THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM | MONDAY | 14 JUNE 2021



Min: 26.0°C RH: 69% Rainfall: 1.3 mm Forecast: Possible Light

Rain and Humid. Max/Min temp. 32/26 QC

ASTROGUIDE

Plava; Uttarayana Tithi: Jyestha Shuddha Chaviti till 10.31 pm Star: Pushyami till 8.32 pm Varjyam: Nil Durmuhurtam: 12.42 pm to 1.34 pm; 3.18 pm to 4.11 pm Rahukalam: 7.30 pm to 9 pm **HIJRI CALENDAR** Zeeqad 2,1442 AH **PRAYERS** (ROYAL MOSQUE)

Fajar: 5.25 am **Zohar:** 1.30 pm Maghrib: 6.26 pm Isha: 8.30 pm

SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.29 AM SUNSET TODAY 6.37 PM MOONRISE TODAY 8.34 AM MOONSET TOMORROW 22.43 AM





They should declare the cadre as frontline warriors and vaccinate them in poll bound states!

TAKES

Congress needs

reforms: Sibal New Delhi: The Congress must bring reforms across

all levels of the organisation to show it is no longer in a state of inertia and to present itself as a viable alternative to the BJP, party veteran Kapil Sibal said on Sunday. India needs a resurgent Congress. But for that, the party needs to show that it is active, he said.

Full report on Page 4

WB BJP divided

over defections

Kolkata: A major policy clash has unfolded between two prominent leaders in the West Bengal BJP on how to tackle the threat of defection by its newly elected MLAs after their former national vice-president Mukul Roy, the sitting BJP MLA from Krishnanagar North, returned to the Trinamul Congress.

Full report on Page 4

Indian docu gets

NYIFF best award

Visakhapatnam: A documentary film 'Ahimsa-Gandhi: The Power of The Powerless,' produced by Uma Gajapati Raju, Sanchaita Gajapati Raju and Jean Luc Berlot, and written and directed by Ramesh Sharma (Emmy nominee), won the Best Documentary Award at the 21st New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF)

■ Full report on Page 3

VINEETA PANDEY | DC

Indian students who have

taken admission in Ameri-

can universities in the 2021-

22 academic vear can book

appointments for visas from Monday at the United

States embassy in New

Delhi and US consulates in

The US embassy has

NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

other Indian cities.

WORLD 5

Netanyahu's 12-yr rule ends in Israel



SPORTS 8

Djokovic is new king of clay

TABLOID

Bollywood's age-defying divas

Vol. 26 No. 49 Established 1940 | 16 PAGES | ₹6.00

YSRC's sway to begin in Legislative Council soon

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

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 13

The era of the YSR Congress is going to start in the AP Legislative Council for the first time. As it is set to grab majority in the 58-member Council soon, the party seems to have given up its insistence on its aboli-

Faced with humiliation in the TD-dominated Council in respect of the passage of various bills, the government had sought its abolition through a unanimous resolution in the Assembly on January 27, 2020. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy would remind the Centre of the issue during his

visits to Delhi. But, during his just-con-cluded visit to Delhi, the CM did not urge the Centre to cooperate for the Council abolition. Barring this, he pleaded for Centre's help in all key issues such as the three capitals, Polavaram, special category status. It appears the CM has decided on the continua-

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS I DC

Shooting the messenger,

the top brass of Andhra

Pradesh tax department

have penalised an assis-

tant commissioner, who

did his best to prevent loss of revenue to the

government, while spar-

ing his senior who actu-

Prabhakar Murthy. is

due for retirement on

June 30 and Piyush

Kumar, chief commis-

sioner of state tax, rec-

ommended to the govern-

ment to recover ₹50 lakh

paid to Essar Steel, Visa-

khapatnam, as a penalty,

from his retirement ben-

efits and a cut in pension.

The chief commission-er, by implicating

New Delhi, June 13: With petrol and diesel prices climbing to record

high, oil minister Dhar-

mendra Pradhan on Sun-

day said the Congress

governments in Rajas-than and Maharashtra

should cut high sales tax if the party was con-

cerned about fuel price

burden on common man.

Petrol and diesel have

risen to all-time high

across the country after

fuel rates rose by ₹5.72

STUDY | BIZ Parents seeking to help kids settle will be denied entry

US resumes visas for students

implicating

Pradhan asks Cong

govts to cut fuel tax

ally caused the loss.

The messenger,

HYDERABAD, JUNE 13

Messenger is fall

G.

guy in AP tax dept

The ruling party would get all 16 MLC seats, which are going for polls. and would give it a majority in the Council.

During his recent visit to Delhi, the Chief Minister did not urge the Centre to cooperate for the Council abolition.

tion of the Council. His recent action also lends

credence to this view.

The Chief Minister selected Moshen Raju, Lella Appi Reddy, R.V. Ramesh Yadav and Thota Trimurthulu for the recently vacated four MLC posts under the Governor's quota. The ruling party leaders take it as a clear sign towards the continuation of the Council.

The total MLC seats in the AP Legislative Council is 58 in which opposition TD has 22 MLCs, YSRC 13, PDF 4, BJP 1, independents 4 and nominated 8. There are six vacant MLC posts that would be grabbed by YSRC and another 10

Murthy in this case, res-

cued additional commis-

sioner S. Sekhar, whose inaction left the govern-

ment with no option but

Interestingly, a report submitted by the Visakh-

apatnam joint commissioner explaining the events that led to the loss

of revenue and holding

Sekhar responsible for

the loss was ignored by

"The inaction of then

(Sekhar) resulted in the

loss and there is nothing

to be attributed to the then CTO (Murthy) who

acted in good faith and as

per provisions of the

per litre to ₹6.25 per litre in less than six weeks. This is due to a combina-

tion of rising interna-

tional oil prices and

record high central and

"If Rahul Gandhi is co-

ncerned about the poor

being hit by fuel prices,

he should ask chief min-

isters of Congress-ruled

states to cut taxes. He

should ask Uddhav Thackeray to reduce

taxes," he said.

state taxes

Page 2: Sekhar didn't

clear Essar refund

Act," says the report.

commissioner

the chief commissioner.

deputy

to pay the penalty.

MLCs are going to retire on June 18.

Among them, nine belong to TD and the other is Ummareddy Venkateswarlu of the YSRC. The ruling party would get all 16 MLC seats which would give it a majority in the Council. TD would be limited to a dozen seats.

Earlier in January 2020,

the Jagan government faced humiliation in the AP Legislative Council when the AP Decentralization and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill, 2020 and APCRDA (Repeal) failed to pass due to severe opposition from the TD and both the bills were referred to the select committee by the TD. The ruling party which had only nine MLCs was greatly upset. The CM decided to abolish the Council and AP Assembly on January 27, 2020, unanimously passed a resolution, requesting the Centre for abolition of the

> Page 2: YSRC minority MLC may head Council

WORK ON TTD'S BALAJI TEMPLE IN JAMMU BEGINS

SRINAGAR, JUNE 13

The work began for erecting a magnificent temple and allied infrastructure at the behest of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) in Jammu and Kashmir's winter capital, Jammu, on Sunday.

Lieutenant unveiled the

"This is a historic and proud day for J&K," he said and asserted that the temple, besides being a centre of faith and spirituality, "will open up opportunities across sectors in Jammu, giving a major push to religious and pilgrimage tourism, boosting the economy of

J&K's administrative council under Sinha had

YUSUF JAMEEL I DC

Governor Manoj Sinha plaque marking the laying of foundation stone and attended the bhumi pujan ceremony. The temple is expected to be completed in 18 months in two phases, at a cost of ₹33.22 crore.

Among those present at the ceremony included Union ministers Jitendra Singh and G. Kishan Reddy, chairman of TTD Board Y.V. Subba Reddy, and a member of the national executive of RSS, V. Ram Madhav.

the region".

in April this year allotted 62 acres of land to the TTD for building the Sri Venkateshwara Swamy Temple at Majeen on the peripheries of Jammu

State acts on TD men's land grab

Revenue officials free 49 acres of land

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 13

Both the ruling YSRC and Opposition TD leaders traded charges over grab of government lands in Visakhapatnam district in the past, after revenue officials took back 49.1 acres of gov-ernment land in Gajuwaka area, that was allegedly under the encroachment by

the family of Palla Srinivasa Rao, ex-MLA. Revenue officials said a special drive was launched last year to take back encroached lands. So far, 430 acres of government land worth Rs 4,291 crore was seized by the YSRC government. Srinivasa Rao said this was just a drama and he lost no land. Nor did he encroach any land, he claimed.

In the move on Sunday

morning, revenue officials broke down a compound wall close to Palla Srinivasa Rao's land and removed some sheds. The total extent of 49.1 acres, worth ₹791 crore, was freed from encroachment, the officials said.

"Land grabbing began during the tenure of the Chandrababu Naidu-led Telugu Desam govern"If any politician indulged in land grab, the victims can go straight to the commissioner of police and launch a formal complaint," says tourism minister Muttamsetti (Avanti) Srinivasa Rao.

ment," said tourism minister Muttamsetti (Avanti) Srinivasa Rao.

The minister told the media that the drive to take back the government land should not be seen as acts of vengeance against the Opposition leaders. He said Chandrababu Naidu would not approve of

the encroachments, he said, and added that the seized lands would be used for housing the poorer sections. The minister said no one

would be spared if they indulged in land grabbing. "If any politician indulged in land grab, the victims can go straight to the commissioner of police and launch a formal complaint," the minister said.

Palla Srinivasa Rao said his private land was not touched and the revenue officials just demolished a

Puri Rath Yatra without devotees

compound wall which divided his land and a pond. "Not an inch of my land was touched and I did not encroach any govern-ment land located next to my land," Srinivasa Rao told this newspaper on Sunday evening.

As per his information,

the open land belonged to the Railways and some public and corporate sectors. The revenue officials should have conducted a survey, issued notice and then seized the land if it belonged to the govern-

ment, he said.
"It is illegal to seize land
on Sundays without following proper procedure," said
Srinivasa Rao.

His family members said that after Srinivasa Rao turned down an offer to join YSRC, the official machinery was unleashed against him.

Condemning Sunday's seizure, Telugu Desam state president K. Atchen-naidu said the revenue offi-cials found all the records were proper and were unable to do anything. So, they demolished the twofeet boundary wall adjoining the Yadava Jaggarajupeta pond and Srinivasa Rao's lands.

SHAH TO FOCUS ON TALKS WITH FARMER UNIONS

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

In a bid to break the deadlock with protesting farmers from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh who have been camping at Delhi's borders for over six months, home minister Amit Shah may take the initiative to enable the resumption of dialogue between the Centre and

the farmer unions.
Sources said, however, that while the home minister may not directly hold talks with the farmers himself, this could largely be done by agriculture minister Naren-dra Tomar and railway and commerce minister Piyush Goyal, Mr Shah could hold back-channel talks with the farmers to end the deadlock and bring the two sides to the negotiating table. The talks between the Centre and the protesting farmers hit a roadblock in January as even after 11 rounds of talks no solutions could be reached between the two sides.

While the Centre agreed to suspend the three controversial agricultural reform laws for almost two years and even agreed to make all the amendments in the laws that the farmers objected to, the agitating farmer unions remained adamant on a complete repeal of the law.

Since January, no talks have been held between the two sides, though government senior sources now claim that some back-channel talks had started in a bid to break the deadlock. The sources said that even last year the home minister had a detailed meeting with the farmers, and even now his assessment is that the two sides should start talks again.

The farmers are continuing their protest at the three main Delhi borders Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur — for more than six months now and have hardened their stand that they will not settle for anything less than the scrapping of the

EX-TRS LEADER ETALA SET TO JOIN BJP TODAY

three farms laws.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JUNE 13

Former minister Etala Rajendar is all set to join the BJP in the presence of party president J.P. Nad-da in Delhi on

Monday.

Also joining the BJP with Rajendar will be former TRS MLA Enugu Ravinder Reddy from Yellareddy constituency, former Karimnagar zilla parishad chairperson Tula Uma, former TSRTC joint action com-Aswathama Reddy and a

few others.
As per schedule, Rajendar will leave for Delhi from the Shamshabad airport at 6 am on Monday and will join the BJP at 11 am at the party

headquarters.
With this, the BJP is hopeful in making a comeback in Telangana and emerging as a force to reckon with if it wins the Huzurabad bypoll necessitated by Rajendar's resignation from the Assembly on Saturday.

It may be yet another by election for many, but for the BJP, it is a litmus test. The party central leadership is said to have laid special focus on the Huzurabad bypoll as it strongly believes a victory will change the course of state politics, dominated by the TRS since the

formation of state.

India records lowest Covid count in 71 days at 80,834 KEJRIWAL WARNS OF RESTRICTIONS IF DC CORRESPONDENT

Labourers work to prepare a chariot ahead of the annual Rath Yatra festival, in Puri, on

year, too, devotees will be barred from participating in the festival, which will only be

held in Puri amid strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols.

Sunday. Ahead of Rath Yatra on July 12, the Odisha government has announced that this

with agency inputs NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

cases in the past 24 hours, India on Sunday recorded its lowest daily rise in new cases after 71 days (since April 2).

try's recovery rate to 95.26 per cent.

Major cities like New Delhi and Mumbai are contributing heavily to the reducing daily numbers. Once an epicentre of cases, Mumbai's Dharavi on Sunday had only two fresh Covid-19 cases. Delhi recorded 255 new Covid-19 cases and the city's positivity rate has dropped to 0.35

Meanwhile, Reuters reported that head of the EU drug regulator's Covid-19 task force was quoted as that countries should also avoid giving the AstraZeneca vaccine to people over 60 amid fears over rare blood clotting and as more vaccines beco-

COVID CASES RISE AGAIN IN DELHI BHASKAR HARI under control in the national capital.

SHARMA | DC NEW DELHİ, JUNE 13

All shops in malls and market complexes will be allowed to open on all days from 10 am to 8 pm, while restaurants can reopen with 50 per cent capacity in Delhi from Monday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Sunday, saying the Covid-19 situation

follow the "odd-even" formula, opening only on had significantly come alternate days. remains favourable for all age groups," Covid-19 task force chief Marco Cavaleri told the Italian newspaper

mainly among young peo-"In a pandemic context, Moderna and

However, as the number of cases is falling and tak-ing into account the fact that younger population is less exposed to Covid-related risks, Cavaleri said it would be better to use on them vaccines based on messenger RNA (mRNA) technology, such as the

Kejriwal warned, howev-

er, that if cases increased

after the unlocking, the

restrictions have to be reimposed. The relaxations

have been allowed on a

trial basis for a week, till 5

So far, shops in markets and malls in Delhi had to

am on June 21.

decided to start an intensive two months of inter-

views starting July 1. Embassy officials said "tens of thousands of interview slots" would be available from Monday. However, parents who want to go to

students need not carry the original hard copy of I-20 forms (certificate of eligibility) given by the institutions. Instead the electronic I-20 provided by schools is accepted by the embassy

The embassy added that

the US to "help their children settle" cannot accompany them at this time as the US government has still not opened B1/B2 visas for

tourists.
The US stopped the entry of Indians after President Joe Biden signed Presidential Proclamation 10199 suspending most non-immi-

grant travel from India on April 30 due to the intense Covid-19 second wave that saw a huge number of Indians infected with the contagious "Delta" variant.

Now, with the wave abating and fresh cases largely under control, the US government has decided to open its borders for Indian students who will be joining classes in the fall semester. "Student visas remain a

top priority for the US Mission to India and we are making every attempt to facilitate student travel in time for the fall semester. As such, on June 14, 2021, we will open limited July

and August student visa appointments at posts across India," the embassy The embassy added that

students need not carry the original hard copy of I-20 forms (certificate of eligibility for non-immigrant student status) given by the institutions. Instead, the electronic I-20 provided by schools is accepted by the embassy. Students need to get it printed and carry it with them. Also, fully funded students do not need to show proof for financial support during the visa interview if it is mentioned in the I-20 form.

