in these districts.

In the past few years. hallmarking centres have been coming up in regions which have a higher share of gold con-sumption. Several jewellers in these regions are already selling fully hall-

### Big insurers launch net-zero climate alliance

Milan, July 11: Eight of the world's leading insurance and reinsurance com-Sunday on launched an alliance to help speed up a transition to a net zero emissions

economy. The companies, which include Europe's top three insurers by premiums— Allianz, AXA and Generali —said the Net-Zero Insurance Alliance (NZIA) would work to shift underwriting portfolios towards net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The move comes as insurers come under increasing pressure to spell out how they plan to decarbonise their businesses amid growing calls for them to stop underwriting and investing in fossil fuel projects.

Each of the companies will individually set intermediate targets every five years and report on progress annually in cooperation with competition authorities, the NZIA members said in a state-

"With this new Net-Zero Insurance Alliance, we are raising our climate ambition further," said Thomas Buberl, Chief Executive of the AXA Group, which chairs the NZIA. NZIA members, which include Aviva,

Munich Re, SCOR, Swiss Re and Zurich Insurance Group, will set underwriting criteria for the most carbon-intensive activities in their underwriting portfolios and offer solutions for low-emission and zeroemission technologies.

They will also include net-zero and decarbonisation risk criteria in their risk management frame works.

"By committing to join the gold standard alliance for net zero, the (NZIA)

underwriting contingent on underlying companies having credible net-zero transition strategies," said UN climate envoy Mark Carney.

The Alliance, first outlined in April, was presented by Generali CEO Philippe Donnet Sunday's G20 Climate

Summit in Venice.

Many of the leading Europe-based insurers have already adopted climate-friendly policies. Generali Last month, pledged to reach carbon neutrality in its direct investment portfolio by

### Goyal for faceless vetting of subsidy applications

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JULY 11

The applications received under subsidy-oriented schemes for the textile industry should be processed transparently using automation so that personal contact between industry and department is eliminated, Piyush Goyal, who has taken charge as the textile minister, suggested.

"The applications received under subsidy-oriented schemes should be processed in a transparent manner using automation keeping in view the broad objective of each scheme and necessary mechanisms should be devised so that personal contact of industry and department can be eliminated," he said while talking to industry representatives. He also suggested a special dispensation for MSMEs.

According to A Shaktivel, chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, automation and elimination of human interface will reduce the delay in the processing. Once automated, there would be a specific time-



Piyush Goyal

line to process the applications and this will benefit the industry.

Goyal said the formats for submission of statutory returns from industry needs to be simplified, and emphasised on rationalisation and optimal use of manpower at the Office of the Textile Commissioner and Textiles Committee. In order to increase pro-

ductivity of cotton, the minister suggested that the Cotton Corporation of India can work out possibilities for providing kapas plucking machines the cotton farmers. These machines can be provided by start-ups by availing of mudra loan. He also suggested a meet-

ing with stakeholders to make a strategic plan to eliminate child labour in the textiles sector.

### **SONY TO USE ROBOTS TO CUT COSTS**

**ANCHALEE WORRACHATE** 

Sony Corp. predicts that robots will take over its manufacturing televisions, smartphones and cameras as company shifts attention to services, the Financial Times reported.

Unmanned production lines are expected to cut costs by 70 per cent at Sony's mainstay TV factory in Malaysia by the fiscal year 2023, compared with 2018, the FT cited Kimio Maki, head of Sony's electronics businesses, as saying in an interview. The acceleration of factory automation will also reduce prod-

uct defects, he said. The plan will be carried out in conjunction with an increased focus on online sales and data analysis. Sales data will be analysed using artificial intelli-gence to more effectively set manufacturing volume, Maki said.

