



Pages 12 | ₹5/LC

KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR



GLOCALISATION  
OF HUMANITY

P7



SPL COURT REJECTS  
CLOSURE OF PROBE  
AGAINST K'TAKA CM

P4



PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

BIDEN CALLS FOR  
BIPARTISAN ACTION ON  
PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP

P10



BRAZIL SCRAPE  
THROUGH A  
COPA TEST

P12

WEATHER

Partly cloudy sky with light rain/thundershowers. The maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 39 and 24 degrees Celsius respectively.

RAINFALL: 019.2 Mm

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Max: 84% Min: 43%

TEMPERATURE

Max: 38.6°C (+2) Min: 24.1°C (-4)

SUN RISES

05:29 hrs

MOON RISES

01:53 hrs

SUN SETS

19:23 hrs

MOON SETS

14:32 hrs

THUMBNAILS



Delhi Pradesh Youth Congress activists protest against LPG and fuel price hike, outside Shastri Bhawan, on Saturday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

**BJP claims victory in UP local elections:** The Uttar Pradesh BJP has claimed that the party-backed candidates won 67 of 75 seats of the district panchayat chief, the voting for which was held on Saturday. State BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh told reporters that the success of the party was due to the welfare policies initiated by its government and the popularity of PM Modi and CM Yogi Adityanath.

**ED summons Deshmukh, son in PMLA case:** Former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh and his son have been issued fresh summons by the Enforcement Directorate to appear next week in a money laundering case against them, officials said on Saturday. Deshmukh has been asked to record his statement at the central agency's office in south Mumbai on Monday while his son on 6 July.

**Aamir Khan, Kiran Rao announce divorce:** Actor Aamir Khan and producer-director Kiran Rao on Saturday announced their decision to get divorced after 15 years of marriage and said they were ready to start a new chapter as co-parents and family for each other.

(P5)

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I am deeply concerned the way he has spread his network in north Bengal. I demand a high-leven investigation.

FORMER SILEGURI MAYOR ASOK BHATTACHARYA

REFERRING TO DEBANJAN DEB, THE MAN BEHIND THE FAKE VACCINATION CAMP IN KOLKATA

# Delhi's positivity rate 0.11%; 86 cases, 5 deaths logged

Over 82 lakh people have got Covid shots in the city so far, says the vaccination bulletin

SNS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, 3 JULY

Delhi today logged 86 fresh coronavirus infections and 5 Covid-linked deaths, according to the Delhi government's latest health bulletin. The city's Covid positivity rate was recorded at 0.11 per cent, down from yesterday's 0.13 per cent. The fresh fatalities pushed the national capital's Covid toll to 24,988, the bulletin said.

The city had reported 93 coronavirus cases and 2 deaths yesterday. Delhi had recorded 4 Covid deaths and 93 cases on 1 July with a positivity rate of 0.12 per cent.

The city had recorded 94 Covid cases at a positivity rate of 0.12 per cent and 6 fatalities on 30 June. It recorded 101



A health worker administers Covid vaccine at Mata Sundari Road in the Capital on Saturday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

cases at a positivity rate of 0.15 per cent and 4 deaths on 29 June, according to official figures. On 28 June, Delhi had recorded 59 cases — the lowest single-day rise this year — and 2 deaths. On 27 June, the city had reported 89 cases and 4 deaths while the positivity rate was 0.12 per cent. Delhi was brutally hit by a

upward spiral. On 20 April, Delhi had reported 28,395 cases — the highest in the city since the beginning of the pandemic. On 22 April, the city's positivity rate was 36.2 per cent — the highest so far. The highest single-day count of Covid fatalities — 448 deaths — was reported on 3 May. Meanwhile, more than 1.6 lakh Covid vaccines were administered in the national capital yesterday, taking the total number of people who have been inoculated in the city to over 82 lakh, the Delhi government's vaccination bulletin said.

The bulletin issued today stated that a total of 82,12,158 Covid vaccines have been administered in Delhi so far. Of them, 63,45,239 are first vaccine doses and 18,66,919 second shots, it said.

According to Delhi's daily vaccination bulletin, 1,60,738 people were vaccinated yesterday, of which 1,30,487 people received their first jab and 30,251 were given their second dose. Of the total people vaccinated yesterday, 44,512 were in the 45-60 years age group and 1,14,462 were in the 18-44 years age group, it said.

Delhi, which received 50,000 doses of Covaxin yesterday, has 4,78,000 vaccines in its stock, the bulletin said. This includes 2,68,000 shots of Covaxin and 2,10,000 of Covishield, it said. According to the bulletin, the current Covid vaccines stock is running at 1,374 centres with a capacity of administering 2,26,552 vaccine doses daily, it added.

Water wastage by RO purifiers for commercial interest of companies needs to be checked: NGT officers concerned and put them to notice of this order. Their names shall be furnished to this Tribunal before the next date so that they can be made accountable for upholding public interest and the rule of law," the bench said.