With 80,834 fresh Covid-19

The number of deaths in the past 24 hours was 3,303, while 1.32 lakh people recovered, taking the countries.

per cent.

me available. It said the

European Medicines Agency (EMA) considers the AstraZeneca shot safe for all age groups. However, several European Union La Stampa. member states have stopped administering it to people below a certain age, usually ranging from 50 to 65, restricting its use to the older population, due to the rare cases of blood clotting,

our position was and is that risk-benefit

BioNTech vaccines.

SHORT TAKES

ADAMANCY OF TS COPS LEADS TO TRAFFIC CHAOS

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 13

Vehicular traffic came to a virstandstill on the Vijayawada-Hyderabad national highway at Ramapuram check-post Crossroads check-post on Sunday. Telangana police did not allow vehicles without a valid e-pass and sent back nearly 1,500 vehicles because of lack of

permissions.
After the Telangana government gave daytime lockdown relaxation, many from AP started for their respective TS destinations. Their plans were shattered at Ramapuram check-post as Telangana police made e-pass mandatory for entering the state even during the relaxation time.

According to reports, Telangana police had allowed 700 vehicles into Telangana with valid e-passes and denied entry to nearly 1,500 vehicles for travelling without e-passes.

YSRC MINORITY MLC MAY HEAD COUNCIL CHIEF

FROM PAGE 1

The YSRC allocated the Assembly Speaker post to BCs. As such, it may now consider Council Chairman post for minorities or SC community as part of social engineering concept which gave big success to the YSRC during elections by way of preference to BCs, SC, minorities and other backward castes. Earlier the TD gave the Chairman post to M.A. Sharif before elections to appease minorities, but they supported the YSRC. So, the ruling party may appoint retired IPS officer and MLC Shaik Mohammed Iqbal as the Council Chairman.

There is another speculation SCs are also die-hard support ers of the YSRC hence they too stand a good chance. If Jagan Mohan Reddy wants to give the post to SCs, then MLC Dokka Manikyavaraprasad Rao or Moshen Řaju would be chosen. Sources also informed that as Kapus also hugely supported the YSRC, even neglecting Jana Sena, there are bright chances of re-electing Ummareddy Venkateswarlu belong to the Kapu community as an MLC and further offering the Deputy Chairman of the Council post for Kapus as part of social engineering.

CM TO LAUNCH 61 AGRI LABS

DC CORRESPONDENT KAKINADA, JUNE 13

Agriculture and food processing minister Kurasala Kannababu said that integrated agricultural labs would be established in every Assembly constituency in the state. In first phase, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will inaugurate 61 labs on July 8, the birth anniversary of late chief minister Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy. Kannababu along with MLC Pandula Ravindrababu and Kakinada MP Vanga Gita inaugurated an integrated agriculture lab set up at a cost of ₹82 lakh at Vakalapudi village in Kakinada rural mandal on Sunday. He said Rythu Bharosa Kendras, custom hiring centres and others would also be launched on July 8.

CLOUDY WEATHER CONDITIONS TO CONTINUE IN AP

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 13

Cloudy weather conditions associated with light to moderate rains at isolated places will continue to prevail across the state for next two days. The condition will prevail under the influence of the existing low pressure system over the Bay of Bengal, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Under the influence of favourable weather, thunder-storms and lightning with heavy rainfall would be very likely to occur at isolated places over north coastal Andhra Pradesh and south

coastal districts until June 17. An IMD official release on Sunday stated that the low pressure system over northwest Bay of Bengal and the adjoining coastal areas of West Bengal and North Odisha with the associated cyclonic circulation was tilting southwestwards. It is likely to move west-northwest wards across Odisha during next two to three days.

Blood banks in AP drying up

People are not coming forward to donate blood due to fear of Coronavirus

DC CORRESPONDENT

Shortage of blood has hit all blood banks across 13 districts of the state, triggering panic among medprofessionals and patients. The state has nearly 100 blood banks, including 18 branches of Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), 20 of government institutions like Visakha Institute of Medical Sciences, KGH, RIMS-Srikakulam, and Guntur Government Hospital.

Each blood bank must maintain at least 4,000–5,000 units of blood belonging to various types every day. Currently, hard-ly 200 units of blood are available at almost each blood bank within the

Confirming this to *DC*, IRCS Andhra Pradesh vice-chairman P. Jaganmohana Rao attributed the shortage to second wave of Covid-19 pandemic and on-going vac-cine drive across the state.

DC CORRESPONDENT

VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 13

special

Visakhapatnam revenue

officials on Sunday in which several structures

were demolished on alle-

gations of land encroach-

ment is reportedly in vio-

lation of the High Court

orders in the case of 5.46

acres of land owned by

This property is located in Vadlapudi, Tunglam

village, Autonagar on the way towards APIIC F-

Sanjay Kumar told this correspondent that AP

Transco technicians accompanied by police personnel descended on his property on Sunday

morning and demolished

the compound wall on the

east side to an extent of

He said he purchased the property in the name

of his wife Sunitha Devi

younger brother Ajay Kumar from one Pitlka Adi Raju and 49 other legal heirs and got it reg-

istered in Gajuwaka in

Parasmaka and

Sanjay

launched

Parasmaka.

260 metres.

Vizag mayor to felicitate blood donors today

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 13

Coinciding with World Blood Donors Day being celebrated on Monday, various private and gov-ernment institutions are conducting blood donation camps in the Port City on the day.

Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) mayor Golagani Hari Venkata Kumari sent a circular to all the corporators for identifying active blood donors in

"People are not coming forward to donate blood due to fear of Coronavirus and ongoing vaccinations. A vaccinated person must wait for at least two months

tries centre to start fly

Accordingly, he built a

barbed wire fencing and

sheds. In 2014 he wanted

to construct a compound

wall but it was objected to it by Railways and APIIC

that they needed to con-

struct a road. Sanjay then approached the High

Court making South

Eastern Railways, APIIC, special Deputy Collector, Tahsildar of Gajuwaka

and others as respon-

The High Court on March 23, 2014, issuing a stay order, directed the

respondents that the pres-

ent owners should not be

dispossessed of their 5

Tunglam.

After the court order,

Sanjay Kumar built the

compound wall and gave

the land for lease to an

agency last year which

has been carrying out HPCL expansion fabrica-

"Gajuwaka Tahsildar

was in receipt of the High

Court order and how can

he come today to allege it

was an encroachment of

government land," asked

Sanjay Kumar. He aiso

submitted a petition to

tion work.

property

ash unit.

Owner: Land seizure

flouts HC orders

Kumar

"We have identified 20

regular blood donors in the city. I will facilitate them on Monday to mark World Blood Donors Day," the mayor told *Deccan* Chronicle. RINL-Vizag Steel Plant

workers are also conducting a mega blood donation camp on Monday with the slogan "Save Vizag Steel

Vizag Steel Plant's recognised union president J. Ayodhyaram said the

before donating blood. Since the government has announced vaccination for those above 18 years from

their respective wards so camp will be part of the that they can be honoured. camp will be part of the union's on-going protest against the Centre's decision to privatise the steel

Visakhapatnam Rotary Blood Bank secretary G. Rambabu said, "We need at least 1,000 units of blood per month to distribute among the needy. We are currently getting only 20 per cent of the requirement."

He hoped the blood donation camp on Monday will bridge the gap to an extent.

days," coming Jaganmohana Rao warned. In this context, he asked people, particularly youth, June 21, shortage of blood will be more acutely felt in go in for their vaccination.

"This would, in fact, help

faster, he stated.
A senior health official at KGH here said shortage of blood has mainly affected treatment of serious Covid-19 cases, black fungus, road accidents, and general surgeries, where-in blood is required. In addition, there are people suffering from anaemia, sickle-cell anaemia and thalassemia, who need transfusion of blood every month until they get cured. The official disclosed that such people are around 8,000 in the state. Srikakulam district itself has nearly 350 of them.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, relative of a patient admitted to VIMS in the city said, "I personally experienced the trauma of getting a single unit of blood during this phase of pandemic. Even my relatives and friends did not turn accept to my request for donating blood. I finally managed from other

State govt always ready to help Anandaiah: MLA

DC CORRESPONDENT NELLORE, JUNE 13

Sarvepalli legislator Kakani Govardhan Reddy refuted the allegations that the government is not extending support to the efforts of Bonigi Anandaiah to supply his herbal preparation to other parts of the state.

Speaking to media at YSR Congress district office here on Sunday, he said the government was extending all cooperation to Anandaiah to prepare the herbal concoction and also asked him to seek any help from the district collector and other officials for any of

his requirements. Govardhan Reddy found

fault with the social media posts that Anandaiah was supplying his concoction only to those funding its preparation and was ignoring the poor people coming for it. The MLA reminded that the concoction was free of cost distributed to 1,80,000 families in Sarvepalli constituency besides officials, bank staff, police, migrants from various states working at Krishnapatnam Port and other industries.

Govardhan Reddy further said they would arrange a meeting with officials shortly to enable Anandaiah to express his views and seek necessary assistance.

Fishermen to take to high seas today

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 13

Nearly 20,000 fishermen of 2,430 odd mechanised boats across the coastal districts will resume the deep sea fishing opera-tions from the evening on Monday, June 14.

Activities had halted after the Centre imposed a two-month-long ban on deep sea fishing, as is done every year this season. This year, the 61-day ban began on April 14 and ends on June 14, said P.V. Srinivasa Rao, joint director with the department of fisheries in Srikakulam district.

"The state government paid ₹10,000 to eligible fisherman families as compensation for their loss of livelihood during the ban period. Nearly 78 per cent of the fishermen got the compensation in the district," Srinivasa Rao told DC.

According Dasu, Visakhapatnam Fishermen's youth welfare association, the fishermen got ready for resumption of the fishing operations from Monday midnight. They kept the boats ready by loading ice, ration, diesel and water at the Visakhapatnam fishing

2,430 mechanised fishing boats set on four fishing harbours —Visakhapa-Kakinada, tnam, Machilipatnam Nearly Nizampatnam. 19,400 boat workers would be engaged in the operations from Monday.

Dasu said the state has

This apart, nearly 2.13 lakh traditional fishermen also take part in the

Activities had halted after the Centre imposed a two-month-long ban on deep sea fishing, as is done every year this season. This year, the 61-day ban began on April 14 and ends on June 14, said P.V. Srinivasa Rao, joint director with the department of fisheries in Srikakulam district.

Fisherman Vasupalli Sureedu at Jalaripeta in the city said women specially offer rituals to "Gangamma Thalli" before the fishing operations are resumed.

fishing close to the coast along the Bay of Bengal.

Fisherman Vasupalli Sureedu at Jalaripeta in the city said women specially offer rituals to "Gangamma Thalli" before the fishing operations are resumed.

The Dolphin boats asso-Satyannarayana Murthy said the fishermen and fish traders incurred heavy losses in the last two years due to Covid-19. This time, the second wave added to the financial burden of the boat operators and owners, and hence had difficulty taking the mainte nance of the boats and

"The government is urged to consider the pleas of the boat owners apart from the fishermen in terms of giving relaxation on certain taxes and power bills etc to tide over the crisis," said a boat owner at Vizag fishing

He said in 1994 he obtained permission from Gajuwaka municipality and 25 other departments including district indus-SIT final report on land grabs soon

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 13

Both the ruling and the opposition party leaders conveniently forgot the first special investigation team (SIT), constituted by the Chandrababu Naidu government, and the second SIT by the YSRC government. It all began when the minister and TD polit-

member Ch. na Patrudu, Ayyanna Ayyanna Patrudu, addressing a public meet-ing, accused his ministe-rial colleague of helping his friends with land grabbing. This was followed by a series of allegations by former BJP MLA P. Vishnu Kumar Raju, who was the then floor leader of BJP in the Assembly. This forced Naidu to constitute a SIT

to probe all encroach-

ments, but the final report never saw the light of day. The YSRC government formed the second SIT with former IAS officer T. Vijay Kumar as the chairman. He submitted an interim report and is yet to submit the final report. "So much heat is being generated during demolitions and seizure of gov-ernment lands but no leader has spoken about the SITs which could have shown ways to prevent land encroachments, said a senior revenue officer. Several leaders also opine that both TD and YSRC should demand publication of SIT, which

could protect the lands -

The YSRC government formed the second SIT with former IAS officer T. Vijay Kumar as the chair-

both private and public. "I wanted to submit the report in April this year but the Chief Secretary was abroad and now due to Covid pandemic I held back. Maybe I will submit the report in a couple of days," Vijay Kumar told *DC* on Sunday.

When asked, the minister for tourism, Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao, also said the SIT report would be submitted and made public soon. "SIT would help us identify more land grabbing in Visakhapatnam," he felt. According to the SIT

chairman, around 400

acres of government land was encroached by some individuals and key documents were tampered with. They also identified around 20 revenue officials who played a key role in the encroachments. The SIT will suggest to the government how to get back the land. It received a total of 1,380 petitions and of them 679 were referred to the tahsildars concerned who in turn returned 420 reports of which 342 were dis-

posed of.
"The SIT report became handy for the YSRC leaders to indulge in land settlements. This report will also be shelved," said the district vice-president of the TD. Pasarla Prasad.

B. Matham head issue DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 13 The endowment depart-

Seers panel to resolve

ment has decided to appoint a committee with seers to resolve the contentious issue of Brahmamgari Matham Peetadhiappointment in Kadapa district. Minister for endowments Vellampalli Srinivas Rao said the issue remains unresolved as both heirs are staking claim to the position.

Addressing a press meet here on Sunday, the minister said that there are 128 recognised Mathams and Peethams in the state and the Peetadhipathi would be appointed as per the decision of the majority members of the Peetham or Matham. Hence, anybody can forward their suggestions and advice to the endowment department. He hoped the problem would be solved in due course after considering the suggestions of all. A regional joint commissioner would be entrusted with the responsibility of consulting the heads of all Hindu associations to take a final decision.

The minister said that the confusion would be cleared as per the endowment rules and traditions. He asserted that it was the responsibility of everyone

No social distancing



Minister for endowments Velampalli Srinivas addresses the media on the Brahmamgari Matham issue in - C. NARAYANA RAO Vijayawada on Sunday.

to protect the honour of the Veerendra Brahmam Peetham in Kadapa dis-Srinivas announced the appointment of assistant commissioner Sankar to report on the state of affairs and manage day-to-day affairs of the Peetham. He appealed to one and all not to make any controversial Peetham. Referring to the history of Peetham, he

comments said that Veerabrah-mendra Swamy attained Jeeva Samadhi in 1693 and till today the Peetham was held by eleven successors. being contended that the last peetadhipathi wrote his will before his demise and since he had two wives, the children of both the wives are vying to be peetadhipathi.

Minister Srinivas Rao said that as per the Endowment Act, the details and the copy of the will should be submitted to the Dharmika Parishad within 90 days after the demise of the peetad-hipati and so far, either the department or the Dharmika Parishad received any communication in this respect.

Meanwhile, Sivaswami, the president of Vishwa Dharma Parirakshana Samithi, said in Brahmamgari Matham that under the auspices of the committee of temple, the chairperson will be selected and the coronation ceremony would be held. He said it was unfortunate to hear allegations of corruption, irregularities at the Matham.

SEKHAR DIDN'T CLEAR ESSAR REFUND

FROM PAGE 1

by Deccan Inquiries Chronicle revealed that Essar Steel claimed a refund of a certain tax amount. Murthy's predecessor neither rejected nor approved the refund for eight months. When Murthy took charge, he immediately sought a direction from Sekhar on Essar's request.

Initially, Sekhar tried to send the ball back to Murthy's court but the latter, quoting the provisions of the Act, recommended to his senior to withhold the amount as the government had appealed against the refund. Sekhar did not pass any order and Murthy was transferred to another place.

Later, Essar approached the AP High Court against the delay in refund and the court directed the government to refund the amount along with an interest of ₹50 lakh. "Had the orders with-

holding the refund been issued in view of the appeal, the trader would not have any base to approach the court. The trader got advantage because of the inaction," said K.R. Suryanarayana, president, Government Employees Association.

He urged the government against punishing the messenger.