— Bloomberg

### Woman infected with 2 Covid variants highlights next risk

**SUZI RING** 

A 90-year-old woman died after becoming infected with two different strains of Covid-19, revealing another risk in the fight gainst tne disease Belgian researchers found.

the first reviewed analysis of an infection with multiple strains, scientists found the woman had contracted both the alpha variant, which first surfaced in the UK, and the beta strain, first found in South Africa. The infections probably came from separate people, according to a report published on Saturday and presented at the European Congress of Clinical Microbiology &

Infectious Diseases. The woman was admitted to a Belgian hospital in March after a number of falls, and tested positive for Covid-19 the same day. She lived alone, receiving nursing care at home, and hadn't been vaccinated. Her respiratory symptoms rapidly worsened and she died five days later. When her respiratory samples were tested for variants of concern, both

strains were found in two tests. The researchers couldn't say whether the co-infection played a role in her rapid deterioration.

The idea of multiple infections isn't completely new. In January, Brazilian scientists reported two cases of Covid-19 co-infec- rently known. tion, but the study hasn't

vet been released in a scientific journal. Researchers have also previously found evidence of people becoming infected with multiple strains of influenza. The cases suggest co-infection might be more common than cur-

– Bloomberg

### **AUSTRALIA-S'PORE TRAVEL BUBBLE TIMING PUSHED BACK TO END 2021**

**EMILY CADMAN** 

Sydney's virus outbreak plans for an Australian-Singapore travel bubble have been delayed until at least the end of the year, the Australian trade minister said on Sunday.

While opening up the travel corridor remains a priority, the scale of the outbreak that has forced the country's largest city into a renewed lockdown means plans are on hold, Dan Tehan told the Sydney Morning Herald. "It has been put back due to the third wave of the virus," he said. "The hope might be towards the end of the year that you could look at a travel bubble with Singapore.'

Following the initial discussions, the two countries haven't committed to a specific date for the travel bubble.

While Australia was an early success story in the fight against the coronavirus, a sluggish vaccine rollout means even as the rest of the world opens up the country's borders are expected to stay shut until mid-2022. Just 26 per cent of the population have received their first Bloomberg

### **HIGH IRON-ORE, PELLET PRICES FORCING SMALL UNITS TO EXIT**



July Kolkata, Unprecedentedly prices of iron-ore and pellet are compelling small, secondary steel units in various states, including West Bengal, to down shutters or curtail production, officials said on

Sunday. In West Bengal, at least five such MSME units have closed down while 100-115 others curtailed production between 15 and 50 per cent, Steel Re-rolling Mills Association chairman Vivek Adukia

"The secondary steel MSMEs are also surrendering power requirements from the DVC and the WBSEDCL (West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited)," Adukia told PTI.

In Bengal, about 500 units are engaged in sponge iron, rolling mills and steel making through the induction furnace route. All these units are suffering along with mills in other states in the wake of unprecedented iron ore, pellet prices from unhindered export.

The secondary steel associations of West Bengal, Odhisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have jointly appealed to the Prime Minister and steel minister for their intervention and imposing export duty of 50 per cent on pellets. The secondary steel-

makers had been pleading for imposing export duty on pellets for the last one year, Adukia said.

West Bengal Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association president Shankar Lal Agarwal said pellet price soared from Rs 4,500 per tonne in May 2020 to Rs 15,000 per tonne in June this year resulting in a cost impact on a tonne of steel of Rs 20,800. -PTI

#### **GOVT IDENTIFIES ITEMS FOR DUTY REVIEW**

New Delhi, July 11: The government has identified a host of customs exemptions for review and has invited suggestions from trade and industry bodies on the same.

Importers, exporters, industry and trade associations are invited to give views on the subject to the government by August 10 on the 'MyGov.in' portal.

Some key products covered under the list include fabrics, games/ sports requisites, magnetron for microwave manufactur-ing, specified parts for PCB, set-up box, routers, broadband modem, con-traceptives and artificial kidney. The list also includes magnetic tapes, photographic, filming, sound recording, oil exploration tools, etc.

