

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

KARIMNAGAR | FRIDAY | 2 JULY 2021



WEATHER

Max: 31.8°C
Min: 25.2°C
RH: 64%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky. Moderate rain. Max/Min temp. 33/24°C

ASTROGUIDE

Plava: Uttarayana
Titthi: Jyeshtha Bahula Ashtami till 3.32 pm
Star: Revathi full day
Variyam: 5.01 pm to 6.47 pm
Durmuhurtam: 8.25 am to 9.17 am; 12.46 pm to 1.38 pm
Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 noon

HIJRI CALENDAR

Zeeqad 20, 1442 AH

PRAYERS

Fajar: 4.36 am
Zohar: 12.30 pm
Asar: 4.56 pm
Maghrib: 7.00 pm
Isha: 8.17 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.54 PM

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.46 AM

MOONRISE TOMORROW 12.17 AM

MOONSET TODAY 12.39 PM

COUNTER POINT



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

SHORT TAKES

Nirav's sister turns approver

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday said fugitive businessman Nirav Modi's sister has "remitted" over ₹17 crore from a UK bank account to that of the Indian government after she was allowed pardon from criminal proceedings in lieu of extending help in the PNB loan fraud case. "On June 24, Purvi Modi intimidated ED that she had received the knowledge of one bank account in London in her name," Nirav Modi's sister said.

SC: Kindness of kidnapper key

New Delhi: If an abducted person is not assaulted or threatened to be killed and treated well, then the kidnapper cannot be sentenced to life imprisonment under Section 364A of Indian Penal Code, the Supreme Court has said. A two-judge bench made the observation while setting aside the conviction of an auto driver in Telangana who had kidnapped a minor and demanded a ransom of ₹2 lakh from his father.

■ Full report on Page 2

Ban animal sacrifice: PETA

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

Pet animals too can catch Covid

London: Covid-19 is common in pet cats and dogs whose owners are infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, according to a study. In the study, researchers at Utrecht University studied pet dogs and cats of people who had tested positive for Covid-19. A mobile veterinary clinic visited the homes of owners to take blood samples.

WORLD | 5

Xi warns against bullying China



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

SPORTS | 8

Abhimanyu Mishra youngest ever chess Grandmaster



TABLOID

YS Jagan biopic on the anvil



TS police restrains an AP official from entering Telangana at Nagarjunasagar project. A large number of police personnel were deployed at Nagarjunasagar and Pulichintala projects.

TS tightens project security

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

The Telangana state government has stepped up security at all irrigation projects over river Krishna anticipating protests and attacks from political parties and farmers in Andhra Pradesh against generation of hydel power by TS Genco.

Heavy police force was deployed at Nagarjunasagar, Srisaillam, Pulichintala and Jurala projects on Thursday. The Andhra Pradesh government too deployed police at Nagarjunasagar and Srisaillam, the joint projects of TS and AP.

The Telangana State government has deployed hundreds of policemen for the safety and security of hydel power stations and

TS Genco staff working in all projects for power generation. The police are working in three shifts round-the-clock.

The situation at Nagarjunasagar dam was like a war zone on Thursday with the Telangana and the AP governments deploying hundreds of policemen on either side of the borders.

Telangana police inspected every vehicle passing from AP to Telangana at the border. Tension prevailed for some time when AP officials tried to meet TS Genco officials at Nagarjunasagar, Srisaillam and Pulichintala to submit representation seeking stoppage of hydel power generation.

■ Page 2: AP officials submit representation to TS cops

TS REJECTS AP'S CLAIM OF WATER SHORTAGE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

The Telangana state government rubbished the claims of the AP government that it will face drinking water shortage if the former takes up hydel power generation at irrigation projects across river Krishna.

The AP government had already complained to the Union Jal shakti ministry and Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) on Wednesday.

■ Full report on Page 2

KRISHNA BOARD CALLS FOR TS, AP MEET TO END ROW

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Amid heightened tensions between the two states, the Krishna River Management Board has decided to convene a meeting between TS and AP to resolve the dispute by July 7.

The decision was taken after the AP government had lodged a complaint against the TS government taking up hydel power generation at Srisaillam and Nagarjunasagar projects.

■ Full report on Page 2

WHATSAPP FACES GLITCHES FOR OVER ONE HOUR

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Popular messaging app WhatsApp was paralysed for some time on Thursday evening, which was purportedly caused by a glitch in its server.

Many people have complained that they could not download photos or forwarded videos at 10 pm. The issue got resolved after one hour.

Experts said the problem could have been caused by some problem at the WhatsApp server.

Ravikanth, an HR executive of a private firm, said, "Even some errors occur, I guess we blame mobile network."

■ Page 2: Software bugs cause glitches, say experts

Registration charges may be hiked from 6% to 7.5%

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

A proposal is before the state government seeking enhancement of stamp duty and registration charges from the existing 6 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

The stamps and registration department submitted a request to this effect to chief secretary Suresh Kumar on Thursday.

The CS forwarded the report to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao for favourable consideration. The government has set a target to earn ₹12,500 crore in revenue through stamp duty and registration charges this fiscal.

Enhancing the stamp duty and registration charges is imperative to achieve this target. The

PROP DEALS HIT RECORD IN JUNE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Though the pandemic has dented the state exchequer like never before, the month of June seems to have brought cheers to the stamps and registration department. One of the state's huge money spinners, the department did a record-breaking collection during the other-wise rainy days.

■ Full report on Page 2

■ Page 2: TS eyes more money from registrations

BASIC | RIGHT

Justice Ramana blames government for not giving priority to medical sector

CJI calls for universal free healthcare in India

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

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

"The government," the Chief Justice of India said, was "not giving priority to the medical sector or

issues of immediate concern."