HISTORIC | TREASURE | Rare discovery at Srisailam temple during excavation

– K. MURALIKRISHNA

Medieval age copper plates unearthed

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, JUNE 13

In a major historic significance to the temple development, Srisailam authorities have unearthed 21 copper plates dating back to the 16th century or earlier, during excavations at Ghanta Matham on

Sunday K.S. Rama Rao, the executive officer of Sri Brhamaramaba Mallikarjuna Temple, said the plates were found containing Nandi Nagari script in Sanskrit and a few were also in Telugu/ Kannada

People in large numbers gather on the road without maintaining physical distance to

offer special prayers at Mutyalamma temple which was in the middle of the BRTS

road near Gyanapuram in Visakhapatnam on Sunday.

Inguages.

Chenna Reddy, Dean of Archeology at Telugu University campus in Srisailam, who was also Divertee of Archeology. Director of Archeology and Museums, said, "Just found 6 sets of copper plates (18 leaves) during the course of renovation work in Gana-maham at Srisailam, carried out by the temple authorities.

Latest findings add to the historic significance of the Srisailam temple as it was patronised by Reddy Kings, Kakatiyas, and the Vijayanagara empire

Out of 6 copper plate sets, sets are written in Sanskrit language and Nandi-Nagari script and other 2 plates are in Telugu language and script. All the plates can be assigned between 14th-16th century C.E."

He further said that the latest findings add to the historic significance of the Srisailam temple as it was patronised by Reddy Kings, Kakatiyas, and Vijayanagara Empire in the medieval period. Kondaveeti Reddy Rajulu were credited with building the steps to the Pathala Ganga which added relisignificance gious bathing in the Krishna River near Srisailam.

Rama Rao said that the renovation activities at

Ghanta Matham yielded many priceless treasures and the works were going on. The latest find of 21 copper plates would add to the historic links the temhad with the Vijayanagara Empire, he said. He said the copper plates would be sent to labs to decipher the script and preserve the same for posterity. Meanwhile, Srisailam

temple extended darshan timings due to relaxations given in the curfew hours.

NRI STUDENT DONATES PPE KITS AND MEDICAL VAN

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 13

An Indian origin NRI student donated a medical service van and PPE kits through the Empower and Excel USA organization to Don Bosco Alumni Association to help Covid-19 patients at Yerrabalem on Sunday. The 16-year-old Indian origin Nihaar Charagulla lives in San Jose, California, USA raised 15,000 USD to help Covid-19

patients. Nihaar's donation, Empower, and Excel, the India chapter got a Covid -19 service vehicle for Don Bosco Alumni Association and PPE kits, and four oxygen concentrators for another facility to serve needy people suffering from Covid.

Madiga Corporation Chairman, Kommuri Kanaka Rao, inaugurated the service vehicle by flagging off programme on Sunday at the Don Bosco School premises in Yerrabalem of Mangalagiri Mandal in Guntur district. He hailed the services of Don Bosco Alumni Association with the collaboration of Empower and Excel, USA and the child philanthropist Nihar for his efforts to raise the donations for the service

vehicle to serve Corona sufferers. Don Bosco Alumni Association delegate Hyderabad Province Rev Fr G. Kishore Raju, Rev Fr Suresh, Rev Fr Marreddy, Rev Fr P.K. Josh, Teachers Rani, Jayaraj and delegates participated in the

REVENUE ON LIQUOR REDUCED

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 13

Deputy Chief Minister K. Narayana Swamy said that the phase wise liquor ban is yielding good results in AP. He said that the VAT revenue on liquor decreased 41 per cent in the 2020-21 financial year as only ₹4,242.41 crores revenue registered against ₹10,403.84 crore of 2019-20 financial year. He stated that this revenue is reflecting the success of phase wise ban on liquor and fulfilling CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy promise about banning

Narayana Swamy said that the target of revenue collection for 2021-22 was ₹55,935.13 crore. He further said that ₹44,178.51 crore GST revenue has been collected for 2020-21 financial year.

He said that special drive was conducted for six months to collect pending tax which yieided good results as ₹1,772 crore was collected in that

The Deputy CM said that AP Commercial Tax Department stood in fourth place in the country level and in the first place in South India for its performance. He praised the efforts of the officials and the employees for their dedicated work.

PALEM POLICE **BUST CRICKET BETTING RACKET**

DC CORRESPONDENT VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 13

The PM Palem police and the City Task Force have busted a 'Pakistan Super League T-20' cricket betting racket and arrested four persons from a flat in Celebrity Towers, Hills, Panorama Rushikonda in Vizag city. The kingpin in the racket Chebolu

The four were K. Ravi Kumar, T. Dhanunjay and V. Rambabu, all residents of Vizag city and M. Sivaji, a Srikakulam. Inspector of PM Palem, A. Ravi Kumar said Chebolu Srinivas alias Cable Srinu employed four persons for organising the cricket betting operations from the Vizag flat.

The PSL-T-20 cricket matches commenced from June 9 and the gang has organised some betting operations. They collected bet amounts from the punters for the match between Quetta Gladiators and Peshawar Zalmi teams on Saturday night through online by using the combination kit. mobile phones, cricket line guru app and by communicat-

ing with 30 punters. The gang also used to cheat punters by announcing wrong ratings on the matches. Srinu collected bets from

punters through e-wallets with the help of his associates. Following a tip-off, the police raided a house from where the gang was collecting bets for the match. Cops seized ₹1,590 in cash, some electronic devices and phones, TVs and a few other accessories.

FORUM DEMANDS GST WAVIER ON ALL COVID DRUGS

DC CORRESPONDENT **NELLORE, JUNE 13**

President of Praja Arogya Vedika Dr M.V. Ramanaiah has demanded the central government to drop GST on all the medicines and equipment used for treating Covid-19 treating patients.

He was reacting to the announcement of reduc-tion on GST from 12 to five per cent on Covid-19 drugs, oxygen concentrators, ventilators, pulse oximeters and other such equipment apart from waiver of tax on medicines for black

fungus for the next year. The senior physician underlined the need to Covid-19 is eradicated, while questioning the rationale behind timebound relaxations even as lakhs of people succumbing to the dreaded

In a statement on Sunday, he found fault with the centre for offering a concession on GST till September ignoring the reports over the possible outbreak of the third wave of Covid-19 from the same month.

He said complete removal of GST on all Covid-19 drugs and equipment will be a sol-ace for the poor and mid-dle class who are being ruined because of Covid-19. Dr Ramanaiah slammed the centre for imposing GST on vac-cine even while claiming that it is the only weapon against Covid-

• THE SENIOR physician underlined the need to waive all taxes till Covid-19 is eradicated, while questioning the rationale behind timebound relaxations even as lakhs of people succumbing to the dreaded virus.

DC CORRESPONDENT

VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 13

The management of Lord

Nrusimha Swamy temple

at Simhachalam in the

city on Sunday made a

Visakh Refinery to fund a

few facilities for devotees

The temple executive offi-

cer M.V. Suryakala made

the proposal when the

HPCL representatives visited the temple for dar-

Water treatment plant at

Gangadhara and repairs

TEMPLE REVAMPS

tages that have been

lying idle in a dilapidat-

ed condition for many

years and convert them

into hill resorts. These

single room dwellings

were built for Adivasi

farmers whose land was acquired for temple development. The farm-

ers refused to live in these houses citing they

were far from their

It is a single room with

a small lounge and a bathroom. The con-

struction is weak and

machines cannot be mounted on the walls as

their structure will not

hold them, said executive officer of the temple

The EO launched sev-

eral innovative meas-

ures to beautify the tem-

ple and make it a place

"We want to spend ₹10 lakh on each dwelling to make it live-

able. Instead of making it a one night stop, we want people to stay for a

few days and enjoy the

scenic greenery," the EO

M.V. Suryakala.

worth visiting.

conditioned

workplace.

COTTAGES INTO

HILL RESORTS

at the temple.

of

proposal with the repre

HPCL funds works in

Simhachalam temple

Lakshmi



Contract labor sit compacted on a moving van neglecting the spread of Covid-19 among them while being

60-yr-old Nurse dies by suicide in hospital

Relatives and other patients accuse authorities for negligence

DC CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI, JUNE 13

In a tragic twist, a sixtyyear-old nurse, who was first infected with Covid-19 and recovered but was later infected with black fungus, died by suicide. Jagadamma ended her lfie inside a bathroom at the medicine ward of Sri Padmavathi state Covid-19 hospital in Tirupati on Sunday, officials said.

According to the revenue divisional officer of Tirupati, Kanaka Narasa Reddy, the deceased nurse tested positive on May 4. After treatment, she recovered and got her negative report on May 13. On May 25, she was admitted to the state Covid-19 hospital at

ment plant at Sagidhara

were among the facilities

that need funds for rede-

velopment, the officer explained to the HPCL team including the VRMP

project executive director P.V.B. Rao and chief gen-

manager

Narasimhulu, according

to an official release from

Responding to the temple

officer's request, the HPCL's Rao said that the

company takes up development works under

corporate social responsi-

bility and was willing to fund environmental proj-

ects in Simhachalam tem-

the temple.

• THE DOCTORS at the Covid-19 hospital conducted a surgery on Jayamma on June 10 and she was under observation. Her condition deteriorated. The hospital staff found her body at about 4 am.

SVIMS campus in as she got Tirupati infected with the black fungus disease.

The doctors at the Covid-19 hospital conducted a surgery on Jayamma on June 10 and she was under observation. Her condition deteriorated. The hospital staff found her body at about 4 am.

Jaamma's relatives, however, accused the hospital authorities of negligence in treatment which led to a deterioration of her health. Other patients' attendants also

DC CORRESPONDENT

VIJAYAWADA, JUNE 13

Andhra Pradesh contin-

ues to report less num-

ber of coronavirus infec-

tions. It reported 6,770

new Covid-19 cases and

improvement with the

discharge of 12,492 patients in the last 24

hours on Sunday. The

total Covid-19 infections

across 13 districts were

18,09,884 in which total

17,12,267 and the recov-

erv rate increased to

94.61% giving a ray of

recoveries was

showed

recoveries

accused the hospital of negligence in treating the patients. They say the hospital does not have the sufficient number of doctors and nurs-es to treat black fungus patients.

Meanwhile, in another incident, relatives of deceased Covid-19 patient Vinod Kumar (27) from Thanikiri village in Vayalpadu mandal staged a protest at the state Covid-19 hospital. They alleged that negligence of medical staff led to the death of their family member. The RDO

Covid cases reduce in AP,

12,492 patients discharged

recovery from pandem-

deaths were registered,

increasing the death toll

to 11,940 and the death rate at 0.66%. Around

tested in which 6,770

tested positive and the

overall positive rate of

total 2.045 crore tests is

East Godavari district

is on top in daily new

infections with 1,199 followed by Chittoor 968,

West Godavari 765,

Srikakulam 491, Kadapa

Prakasam

1,02,876 samples

total of 58 new

were

est of

Chittoor

and the police intervened and pacified them. Responding to

incidents, health minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas, who sought details from the hospital trict medical officer Dr U. Srihari, advised the staff to ensure the best of medical care is available to patients at the state covid hospital.

The minister advised the RDO to pacify the protesters and provide necessary assistance to them. He also directed the hospital superintendent to pay special attention to the food being supplied to the patients and maintain a hygienic environment at the hos-

ed 440 new infections.

Guntur district regis-

tered 433 new infections

followed by Anantapur

Visakhapatnam 290, Nellore 267 and the low-

in Vizianagaram dis-

reported 12 new deaths,

while it was seven each

in East Godavari and

Srikakulam reported six

while four each reported

in Anantapur and Visakhapatnam, three

deaths each in Krishna,

Kurnool

248 was reported

district

Godavari,

management and the dis-

While the fear of a third

and wear masks properly.

garment shops and other public places due to the marriage season and for other seasonal programmes. Women are bringing along

top honours at NYC

Docu on Gandhi gets

DC CORRESPONDENT

documentary 'Ahimsa- Gandhi: The Power of The Powerless,' 'Ahimsaproduced by Uma Gajapati Raju, Sanchaita Gajapati Raju and Jean Luc Berlot, and written and directed by Ramesh Sharma (Emmy nominee), won the Best Documentary Award at the 21st New York Indian Film Festival on Sunday.

The film comes at a time when the world needs to be reminded of the Mahatma's teachings of peace and nonviolence.

chairperson Simhachalam Temple Trust and MANASSAS, Sanchaita Gajapati Raju, said the film speaks to the conscience of humanity as people globally grapple with intractable problems surrounding race, and as societies struggle to give the marginalised and underserved human dignity and restore fundamental

The film brings to the fore the impact of the Gandhian message of non-violence worldwide: how it inspired

Martin Luther King Jr., John Lewis, Barack Obama and the Civil Rights Movement in the United States; the Solidarity Movement in Poland, the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia as well as Nelson Mandela and the anti-apartheid struggle in

South Africa.

The title song 'Ahimsa' was composed by A.R.
Rahman and Bono. "Am overwhelmed that our film, which is a labour of love and has been a long time in the making, has won this prestigious award. At a time when the world is fraught with turbulence, Mahatma's teachings and life are all the more rele-vant. Thank you to our French Co- Producer Jean Gajapati Raju said.

Overcrowding in malls despite 2nd wave

DC CORRESPONDENT

Even as the second wave of Covid19 is playing havoc with the lives of people and taking a heavy toll, people in general seem to be taking things easy. Shopping malls are crowded even as governmental regulations on pandemic control have contin-

wave existed, women, children and others are unmindful of this and are present in large numbers in shopping areas. This, though officials are on a massive campaign urging people to maintain social distance, remain at home,

Crowding is heavy at malls,

without facemasks.

Sundays bring out larger crowds. The main road at Rajamahendravaram and the main markets at Kakinada and meat shops all see people crowding around. Long queues were seen at

shopping malls near Godarigunta and the munici-pal corporation office at . Kakinada and Bommuru-Vemagiri Road and near Godavari bund Rajamahendravaram Sunday.
The father of one-year-old

child P Venkata Narayana Rao arriving at a shopping mall in Kakinada with his kid said they came for shop-ping from Yanam. He stood in the long queue with his child while his wife sat under the shade of a tree with another kid. He said they had to do purchases of some essential commodities, this being a holiday.

Black fungus cases rose to 213 in EG

DC CORRESPONDENT **KAKINADA, JUNE 13:**

Black fungus cases nave increased day by day and for admitted General Government Hospital in Kakinada and the number of cases rose to The Government Hospital Dr R. Superintendent Mahalakshmi said that one

person died and the death toll rose to 24 in East

130 persons have received treatment for black fungus in the last 24 hours in the nospital and three patients discharged from the hospital. She said that 44 patients were performed surgeries and a total of 63 patients were discharged so far from the hospital.

She said that 14 patients were given L-Amphotericin B injection, 55 patients were given Posaconazole Injection, 61 patients have been given Posaconazole

Ghutka, Khaini packets seized

DC CORRESPONDENT

Tadepalligudem police of West Godavari District, led by the Circle Inspector Akula Raghu arrested three persons and seized 170 Ghutka and Khaini packets worth Rs 1,700 and also personnel conducted the raids.

check-posts and imposed fines on the people who have roamed on the bikes and vehi-cles without having proper reason during the curfew period and booked cases against them under National Disaster Management Act. The Eluru Two Town Circle Inspector Adi Prasad distributed food packets and drinking water to deserted and begging peo-

Union Min. Piyush Goyal visits Tirumala DC CORRESPONDENT escorted him to the sanc-

TIRUPATI, JUNE 13

Union Minister

DC CORRESPONDENT Railways and Minister of VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal accompanied by his family mem-The endowment department of Simchachalam bers offered prayers to Lord Venkateswara in temple will soon start Tirumala on Sunday renovation of 21 cotmorning.

On his arrival, the union minister was accorded a grand reception by the TTD additional executive officer A.V. Dharma Reddy and tem-

tum sanctorum. Later, he Vedasirvachanam Vedic pundits and was presented theertha prasadams and a lamination of Lord Venkateswara.

Tirumala temple visit, reached Tiruchanoor by road and offered prayers to Goddess Padmavathi Devi in the sanctum sanctorum of the TTD temple. Earlier, on his

rendered

After winding up his the union minister



Union Minister Piyush Goyal offers prayers at Dwajasthambham at Srivari temple in Tirumala on

entrance of the temple, he was accorded a warm welcome in a traditional manner.