### **CHINESE** | CHECKERS | **One of the last chip firms is being acquired by a Chinese firm**

### UK sold off \$42 bn of chip firms before review Instead, the UK has preferred to place conditions

GILES TURNER & KITTY DONALDSON

The UK was once the leading semiconductor innovator in Europe, producing the likes of Arm Ltd, whose technology is found in 90 per cent of all mobile devices, and Imagination Technologies Group Ltd,

which supplies chip designs used by Apple Inc. But that was before they were sold off to foreign buyers. Arm was acquired by Japan's SoftBank Group Corp. with the government's approval before being handed off to Nvidia Corp. Imagination was sold to a Chinese buyout fund, signed off by then-Prime Minister Theresa May, even as one of the funds' founders was under investigation by the FBI for insider trading.

In total, semiconductor companies valued at about \$42 billion have been sold to foreign buyers since May 2010, when the current Conservative govern-ment came to power, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That figure recent sale to Nvidia.

Now, in the middle of a semiconductor shortage, one of the last of those assets, Newport Wafer Fab Ltd, is being snapped up by a Chinese manufacturer for around 63 million pounds (\$87 million), according to a person familiar with the deal. After initially waving it

through, Prime Minister



Boris Johnson's government is pledging to review the deal, but critics say it's too little too late.

become a test case: it's the first high-profile Chinese takeover in Britain since the government strengthened takeover laws to give itself 30 days to call deals in for scrutiny.

'Newport Wafer Fab is extremely worrying,'

Conservative MP Bob Seely said in an interview. We need coherence on dealing with the Chinese state. I worry that we are still not there, and I worry that we are still failing to understand our dependency on China and the need to move away from that

Newport Wafer Fab has

trade dependency."
It's rare for the UK to halt

a sale over national security. When it does, the deals have often been small and involved the aerospace industry. In 2020, a Chinese investor ditched a bid for manufacturer Mettis Aerospace Ltd after the government said it would review the deal. The same year, the government also halted a deal for Impcross Ltd from a China-backed buyer. iobs and investment.

Wafer Fab is of strategic importance to the UK. The firm makes and pre-

such as increasing local Imagination Technologies, which are multibillion-dollar companies that play key roles in semiconduc-tor supply chains, it's unclear whether Newport

pares the ultra-small sheets of silicon, which serve as the base for microchips and are used for power management in products like cars. It reported a loss of 6.05 mil-lion pounds on revenues of 49 million pounds in the fiscal year ending in Sept. 2019, its most recent financial report. —Bloomberg

Hove: Indian spinners worked wonders during the final overs as visitors edged out England by eight runs in the second women's T20 International to level the three-match series here on Sunday. Batting first, India lost way after a good start provided by opener Shafali Verma (48 off 38 balls) to finish on 148 for 4. In reply, opener Tammy Beaumont's 59 off 50 balls put England in good position before they were restricted to 140/8 in 20 overs. Poonam Yadav and Deepti Sharma brought India back in the game during final five overs. - PTI Brief scores: India Women 148 for 4 in 20 overs (Shafali Verma 48, Harmanpreet Kaur 31, Nat Sciver 1/20) bt England 140 for 8 in 20 overs (Tammy Beaumont 59, Poonam Yadav 2/17, Deepti Sharma 1/17).

#### **Sri Lanka's first**

team test negative

Colombo: The entire Sri Lankan first team, including senior players Kusal Perera, Dushmantha Chameera and Dhananjaya de Silva, have all returned negative in their latest RT-PCR tests ahead of the limited overs series against India. The tests were conducted by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC). It is now expected that the players would be allowed to enter the bio-bubble by Monday as they complete a week-long hard quarantine after their arrival from the United Kingdom. "There has been another round of RT-PCR tests conducted yesterday and the results were supposed to come today. We only get the results if there is any positive cases," a source in SLC said. — PTI

#### **England clinch Pakistan series**

London: Lewis Gregory starred with both bat and ball as England beat Pakistan by 52 runs in the second one-day international at Lord's on Saturday to take an unassail able 2-0 lead in a three-match series. Set 248 to win in a game reduced to 47 overs per side by rain, Pakistan were dismissed

for 195. Somerset pace-bowling all-rounder Gregory, in just his second match at this level, struck with his first ball on Saturday on the way to 3-44 as England won with six overs to

spare. — AFP Brief scores: England 247 (Phil Salt 60, James Vince 56, Lewis Gregory 40; Hasan Ali 5/51) bt Pakistan 195 (Saud Shakeel 56: Lewis Gregory 3/44).