Launching the 'Defeat Diabetes' campaign by the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India on Thursday, Justice Ramana, in a virtual address, said if diabetes was to be battled effectively, the state had to come up with a comprehensive policy framework in which awareness campaign became a part of diabetes eradication endeavours.

"For the programme to be successful, it needs to



CJI Justice N.V. Ramana

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

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

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

Studies, Justice Ramana said, had shown that knowledge and awareness was negligible in rural India on diabetes. The knowledge gap leads to

myths like it is the obese, those who consume more sugar, are the ones who get the disease, or that it is contagious and the one that says women are immune to the disease.

"Where there is room for myths, there is room for quackery. Quackery is the biggest disease affecting India. Quackery begins where awareness ends," he said.

Quoting the Telugu saying 'Aarogyamey mahabhagayam', the Chief Justice of India said it was the uni-

versal truth that health was wealth. "Any investment is justified to acquire this wealth because only a healthy nation can become a wealthy nation," he said.

Here are a "few thoughts and facts for all stakeholders to ponder over," he said, adding, "Our doctors are being attacked while on duty. Why is it that our medical professionals are at the receiving end for someone else's failure?"

■ Page 2: CJI points out at insufficient medical infra

Sources said that a sticker of a shop was found by the NIA officials on the parcel bomb that was recovered from Darbhanga railway station.

■ Page 2: Nasir was trained in Pak in 2012

9 EU nations give nod to Covishield

More likely to lift travel restrictions

DC CORRESPONDENT
With agency inputs
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

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

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

Individual member states have the flexibility to accept vaccines that have been authorised at the national level or by the World Health Organisation (WHO). However, while AZ's Vaxzevria is approved by EU, the fate of its Indian version, Covishield, remains under suspense.

India has already asked the EU member countries

State's e-pass rule gets SC approval

New Delhi, July 1: The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea challenging the Telangana government's notification under the Disaster Management Act which prevents movement by mandating e-pass during Covid-19.

A Bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and V. Ramasubramanian refused to entertain the plea saying it is a temporary measure, whose validity has already expired.

The plea was filed by a law student saying that the Telangana State government was illegally denying the right of unimpeded access to Hyderabad to the people of Andhra Pradesh, by man-

dating e-pass amid Covid-19 pandemic.

"You cannot just go with a patient to full hospitals. You apply for a pass if you travel with a patient. From Noida to Ghaziabad and then to Delhi e-pass was required," the Bench said.

Responding to this, the advocate appearing for the petitioner said that Delhi is different.

The Supreme Court dismissed the plea and said, "Delhi is the capital of India. What are you saying? Even lawyers had to get an e-pass. Sorry, we will not entertain this. This measure is temporary and not even permanent. Dismissed." — PTI

Modi govt may get 5 ministers

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Speculation is rife that the much-awaited reshuffle of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet could take place soon. The first reshuffle in the NDA 2.0 could see some more allies getting representations. The Republican Party of India's Ramdas Athawale is the only non-BJP leader in the current NDA government after the Shiv Sena and the Shiromani Akali Dal quit the ruling alliance and the LJP's Ram Vilas Paswan's demise.

With crucial Assembly elections, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab lined up, these states could see more representation in the reshuffle of the Council of Ministers. Sources disclosed that UP will be one of the states that will see adequate representation, including a Brahmin face as the community is said to be feeling disenchanted with the BJP under Yogi Adityanath's rule.

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

Some names doing the rounds are late BJP leader Gopinath Munde's daughter Pritam Munde and Rajya Sabha MP Narayan Rane, both from Maharashtra where the BJP lost its ally Shiv Sena.

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

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

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

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Two LeT operatives, Imran Malik alias Imran Khan and his brother Mohammad Nasir Malik, arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Hyderabad on Wednesday were part of a conspiracy hatched by top operatives of the proscribed terrorist organisation LeT to execute terror acts across India, according to police.

Imran Malik and Mohd Nasir Malik, who were stationed at Mallepally area, hail from Kairana in Shamli of Uttar Pradesh. "The case was originally registered with the railway police of Darbhanga on June 17, relating to an explosion in a parcel on platform 1 of Darbhanga railway station. It was found that the parcel was booked in Secunderabad and arrived in train number 07007, Secunderabad-Darbhanga Express. On June 24, the New Delhi unit of NIA had re-registered the case and had taken up the investigation.

"For about 12 days, the CI cell, the government railway police and officials of NIA were questioning the suspects and collected both technical and physical evidence from them. After the visit to the scene of crime and development of key inputs by the investigation team of NIA, the accused persons were arrested," an official release said.

Sources said that a sticker of a shop was found by the NIA officials on the parcel bomb that was recovered from Darbhanga railway station.

■ Page 2: Nasir was trained in Pak in 2012

IN BRIEF

Training module for Urdu journos

Hyderabad, July 1: Urdu Academy is organising a five-day national online training workshop for Urdu journalists from July 13. According to Urdu Academy director-cum-Secretary Dr Mohammed Ghouse, senior journalists and media experts will deliver lectures and share their experiences. Urdu journalists can register their names on <https://bit.ly/3jtYN4C>. Eligible and registered candidates will be informed about the passwords prior to the inauguration session to be held at 10.30 am on July 13.

THUDUMDEBBA MEN FACILITATE REVANTH REDDY

DC CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD, JULY 1

Leaders of Thudumdebba (Adivasi Hakkula Porata Samiti) on Thursday met Anumula Revanth Reddy and congratulated him on being appointed as the president of TPCC in Hyderabad.

A team of Thudumdebba leaders led by the Adilabad district president Godam Ganesh, general secretary Purka Bapurao and vice-president Kumram Shyam Rao and others felicitated Revanth Reddy with a green Kanduva.

SOFTWARE BUGS CAUSE GLITCHES, SAY EXPERTS

From Page 1

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

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

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

KTR URGES PEOPLE TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

DC CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR, JULY 1

Everyone should protect trees like they do with their own lives because trees give the precious oxygen free of cost.