AP Finance Minister

Reddy, MP M. Gurumurthy, TTD Board Member and MLA C. Bhaskar Reddy and others were present.

illicit liquor from them. Tadepalligudem Sub-Inspector GJ Prasad and other police

The police personnel of Bhimavaram-I and II led by

CCS DSP G.V.S. Peddeswara Rao have made inspections at

RACE | FOR POST | Sheer size of positions lying vacant closer to 1,000 posts includes chairpersons, directors

YSRC leaders lobby hard for plum posts

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, JUNE 13

The second rung leaders of the ruling YSR Congress in Kurnool district are about prospects of being accommodated in nominated posts for around 90 corporations.

The number of positions lying vacant, as assessed by aspirants, may be closer to 1,000m which includes chairpersons and directors and co-opted members for certain categories. This has triggered a race among them to muster the support of

Many aspirants from Nandyal, Kurnool and Adoni divisions are said to be camping in Vijayawada for the past two weeks. Among them more hopefuls are those who missed out or sacrificed MLA tickets in the past.
Armed with impressive

accounts of their candidatures in colourful spiral and multiple copies, they are after district in-charge minister and other top leaders who wield clout in the party. The buzz is that Byreddy Sidharth Reddy, a leader

from Nandikotkur, is sure

of chairmanship of a good corporation. In their parlance, a good corporation is one which can turn a 'cash cow.' Malki Reddy

Rajagopal Reddy, who sacrificed an MLA seat to the Silpa family, is in the race for a premium corporation. His added advantage is that he hails from Pulivendula, said a local

Habibulla from Nandyal, who was arrested by the TD government in a sedition case, gave a lifeline to Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in the run-up to the 2019 elections and helped garner minority votes. He aspires to be the chairman of minority welfare corporation.

Kotla Hari, Harsha Vardhan Reddy, Gopireddy Gopinath Reddy, Fayaz, Ilyas, and Zeeland are the other names doing the rounds. Kurnool city leaders do not have any stature to seek positions, said a senior party leader. Adoni, Chagalamarri, Allagadda are other centers from where leaders are angling for positions.
All 14 Assembly seats in

Kurnool district were won by the YSRC, leaving no space for TD. This has won two ministerships to the district. There are MLAs with powerful political and family backgrounds waiting in the wings to stake a claim to become a minister at the end of the two-and-a-half year term which the Chief Minster has set for himself to review the functioning of his Cabinet.

Minister Gummanur Jayaram were involved in a controversy over running gambling dens at Alur. Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy is the other from the district who found a berth. Katasani brothers

Alur MLA and Labour

Banaganapalle Panyam, are serious contenders. The Silpa family includ-

ing Chakrapani Reddy

who represents Srisailam constituency, and his nephew Ravichandrakishore Reddy are strategically moving their pawns. Silpa Mohan Reddy was a minister in the YSR Cabinet. Adoni MLA Sai Prasad Reddy and his brother and Mantralayam Balanagi Reddy are also strongly aspiring to become ministers.





NCB BUSTS RACKET SELLING DRUGS INSIDE CAKES

SHAHAB ANSARI | DC MUMBAI, JUNE 13

After conducting raids on a bakery in Malad area in suburban Mumbai, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has found out a new modus operandi adopted by drug dealers. The NCB has claimed that the drugs were supplied in high profile areas by putting them inside cakes and pastries.

According to NCB sources, the raid was conducted late Saturday night after the probe agency got a tip off about the same. The NCB officers were informed that the narcotic substances were being delivered by placing them inside the cakes and pastries to avoid any obvious suspicion.

The bakery products were then delivered to high-profile people in high profile parties and areas.

After the action, the agency found suspicious activities in the Bakery and also claimed to have seized 830 grams of edible weed brownie and 160gm of marijuana (ganja). The police have arrested three persons in the case so far.

One of the arrested persons has been identified as Jagat Chaurasia, who is said to be the supplier. Chaurasia was arrested in Bandra on the same night and found to be in possession of 125 grams of

marijuana. During the raid, NCB officials found a box that contained cakes and drugs. Now the team is probing the matter to find out for how long has this operation been going on, who is the mastermind behind the same and also the clients of this bakery who are receiving drugs in this manner.

MP CONG. DIVIDED **OVER DIGVIJAY'S ART. 370 REMARKS**

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JUNE 13

Congress veteran Digvijay Singh's purported opposition to abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir has divided his party in Madhya

While a section of the party defended him on the issue, albeit reluctantly, his brother and senior Congress leader Laxman Singh, however, countered him saying that "It is not possible to restore Article 370 in J&K now"

Media wing chief of Congress in Madhya Pradesh Narendra Singh Saluja on Sunday defended him saving that there was nothing wrong in the suggestion made by the veteran leader to review the abrogation of Article 370 in J&K by taking views of the local people on the issue (if Congress returned to power at

the Centre). "Digvijay Singh has rightly said that Congress should con-sider reviewing abrogation of Article 370 in J&K if the party returns to power at the Centre. In democracy, people's views are taken on many issues. There is nothing wrong with it. BJP was unnecessarily making it an issue to divert public attention from the Centre's failure to deal with the Coronavirus in the coun-

try", he said. He, however, hastened to add that "It was his personal view. The issue has never been discussed at the party forum". Congress spokesman K.K. Mishra said the party should discuss the issue.

India is natural ally of G7: Modi

PM highlights revolutionary impact of digital tech

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India is a natural ally for the G7 and its partners in defending democracy, freedom of thought and liberty from a host of threats stemming from authoritarianism, terrorism, violent extremism and economic coercion.

The Prime Minister made the remarks in a virtual address at an outreach session of a summit of the Group of Seven (G7) richest democracies which was held in the British seaside resort of Cornwall.

The ministry of external affairs (MEA) said that Modi, as the lead speaker at the session titled 'open societies and economies', highlighted India's civilisational commitment to democracy, freedom of thought and liberty.

"As the world's largest democracy, India is a nat-ural ally for the G7 and guest countries to defend these shared values from a host of threats stemming from authoritarianism, terrorism and violent extremism, disinforma-tion and infodemics and economic coercion," he

The Prime Minister also highlighted the revolutionary impact of digital technologies on social inclusion and empowerment in India through applications such as Aadhaar, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) trinity.

While underscoring the vulnerabilities inherent in open societies, the prime minister called on tech companies and social

K'TAKA: ARUN

SINGH TO VISIT

STATE ON WED.

Bengaluru, June 13: BJP General Secretary Arun Singh is arriving here on Wednesday, days

coming here. I welcome

him and I will be here to

cooperate with him,'

Yediyurappa told reporters here on

According to party sources, Singh is likely

to hold meetings with ministers, MLAs and the

party's core committee members during his

On June 10, Singh said:

"Yediyurappa is the Chief Minister, he is

doing a good job and will remain the Chief

Minister. He has done a

good job during the

Covid-19 situation, all

the ministers and the

party-everyone has done a good job".

change.

Sunday.

Proposal by India on vaccine patents gets support at G7

proposal by India and South Africa to temporarily waive patents on Covid-19 vaccines to ensure their equitable access received wide-spread support at the G7

summit in the UK, the ministry of external affairs said on Sunday.

In a virtual address at an inaugural outreach session of the summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought the support of the grouping to lift patent protections for Covid-19 vac-

The MEA said Modi's call was supported by South African President Ramaphosa, Cvril Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, WTO Director-General

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"I can confirm that there was widespread support in deliberations for textbased negotiations on the India-South Africa proposal for TRIPS waiver at the World Trade Organisation (WTO)," P. Harish, additional secretary (economic relations) in the MEA, said at a press conference. The TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Int-ellectual Property Rights) council of the WTO is likely to start text-based neg-

From Page 1

J&K's administrative council under Sinha had

in April this year allotted

496 kanals and 17 marlas (62 acres) of land to the TTD for building the Sri

Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Majeen on the

peripheries of Jammu

Article 35A had empowered J&K Assembly to define a J&K resident and

guaranteed special rights

and privileges to them and

thereby prohibited non-

permanent residents from

permanent settlement and

from acquiring immov-

able properties, govern-

ment jobs and scholar-

ships in the state. However, those willing to supplement the erstwhile state's development and

economic growth would be provided with land and

other immovable posses-

sions on temporary or

lease basis under strict

The TTD has been allot-

ted this land on lease for a

period of 40 years. "TTD, a board established by the

government under the TTD Act, 1932, is a charita-

ble organization of inter-

national repute with a

proven track record in the

spiritual, cultural, social and educational sphere," a statement issued by the

Sinha said the TTD board will establish a

J&K government said.

Gurukul and

regulations.

otiations on the proposal. Calling on the G7 to demonstrate leadership, Modi sought the grouping's strong support for the proposal for a TRIPS waiver at the WTO."

media platforms to ensure a safe cyber environment for their users, additional secretary (economic relations) in the MEA P. Harish said at a press conference. "The Prime Minister's views were appreciated by other leaders in the gathering," he said. Harish said the G7 lead-

ers underlined their commitment to a free, open and a rules-based Indo-Pacific and resolved to collaborate with partners in

the comprises Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States. As chair of G7, the UK invited India, Australia, South Korea and South Africa to the summit as Guest countries "Was happy to address the @G7 Session on Open Societies as a Lead Speaker. Democracy and freedom are part of India's civilisational ethos, and find expression in the vibrancy and diversity the region. of India's society," Modi The Group of Seven (G7) tweeted. — PTI

Congress needs widespread reforms: Sibal

after ruling out replac-ing Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa amid speculation in some quarters widespread reforms across all levels of the leadership organisation to show it is Arun Singh would be no longer in a state of in Karnataka for two to inertia and to present three days. It is his duty itself as a viable political alternative to the BJP, party veteran Kapil Sibal to hold meetings and take stock of the situa-tion, for which he is

said on Sunday. India needs a resurgent Congress. But for that, the party needs to show that it is active, present, aware and is in the mood to engage meaningfully," the former union minis-

"For this to happen, we will need to have wide-spread reforms at the organisational hierarchy both at the central and state levels to show that the party is still a force to reckon with and is no longer in a state of inertia, he said.

Sibal, who was among the G-23 leaders whose letter to Congress President Sonia Gandhi last year demanding a meaningful overhaul of the party had triggered a

storm, acknowledged that at present there is no strong political alternative to the BJP but said that Prime Narendra Modi has lost the moral authority to rule and the Congress can gain from the current

mood in the country.

The former union minister voiced hope that organisational elections, recently postponed in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, will happen sooner than later. He also noted that while

forming committees to review election losses is good, it will have no impact unless remedies suggested are implemented. Noting that the party's

alliances with the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) in Assam and Indian Secular Front (ISF) in West Bengal were not thought through, Sibal said the Congress has failed to drive home the point that minority and majority communalism are equally dangerous for



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha performs rituals during bhoomi pujan ceremony of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) at Majeen in Jammu.

Balaji temple gets land on 40-yr lease

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy on Sunday claimed that post-abrogation of Article 370 not only has militancy been controlled to a great extent in Jammu and Kashmir but the government has through a concerted effort put in by the security forces also curbed infiltration of terrorists and other undesirable elements from across the border. asserted,

speaking to reports at Jammu, "We've managed to curb infiltration and militancy and terrorism stand controlled in J&K. Not more than a couple of incidents of vio-lence were reported in India including J&K in

Pathshala within the complex to promote Sanskrit language and ancient culture of Vedic teachings and learning. "The board has also agreed to set up centres of excellence in the field of healthcare on the lines of its excellence

in Andhra

process of development has slowed down in J&K. KISHAN REDDY was

with J&K's Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at Jammu Raj Bhavan to discuss 'a range of issues pertaining to the internal security, law and order management and public welfare in the Union Territory.'

the past two years." Kishan Reddy said that it

is because of the pandemic that the process of development has slowed down in J&K.

"Earlier as many as 36 Union ministers visited J&K as part of the government's effort to boost its

He thanked the TTD

board and the central gov-

ernment "for fulfilling the long-pending wish of the

people of J&K and North

India for establishing the

temple of Lord Balaji on

the land of Shri Mata

Pradesh," he said.

Vaishno Devi".

demic the developmental projects got a hit yet he promised that once the situation eases "we will take J&K to new heights on the development front."

Later in the evening,

Kishan Reddy was with J&K's Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at Jammu Raj Bhavan to discuss "a range of issues pertaining to the internal security, law and order management and public welfare in the Union

Territory."
An official spokesman said that the discussion between the two was also the functioning of DRDO's Covid hospitals in twin capitals of Jammu and Srinagar.

He promised that except for the main pujaris of the temple and the core supervision team, it will also have a large number of local people for the management, thus providing direct and indirect job opportunities to the peo-

ple of the region.

BJP's UP leaders meet in Vrindavan, discuss poll plans

Veda centres

Mathura, June 13: The BJP held a meeting of its western Uttar Pradesh office bearers to devise ways to improve its electoral prospects in the state's Assembly elections

next year. The meeting was held at Keshav Dham in Keshav Vrindavan near here and

was chaired by state BJP general secretary (organization) Sunil Bansal. In the meeting, it was decided to fill all vacant

organisational posts of the party to help it gear up for the 2022 Assembly elections.

During the meeting, Bansal sought to impress

DIRE | CONDITIONS | Suvendu talks of anti-defection law, Ghosh of sacrifice

WB BJP divided over defectors

• IN THE meeting, chaired by state BJP general secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal, it was decided to fill all vacant organisational posts of BJP to help it gear up for 2022 Assembly polls.

upon party workers to create a conducive environment up to booth level. Sources said during the meeting, the party leaders decided to take active steps to assuage the alleged resentments among people over some perceived lapses of the government in tackling the pandemic.

They also said the BJP leaders also asked workers to encourage and facilitate the activists and workers of other parties if they express interest in joining their rank.

After the party meeting, Bansal also had an interaction with UP's former power minister and prominent BSP leader Ramvir Upadhyay and his wife Seema Upadhyay, a former MP, who recently joined the BJP.

Seema Upadhyaya is also a contender for the post of Hathras Zila Panchayat chairperson. The couple met Bansal for

the Speaker. As leader of opposition, I know the steps. I will show how to

ensure this law is implemented here. It will take two or three months. One

can change party but must

abide by law. I have already discussed this with Union law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad. The

Known for his acrimony

process will start soon.'

AAP MP ALLEGES GRAFT IN LAND PURCHASE FOR AYODHYA TEMPLE

Lucknow/Ayodhya, June 13: Shriram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai was on Sunday accused by two opposition leaders of buying a piece of land worth ₹2 crore at an inflated price of ₹18.5 crore for the Ram temple premises with help from Trust's member Anil Mishra.

The allegation, strongly refuted by Rai, was made by two opposition leaders — AAP's Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh and a former minister in the Samajwadi government,

Terming it a case of money laundering, Sin-gh and Pandey both sought a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate into the land purchase for

the temple premises. Both the leaders alleged that Rai purchased the land, measuring 1.208 hectares and located in Bag Bjaisi village under Sadar tehsil of Ayodhya district for a price of ₹18.50 crore from the first purchaser, who had bought it minutes earlier on March 18 this year from its original owners for a sum of

"Champat Rai, the general secretary of Shriram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust with the help of Trust's member Anil Mishra bought the land worth ₹2 crore at ₹18.5 crore. This is a case of money laundering and the government should get it probed by the ED and CBI," Singh told reporters in Lucknow. -PTI

Parked car sinks as concrete floor caves in

Mumbai. June 13: A video of a car disappearing into a pool of water in a Mumbai housing complex after the spot where it was parked caved in went viral on social media on Sunday. Responding to the viral

video, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said the spot where the car sank used to be a well but was partially covered with cement concrete by the housing society.

The incident took place at the Ram Nivas society located at Kama lane in Ghatkopar West area on Sunday morning, police said, adding no one was injured.

The housing society had covered a well with reinforced concrete cement and residents were using the area to park their cars. A police team reached the spot and brought the car out of the water body. The spot has been cordoned for the safety of residents," an official said. — PTI official said.