### **Bangladesh put it** past Zimbabwe

Harare: Some resolute batting and dropped catches held up Bangladesh before they completed a crushing 220-run win over Zimbabwe on the final day of a one-off Test at Harare on Sunday. Needing a world record 477 to win, the hosts were all out for 256 after brave innings

from nightwatchman Donald Tiripano and fast-medium bowler Blessing Muzarabani delayed the tourists' celebra-

tions. - AFP Brief scores: Bangladesh 468 & 284/1 (Shadman Islam 115 (not out), Najmul Hossain Shanto 117 (not out)) bt Zimbabwe 276 & 256 (Brendan Taylor 92, Donald Tiripano 52; Mehidy Hasan Miraz 4/66, Taskin Ahmed 4/82).

#### **St. Joseph's sports**

quota selection

Chennai: Selection for the sports quota admission at St. Joseph's College of Engineering and Institute of Technology will be conducted at its sports village on Wednesday (9am). Achievements in the approved state/national level competitions will be the eligibility criteria for the participation in the trials besides academic qualifications and fulfillment of eligibility fixed by the Anna

University norms. Trials for both men and women categories: athletics, basketball, volleyball, ball badminton, kabaddi, tennis, table tennis, hand ball, chess, khokho, swimming, shuttle badminton, football, fencing, weight lifting, and power lifting. For men only: Hockey and Best Physique. For more details contact: 98409

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Argentina's Lionel Messi holds the trophy aloft as he celebrates with teammates after winning the Copa America final against Brazil on Saturday.

### **MESSI, NEYMAR** NAMED BEST OF **COPA AMERICA**

Rio De Janeiro, July 11: Argentina's Lionel Messi and Brazil's Neymar were picked as the two best players of the Copa America just before they met in the final on Saturday.

"It is not possible to choose only one (best) player because this tournament has two of them," CONMEBOL said in a

statement.

Messi dished up four goals and five assists in six matches

Neymar delivered two goals and three assists in

five games.
CONMEBOL's technical study group added that the players had a positive impact on their teams and were "the reflection of the South American DNA in every match they played" in the Copa.

Neymar has steered Brazil with his dribbles, passes and shots. His exchanges with Lucas Paquetá have made Brazil more fluid up front.

# ANGEL TO THE RESCUE

### Di Maria delivers as Argentina beat rivals Brazil for Copa America title Messi's quest for glory

Rio de Janeiro, July 11: Superstar Lionel Messi won his first trophy with his national team as Angel Di Maria's goal gave Argentina a 1-0 win over hosts Brazil in the Copa America final on Saturday.

The victory at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium ended Argentina's 28year wait for a major trophy, and also ended Brazil's unbeaten home record that stretched back more than 2,500 days. Argentina had last tasted

success at a major tournament in 1993 when the great Gabriel Batistuta's brace gave them a 2-1 win over Mexico in the Copa final in Ecuador.

"It's a great title, especially for our people. The fans support the team unconditionally. I think they can identify with this team that never gives in," said Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni.

It was the first time in six editions playing at home that Brazil had failed to lift



Brazil's Neymar (left) with Lionel Messi at the end of the Copa final in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday.

Argentina edged a brutal and fractious affair thanks to Di Maria's goal on 22

The 33-year-old winger ran onto Rodrigo De Paul's sumptuous through ball to lob Brazil goalkeeper Ederson with a first time

We fell short so many times, we dreamt so much about this, fought so hard," said Di Maria, who was

"Many people said we wouldn't manage it, we were criticized a lot. But we kept knocking at the door and kept going until today we knocked it down and entered."