This was stated by minister for municipal administration and urban development departments, K.T. Rama Rao at a Palle Pragathi programme in Rajampet village of Gambiraopet mandal on Thursday.

He inaugurated a Prakruthi vanam and laid foundation stone for construction of a panchayat building on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Rao said that plants play a key role in human survival and regretted that many people had died for want of oxygen during the second wave of coronavirus. It is the moral responsibility of every human being to grow plants in their surroundings and take steps to protect them, he said.

Rao urged officials to coordinate with public representatives in villages and monitor the effective implementation of Haritha Haram. He pointed out that the state government had sanctioned tractors and tankers and had established nurseries in around 12,769 village panchayats to achieve the initiative’s goals.

Stating that the thrust of the K. Chandrasekhar Rao-led government was on the overall development of Telangana, the minister said that they were able to transform the lives of people in seven years to levels that was unimaginable in the 70 preceding years.

The Aasara pension scheme today guarantees 10 times more benefits than what was given by the earlier governments, he said and added that efforts were to include poor people above 57 years in the pension scheme. The government is to issue new ration cards to all BPL families from July 5, he pointed out.

KTR starts 7th phase of Haritha Haram

10 per cent of local body funds for ‘green budget’

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KCR desperate for survival, says Bandi

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

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

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

quarters here on Thursday.

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

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

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

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

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

Govt implementing ‘mission check dams’ vigorously

Adilabad: State government’s “mission check dams” is being vigorously implemented in Telangana under which thousands of these structures are being constructed, including in rural and hilly areas, for irrigation purposes and recharging groundwater. The government has taken up these check dams with financial assistance from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard). The mission is particularly useful in districts that record high rainfall but have no mechanism to store the water or recharge groundwater. For example, erstwhile Adilabad district has an average 1,100 mm rainfall. Still many parts of the district face acute drinking water problems. As

per an estimate, nearly 1,200 TMC of water is going waste into the sea from Telangana.

Mission check dams is being seen as the next major endeavour of TRS government after missions Kakatiya and Bhagiratha.

Satla Venugopal, FRO of Penchikalpet in Kagaznagar division, said: “Certainly, check dams will increase the groundwater level and quench thirst of forest animals too in forest areas. The large number of check dams on rivulets and streams are likely to improve the ground water and check water from going waste.

Further, once filled with rainwater after good rains, they are helpful in cultivating crops or can be used as fish ponds. All these while recharg-

ing groundwater levels and also controlling floods to an extent. Nabard has sanctioned ₹2,500 crore for construction of check dams in 10 districts of the state. Of this, ₹453 crore has been allocated for old Adilabad district. Officials have taken up construction of 104 check dams with an estimated cost of ₹275 crore. Construction of some of these dams has been completed and they are full of water now. Senior TRS leader B. Goverdhan Reddy of Adilabad pointed out that regular de-silting of these dams is essential for ensuring that they continue recharging groundwater. Otherwise, the depth of check dam will decrease and it would not serve any purpose after a while.

KCR, Jagan seeking political mileage over Krishna: Cong.

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Newly appointed Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president A. Revanth Reddy has accused chief ministers of the two Telugu states K. Chandrasekhar Rao and Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of fanning emotions among people over Krishna waters just to gain political mileage.

“Water disputes should be sorted out amicably through discussions. Otherwise, they must approach courts”, he observed.

Revanth Reddy appealed to people of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh not to get emotional over water issues.

● **HE FELT** leaders who fan emotions among people for political mileage should be socially boycotted.

He charged CM Chandrasekhar Rao of raking up water disputes whenever he needed votes in elections. In fact, even Telangana was carved out over water disputes and recruitments, he pointed out. “If TRS government is sincere about Krishna water issue, it should bring it to the notice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union ministers concerned”, he underlined. The TPCC chief said Congress party

is ready to fight for Krishna water along with TRS MPs in the Parliament session starting from July 20. He maintained that it is unfair to criticise legendary leaders of united Andhra Pradesh like N. T. Rama Rao and Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy, as they served people setting politics aside. He felt leaders who fan emotions among people for political mileage should be socially boycotted. Reacting to Y. S. Sharmila comments, Revanth Reddy asked her to get her politics right before criticising Congress. He suspected a political conspiracy by TS CM to divert pro-Congress forces into supporting Sharmila in Telangana state.

Pass must for travel with the patient, says Supreme Court

From Page 1

“You cannot just go with a patient to full hospitals. You apply for a pass if you travel with a patient. “From Noida to Ghaziabad and then to Delhi e-

pass was required,” court said, pointing out that the restriction because of Covid pandemic was all over. Responding to this, the lawyer appearing for the petitioner said that Delhi is different. The Supreme Court dis-

missed the petitioner’s plea and said, “Delhi is the capital of India. What are you saying?”

“Even lawyers had to get an e-pass. Sorry, we will not entertain this. This measure is temporary and not permanent. Dismissed.”

TS: No water crisis in AP due to hydel power work

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

The Telangana state government rubbished the claims of the Andhra Pradesh government that it will face drinking water shortage if the former takes up hydel power generation at irrigation projects across river Krishna under the present circumstances with water levels in reservoirs reaching minimum levels.

The Andhra Pradesh government had complained to the Union jal shakti ministry and Krishna river management board (KRMB) again on Wednesday against Telangana government taking up hydel power generation up to 100 per cent of installed capacity.

The Telangana state government on Thursday filed a counter-complaint with the KRMB and Union jal shakti ministry claiming that the projects in AP under Pennar basin have adequate water reserves which can meet drinking water needs of AP and it is not dependent on Srisailem and Nagarjunaagar projects for drinking water at present.