A screenshot of the viral video showing a car sinking into water as concrete floor caves

Trinamul leader blocks ghar wapsi

A major policy clash has unfolded between two prominent functionaries in the West Bengal BJP on defection of its newly elected MLAs to the ruling Trinamul Congress. This, after the return of BJP's vice-president Mukul Roy to the TMC.

RAJIB CHOWDHURI I DC

KOLKATA, JUNE 13

Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari has warned Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee that he would raise provisions of the anti-defection law in the Assembly if defection of legislators from the BJP took place. This is also seen as a veiled warning to BJP MLAs so as to

State BJP president Dilip Ghosh lamented the and a Lok Sabha MP, Adhikari said, "There

DC CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA, JUNE 13

Senior Trinamul MP Kalyan Banerjee objected to the move of BJP leader Rajib Banerjee to return to the party of Chief Mamata Minister Banerjee in the footsteps of Krishnanagar North MLA Mukul Roy.

"habit on the part of many

to leave the party," and

said the party itself would drive out those "who only want to enjoy power."

Replying to questions on Roy's alleged bid to poach on at least 10 BJP MLAs

Kalyan made his stand clear a day after Banerjee met TMC general secretary Kunal Ghosh. Days ago, he had slammed the BJP leadership for threat-ening President's Rule in West Bengal. The three-Serampore MP alleged, "Rajib spoke against the CM. He also

were instances of MLAs of

Congress and CPI(M)

being present in the TMC.

Mamata Banerjee now started it again with Mukul Roy. It is my responsibility as a leader

abused the booth-level

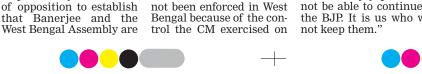
tions, he prompted the arrests of TMC workers at Domjur in Howrah, where he contested but lost."
The MP asked, "Didn't he unleash atrocities on

workers. During the elec-

the ruling party workers with the help of the CISF? Does it mean that he has come clean just because he met Kunal Ghosh?"

not above the law." The Nandigram BJP MLA added, "Who will go where and with whom is not a big issue. But the CM must keep in mind that the anti-defection law had not been enforced in West

with Adhikari, Ghosh, posted on Facebook: "It has become a habit for many to leave party. BJP depends on those very people who raised the party by bleeding and sweating themselves. Sacrifice and austerity have to be the principles for one to stay in the BJP. Those who only want to enjoy power will not be able to continue in the BJP. It is us who will not keep them.



SHORT TAKES

BOLSONARO FINED FOR MASKLESS MOTORCYLE RALLY

Sao Paulo, June 13: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was fined \$100 Saturday for violating Covid-19 containment meas ures in Sao Paulo by failing to wear a mask and provoking huge crowds at a motorcycle rally for supporters.

Thousands of motorcycles took part in the "Accelerate for Christ" rally, led by the far-right president, who wore an open-faced helmet and no mask, in violation of health regulations. Bolsonaro, who has been holding such rallies across Brazil as he gears up to seek re-election next year, defied a prior warning from Sao Paulo Governor Joao Doria, a political rival, who had said the president would be fined if he failed to observe regulations.

CHINA CITY'S DRONES TO KEEP PEOPLE INSIDE

Beijing, June 13: A fleet of 60 drones has been deployed in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou to keep people indoors and remind those going out to wear masks.

China has largely stamped out cases of local Covid-19 transmission, but Guangzhou has seen a flare-up of the more infectious delta variant of the virus, initially discovered in India. Six new cases were reported in Guangzhou over the previous 24 hours, raising the number in the outbreak to more than 100.

The police-operated drones carry cameras and broadcast messages to people venturing outdoors that they and others are best protected by staying inside.

POLICE ARREST 1 OF 2 IN AUSTIN MASS SHOOTING

Austin (US) June 13: Police have arrested one suspect and are searching for another after a mass shooting on a crowded downtown Austin street left 14 people wounded, two of them

The Austin Police Departme nt said in a news release that the US Marshals Lone Star Fugitive Task Force assisted in making the arrest on Saturday but it provided no other details other than to say it is continuing to follow up on leads for the suspect still at large. Interim Police Chief Joseph Chacon said the shooting happened around 1:30 am on a street packed with bars and barricaded off from vehicle traffic. He said investigators believe it began as a dispute.

SHELLING KILLS **18 IN SYRIA'S REBEL-HELD AFRIN**

Beirut, June 13: Shelling of the rebel-held city of Afrin in northern Syria killed at least 18 people on Saturday, many of them when a hospital was hit, a

war monitor said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a doctor, three hospital staff, two women and two children died at Al-Shifaa hospital in the city which is held by Turkish-backed rebels. A rebel commander also died at the hospital, the Observatory said, adding that 23 people were injured.

An AFP correspondent shot footage of white-helmeted aid workers in the hospital court-

yard strewn with bodies. "The shelling targeted several areas of the town and hit the hospital", Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahmane said.

'Most of the victims died in shelling on the hospital," the monitoring group said in a

12 KILLED, OVER **100 HURT IN GAS BLAST IN CHINA**

Beijing, June 13: At least 12 people were killed and more than 100 others injured after a gas explosion tore through a residential community in central China on Sunday, official media reported. The blast took place at about 6:30 am local time in the Zhangwan district of Shiyan city in Hubei province, trapping a large number of people. The explosion left 12 people dead.

Authorities have rescued nearly 150 people from the area, including 39 with serious injuries, and rushed them to hospitals, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Images and video footages circulating on social media platform Weibo show showed rescue workers working through the wreckage of flattened houses. The exact number of casualties is still being verified as the search and rescue is underway, the report said.

New Israeli govt to be sworn in

Will end Netanyahu's 12-yr premiership

Israel's parliament is set to vote on Sunday on a new government led by Yamina head Naftali Ben-nett, ousting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from power after an uninterrupted 12 years at the helm of affairs.

The prospective government — an unprecedented coalition of ideologically divergent political parties drawn from the Right, the Left and the Centre, along with an Arab party — has a razor-thin majority of one seat. The Knesset (Israeli parliament) is scheduled to meet at 4 PM local time and sans last-minute grand surprises, Bennett, an old-time associate of Netanyahu and leader of the right-wing Yamina party, would take over the mantle from his one time mentor leading a fragile government with a razorthin majority of 61 lawmakers in a 120 member house. Ahead of the vote in Parliament, heads of the eight factions constituting the new coalition met to confirm the government.

Informed sources said that "they all re-affirmed their commitment and it was all set to go ahead". The approval by the Knesset would bring to an end 12 years of uninter-

WILL RETURN TO POWER, SAYS BIBI

Jerusalem, June 13: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is vowing to lead his Likud Party back to power. In a speech to parliament, Netanyahu made clear he has no plans on giving up leadership of the Likud Party. He vowed to "continue the great mission of my life, ensuring the security of Israel." -AP

being the longest-serving Prime Minister in the country's history.

Having served in the position earlier between 1996 and 1999, Netanyahu last year surpassed the record held by one of the Jewish state's founding leaders, David Ben-Gurion. The formation of the new government would end the political impasse in the country that saw four elections in less than two years leading to inconclusive results.

But opinion polls suggest that majority of the Israelis do not look too hopeful regarding the longevity of the coalition of eight disparate parties who do not see eye-to-eye rupted rule by Netanyahu, on most of the critical 71, who holds the record of issues facing the country. on most of the critical

into a power-sharing agreement with Centrist leader Yair Lapid, the head of the Yesh Atid party, under which the latter would take over Premiership in September 2023, serving for two years till the end of the term. Lapid, the leader of the second-largest faction in the Knesset with 17 seats was invited by President Reuven Rivlin to form a coalition after Netanyahu, leading the Likud party with 30 seats, expressed his inability to put together a government.

The unstable coalition that Lapid has managed to put together faces severe challenges and the glue that seems to hold them together is the 'unity of purpose' created by the agenda of ousting Netanyahu. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that Netanyahu, seen by many as Israel's 'divider in chief', also in a strange way has proved to be a unifier, bringing in together unthinkable allies to form a gov-

ernment of national unity. Analysts feel that two factors likely to determine the tenure of the new coalition are the fear of Netanyahu's return and a political demise of some of the right-wing factions that have gone against the wishes of their voting constituency. -PTIconstituency.

Nato set to bid symbolic farewell to Afghanistan

Brussels, June 13: US President Joe Biden and his Nato counterparts will bid a symbolic farewell to Afghanistan on Monday in their last summit before America winds up its longest "forever war" and the US military pulls out for good. The meeting is bound to renew questions about whether Nato's most ambitious operation ever was worth it.

The 18-year effort cost the United States alone \$2.26 trillion, and the price in lives includes 2,442 American troops and 1,144 personnel among US allies, according to figures from Brown University

Nato does not keep a record of those who die in its operations. Those casualty figures dwarf Afghan losses, which include more than 47,000 civilians, up to 69,000 members of the national armed forces and police, and over 51,000 opposition fighters. The military effort followed the 2001 arrival of a USled coalition that ousted the Taliban for harbouring al-Qaeda leader Osama hin Laden

Few experts argue that it brought long-term stability, meaningful democracy or security. "At this point, you get the impression

AFGHAN I.S. GROUP CLAIMS KABUL ATTACKS

Kabul, June 13: The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for bombing two minivans in a mostly Shiite neigh-bourhood in the Afghan capital that killed seven people. Among the dead were two employees of Afghanistan's state-run film company, a colleague said Sunday.

In a statement issued late Saturday, Alghanista n's IS affiliate said its operatives blew up two minivans carrying "disbeliever Shiites" using sticky hombs. Sticky hombs slapped onto cars trapped in Kabul's chaotic traffic are the newest weapons terrorising Afghans in the increasingly lawless -APnation.

that Nato leaders almost want to downplay and leave quietly, rather than making too big a deal of it, and going on to focus on other business," said Erik Brattberg, director of the Europe Programme at

the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. With the US leading the withdrawal, European allies and Canada want to hear Biden's thinking about how security will be assured at their embassies, along major transport ro-utes and above all at Kabul's airport.

Many wonder whether the Afghan government can survive a resurgent Taliban. Some think Kabul's capitulation is only a matter of time. "We are currently in intense discussions with our member states, the United States, Nato and the United Nations on the absence of ess ential security conditions for our continued diplomatic presence. It will be difficult to keep it" in place, European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

For now, Nato plans to leave civilian advisers to help build up government institutions. It's unclear who will protect them. The 30-nation alliance is also weighing whether to train Afghan special forces outside the country. As an organisation, Nato will not provide sanctuary for alongside its forces.

Flash mob demo in Myanmar



Protesters make the three-finger salute as they take part in a flash mob demonstration against the military coup in Yangon on Sunday.

G7 leaders agree on vaccines, China and taxing corporations

Carbis Bay, June 13: Leaders of the Group of Se-Japan, the United Kingdven wealthy nations staked their claim Sunday to leading the world out of the Coronavirus pandemic and crisis, pledging more than 1 billion Coronavirus vaccine doses to poorer nations, vowing to help developing countries grow while fighting climate change and backing a minimum tax on multinational firms.

At the group's first faceto-face meeting in two years, the leaders dangled promises of support for global health, green energy, infrastructure and education. The leaders wanted to show that international cooperation is back after the upheavals caused by the pandemic and the unpredictability of former US President Donald Trump.

And they wanted to convey that the club of wealthy democracies — Cana-

om and the United States is a better friend to poorer nations than authoritarian rivals such as China. Speaking at the end of the three-day summit in southwest England, US President Joe Biden, who was making his first foreign trip as leader, said it was an "extraordinary, collaborative and productive meeting." British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the summit's host, praised the "fantastic degree of harmony" among the group. Johnson said the G-7 would demonstrate the value of democracy and human rights to the rest of the world and help "the world's poorest countries

en and sustainable.' "It's not good enough for us to just rest on our laurels and talk about how

to develop themselves in a

way that is clean and gre-

BEIJING: DAYS OF 'SMALL' NATIONS DICTATING GLOBAL DECISIONS GONE

Beijing, June 13: China the opportunity to bond on Sunday asserted that the days when global deci-sions were dictated by a "small group" of countries are long gone, hitting back at the G-7 summit where Beijing was at the centre of severe criticism over the Covid-19 origins, human rights violations, Belt and Road Initiative.

Answering a question on issues covered by the G-7 Summit on pandemic response, economy, trade and global supply chains and US efforts to "seizing" with other Western countries to safeguard the 'rules-based international system", the Chinese embassy in London said there is only one system, the international system which is led by the UN. "We always believe that countries, big or small, strong or weak, poor or rich, are equals, and that world affairs should be handled through consultation by all countries," it

important those values are," he told reporters after the 3-day meeting on the Cornwall coast. "And this isn't about imposing

the world. What we as the G-7 need to do is demonstrate the benefits of democracy and freedom and human rights to the rest of the world." -AP

A custom-made bicycle is Biden's G7 gift for Boris

London, June 13: US to be a fan of indoor cyc-President Joe Biden chose ling with Peloton. The roadster with a custom custom-made, nand-built bicycle as his gift for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson for their first in-person meeting ahead of the G7 Summit in Cornwall this weekend.

The bike is made by a small company in the American city of Philadelphia that was reportedly given just a few days to build a red, white and blue bike that normally takes months to construct.

Johnson is a keen cyclist and is often pictured cycl ing on the streets of London, with his security detail in pursuit. Biden is also known as a regular cyclist and was revealed

blke gifted by Blaen was made by Bilenky Cycle Works, a business with a staff of four who usually take up to 18 months to make a machine. The owner, Stephen Bilenky, was contacted by the US State Department on May 23 about designing the bike and a matching helmet, the *Philadelphia Inguirer* reported. It says the budget was just \$1,500, a third of the minimum

price the firm charges. Bilenky told the newspaper that he had accepted the order to raise the firm's profile and that "controlled chaos" followed. "It is a very modern ver-

paint scheme with the Union Jack flag and a matching helmet," he was quoted as saying. Johnson's gift for the US

President was a framed picture of a mural showing the American anti-slav ery campaigner Fredrick Douglass. The image of the former slave, who became a leading figure in the 19th century slavery abolitionist movement, is part of Edinburgh's mural trail. US First Lady Jill Biden was given a first edition of The Apple Tree by Daphne du Maurier, the English author who lived in Cornwall.

SUNDAY SERVICE, AMAZE LOCALS Falmouth (England),

BIDENS ATTEND

June 13: Churchgoers in a seaside resort in England say they have been lef gobsmacked when US President Joe Biden and the first lady Jill Biden dropped in for a Sunday service. The Bidens are in Cor-

nwall, southwest England, to attend a Group of Seven wealthy democracies summit. On Sunday morning,

ahead of the summit's conclusion, they were seen attending mass at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in St.

"I think gobsmacked is probably a very true word," said Annie Fitzpatrick, 58.

Proof in Mexico serial killer's home suggests 17 victims

Mexico City, June 13: been hacked into tiny pie-Investigators digging unces. That could make sender the house of a suspected serial killer on the outskirts of Mexico City have said they have found 3,787 bone fragments so far, apparently belonging to 17 different victims.

Prosecutors in the State of Mexico, which borders Mexico City, suggested the grisly finds may not end there. In excavations carried out since May 17, authorities have dug up the floors of the house where the suspect lived. They now plan to extend the search to the soil beneath several other rooms he rented out on the same property. ID cards and other possessions from people who disappeared years ago were found at the junk-filled home, suggesting the trail of killi-

ngs may go back years. The number of bone fragments found underneath concrete floors at the suspect's home would imply the corpses may have

se: The suspect, identified by prosecutors only as "Andrés", was formerly a butcher and in fact sectioned and filleted his last victim. "The bones fragments are being subjected to lateralisation studies. which include carefully cleaning each one, identifying what part of the body they are and then placing them in their anatomical position, providing a method for determining the approximate number of victims," the office said in a statement. "This analysis indicates

that, up to now, the bone fragments found may possibly be those of 17 people," the statement said. Authorities have not released the full name of the 72-year-old suspect under Mexican laws protecting a suspect's identity. He has been ordered to stand trial in the killing of his last victim, a 34-year-old woman.

Man jumps into lake for 365th straight day

Chicago, June 13: A Chicago bus driver looking for a way to relieve stress during the Coronavirus pandemic jumped into Lake Michigan for a 365th straight day on Saturday.