Messi could have wrapped up the win two minutes from time but slipped when through with only Ederson to beat.

"We have to be big

defeat) regardless of how painful and difficult it is," said Brazil coach Tite. In a frantic start,

Argentina's burly enforcer Nicolas Otamendi was quickly in with his first foul while Brazilian mid-fielder Fred picked up the first booking after just three minutes for a studs up lunge at Gonzalo Montiel.

Brazil were unchanged from their semi-final win over Peru while Scaloni made five alterations, notably bringing in Di Maria — who made an energetic and decisive entry off the bench against Colombia last time out.

Brazil struggled to create anything of note and even when they had a free-kick from shooting range, Neymar couldn't beat the

When the hosts did finally maintain some pressure late in the first half, Everton's deflected strike bobbled though to goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez.

#### finally comes to an end Rio De Janeiro, July 11: When Lionel Messi, **MESSI'S ARGENTINA** already a regular starter

for the mighty Barcelona, made his international bow in 2005 as an 18-year-2021 Copa America title & golden boot old for a powerful Argentina side he surely winner never imagined it would take him 16 years to finally in 2005. claim a trophy with his

country. But the six time Ballon d'Or winner had to suffer numerous disappointments, including losing four finals, before leading his country to a 1-0 victory "eternal rivals Brazil in the Copa America final at Rio de Janeiro's iconic Maracana

stadium on Saturday. Despite a glittering

**HONOURS** 

Fifa U-20 World Cup

Olympic Gold Medal in

Record number of

appearances for

Argentina: 151

help Barcelona to win the Champions League four

times, La Liga 10 times and

the Copa Del Rey seven times, Messi's hopes of

In truth he wasn't as inspired in the final as throughout the tournament, even slipping over when clean through two minutes from time and facing Brazil's goalkeeper

Ederson with a chance to

national success were

repeatedly frustrated.

finish the match.
But the way his teammates threw him into the air after the final whistle showed how important and appreciated he is with-

in the Argentina camp. "It was my dream. It was what I wanted most in the world," said Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez following the triumph. "We gave it to Messi, who deserved it the most."

# N-OLE, OLE, OLE!

### Djokovic wins 20th slam, joins Federer, Nadal at top

London, July 11: Novak Djokovic won a record-equalling 20th Grand Slam title and sixth Wimbledon on Sunday with a four-set victory battling Matteo

Berrettini of Italy.
The world number one triumphed 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 to move level on 20 Federer and Rafael Nadal. His win also put him three-quarters of the way to the first calendar Grand Slam of all four majors since 1969.

A sixth victory at the All England Club for Djokovic, who was playing in his 30th final at the Slams, added to his nine Australian Opens, two Roland Garros titles as well as three at the US Open

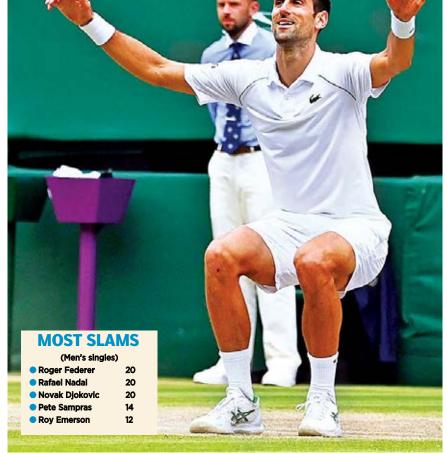
Should he win a fourth title in New York in September, he will become just the third man in history after Don Budge (1938) and Rod Laver (1962 and 1969) to complete the calendar Grand Slam.

"It was more than a battle. He is a true Italian hammer I felt it on my skin," said Djokovic of Berrettini. "It means none of us

three will stop. Roger and Rafa are legends they are the reason I am where I am today.' Federer — who bowed

out in the quarter-finals while Nadal did not play tweeted his congratula-

tions. "Congrats Novak on your 20th major," he said. "I'm proud to have the opportunity to play in a special era of tennis champions. Wonderful performance, well done!"