The Telangana state government also raised objection over the KRMB directly writing a letter to TS Genco officials to stop hydel power generation against the established norms of writing to either the secretary or ENC (engineer-in-charge) of the irrigation department.

The Telangana state government also raised strong objections over the AP government repeatedly taking up the issue of drinking water problem in AP if Telangana government takes up hydel power generation in projects over Krishna.

The Telangana state government claimed that AP has projects which have storage capacity of 350 tmc ft in

AP officials submit representation

FROM PAGE 1

TS Genco officials refused to meet them. With this, TS police obstructed them leading to heated arguments from both sides. Left with no option, they submitted representation to the police and left.

However, AP officials could submit representation to TS officials at Pulichintala. The Telangana police

blocked roads leading to Jurala dam in Mahbubnagar district for a few hours in the morning leading to traffic jams for a few hours.

Meanwhile, the TS Genco continued hydel power generation on a full scale at all projects over Krishna on Thursday as per the directions of the state government despite heightened tensions between both the states over Krishna water sharing.

KRMB to hold meet to resolve dispute

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Amid heightened tensions between the two states, the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) has decided to convene a meeting between TS and AP to resolve the dispute by July 7.

The decision was taken after the AP government had lodged a complaint against the TS government taking up hydel power generation at Srisailem and Nagarjunaagar projects. The river board

convened its decision to the TS government through a letter on late Thursday.

In its letter, the KRMB raised objections over the TS government utilising more water from Nagarjunaagar than its allotted share.

The KRMB also asked the TS government to deduct 9.9 tmc from its share that was used for power generation.

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

Pennar basin, of which there are 120 tmc ft of reserves at present which are more than sufficient to meet drinking water needs of that state. There are adequate reserves in Somasila, Kandaluru, Owk and Velugodu reservoirs in AP, it noted.

It pointed out that the

Krishna tribunal had made temporary allocation of 512 tmc ft to AP but AP diverted an additional 250 tmc ft. The government made it clear that generating hydel power is its right to meet power demand in the state and it will continue power generation till the situation permits.

CJI POINTS OUT AT INSUFFICIENT MEDICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

FROM PAGE 1

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

Justice Ramana also said it was “saddening to see how a well-qualified doctor cannot

start a hospital on his own and survive. Why is profiteering by corporators being blamed on doctors? After years of learning, doctors struggle to get decent salaries.”

The medical bodies and concerned agencies in the government should put their heads together to address these concerns, he added. “Only then,” the Chief Justice of India said, “can we sincerely greet the doctors on the first of July every year.”

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

Despite pandemic, registration dept keeps cash registers ringing

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

Though the pandemic has dented the state exchequer like never before, the month of June seems to have brought cheers to the stamps and registration department. One of the state’s huge money spinners, the department did a record-breaking collection during the otherwise rainy days.

Ironic it may sound, but people did not hesitate to spend money even in the worst Covid situation to purchase assets while some others sell their properties to make money. Though realtors and builders were worried about their businesses due to Covid-19 and the following lockdown in the state, June proved their apprehensions uncalled for.

The figures show that the coronavirus failed to make a big impact on the rich and the mighty. The virus continued to spread in May, and the number of registrations dropped due to the announcement of lockdown, however, there were still close to 40,000 transactions in the month. In June, records were broken.

There were a total number 2,00,000 registrations of agricultural and non-agricultural assets in June in the state. Despite the adverse conditions, the government received the expected level of revenue.

The boom in real estate business has become a topic of discussion even in times of fear of coronavirus. Property sales are booming in all districts across the state.

The offices of the sub-registrars and tahsildars under the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) are full of activity with people buying and selling lands and other properties.

It is rumoured that the sales will double this month. The government will increase the value of registrations and

LAND TRANSACTIONS DATA		
ITEM	APPLICATIONS	COMPLETED
Land transactions in June		
Registrations / Mutations	84,047	75,901
Virasath Part distributions	6,229	5,328
Pending mutations	251	209
Nala Conversions	12,747	12,669
	3,023	2,608
Land transactions in May		
Registrations / Mutations	19,793	17,419
Virasath Part distributions	1,787	1,528
Pending mutations	52	44
Nala Conversions	3,730	3,712
	931	785
Non-agricultural asset transactions in June		
Registrations:		91,771
Revenue through registrations:	₹1186.94 crore	
Booked slots:		58,735

TS eyes more money from registrations

From Page 1

The cabinet sub-committee on resource mobilisation headed by finance minister Harish Rao recently recommended a hike in land and property values in Telangana. Such a proposal for a hike came after a gap of eight years, and to narrow the gap between government-prescribed values and market values of lands, properties.

The government could earn more revenues through land, property registrations if land values are increased and stamp duty and registration charges go up. The stamp duty and registration charges are collected based on land, property values prescribed by the government. The more the land/property value, the more the stamp duty and registration charges.

registration fees from August 1 as per the recommendations of the Cabinet sub-committee which is likely to submit a report to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao within one to two days.

There is a talk doing rounds

in the market that registration charges may be almost doubled compared to the present tariff. Sub-registrars and tahsildars are said to be expecting all potential buyers to complete registrations within this month.

SHORT TAKES

MP MINISTER FALLS FROM DAIS DURING EVENT

DC CORRESPONDENT
BHOPAL, JULY 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HC: JOURNALISTS NOT EXPECTED TO DRAMATISE NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

ACB RAIDS SR. IPS OFFICER'S PROPERTIES

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
RAIPUR, JULY 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NIA COURT ACQUITS AKHIL GOGOI, OTHERS IN SEDITION CASE

MANOJ ANAND | DC
GUWAHATI, JULY 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PANDEMIC | DEATHS

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
JULY 1

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

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



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

— PTI

Modi urges IMA to undertake studies on benefits of Yoga

Prime Minister hails contribution of doctors in saving lives from Corona

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

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

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

On the occasion, he also urged the IMA to undertake evidence-based studies on the benefits of yoga in "mission-mode" and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Our government has given maximum priority

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

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

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

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

"Our government is committed to safeguarding our doctors. Last year, we brought in several provisions against crimes

against doctors," he said.