Dan O'Conor said he

started jumping into the lake at Montrose Harbour on the city's North Side last year to relieve stress. "It was during the pan-

demic, it was during the protest, it was during an election year. ... So it was somewhere where I could come down here and block all that noise out and kind of be totally present with me in the lake, and find some moments of Zen," said the father of three. He continued jumping

into the lake through the

fall before the hard part:

SATURDAY WAS special because it was the culmination of doing it for a full year.

Hacking a hole in the ice on the frozen lake that was big enough for him to jump through during the winter. He said when he got home after one such jump, he found about 20 scrapes and cuts on his He was encouraged by the response he got for his undertaking.

"People started asking me what this was benefiting and how they could support and when I say people, I'm talking strangers online, you know. When I started posting the videos on Twitter and

Instagram ... I got more wind in my sails there because people started commenting like, This makes my day, it's nice to

see this," he said. Saturday was special because it was the culmination of doing it for a full year. "I just wanted to celebrate just that drive to dive for 365," O'Conor

GORILLA | TACTICS Colleague fired without warning after coming late for shift

Berlin delivery riders take on \$1B start-up

Berlin, June 13: Dozens of workers gathered outside of one of Berlin's most-celebrated start-ups, the grocery delivery company Gorillas, to protest the firing hours earlier of a colleague. "We want Santiago back!" the young riders chanted last week, threatening to blockade one of the company's inner-city warehouses with their bikes unless he was reinstated.

The wildcat strike on a balmy June evening was unusual even by Germ-

any's strong tradition of labour rights, highlight-ing growing tensions in the capital's freewheeling start-up scene.

"We came here to show our solidarity, to support our friend," said Zevnep, a Gorillas rider who declined to give her last name for fear of facing repercussions from the company. "We want this decision to be reversed as soon as possible." The riders said their colleague had been fired without warning after turning up late for his shift.

In a statement, the company said he his contract was terminated for "serious misconduct" but declined to provide details, citing confidentiality. Founded just last year, Gorillas has benefited from surging demand for quick grocery deliveries during the pandemic. In March, the company raised about \$290 million from investors. becoming Germany's fastest 'unicorn' — a start-up with a total valuation of \$1 billion or more.

dozens of cities across Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Britain, and has already set its sights on New York, where it faces US incumbents such Gorillas now operates in reed to close the depot for

go beyond the firing of a single colleague. "In the last six months, that I've as Gopuff. But strikes like those in Berlin show trouble is brewing in its home been here I've noticed so aceful protest late Wednesday drew support from employees of rival delivery services, some of whom downed their colourful courier bags to join the picket. Eventually Gorillas ag-

many ways that the company is doing things in an unjustified way," said rid-er Huseyin Camalan. "We're here to stand aga-

the night, drawing cheers from the protesters.

The next day, riders bloc-

kaded another warehouse,

making clear their gripes

inst that. It's part of a larger thing." Camalan said many riders suffer from back pain.



Chronicle

14 JUNE 2021

Test ahead for BJP in UP: Will it blink or tame Yogi?

P chief minister Yogi Adityanath was in the national capital last week to discuss political, governance and administrative issues with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union health minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda, to tighten loopholes and raise the BJP's prospects in the Assembly election due early, 2022. Earlier, complaints were being voiced by BJP leaders in UP, and there were even murmurs that the PM

and the CM might not be on the same page.

In this backdrop senior BJP and RSS leaders visited Lucknow to take stock and held confabulations in the national capital afterward. There was fevered speculation that the CM may have to be changed. Given all the excitement, the CM's visit to New Delhi was followed closely, not least because he had very lengthy talks with Mr Modi, Mr Shah and Mr Nadda.

It would have become clear to all concerned that the UP CM is not a BJP leader in the normal sense and the usual rules of party discipline do not apply to him. He is the head of a centuries old religious establishment. Politically he

up on pandemic management big time. The BJP naturally feared he might lose the party the state polls, if allowed to run unchecked.

is aligned to the Hindu Mahasabha. Hindu Vahini, Adityanath goofed the outfit he created, is a more extreme practitioner of Hindutva than any other outfit. Nevertheless, he has BJP connections because this party has sent him to Parliament several times and elected him to be its leader in the UP Assembly in 2017, catapulting him to the position of CM.

Adityanath is not collegial in his ways. He is a religious right-wing maverick. His administrative actions have been widely perceived as dictatorial. He has no party factions or party favourites and relies on a clutch of bureaucrats, a trait he shares with many chief ministers, including Mr Modi when he was the Gujarat CM. He goofed up on pandemic management big time. The BJP naturally feared he might lose the party the state polls, if

allowed to run unchecked. But can he be checked? If he were to break away, it is not unlikely that he can cut into a section of the saffron party's vote bank that is emphatically communal. The BJP can ill afford this specially when there is said to be consider-

able disenchantment, flagged by Covid mishandling. In light of this it is possible that the ideas produced in the CM's consultations in New Delhi will lead to organisational changes in the state BJP and in the council of ministers in the state. However, any comment on these will be premature since the Yogi is his own man and not quite subject to BJP discipline. Changes that may follow in the wake of the CM's meetings in the national capital will naturally be watched by all — not just the BJP. The Opposition parties too will wait to see if there emerges a chink that they can exploit. Evidently, the situation is not as conducive for the BJP as it was before the

With all preparations now moving toward the election, it will be interesting to see if the CM has a significant hand in the selection of the BJP's candidates for the upcoming state poll. That may provide a clue to the state of the power balance between the CM and the traditional BJP power structure.

GST cut is welcome relief

The GST Council's decision to reduce tax on goods and services used for the treatment of Covid-19 disease brings a welcome relief to people fighting one of the most infectious diseases of recent times.

The Council, which comprises state and Union finance ministers, has also decided to levy a five per cent tax on any drug that the health ministry recommends for the treatment of coronavirus infection. The reduction in the tax rate, however, would be applicable only till September. The tax on vaccines, however, would continue to be five per cent. Though several state governments had demanded exempting vaccines from GST, the Council went with the opinion of the central

Apart from building more hospitals and training more healthcare professionals, the government should focus on preventative

government which opposed any such move. The state governments, however, did not insist on its demand after the Centre agreed to buy 75 per cent of the vaccines for public immunisation. The focus on healthcare should continue even after the Covid pandemic. It is high time that the Central and state governments take lessons from the pandemic and take steps to improve public health infrastructure which is woefully inadequate. Apart from building more hospitals and training more healthcare professionals, the government should focus on preventative healthcare. It is believed that preventative healthcare could add billions of dollars to the

economy by way of saving the cost of hospitalisation and by enhancing people's productivity. Preventative healthcare could be promoted by reducing the cost of diagnosis by encouraging local manufacturing of medical equipment. Though the Narendra Modi government has already announced incentives for boosting the manufacturing of medical equipment, it should be pursued with renewed vigour.

Another step that would greatly help in the delivery of healthcare is the standardisation of medical records and the national storage of health records, which would allow people to avail medical care anywhere in India as records could be accessed by a click of the mouse, obviously after due authorisation of the patient.

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India's Great Helmsman: Salute to Narasimha Rao



Sanjaya Baru

Sanjayovacha

was interesting that the day after Congressman Jitin Prasada joined the BJP, the political future of Rajasthan's Sachin Pilot has become the subject of renewed media speculation. The two have one political antecedent in common.

Both their fathers were regarded as being close to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. The Congress Party apparatchik, the late Devendra Nath Dwivedi, would often lament that Congressmen, including himself, had to pay a political price for their loyalty to the late Prime Minister. Perhaps the Prasadas and the Pilots continue

to pay that price.
Those who imagine that the decline of the Congress Party began in 2014, attributing this to Narendra Modi's campaign for a "Congress mukt Bharat", are unaware of the roots of began the day the party ceased to be a party, as Narasimha Rao famously put it in his book *The* Insider, and became a "proprietorship". When I suggested to late Pranab President Mukherjee that a book on the decline of the Congress Party was waiting to be written, he asked me when I thought the decline had begun. I said to him that the turning point was 1989 election. Mukherjee sat back in his chair, thought for a while and said: "The analysis should begin

from 1969. While While Manmohan Singh was the head of a coalition called the Progressive United Alliance that was in office thanks first to the Communists and then to the Lohia socialists, it was Narasimha Rao's tenure that marks the party's last hurrah.

The way in which Narasimha Rao stabilised his party and government at a time when it was shattered by two successive assassi nations of its top leaders, Indira and Rajiv Gandhi, was a stellar example of political leadership on a national and historic scale.

In remembering P.V. Narasimha Rao this month, when the nation commemorates his birth centenary, many will recall his leadership during a period of eco-

Narasimha Rao lent his prime ministerial imprimatur to the sweeping industrial and trade policy reforms that set India on a new growth path. It is useful to recall the role of the political leadership in economic policy change and management at a being acutely felt.

A second set of policy initiatives that many will credit Narasimha Rao with, as they recall his leadership, will be the shifts in India's foreign and strategic policy. He steered the country through the turbulent years of the end of the Cold War, the implosion of the Soviet Union, at that time India's closest ally, and the changes in the global balance of power. Prime Minister Rao authorised the testing of nuclear weapons that his successor, Atal Behari Vajpayee, finally sanctioned and declared India a nuclear weapons power. Narasimha Rao also launched the "Look East Policy", making India reconnect to the Rising Asia to her east. India came close to the nations of Southeast Asia and East Asia, including South Korea

and Japan. Narasimha Rao also took important initiatives to improve India's ties with both China and

the United States. While these two aspects — economic and foreign policy — of Prime Minister Rao's leadership will be much commented upon, few are willing to give him any credit for his leadership of the Congress Party. His critics point to the aborted attempt at internal democracy at the Tirupati session of the All-India Congress Committee in April 1992, where organisational elections were held for the first time in two decades, and to the political fallout of the handling of the Babri Masjid demolition as evidence of failed political leadership. The Congress also yielded space to the BJP during Narasimha Rao's tenure, enabling the BJP

to make its first attempt at forming a government in 1996 While some of this criticism is justified, the political importance of . Narasimha Rao lies in India's destiny. his demonstrating to the Congress Party that someone from outside Nehru-Gandhi dynasty can in fact run Narasimha the party and the govpromised much less and delivered much more. ernment quite success-Grappling economic and strategic challenges fully. He was not only the first Congress leader after the Nehru-Gandhis to remain in o

political significance of this cannot be underestimated, as it continues to be.
The loyalists of the Nehru-Gandhi family continue to chant the mantra that without the family at the helm, the would disinteparty grate. Of course, at one time it also used to be said that without a Nehru-Gandhi at the helm the country would disintegrate. Narasimha Rao proved the loyalists wrong and earned their

full term but was also the first South Indian

Prime Minister. The

If Narendra Modi promised more and has delivered less, P.V. Narasimha Rao promised much less and delivered much more

enduring dislike. Narasimha Rao's success in New Delhi emboldened several Congress leaders at the state level to strike out on their own. From G.K. Moopanar to Sharad Pawar to Mamata Banerjee, many Congress leaders have demonstrated that the party did not need a Nehru-Gandhi to secure electoral success at the state level. It is now clear that the Nehru-Gandhis cannot deliver power even at the national level. Narasimha Rao's polit-

ical legacy as Prime Minister deserves a more objective analysis than is so far available. Interestingly, the growdisappointment across the country with the assertive and domineering political leadership of Narendra Modi has sparked off renewed interest in the quiet and low-brow leadership of a man who in fact altered Narendra Modi promised more and has delivered less, P.V.

in a period of political uncertainty and same time, calming communal tensions aroused by the BJP's aggressive Hindutva project, Narasimha Rao pushed India on to a new trajectory of growth. No one viewed India as an "emerging economy" till 1990. By the end of the 1990s the world began to view India not only as a country catching up with the "Asian tigers", but also as a "rising power". Three consensu-al leaders — Narasimha Atal Behari Rao, Vajpayee Manmohan Singh — set India on a new path. For the first time in three decades the world is now wondering whether India would return to

World status. Sanjaya Baru is the author of 1991: How P.V. Narasimha Rao Made History (2016)

that rising path or return to its Third

LETTERS

GST AND COVID-19

That the GST council reducing tax rates of scores of Covid-19 related material from 12 per cent to five per cent is too little and too late. The taxes on all drugs and material used in Covid-19 treatment, including vaccines could have been made zero, in view of their lifesaving nature in the pandemic. It could have been a noble gesture of the council, had there been a discussion on relentless hike of fuel prices with an attempt to bring them under the GST basket. The people do need more relaxations from taxes in their most trying times in history

Dr D.V.G. Sankararao Vizianagaram

SEERS, SHOWROOMSIt is amusing to note that seers/peetadhipathi are coming to

open cloth showrooms. It may be noted that seers/peetadhipathi should be away from personal pub-licity and devoid of worldly plea-sures. They should live a detached life. It may be noted that there is no apex body to direct swamijis. Only moral command is required.

P. Ramakrishna Rajahmundry



MOSCOW, JUNE 13. The Soviet Union's three orbiting cosmonauts took the day off today to relax and cast their votes in the nationwide Supreme Soviet elections.

Official reports said the Salvut space station crew was in "top spirits" and enjoying a "wellearned rest".

After their regular morning exercises an a few necessary flight control talks, three cosmonauts — Georgy Dobrovolsky, Vladislav Volkoy and Viktor Patsayev — went on the air again for television viewers and messaged their votes to Soviet ground control.

The short TV communications session this afternoon showed the troika gathered around Salyut's central control panel as commander Dobrovolsky read off their



The fault in our federalism: Parties in India have a unitary structure

ne of the main architects of ndia's constitution, Dr Ambedkar always at pains to assert that the Constitution over which he had toiled was essentially federal in nature. Moving that the Draft Constitution be taken into consideration, on November 4, 1948, he said: "The Draft Constitution is a federal constitution inasmuch as it establishes what may be called a dual polity. This dual polity under the proposed Constitution will consist of the Union at the centre and the states at the periphery each endowed with sovereign powers to be exercised in the field assigned to them respectively by the Constitution."

These dicta are advisedly quoted at length to demonstrate how a Constitution can be deformed and perverted despite the intentions of its framers. Some perversions began early when Jawaharlal Nehru was Prime Minister. Dr Ambedkar was almost in tears a few years later when he told the Rajya Sabha that he was a hack and disowned the Constitution.

In this he was being utterly unfair to himself and, indeed, to the text of the Constitution. A British scholar on constitutional law opined early enough that India's was a unitary Constitution with federal features rather than a federal Constitution with unitary features

Right now, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, assaults on the few federal features have increased. Truth to tell, the Hindutva parties, the Jan Sangh and its successor, the BJP, were never happy with federalism. For at the core of the concept of federalism is sharing of

Debate in India reckons with the Union's amassment of power but not with the refreshingly new insights into the concept of "cooperative federalism". This implies that all the three tiers of the country's government — Union, provincial or state and municipal — cooperate in the national undertaking; each sticking to its own sphere delineated in the Constitution. States which resent central domi-

nance cheerfully tread on the domain of the municipalities and local boards, the law regardless. As Jyoti Basu, chief minister of West Bengal, discovered, memoranda demanding greater powers for states are one thing. But it is the Union which controls the flows of funds to the states.

The concept of cooperative federalism implies obligation by all to cooperate in the nation-building exercise. As explained previously, "Rather than pitting state's rights against central power, the trend in the US, Canada, Australia and Europe has been towards sharing and cooperation in services and planning. While the federal governments without a doubt have increased their power at the expense of the state level, the state governments have also gained new functions." And "states and local agencies, in particular, have developed ways of participating in the planning and administration of many of the federal activities which at first glance appear to intervene so drastically in their internal affairs"

In Australia, for instance, since 1982, states are to be consulted in advance before the Commonwealth of Australia concludes a treaty with a foreign government which impinges on their interests, although under the Constitution foreign affairs is exclusively a Union subject.