Serbian star Novak Djokovic celebrates after beating Matteo Berrettini of Italy in the Wimbledon final on Sunday.

The Serb also now has 85 male player. career titles while he has become the first man to break the \$150 million

prize money barrier. A gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics could give him the first ever Golden Grand Slam by a

Djokovic overcame a nervy start to break for 3-1. which he stretched to 5-2. He even had a set point in a marathon eighth game which the Italian saved after eight deuces. Reinvigorated, he broke

Djokovic when he served for the set and then dominated the tiebreaker which he sealed with his fourth ace of the contest.

The top seed stormed to a 5-1 lead in the second set on the back of a double break. Berrettini, bidding

to be Italy's first men's Grand Slam winner since Adriano Panatta at the 1976 French Open, clawed his way back to 4-5, saving three set points, but Djokovic this time served

it out for a set apiece.

Djokovic struck first again for a 2-1 lead in the third set and fought off three break points in the sixth game, a show of defiance which brought watching Hollywood star Tom Cruise to his feet.

That was Berrettini's last chance of the set as Djokovic served it out in the 10th game.

#### **INDIAN-ORIGIN SAMIR**

Indo-American player Samir Banerjee lift-ed the Wimbledon boys' singles title on Sunday, a remarkable triumph for the youngster who was testing his skills in a Grand Slam for only the second time in his fledgling career

All of 17, the boy from New Jersey just wanted to win a match at the biggest stage in the junior circuit, but little did he know that he would be the last boy standing at the hallowed grass courts. Up against compatriot Victor Lilov, the teenager won 7-5 6-3 in the summit clash that lasted one hour 22 minutes. He broke his rival thrice and dropped serve only once in a facile win.

"I came into this tournament looking to win a round and trying to play well because I knew I was playing well before this,' he was quoted as saying by itftennis.com.

Agencies

#### Olympic briefs

### Music keeps Neeraj positive

Starved for competitive exposure in the build-up to the Olympics, star India javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has found a unique way to ensure that his mind feels ready for his maiden appearance in the Games. "I listen to slow music and imagine that I am in a competition, taking part and throwing in the Olympics, so that I don't feel completely new in my first competition," Chopra said. Touted as one of India's strongest bets for a medal in Tokyo, Chopra said his build-up to the Games has been quite challenging given the lack of competitive exposure.

### **Boxers to leave on July 17**

India's Olympic-bound boxing contingent, which is preparing for the Games in Italy right now, will leave for Tokyo from their training base in Assisi on July 17. An unprecedented nine Indian pugilists have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, including five men and four women. All of them are giving final touches to their Games preparations in Assisi. The Games will open on July 23 with boxing competitions starting the next day. The men who have qualified are world number one and Asian Games champion Amit Panghal (52kg), Manish Kaushik (63kg), Vikas Krishan (69kg), Ashish Kumar (75kg), and Satish Kumar (+91kg).

### **Anand defeats** Kasparov again

Zagreb, July 11: Former world champion Viswanathan defeated long-time rival Garry Kasparov for the second consecutive time, in the 13th round of the Croatia Grand Chess Tour's Blitz event here on Sunday.He had beaten Kasparov on the first day

The victory came for the Indian maestro after three straight draws in rounds 10, 11 and 12 against Anish Giri (the Netherlands), Jan-Kryzstof Jan-Kryzstof Duda (Poland) and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France)

respectively. He followed it up with a superb win over Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi, the top-seed in the 14th round to be joint third in the standings with Giri on 18 points.

Playing black, Anand got the better of Kasparov in 25 moves in a Nimzo-Indian defence game.

On the first day of the Blitz on Saturday, the Indian ace had recorded four wins, drawn three matches and suffered two defeats. The former world champion had ended up seventh after the Rapid section, with nine points. He had posted two wins and drawn five and lost two

matches.