We are also providing free insurance cover to our Covid warriors, Modi added.

The way our doctors have served the country is an inspiration in itself, he said and expressed gratitude to all doctors on behalf of 130 crore Indians.

Today, when the country is fighting such a big war against Coronavirus, doctors have saved millions of lives by working hard day and night, he said.

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

Doctors' Day is observed in the honour of noted doctor and former West Bengal chief minister Bidhan Chandra Roy, whose birth and death anniversaries fall on July 1.

North India has to wait longer for rains

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

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

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

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

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

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

— PTI

K'TAKA TO BUILD MEMORIAL FOR COVID WARRIORS

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

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

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

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

IIT-M PROFESSOR ALLEGES CASTE DISCRIMINATION

O.P. ARULN | DC
CHENNAI, JULY 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

Covid toll underreported, says Kerala Opposition

Covid mortality data in Odisha has been fudged: BJD leader

AKSHAYA KUMAR
SAHOO | DC
BHUBANESWAR, JULY 1

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

Patnaik, son-in-law of former chief minister

Janaki Ballav Patnaik, said that the data regarding the Covid mortality in the state has been fudged and concealed.

The senior BJD leader said that desperate race to be on the top and the attempt to cling onto past glory seem to have resulted in such factual death data manipulation

Patnaik said that due to administrative failure and

negligence, a controversy has erupted over the Covid-19 toll in the state which is further affecting the image of the Odisha government.

Had the actual number of deaths been revealed, there would not have been much loss of face. The ill-attempt of hiding the data is ruining the sanctity of the administrative machinery, he said.



SHORT TAKES

BILL COSBY
RELEASED FROM
PRISON

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

But the judges wrote in a 79-page decision that a non-prosecution agreement between a former district attorney and Cosby over evidence he gave in a civil case meant the actor should not have been charged. "Cosby's convictions and judgment of sentence are vacated, and he is discharged," they wrote. Cosby left SCI Phoenix, a state jail 35 miles northwest of Philadelphia, just before 2:30 pm (1830 GMT).

F-16 COLLIDES
WITH BUILDING AT
DUTCH AIR BASE

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

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

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

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

Further details were not immediately available.

PAK INDUCTS
CHINA-MADE VT-4
BATTLE TANKS

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

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

DEADLY HEAT
WAVE SLAMS
CANADA, U.S.

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

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

TRUMP'S CFO
SURRENDERS TO
FACE CHARGES

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

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

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

No foreign force can bully China: Xi
Ruling Communist Party celebrates centenary with show of strength at Tiananmen Square

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

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

Xi, who is also the General Secretary of the CPC and Chairman of the Cen-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— PTI



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

— AFP

Delta shadow over EU Covid travel pass

Double Covid jab seems to control Delta variant: EMA

The Hague, July 1: Two doses of Covid vaccine appear to provide protection against the rapidly spreading Delta variant of the coronavirus, the European Medicines Agency said on Thursday.

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

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

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

MARCO CAVALERI,
Head, European
Medicines Agency

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

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

London, July 1: Voicing concern over many countries failing to vaccinate their people, WHO chief Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Thursday called for vaccinating at least 10 per cent of the population of every country by September, at least 40 per cent by the end of the year, and at least 70 per cent by the middle of next year.

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

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

Asserting that when some countries cannot

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

"Emerging data from real world evidence are showing that two doses of vaccines are protective against the Delta variant." Four vaccines are currently approved for use in the EU: Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson.

— AFP

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

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

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

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

Among the participants, SARS-CoV-2 infections were identified in five participants who were fully vaccinated and 11 who

TREATMENT FOR
BLOOD CLOTS DUE
TO VAX FOUND

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

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

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

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

— PTI

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

— PTI

Russia booster shots amid spike

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

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

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

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

Sputnik Light version.

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

gious Delta variant of the virus has accounted for the bulk of recent new infections in Moscow and some other regions. The nation's chief sanitary doctor, Anna Popova, confirmed Tuesday that the authorities also registered the first contagion with the Delta Plus variant. The new guidelines come as infections in Russia soar and vaccination rates lag behind many other nations.

— AP

SOARING | PRICES

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

Berlin to vote on bid to combat housing crisis

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

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

Local officials must now set a date for the vote, which is widely expected to be held on September 26, the same day as elections for a new federal parliament and Berlin government. The "Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co." initiative, named after Berlin's biggest property group, targets companies with more than 3,000 apartments in their portfolios.

The movement would like to see more than 240,000 homes placed under a public agency to be administered "democratically, transparently and in the public interest".

In a city of 3.7 million residents where more than 80 per cent rent their homes, the capital's attractiveness to investors and structural lack of housing sent prices soaring by nearly 85 per cent between 2007 and 2019.

Berlin's city-state government already moved to freeze rents for five years from 2020 in a bid to halt runaway gentrification, but the federal constitutional court ruled that policy to be illegal in April.

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

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

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

It sharply criticised the initiative's aims as counterproductive "because it doesn't create a single

square metre of additional living space".

"We need more housing built to ease the market pressure, that is why we will be stepping up building in the coming years in Berlin," a company spokesman said.

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

— AFP

DECCAN Chronicle

2 JULY 2021

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

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

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

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

The government's argument not only sounded specious but also revealed its disdain for the legal responsibilities when it comes to bringing succour to the most vulnerable sections of people during a national disaster. The government conveniently forgot the fact that it had invoked the appropriate sections of the Act while dealing with the pandemic but

chose to ignore those that talked of compensation. The court refused to accept the government interpretation of the law dealing with compensation as "recommendatory"; it is instead mandatory and statutory, the court said.