In Canada, the provinces successfully united to secure greater powers without amending the Constitution. It is politics which shapes the working of a Constitution. The All-India Services are another tool of central control. Deputation of an officer belonging to this service is controlled by the Centre. Recently, the Modi government sought to punish the chief secretary of West Bengal for being late, by five minutes for a meeting with Prime Minister Modi. Kashmir has bitterly complained of central control over the so-called All-India Services. They include

the Indian Police Service also. It is, however, in the intellectual

more harmful. There exists an international body charged with the study of federalism. The progress which its journals record are unknown in India. We need to think anew. A federal Constitution cannot be worked by political parties organised as unitary bodies.

All the political parties are run by their party bosses at the very centre. They award tickets for election to party candidates whom they select. The party members have no voice in the selection. It is the boss who will decide who will be the chief minister and even the composition of the cabinet. In short, a socalled democratic constitution is run by outrageously undemocratic political parties. This is the direct opposite of the situation in Britain, Germany, the United States and other democratic countries. This has an impact the working Constitution, especially on the functioning of the governor and the President.

By arrangement with Dawn













RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM | MONDAY | 14 JUNE 2021



| INDICATORS | | % |
|------------------------|------------|-------|
| Sensex | 52474.76 | 0.33 |
| Nifty 50 | 15799.40 | 0.39 |
| S&P 500* | 4,247.44 | 0.19 |
| Dollar (₹) | 73.06 | 0.00 |
| Pound Sterling (₹) | 103.38 | -0.36 |
| Euro (₹) | 88.81 | 0.07 |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹) | 48,530▲441 | 0.90 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)* | 72.91 | 0.54 |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield | 6.006 | 0.00 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 1.464 | 0.005 |
| * As of 8:30 PM IST | | |

FPIs invest ₹15,520 cr in equities in June

Foreign portfolio investors pumped in a net Rs 13,424 crore so far in June as risk-on sentiment improved with declining Covid-19 cases. Depositories data showed FPIs invested Rs 15,520 crore in equities during June 1-11. At the same time, they withdrew Rs 2,096 crore from the debt segment, taking the total net inflow to Rs 13,424 crore. This comes after a net withdrawal of Rs 2,666 crore in May and Rs 9,435 crore in April.

Trading in DHFL shares suspended from today



BSE and NSE will suspend trading in the shares of DHFL from Monday, June 14. The move, aimed at avoiding "market complications", comes against the backdrop of the NCLT approving Piramal Group's resolution plan for DHFL. The resolution plan provides for delisting the DHFL shares. DHFL on June 9 to the equity shares as per the liquidation value of the company estimated by the valuers.

CG Power lines up ₹135 cr capex in current year

CG Power and IndustrialSolutions, acquired last year by Tube Investments of India of Murugappa Group last year, has chalked out capital expenditure plans of Rs 135 crore during the current financial year. The capex will be spent in balancing, debottlenecking and modernising facilities at the plants to improve production and productivity", CG Power and Industrial Solutions said in a statement.

Nitco to launch new range of products in US

Mumbai-based tile and natural stone surface designer Nitco will participate in the US exhibition 'Coverings 21" scheduled from July 7 to July 9 in Orlando. Florida. Nitco's export business is spread across more than 40 countries. "Nitco will launch its new range of wall tiles and mosaics for the first time in the US," the firm said. "There is immense opportunity for Nitco to expand its presence in USA &



Latin American markets", it said.



Financial services firms line up ₹55,000-cr float

payments major Paytm's board reportedly approving a bumper share sale plan running north of Rs 22,000 crore, the IPO market is set for a big days, as over a dozen financial services players, including fintechs, are set to mop up over Rs 55,000 crore this fiscal from the market, according to investment

With more than a dozen insurance, asset management, commercial banking, non-banks, microfinance, housing finance and payment bank players already filing draft documents with the market reg-ulator Sebi for public offerings, the financial services sector is set to dominate the primary issues or initial public offerings (IPOs) over the coming months.
Some of those who have

already filed the draft red herring prospectus (DRHPs) with the Sebi include Aadhar Housing Finance (Rs 7,500 crore), Policy Bazaar (Rs 4,000 crore), Aptus Housing Finance (Rs 3,000 crore), Star Health Insurance (Rs 2,000 crore), Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC (Rs 1,500crore) Arohan Financial Services (Rs 1,800 crore), Fusion Microfinance (Rs 1,700 crore), Fincare Small Finance Bank (Rs 1,330 crore), Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (Rs 1,000-1,300 crore), Medi Assist (Rs 840 crore) and Jana Small Fin-

ance Bank (Rs 700 crore). The board of the biggest payments bank Paytm has reportedly cleared a more



RAMDEV'S RUCHI SOYA FILES FPO PAPERS TO RAISE ₹4,300 CRORE

New Delhi, June 13: Edible oil firm Ruchi Soya, which is owned by Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurveda, has filed draft document with the Sebi to launch a follow-on public offer (FPO) for raising up to Rs 4,300 crore.

The FPO is being launched to meet the Sebi norm of minimum public shareholding of 25 per cent in a listed entity.

Ruchi Soya filed the draft red herring prospectus

than Rs 22,000-crore IPO. Together, these financial services companies are set to garner around Rs 55,000 crore from the public.

If materialised, Paytm issue will be the largest IPO ever in the country, eclipsing the hitherto largest issue— the Rs 15,000-crore share sale by the government in national miner Coal India in October 2010, says investment bankers, who wished

(DRHP) with the market regulator on Saturday, sources said. They said that the promoters have to dilute a minimum 9 per cent stake in this round of the FPO. The FPO is likely to hit the capital market next month getting approval. Promoters group held 98.90 per cent

stake in the company. Ruchi Soya closed at Rs 1,242.35 apiece on the BSE on Friday.

Investment bankers and analysts consider the IPO boom to be reflective of the ongoing bull run and advice retail investors to be cautious while parking their money in new firms. V. K. Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services in Kochi, said the performance of the IPO market usually has a strong correlation to the performance of the secondary market. "If the stock market is bull-

ish, it attracts a large number of investors into IPOs. Particularly, new investors lured by high potential profits, get attracted to new offers and potential

the IPO market has always done well during market booms, Vijayakumar said. Rupen Rajguru, head of equity investments and

strategy at global wealth management firm Julius Baer in Mumbai, concurs and cautions retail investors to study the valuations carefully before investing as the market is a

bit over-heated now.
"The current IPO market buoyancy is expected to continue into the next few quarters. IPOs are in fact playing on the financialisation of savings theme, which is a big structural shift in the country,' Raiguru said.

Apart from Paytm, Policy Bazaar is looking to float a Rs 4,000-crore offering, industry sources said.

Two small finance banks Jana SFB and Fincare SFB—have filed their draft papers with the Sebi.

Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC is looking to go public with Rs 1,500-2,000 crore offering. From the insurance sector, there are two IPOs: Westbridge Capital and Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed Star Health & Allied Insurance, and the largest health benefits administrator Bengalurubased Medi Assist TPA.

Microfinance players Arohan Financial Services, Fusion Microfinance and digital debt platform Northern Arc are also eyeing the IPO market. — *PTI*

G-7 drops 2030 target to shift to green cars

JOSH WINGROVE & ALBERTO NARDELLI





are greener vehicles, instead pledging only speed up efforts to move away from combustion engines In the final commu-

nique Sunday, the bloc include an autos section that was far more modest than earlier versions being discussed. It pledged to do more to electrify the transport sector but didn't set firm target dates.

"We recognize that this will require dramatically increasing the pace of the global decarbonization of the road transport sector throughout the 2020s, and beyond,' the leaders wrote. "We commit to acceler

ate the transition away from new sales of diesel and petrol cars to promote the uptake of zero emission vehicles.

The language is an apparent compromise between the nations, several of whom are maior automakers. Earlier drafts of the communique suggested that the G-7 "strive" to ensure that the majority of all new passenger car sales are not petrol or diesel-powered "by 2030 or sooner."—Bloomberg

MFs need fully independent board of trustees: Quantum

New Delhi, June 13: There is a need for a fully independent board of trustees that will ensure that markets regulator Sebi's rules are complied with and the interests of the small investors are protected, said Quantum AMC founder Ajit Dayal. He said it should act as another check and bal-ance that will further strengthen the mutual

fund industry.
This could be a significant step after Franklin Templeton AMC has been found guilty of violating regulatory norms in the winding up of six debt schemes

In a telephonic conversation with PTI, Dayal said that if one person of an asset management company (AMC) is sit-ting on the board of trustees then we are com-promising the interest of investors. "The presence of that one member will make the board of trustees less independent."

"If you want to ensure that investors are well-looked after then you should have 100 per cent independent trustees,"

He further said the board of trustees is the most underutilised body. In his opinion, Sebi should make a regula-tion that only independent trustees should be on the trustees board, not anyone from AMC, or anyone linked to the management.

"I think this is an oversight from Sebi that they have not put this rule. This should have been



done from 1993 but they haven't done it so far," he

The trustees job is to ensure that the funds are actually managed in the interests of the shareholders.

Quantum MF is probably the only fund house where the board of trustees is totally inde-

When asked whether Franklin Templeton-like episode could have been avoided if such a measure was in place, Dayal said "it is difficult to say whether we could have avoided such a situation

but in theory, yes".

"In theory, yes, because if the trustees have the right information, if the trustees keep on comparing the information they have with what is stated in the prospectus or offer document then possibly if there is a mismatch, they can immediately correct it," he said.

Dayal said a lot of that also depends on the way the trustees take their job. He said they should take their job seriously as representative of investors, not as friends of the AMCs.

NO PLANS TO GET INTO VACCINE, SAYS SUN PHARMA

New Delhi, June 13: Sun Pharma has no immediate plans to enter into vaccine production, as getting into the vertical would require an altogether different manufacturing set-up, as per a top company official.

The Mumbai-based company, which is strong in various generic therapeutic segments, is eveing biosimilars to fuel its future growth. "I think our preliminary

assessment indicates that vaccines will require a dedicated manufacturing facility and it cannot be produced in a facility where we are making multiple other products," Sun Pharmaceutical Industries managing director Dilip Shanghvi said in a call with analysts.

The billionaire industrialist noted that for getting into vaccine production, a completely new set of manufacturing structure is required.

"So, that's broadly our understanding. So, we currently don't have any facility which we are looking at for producing vaccines," Shanghvi said.

On biosimilars, he noted that the company is looking to develop a range of such products. — *PTI* such products.

Thinking up creative ways to fight inflation

TRACY ALLOWAY

As the cost of everything now from steel to sugar surges, it's worth pausing to consider some more unusual ways to bring down prices. In China, for Bloomberg reports that the Department of Price has been charged with working out the finer details of the country's recently announced crackdown on rising commodities costs. The effort to bring down prices includes higher transaction fees for commodity trades, new tax rules, encouraging producers to sell down inventories, and much more. Last month, for instance,

the Tangshan steel hub banned steelmakers from spreading price-hike information, while Shanghai has urged steel mills not to raise prices if production costs haven't changed. while China's renewed interest in price controls does raise some questions about its continued commitment to freer markets, it's certainly not the only country to have experimented with more creative types of inflation

When egg prices rose in the spring of 1966 US

President Johnson nad the Surgeon **General issue alerts** as to the hazards of cholesterol in

eggs... A surprising number of people still think eggs are unhealthy

targeting. In fact, one of my all-time favourite financial anecdotes comes courtesy of Robert Samuelson's *The Great* Inflation and its which Aftermath, Lyndon B describes Johnson's own struggles to bring down inflation in the 1960s. As recounted by one of Johnson's former

"Shoe prices went up, so [President Lyndon B Johnson] slapped export controls on hides to increase the supply of leather. Reports that television sets would sell at high prices came across the wire. Johnson told me to ask

[RCA was then a major TV manufacturer] to hold them down. Domestic lamb prices rose. LBJ directed [defence secretary Robert | McNamara to buy cheaper lamb from New Zealand for the troops in Vietnam. The president told CEA [Council of Economic Advisers] and me to move on household appliances, paper cartons, news-print, men's underwear, women's hosiery, glass containers, cellulose, [and] air conditioners ... When egg prices rose in

the spring of 1966 and agriculture secretary Orville Freeman told him that not much could be done, Johnson had the Surgeon General issue alerts as to the hazards of cholesterol in eggs.'

Unfortunately, as Samuelson put it, "all this was for naught" and the president's customised inflation-fighting was too small to offset the over-whelming inflationary impulse from the economic boom of the time. A surprising number of people still think eggs are unhealthy though.

– Bloomberg

Income inequalities point to 'uneven' recovery: Subbarao

BIJAY KUMAR SINGH

Former RBI governor D. Subbarao has expressed concerns over "extreme unevenness" in economic recovery and "sharpening inequalities" between upper income segments and lower income households in the country, cautioning that the trend will hit growth prospects, going forward.

He said liquidity in the domestic market and foreign fund inflows are leading to soaring prices of stocks and other assets despite disruptions due to the Covid pandemic.

The earlier expectations of a sharp economic recovery this year have been dashed by the new pandemic wave, he said.

"The economy contracted last year, for the first time in four decades, by as much as 7.3 per cent. That was less deep than we had first feared but still deep enough to have caused distress to millions of families in the informal sector. There was expectation of a sharp recovery this year

but those expectations are now tempered by the ımpact tne wave," Subbarao told PTI.

The RBI too reduced its growth forecast for the current fiscal by one percentage point, from 10.5 per cent to 9.5 per cent, he said adding that even 9.5 per cent growth might seem impressive but note that this is coming on a very low base of last year.

"Even if we clock this growth rate, the output during this fiscal 2021/22 will still be less than the output two years ago.

Subbarao said that while the majority of people have lost jobs and saw reduction in their income, the wealth of some rich individuals have increased during the pandemic period. "The positive positive wealth effect of the upper income segments juxtaposed with the negative income effects of the lower income households tells a story of a very uneven recovery sharpening inequalities. This is morally wrong and politically corrosive," he

AMAZON RAISES MINIMUM PAY IN **GERMANY TO 12 EUROS/HOUR**



June 13: Amazon will guarantee an entry-level wage at its German warehouses of 12 euros (\$15 or Rs 1,100) an hour, the company said on Friday in the face of a long-running battle with a top labour union.

Germany is Amazon's biggest market after the United States, and the Verdi union has been organising strikes at Amazon since 2013 to protest low pay and poor conditions.

The pay increase is effective from July. Amazon's

exceed Germany's current minimum wage of 9.50 euros per hour. But workers have regularly gone on strike, such as last year to coincide with the \$1.6 trillion company's global "Prime Day" promotion event. They were disgruntled that a coronavirus bonus had been scrapped.

Verdi official said that the increase was the least that the company could do after "earning a pretty penny in recent months" and that pay still fell short of its demands for many employees.

Amazon—which saw net profit rise to \$8.1 billion in the first quarter, more than tripling from \$2.5 billion the year ear lier—has faced similar criticism over conditions and pay throughout the globe.

A spokesperson for Amazon in Germany said all employees would be getting a raise, and Amazon said in a statement that further increases were scheduled for the future.

— Reuters

UNSEEN COST

A Shanghai-Rotterdam cargo costs \$10,522, or 547% of 5-year seasonal average

Out-of-control shipping costs fire up prices

ALEX LONGLEY, CATHERINE BOSLEY & DEIRDRE HIPWELL

The skyrocketing price of shipping goods across the globe may hit your pocket sooner than you think from that cup of coffee you get each morning to the toys you were thinking of buying your kids.

Transporting a 40-foot steel container of cargo by sea from Shanghai to Rotterdam now costs a record \$10,522, a whopping 547 per cent higher than the seasonal average over the last five years, according to Drewry Shipping.

With upwards of 80 per cent of all goods trade transported freight-cost surges are threatening to boost the price of everything from tovs, furniture and car parts to coffee, sugar and anchovies, compounding concerns in global mar-kets already bracing for accelerating inflation.