The NGT in July last year directed the MoEF to issue by the year-end a notification banning RO purifiers where TDS level in water is below 500 milligrams per litre. The tribunal had granted more time to the MoEF after it informed the tribunal that the exercise could not be completed due to the Covid pandemic. The Ministry had in January 2020, sought four months for executing the NGT order.

The MoEF in its plea, had said that four months are required for effective compliance of the order -- two for wide circulation of draft notification inviting comments and two for incorporating comments, finalisation of notification and obtaining approval from the Ministry of Law and Justice.

The matter is listed for the next hearing on January 25.

## Over 1.60L challaned for Covid norm violations

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 3 JULY

In order to ensure strict enforcement of the COVID-19 protocol, the Delhi Police has issued 1.37 lakh challans for not wearing masks and 22,000 for violations of social distancing norms between April 19 and July 2 this year, according to official data.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had last month announced various relaxations in the ongoing lockdown that was imposed on April 19, saying the Covid situation was improving and the economy of the city needed to be revived.

The data shared by Additional Delhi Police Public Relations Officer (PRO) Anil Mittal stated that 1,62,526 challans have been issued in the national capital during the

**1,37,872 challans were issued for mask violation, 22,874 for violation of social distancing, 1,552 for holding large public gatherings or congregations, 72 for spitting and 156 for consumption of liquor, pan, gutkha, tobacco'**

period for various coronavirus-related violations.

Out of them, 1,37,872 challans were issued for mask violation, 22,874 for violation of social distancing, 1,552 for holding large public gatherings or congregations, 72 for spitting and 156 for consumption of liquor, pan, gutkha, tobacco etc, the data cited.

As part of the relaxations announced last month, the Delhi government allowed all standalone and neighbourhood shops to function, including liquor vending. In the next phase, it also allowed weddings at banquets, marriage halls and hotels with 50 people in attendance, and reopening of gyms and yoga centres at 50 per cent capacity under the phased unlock process initiated with an improvement in the city's COVID-19 situation.

However, according to a District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) order, schools, colleges and educational institutes, cinemas, multiplexes, swimming pools, and entertainment and amusement parks will remain closed, and banquet halls for any purpose other than weddings will remain prohibited.

## Kejriwal reviews power supply , says successful in meeting growing demand

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 3 JULY

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday reviewed the power supply situation in Delhi as the peak demand for electricity rose sharply due to hot and humid weather in the past few days.

An official statement said that the Delhi government is preparing to meet over 8,500 MW peak demand for electricity next year.

At a review meeting, the chief minister assured the discoms of the government's assistance in addressing problems they face in fixing transformers due to lack of space and directed that the electric wires be either insulated put underground.



Kejriwal said the growing power demand is being successfully met and all residents of Delhi are getting electricity supply round the clock.

"Every year, Delhi goes through an average 4-5 per

cent increased demand for power because of new consumers. We have been successful in meeting the growing demand until now and are supplying power round the clock to all the residents of Delhi."

Delhi Power Minister Satyendar Jain, additional chief secretary Satya Gopal, and CEOs of all power distribution companies, and officials of the power department were also present in the review meeting.

Delhi's peak power demand scaled a new high of 7,323 MW on Friday afternoon. The season's earlier peak of 7,026 MW was registered on Thursday which in turn broke the previous day's record of 6,921 MW.



Madhumita Balaji officially assumes the charge of president, Police Families Welfare Society (PFWS), in the Capital on Saturday. The new Delhi Police commissioner, Balaji Srivastav, has become the PFWS' new chief patron.

## JOBS & CLASSIFIEDS QUEST

### PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of RASHTRIYA NAV PRABHAT PARTY. The office of the party is located at 1102, LAXMI NARAYAN NEAR R.E.S.CHEM, GANDHI NAGAR, MUZAFFARNAGAR UTTAR PRADESH 251001. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as political party under section 29A of the Representation of People Act 1951. Name/address of the office bearers of the party are as follows:-  
President- Ramratan Singh Vishwakarma  
Vice President- Veer Prakash Sharma  
General Secretary- Rajeshwar Kumar  
General Secretary- Mohd Ahlaq  
Treasurer- Mohd Gulzar  
If any one has objection to the registration of RASHTRIYA NAV PRABHAT PARTY, they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary(Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvanch Sadan, Ashok Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

**NOTIFICATION**  
सम्बुद्धा कि तत्वारा

सभी को सूचित हो कि सरकारी पर्याप्त स्तर सीलानी निवारी J-79 दिल्ली कालानी दिल्ली -98 उम्मीद, कट्टा 411" रंग पोरा चेहरा यों दिवारी अवास लीक नाई कट्टी चबी इह है। महानगरपाल नामीनी Ph. 0818379379 (D No.33-A, 2-11-2009-P.S SEEMA PURI)

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03-07-2021 to 30-09-2021 tenders.