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

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

Fuel price paradox

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

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

A study showed how the Centre could easily cut fuel price by ₹4 to ₹5 per litre and not suffer a dip in revenues as demand would climb when the economy takes off again with post-Covid consumption. However, low hanging fruits like liquor and fuel sales, with very few hazards for the treasury to mop up the money,

are too tempting. Paradoxically, India raised taxes on fuel, of which it imports about ₹8 lakh crore worth annually, when international prices were hitting the bottom at \$30 per barrel last year but are now ruling at \$70. Consumption is being taxed whereas corporate taxes have been reduced. This is not an economic riddle so much as a disaster in waiting that will put our economic recovery in jeopardy.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

KAUSHIK MITTER
Editor

K. SUBHAKAR
Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4; Fax: 040-27805256
Vijayawada: No.C-3 & 4 Patnamata, Industrial Estate, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada (A.P.), Ph: 0866-2555284/2555287; Telefax: 0866-2555234
Visakhapatnam: Survey No.1/3A Beach Road, Near Kalasagiri Ropeway, Sector-9 MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017 (A.P), Ph: 0891-2552333/2552334; Fax: 0891-2755285
Rajahmundry: Vemagiri, Dhavaleswaram Rd, Rajahmundry, Ph: 0883-2417618/2417208; Telefax: 0883-2417208
Anantapur: Thapovan colony, Bangalore By-Pass Road, Anantapur - 515004, Ph: 08554-276903; Fax: 08554-276904
Karimnagar: Survey No.1341, Vavilalpalay Colony, Jagityala Road, Karimnagar - 505 001, Ph: 0878-2228908; Telefax: 0878-2220433
Nellore: Survey No.527/2, Burrupur Village, Venkatachalam (M), Chermudugunta Panchayat, Nellore, Ph: 0861-2348581/82; Telefax: 0861-2348580
Chennai: SP-3 Developed Plot, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Ph: 044-22254477/48/50/51; Advt Fax: 22254765/22254766/42305325
Coimbatore: 77, Vivekananda Road, Ramnagar, Coimbatore - 641 009, Ph: 0422 2231255
Gram: CHRONICLE Postal registration no: No. H/SD-348/2006-08

Subhani



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



Patralekha Chatterjee

Dev 360

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

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

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

According to the study, which draws on published data from multiple sources including UNESCO and OECD, the estimated additional unpaid childcare burden per woman because of pandemic-related care burdens between January and October 2020 in India was 360 hours. The corresponding figure for men was 33 hours. The unpaid childcare burden per woman in India in a "normal" year is estimated to be 2,380 hours. None of this should

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

centres, etc., during the pandemic has made things much tougher.

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS

NOBLE INITIATIVE

It will be a noble initiative and rare gesture by the Centre if it extends ex gratia to families of Covid-19 victims (*SC seeks ex gratia for Covid-hit, DC, July 1*). In most of the affected families, the victims were the sole bread winners. The bereaved families find it hard to fend for themselves. The Centre must speed up this fiscal relief for the affected families.

Syed Ali
Karimnagar

MYSTERY PACKAGE

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

Satya Brahmaji
Hyderabad

WATER DISPUTE

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

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao
Hyderabad

VAX BOOKING

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

Damodar Joshi
Secunderabad

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

China can make 40 N-bombs

NEW DELHI, JULY 1.

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

The report did not disclose the origin of the estimate.

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

Zahid Hussain



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

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

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

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

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

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

The Taliban have overrun many

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

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

The Taliban's success in the north

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

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

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

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

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

By arrangement with Dawn

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	52,318.60	-0.31
Nifty 50	15,680.00	-0.26
S&P 500*	4,308.61	0.26
Dollar (₹)	4,305.76	0.19
Pound Sterling (₹)	1.466	0.022
Euro (₹)	88.38	0.004
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	46,310	₹526 1.13
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	75.76	1.53
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.039	0.00
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.456	0.012

* As of 8:30 PM IST

QR code printing on B2C invoices deferred till Oct.

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

Special drive on to promote govt crop insurance



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

Srei Infra board okays ₹2,500-cr fundraising

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

Biocon official barred from mkt for 3 months

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



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

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JULY 1

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

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

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



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

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

In India there are more

than 450 registered direct selling companies and several others which are not registered. As per the new rules, not just the entity, but the individual sellers who are part of the network also will have to register with the DPIIT. According to the World Federation of Direct Selling Associations, India had 5.7 million direct sellers in 2018-19.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOUMITA BAKSHI CHATTERJEE NEW DELHI, JULY 1

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

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

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

VIL has also said that while it is working on raising new funding for the last six months, "investors are not willing to invest in the company because they believe that unless there is a significant improvement in consumer tariffs, the health of the industry will not recover and they will incur a loss on their investment". —PTI

RBI Guv flags rising cyber-attacks as risk

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

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

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

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

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

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

BANKS TOLD TO TRACK RETAIL, MSME LOANS

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

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

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

withstand future shocks.

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

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

Cadila applies for Covid vaccine approval

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JULY 1

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

The company plans to manufacture 10-12 crore doses annually.

ZyCoV-D is a three-dose Plasmid DNA vaccine, which produces the spike protein of the Sars-CoV-2 virus when injected. Primary efficacy of 66.6 per cent has been attained for symptomatic RT-PCR positive cases in the interim analysis and 100 per cent accuracy for the third dose on moderate disease.

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

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

"As the first ever plasmid DNA vaccine for human use, ZyCoV-D has proven its safety and efficacy profile in our fight against Covid-19. The vaccine when approved will help not only adults but also adolescents in the 12 to 18 years age group," said managing director of the company Sharvil Patel. "We expect to produce 1

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

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

MANUFACTURING PMI DIPS IN JUNE

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, JULY 1

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

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

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

June car sales in high gear; demand rises

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, JULY 1

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

In fact, reopening of dealerships and a low base of

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

In June last year, around 1.15 lakh units were sold by 15 passenger vehicle makers due to partial reopening of showrooms and restricted production.