"In 40 years in toy retailing I have never known such challenging conditions from the point of view of pricing," Gary Grant, the founder and executive chairman of the UK toy shop The Entertainer, said in a interview. He has had to stop importing giant teddy bears from China because their retail price would have had to double to add

in higher freight costs. "Will this have an impact on retail prices? My answer has to be yes." confluence factors—soaring demand, made matters worse. The

a shortage of containers, saturated ports and too few ships and dock workers— have contributed to the squeeze on transportation capacity on every freight path. Recent Covid outbreaks in Asian export

pain is most acutely felt on longer-distance routes, making shipping from Shanghai to Rotterdam 67 per cent more expensive than to the US West Coast, for instance. Often dismissed as hav-

an insignificant impact on inflation because they were a tiny part of the overall expense, rising shipping costs are now forcing some economists to pay them a bit more attention. Although still seen as a relatively minor input, HSBC Holdings Plc estimates that a 205 per cent increase in container ship-

ping costs over the past

producer prices by as much as 2 per cent. At the retail level, vendors are faced with three

year could raise euro-area

choices: halt trade, raise prices or absorb the cost to pass it on later, all of which would effectively mean more expensive goods, said Jordi Espin, strategic relations manager at the European Shippers' Council, a Brusselsbased trade group that represents about 100,000 retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers. "These costs are already being passed to consumers," he

—Bloomberg

SHORT TAKES

Mankad inducted

into Hall of Fame Dubai: The ICC on Sunday

inducted 10 icons of the game. including India's Vinoo Mankad, into its illustrious Hall of Fame with two players each from five eras, dating back to cricket's early days, making it to the list.

The inductees are Aubrey Faulkner of South Africa and Monty Noble of Australia (pre-1918), Sir Learie Constantine of West Indies and Stan McCabe of Australia (1918-1945), Ted Dexter of England and Vinoo Mankad of India (1946-1970). Desmond Haynes of the West

Indies and Bob Willis of England were inducted from the ODI era (1971-1995) while Andy Flower of Zimbabwe and Kumar Sangakkara were from the modern era. — PTI

India up for WTC challenge: Puiara

Southampton: Batsman Cheteshwar Pujara says New Zealand will have the advantage going into the WTC final after playing a Test series against England but India will utilise the available time to prepare well for the title clash, starting here on June 18. "They will obviously have advantage having played two Test matches

before the final but when it comes to final we will give our best and we know that our team has the potential to do well and win the championship," Pujara told bcci.tv. "So we are not worried about that. we will try and focus on these 10 to 12 days which we have for

Milkha's wife dies of Covid-19

Chandigarh: Former Indian women volleyball team captain Nirmal Kaur, who is the wife of sprint legend Milkha Singh, died at a Mohali hospital due to complications related to Covid-19 infection she had contracted last month.

She was 85 and is survived by her husband, one son and three daughters. "A back bone of the Milkha Family, she was 85 years old. It is tragic that the Flying Sikh Milkha Singh ji could not attend the cremation which was conducted this evening itself as he is still in the ICU (of PGIMER

in Chandigarh) himself," a statement from the family spokesperson said. — PTI

Faf recovering

after concussion

Abu Dhabi: Much to the cricket community's relief. South African star haf du Piessis on Sunday said he was back from the hospital and "recovering", after suffering a concussion during his team Quetta Gladiators' PSL match against Peshawar Zalmi here. In trying to save a boundary, Du Plessis collided with teammate Mohammad Hasnain during their Pakistan Super League match on Saturday night. Following the freak accident, the former South Africa captain lay prone on the ground for a few minutes while the team physio attended to him. — AFP

Rabada helps SA

clinch innings win

Saint Lucia: Kagiso Rabada completed a five-wicket haul as South Africa formalised their demolition of the West Indies by an innings and 63 runs just before the lunch interval on the third day of the first Test on Saturday. Having taken just one wicket in the first innings on day one when the home side were routed for 97 after choosing to bat first, Rabada led the way for the Proteas with figures of five for 34. - AFP **Brief scores:** West Indies 97 & 162 (Chase 62; Rabada 5/34) lost to South Africa 322 by an innings & 63

Live on

Group Stage: Scotland vs Czech Republic from 6.30 pm; Poland vs Slovakia from 9.30 pm; Spain vs Sweden from 12.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

COPA AMERICA

Group Stage: Argentina vs Chile from 2.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 1, 2; Paraguay vs Bolivia from 5.30 am (Tuesday) on Sony Ten 2, HD

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Sterling start

Raheem's clinical strike fires England to a 1-0 win over Croatia

England

(Raheem Sterling 57)

0

Croatia

London, June 13: Raheem Sterling ignited England's Euro 2020 campaign as the Manchester City forward's clinical finish sealed a 1-0 win against Croatia in their Group D opener on Sunday.

Gareth Southgate's side were struggling to break Croatia until Sterling struck in the second half at sun-baked

Wembley. The 26-year-old's first goal at a major tournament — in his 13th game was the perfect riposte to critics who questioned Southgate's decision to select him instead of Jack Grealish.

Sterling has endured a chequered relationship with England fans after being hounded following his tame performances at

He also struggled to hold down a place with Premier League champions City this term, culminating in his lacklustre in Champions League final defeat against Chelsea.

But, days after he was given an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his anticampaigning, racism Sterling enjoyed a perfectly-timed moment of redemption. In a rematch of the 2018 World Cup semi-final won by Croatia, England were hampered by a lack of cutting edge until Sterling came to the rescue. England host neighbours Scotland in their second Group 'D' match on Friday before taking on the Czech

Madrid, June 13: After

a week without training

their Euro 2020 opener

against Sweden on Monday determined to

leave tne past benind but

unsure about what comes

appointed to ring the

changes in the aftermath

of the 2018 World Cup,

when going out on penal-

ties to Russia had made it

three consecutive failures

to reach the quarter-

finals of a major tourna-

At La Cartuja in Seville

on Monday, only Jordi

Enrique was



England's Raheem Sterling celebrates after scoring a goal against Croatia in the Euro match at Wembley on Sunday.

Belgium get off to a flyer

St. Petersburg, June 13: Romelu Lukaku struck twice as Belgium confirmed their status as one of the favourites for Euro 2020 with a confident 3-0 victory over Russia on

Saturday.
Despite being without key performer Kevin De Bruyne, world number one ranked Belgium were rarely in trouble against a Russian side that struggled to impose themselves. Martinez's Roberto Belgium top Group B on three points, ahead on goal difference of Finland who beat Denmark in the

Alba will remain from the

Euro success nine years

ago, with Sergio Ramos

self-isolating after testing

positive for Covid last

bear almost no resem-

blance to what went

before, Spain's fresh mix

of promising youngsters

and high-end performers

arrive without any real

sense of what now fills

BAD BLOOD BETWEEN

CZECH & SCOTLAND

Scotland's first match at a

major tournament for 23

years is laced with acri-

And yet while the names

upheaval, Spain head into cut and Sergio Busquets

weekend.

the void.

Swedish challenge for Spain

Belgium (Romelu Lukaku 10, 88, Thomas Meunier 34)

Russia

group's other game in Copenhagen. The Red Devils are unbeaten in 10 games in all competitions and have suffered just one defeat in

their last 24 outings. The visitor's grabbed the lead in the 10th minute when Andrei Semyonov failed to deal with a ball into the box from Leander

Republic, who travel to

Hampden on Monday hav-

ing been forced into a

last-minute change of training camp and with-

Kudela was hit with a

10-match ban for racially

abusing Rangers mid-fielder Glen Kamara

when Slavia Prague visit-

ed Scotland in the Europa

League last 16 in March.

The widespread con-

demnation of Kudela in

Britain has not been

reflected in his homeland,

his club and internation-

al teammates have stood

where Slavia and many of

Ondrej Kudela.

bottom corner.

goal by running to the television camera and shouting "Chris, Chris, I love you" in tribute to Christian Eriksen, the Danish midfielder and his club team-mate at Inter Milan, who had been rushed to hospital after collapsing during the ear-

lier game in the group.

Belgium were calm in possession against a Russian side who struggled to get a firm grip on the game. -AFP

claimed there was a lack

LEWANDOWSKI OUT

TO IMPROVE RECORD

standing as one of the

greatest ever strikers at

club level is surely undis-

puted after a record-

breaking season with

games for Poland, his sta-

tus in the international game is well-established.

too. Except, maybe, in one

has yet to turn it on at a

major tournament.

Lewandowski

With 66 goals in 119

Bavern Munich.

respect.

Dendoncker, and Lukaku turned and fired into the

Lukaku celebrated his in tribute to

Denmark

(Joel Pohjanpalo 60)

Finland

JOEL HEADER HELPS FINLAND SECURE 1ST WIN

Copenhagen, June 13: Finland beat Denmark 1-0 in their opening match of Euro 2020 which was overshadowed by Christian Eriksen collapsing and having to be revived on the field by medics.

Joel Pohjanpalo scored the only goal on the hour mark of a Group 'B' match which was stopped for nearly two hours after playmaker Eriksen slumped to the turf towards the end of the first half.

Chants of "Christian" and "Eriksen" from both sets of supporters rang around the stadium as news of his status began to filter through to supporters.

The two teams played out an uneventful final few minutes of the first half after both sets of players returned to the pitch with several Danish players in tears. After a short break of five minutes the second half of the match continued with Denmark pressing Finland back but failing to find a way past the opposition defence and Finnish 'keeper Lukas Hradecky.

Pohjanpalo stunned the crowd into silence when he headed home Jere Uronen's cross, capitalising on Finland's one true chance of the game.

HEAD-TO-HEAD SCOTLAND-CZECH REPUBLIC Matches: 9. Scotland: 4. Czech Republic: 4. Drawn: 1.

EURO MEETINGS **1999:** Czech won 2-1 in Glasgow. **1999:** Czech won 3-2 in Prague. **2010:** Czech won 1-0 in Prague. **2011:** 2-2 in Glasgow.

SLOVAKIA-POLAND Matches: 8. Slovakia: 4. EURO MEETINGS

1995: Poland won 5-0 in Zabrze. **1995:** Slovakia won 4-1 in SPAIN-SWEDEN • Matches: 14. Spain: 6. Sweden: 3. Drawn: 5. 2006: Sweden won 2-0 in Solna. 2007: Spain won 3-0 in Madrid. 2008: Spain won 2-1 in

2019: Spain won 3-0 in Madrid. 2019: 1-1 in Stockholm. — S. PERVEZ QAISER

He had to recover from

two sets down to beat

Lorenzo Musetti in the

last 16 and lost the opener

against Nadal on Friday. Tsitsipas, 12 years the

world number one's jun-

ior, broke again in the

first game of the second

set as the 2016 champion

looked increasingly weary

in the 30-degree afternoon

ahead 5-2 and pocketed the

second set with his eighth

finished, breaking in the

fourth game of the third

GRAND DOUBLE

French Open champion

Barbora Krejcikova com-

titles at Roland Garros as

she won a third women's

doubles major trophy with

fellow Czech teammate

Katerina Siniakova on Sunday. Less than 24

pleted a rare sweep of

But the top seed wasn't

ace of the contest.



Denmark's Christian Eriksen (centre) is evacuated after

collapsing on the pitch during the Euro match at the

Parken Stadium in Copenhagen on Saturday.

was given lengthy medical

treatment before regaining

"He was gone. And we did

cardiac resuscitation. And it was cardiac arrest," said

team doctor Morten Boesen, who led the work

in giving Eriksen treat-ment on the field. "How

close were we? I don't

know. We got him back

after one defib. That's quite

Boesen said it was still

unclear what caused the midfielder's collapse. "I'm

not cardiologist, so the

details about why it hap-

pened and further, I will

leave to the experts," he

HE HAD NO HEALTH

ISSUES: INTER DOCTOR

Eriksen showed no hint of

any underlying health condition, Inter Milan's team doctor said on Sunday.

"We had a bad time, not

'In the next few days he

The important thing is

will be subjected to in-

that he is well, but there

had never been any episode that even remotely

ninted at a problem when

he was at Tottenham nor at

Inter. In Italy there are

depth examinations.

very strict controls.

just me, but the whole family of our club," Piero Volpi told *Gazzetta Dello*

Sport.

consciousness.

Denmark's goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel (right) and defender Simon Kjaer (centre) comfort Sabrina Kvist Jensen, partner of Christian Eriksen.

CHRISTIAN HOPES TO BE BACK SOON

Inter CEO Giuseppe Marotta said that Eriksen had sent a message on the team chat reassuring them: "I'm fine, I hope to be back soon."

"Those harsh images foreshadowed dramatic things, but luckily it wasn't so thanks to the doctors," said Marotta.

"He never had Covid and he has never been vaccinated, we don't want to be intrusive because it's right for the player to be calm."

LUKAKU DEDICATES GOALS TO ERIKSEN

Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku said he shed tears Christian Eriksen before dedicating his twogoal haul in Saturday's 3-0 win over Russia at Euro 2020 to his stricken Inter

Milan team-mate.
"I am really happy with the win, but it was hard for me to play because my thoughts were with him, said Lukaku. — Agencies



New Zealand's Tom Latham (centre) holds the trophy as his teammates celebrate winning the Test series against England in Birmingham on Sunday.

Kiwis seal rare away series win

Birmingham (UK), June 13: New Zealand overpowered England by eight wickets in the second Test at Edgbaston on Sunday as they sealed a 1-0 series win with more than a day to

Set a target of just 38 after England tailender Olly Stone was out to the very first ball of the fourth day, the Blackcaps finished

Tom Latham, captaining the team in place of the injured Kane Williamson, hit the winning boundary to be 23 not out after the first Test of a two-match series at Lord's last week

ended in a draw. Victory gave New Zealand just a third win in 18 Test series in England, and a first this century after their 1986 and 1999 tri

umphs. And it means they will head into next week's inaugural World Test inaugurai Championship India Southampton in confident

'It's great to get an extra day of rest before India but we'll celebrate as well we've not won here since 1999 so it's important to celebrate those achieve-

ments," said Latham at the presentation ceremony. By contrast, this was England's first series loss at home since a 2014 defeat by Sri Lanka.

BRIEF SCORES

England 303 & 122 (Wood 29; Wagner 3/18, Henry lost to New Zealand 388 (Latham 23 (not out)) by eight wickets.

DJOKER IS KING

mony for the Czech by the 34-year-old and

out suspended defender Robert Lewandowski's

Djokovic rallies to beat Tsitsipas in French final, wins his 19th major

Paris, June 13: Novak Djokovic claimed a 19th Grand Slam title and became the first man in 52 years to win all four majors twice when he came from two sets down to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas in a gripping French Open

The world number one triumphed 6-7 (6/8), 2-6, 6-3. 6-2. 6-4 over the Greek 22-year-old who was playing in his first Slam final. Djokovic is now just one major away from equalling the all-time record of 20, jointly held by Roger Federer and

final on Sunday.

Rafael Nadal. It was a second French Open crown for Djokovic after his 2016 victory and his nine Australian Opens, five Wimbledon titles and

three at the US Open. The 34-year-old is the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four Slams on multiple occasions and just the third in

He is also the first man ever to win a Slam title by twice coming back from two sets down in same the

tournament. Djokovic now has 84 career titles in total while Sunday's win pushed him



Serbia's Novak Djokovic holds the French Open trophy after defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final on Sunday. Roland Garros

to the brink of \$150 million in prize money.

"It was an electric atmosphere, Diokovic after the fourhour 11-minute final.

"It's a dream. It's difficult to win the title against a great player. It was a difficult three days physically and mentally. Djokovic had also spent more than four hours on

court on Friday to knock

out defending champion

Rafael Nadal.

break points. Diokovic, by contrast, didn't concede a point in his first three service

Fired up by a time viola-

but was unable to serve

Tsitsipas survived a out the opener as a series opening service of razor-sharp returns put game, having to save two Tsitsipas back on level

games. But suddenly he faced a set point in the 10th game courtesy of an ugly shank but saved it after a 26-shot rally.

terms lead disappear.

He had to save a set point before claiming the opener after 70 minutes when Diokovic fired a forehand

wide. Dropping the opening tion, Djokovic broke for set at this year's Roland the first time for a 6-5 lead Garros was familiar terri-

set to cut the deficit. **BARBORA COMPLETES**

In a dramatic tiebreaker, Tsitsipas saw a 4/0 and 5/2

hours after she claimed her maiden singles slam title, Krejcikova became the first woman since Mary Pierce in 2000 to lift both trophies at the clay-

tory for Djokovic

court major. Only seven women have completed the titles sweep at Roland

– Agencies