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

India and Tata Motors.

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

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

Passenger vehicle sales at

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

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

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

Crypto exchanges flounder as banks cut ties

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

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

Customer complaints have inundated all key exchanges as the pullout

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

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

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

the heads of five crypto exchanges said.

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

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

Even payment gateways, such as Razorpay, PayU and BillDesk have severed ties, as they too depend on banks to process transactions. —Reuters

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



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

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

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

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

DROPS THAT COUNT Many businesses are going to customers for money and offering great yields How crowdfunding can revive small businesses

TINA OREM NEW YORK, JULY 1

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Although crowdfunding is often associated with raising capital for new businesses, months of lockdowns have many small businesses exploring crowdfunding as a way

to get back to normal operations, according to Sherwood Neiss, a principal at Crowdfund Capital Advisors.

"What we're seeing is a lot of these small restaurants, local parlours, beauty salons, that type of thing, that were struggling during the pandemic are now going up to the customers and saying, 'Hey, I need 25,000, 50,000 to reopen, get us up and running,'" he says. And the businesses are offering great yields, if you think about it. Many of them are 7 per cent, 8 per cent, 9 per cent, which is a healthy yield for a short-term loan, and people don't have to pony up 25,000. The average investment is about \$700, he says.

Keys to an effective crowdfunding campaign: Crowdfunding may not be a good fit for small-business owners who are strapped for time or energy. Small businesses launching recovery-oriented crowdfunding campaigns should keep three things in mind, according to the experts.

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

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

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

SHORT TAKES

Dunkley dazzles in England's win

Taunton: Skipper Mithali Raj's second successive fifty went in vain as Sophie Dunkley produced a fighting half-century after Kate Cross' five-wicket haul to help England Women register a five-wicket win over India Women and grab an unsailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series here on Wednesday. Chasing 222 for a win, England batswomen couldn't capitalise on their starts to lose five wickets for 133 in 28.5 overs but Dunkley and Katherine Brunt produced a 92-run partnership for the unconquered sixth wicket to take the team home with 15 balls to spare. — *PTI*

Brief Scores: India 221 (Mithali Raj 59, Shafali Verma 44; Kate Cross 5/34) lost to England 225/5 (Lauren Winfield-Hill 42, Sophia Dunkley 73 (not out), Katherine Brunt 33 (not out); Poonam Yadav 2/63).

12-yr-old Mishra is youngest GM

New Delhi: Indian-American prodigy Abhimanyu Mishra on Wednesday became the youngest ever chess Grandmaster after he scored his third GM norm in Budapest, Hungary, according to a report. The 12-year-old from New Jersey in United States became a GM from International Master, having crossed the required 2500 Elo rating barrier, chess.com website said. Mishra broke GM Sergey Karjakin's record that has stood for 19 years. On August 12, 2002, Karjakin, a world championship challenger in 2016, secured the Grandmaster title at the age of 12 years and seven months. Mishra, born on February 5, 2009, took 12 years, four months, and 25 days to obtain the highest title in chess, the website said. — *PTI*

Jhajharia rewrites own world record

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

Fifteen athletes qualify for Tokyo

New Delhi: Star sprinter Dutee Chand, javelin thrower Annu Rani and 400m hurdler M. P. Jabir qualified for the Tokyo Olympics through world rankings as 15 Indian athletes and two relay teams were confirmed for the Games by the sport's world governing body on Thursday. Twelve individual athletes, including star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, booked automatic quota for the Olympics by breaching the qualification mark, while the trio of Dutee, Rani and Jabir, as well as the men's 4x400m relay team made it to the Games through rankings. Dutee was 41st and 50th respectively in the list of 56 athletes to compete in both the 100m and 200m events, while Rani was at 18th (out of 32) and Jabir at 32nd (out of 40). Long jumper M. Shreshankar, shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor, discus throwers Kamalpreet Kaur and Seema Punia qualified for the Olympics this year. — *PTI*

Live on TV

EURO

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

COPA AMERICA

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

Printed and Published from Karimnagar by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Deccan Chronicle Press, H.No. 1-21/12/1, Cherlabhuthkur Road, Mugdumpur Village, Karimnagar - 505 186 Telangana State Regd. No. M/S-D-2/2K RNI Registration No. APENG/2001/04766 Ph: 9121181123 Grams: CHRONICLE Editor: Kaushik Mitter

BELGIAN BAFFLE

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

Munich, July 1: Belgium are anxiously waiting on the fitness of stars Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard for their Euro 2020 quarter-final showdown against Italy on Friday. Thorgan Hazard fired Belgium into the last eight with the goal that knocked out holders Portugal, but the fitness of his brother Eden and De Bruyne is Belgium's main concern before facing the Azzurri in Munich.

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

Neither trained on Wednesday with the Belgium's medical staff working around the clock to get them fit to face Italy. Coach Roberto Martinez admits neither player will probably be 100 percent in Munich, "but we will use every day to get them as fit as possible".

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Swiss eye another big scalp

St. Petersburg, July 1: Switzerland will try to follow up their shock elimination of world champions France at Euro 2020 against Spain on Friday after reaching the quarter-finals of a major tournament for the first time in 67 years.

Vladimir Petkovic's side recovered from two goals down to force extra time against much-fancied France and prevailed on penalties as 2018 World Cup hero Kylian Mbappe missed the decisive spot-kick.

Now the Swiss hope to spring another surprise against a Spain team that has scored 10 times in two

games after a slow start to the group stage.

Alvaro Morata's redemptive strike helped secure a 5-3 extra-time win over Croatia, but Spain will need to cut out the errors if they are to contend for a record fourth European Championship.

The Juventus forward and his family had been subjected to abuse by fans in Seville after he missed a series of chances in the group stage.

History is on Spain's side against Switzerland, having lost just once in 22 meetings, a 1-0 defeat in South Africa that sparked their run to the 2010 World Cup title.

Sergio Busquets, the Spain captain, is the lone survivor from that team, while the Barcelona midfielder and Jordi Alba are the only two players in the squad left from their Euro 2012 triumph.

The win over Croatia was Spain's first in a knockout fixture since they beat Italy 4-0 to claim the second of back-to-back European crowns.

"The quarter-final depends on us not our rival. It wouldn't matter if it were France, the Swiss, Ukraine — we are here to win so we have to face and beat the best," said goalkeeper Unai Simon.

The Athletic Bilbao

50-50 CHANCE FOR KDB AND EDEN: COACH

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

Coach Roberto Martinez said both players were "50/50" to feature against Italy in Munich on Friday. "Italy will attack from the very first second; they will be very structured and dynamic. Every player knows his role. The game against Portugal was a game that could have been played a lot further down the line; usually players don't play these physical and intense games at this stage of the tournament," added Martinez.

Midfielder Thorgan Hazard said: "Italy will be the toughest opponent. They've had a good run of wins and it will be a nice challenge for us to end that sequence. Their style may suit us more than Portugal. They are enterprising so we may be able to profit from the open spaces." — *Agencies*

COPA | AMERICA



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

Neymar back for Chile clash

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

Neymar will return for Brazil and Alexis Sanchez has recovered from a calf muscle injury ahead of the encounter at the Nilton Santos Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

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

Brazil, with three wins in four Copa America matches, are the clear favourites to win. Chile's only win in the group stage was against Bolivia and they are lacking the kind of form that inspired their back-to-back championship wins in 2015 and 2016.

The last memorable match between Brazil and Chile was in the Round of 16 at the 2014 World Cup. Regular time ended 1-1,

with goals by David Luiz and Sanchez. The Chileans almost beat the hosts in extra time, with a strike by Mauricio Pinilla hitting the bar in the last minute.

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

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

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

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

HUMPY, PRANEETH JOIN RATNA NOMINEES LIST

New Delhi, July 1: Olympic-bound shuttler B. Sai Praneeth and Kidambi Srikanth have been nominated for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award by the Badminton Association of India, which has also recommended three players for the Arjuna award.

Praneeth, who won a bronze medal at the 2019 World Championship, is the only men's singles shuttler to have qualified for the Tokyo Games.

Srikanth has been struggling of late but won four titles in 2017.

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) nominated HS Prannoy, Pranav Jerry Chopra and Sameer Verma for the Arjuna honour.

The federation also sent

applications of S Muralidharan and PU Bhaskar Babu for the Dronacharya award. Leroy D'sa and PVV Lakshmi have been nominated for the Dhyan Chand award.

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

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

Also, seven other players — Vinit S Gujrathi, B Adhiban, S.P. Sethuraman, M R Lalith Babu, Bhakti Kulkarni and Padmini Rout have been nominated for the Arjuna award, AICF secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan said. — *PTI*

SANIA-BETHANIE UPSET 6TH SEEDS IN FIRST ROUND

London, July 1: Sania Mirza and her American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands knocked out sixth seeds Desirae Krawczyk and Alexa Guarachi to move to the second round of the women's doubles event at the Wimbledon Championships, here on Thursday.

Sania and Mattek-Sands were a bit rusty at the start but once they got their rhythm they dominated the match and won 7-5 6-3 against the American-Chilean combination in one hour and 27 minutes. Pressure was put on the pair early in the match when Mattek-Sands served the third game that featured seven deuce points. — *PTI*

NOVAK, ROGER, NAOMI ON ENTRY LISTS FOR TOKYO

Wimbledon, July 1: Serbia's Novak Djokovic, Switzerland's Roger Federer, Japan's Naomi Osaka and Australia's Ash Barty are on the entry lists for the Tokyo Olympics that were announced on Thursday by the International Tennis Federation.

As the ITF noted, though: "The entry lists are still subject to change." Federer, for one, said last weekend he would wait until after Wimbledon ends on July 11 to decide whether he will head to Japan.

Djokovic would like to pursue a Golden Slam, something only Steffi Graf has done: winning all major tennis tournaments and an Olympic singles gold medal in the same year. — *AP*



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

THE RESULTS

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

Women's singles: Second round: Katerina Siniakova (CZE) bt Coco Vandeweghe (USA)

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

COCO MAKES ANOTHER RUN

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

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

"She pushed me incredibly hard," said Barty.

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

— *Agencies*

2 UAE cricketers banned for fixing

Dubai, July 1: The ICC on Thursday banned two UAE players Amir Hayat and Ashfaq Ahmed for eight years after they were found guilty of trying to fix T20 World Cup qualifying round matches in their country, colluding with an Indian bookie.

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

"The bans are backdated to 13 September 2020, when they were provisionally suspended for corrupt conduct in relation to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier 2019 in the UAE," the ICC release stated.

Both cricketers had taken 15,000 AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham totalling USD 4083 approx) from an Indian bookie, identified as Mr 'Y' in the ICC charge-

Both cricketers had taken 15,000 AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham totalling \$4,083 approx) from an Indian bookie.

sheet for fixing the qualifying round games. Hayat is a medium pacer while Ahmed is a batsman.

As per ICC's anti-corruption code, the duo has been charged on five counts which includes failure to disclose a corrupt approach, trying to improperly influence the outcome of a match, and accepting gifts worth more than \$750.

"In October 2019, the ICC ACU commenced an investigation into allegations that members of the UAE senior international team may have had dealings with a known corruption network controlled by an Indian man named," the release said. — *PTI*