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

**PROPERTIES**

Eligible vendors are invited to participate in these tenders.

For details contact:

Mr. Gurdeep Singh, S/o. Jasbir Singh Matharoo, R/o. 4/1E, Ahmed Mamji Street, Liluah, Howrah-71204, have changed my name from Gurdeep Singh to Gurdeep Singh Matharoo, vide Affidavit No. 57AB 108703 Dt.: 30.06.2021 before Bankshall Court.

Contact: 9830055870.

**The Sunday Statesman**

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**SITUATION VACANT**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**PROPERTIES**

**ELIGIBILITY**

**RECRUITMENT**

**EMPLOYMENT**



*There have been post-poll violences and the state was caught on a wrong foot...*

UNION MINISTER SMRITI IRANI

SAYS CALCUTTA HIGH COURT'S OBSERVATIONS ON BENGAL VIOLENCE WERE ALARMING

The Sunday Statesman  
NEW DELHI, 04 JULY 2021

03

# AAP workers try to gherao Capthouse on power issue

Punjab Police use water cannon to disperse AAP activists protesting against power crisis

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, 3 JULY

The Opposition Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers led by the party's Punjab president Bhagwant Mann today held protest and tried to gherao chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh's farmhouse at Siswan near Chandigarh over the burning issue of the state's power crisis.

Police reportedly used water cannon to disperse the AAP workers forcing their way to gherao Capt Amarinder's house in protest against frequent power cuts and power shortage in the state.

The protesting AAP activists shouted slogans against the Congress-led Punjab government. Police personnel were deployed in strength



and multi-layered barricades were put up on the road leading to the CM's farmhouse.

Addressing the protest rally, Mann said, "We have come to express the grief of 2.75 crore people of Punjab to chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh, who is sleeping in palaces and visited Punjab only six times since he became the CM." He said that the people of Pun-

jab were buying the most expensive electricity in the country at Rs 10 per unit, but they

were still not getting electricity.

"Instead, they have to leave their homes in the scorching heat and leave paddy sowing in the fields to hold dharnas on the roads," said Mann.

He said Capt Amarinder as the CM should go to Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi to resolve the issues of the farmers and get all the three "draconian" central laws against farmers repealed.

Mann said the people of Punjab were suffering the consequences of the "collusion" between the Akalis and the Congress, because during the Akali rule, the Badal family had entered into "deadly deals" with the private power companies and now the Congress government has implemented these deals. He said the IAS officer who had signed "anti-Punjab agreements" during the Badal government was today the chief adviser to the CM.

Taking a dig at the Akali Dal (Badal), Mann said that its chief Sukhbir Singh Badal was pretending to raid the sand quarries whereas in Punjab all sorts of mafias including sand

mafia were "created" by the Badals.

"No one allows the Akalis to enter the villages today, so they will now enter the quarries," he said.

Mann said that the AAP's national convener and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has announced 300 units of electricity per month free of cost for every household in the state upon the formation of the AAP government after next year's Assembly polls, that is why the leaders of all other parties were holding "grudges" against them.

"But Kejriwal has not only promised but also guaranteed because he has done it all in Delhi," said Mann, adding the gherao of Capt Amarinder's farmhouse by a huge gathering proved that "people want to get rid of all the big electricity bills".

## 75 per cent of doctors in India have faced violence: IMA head

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 3 JULY

mated, 75% of doctors have faced such situations. People want doctors and hospitals to treat patients as per the information they are getting from social media, like WhatsApp message, or information on Google, due to which conflicts happen. It is not the patient's family, relatives and friends who attack doctors but is done by anti-social elements and people influenced by political parties," the IMA president said.

"In the 300 incidents of attack that have been reported, in 255 cases it is not the patients or their attendants who attacked the doctor. It is a purposeful attack that is happening on the modern medical system. Hospitals must make arrangements for the safety of doctors and staff.

We need to prevent these attacks and the government should come forward to protect the doctors," he said.

Kamal Narayan, CEO, IHW Council, said: "The attacks on doctors have shocked us at a time when doctors are being seen as god on Earth and hospitals as temples fighting to save us from this deadly virus. Prime Minister has himself expressed his gratitude to them. On the policy side, the government has brought stringent laws to contain violence against doctors and healthcare workers. Almost 2 out of 3 doctors are unable to treat patients without the fear of abuse of violence. Needless to say, it affects the health system as doctors with this mindset will avoid taking bold decisions for the benefit of their patients."

## Red Fort violence: Court grants bail to man accused of assaulting cop

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 3 JULY

A Delhi court on Saturday granted bail to a man who allegedly assaulted a policeman on duty with a spear during the violence which erupted at the Red Fort on Republic Day this year.

On January 26, protesting farmers had clashed with police during the tractor rally against the three farm laws and stormed into the Red Fort, hoisting religious flags on its domes and injuring scores of policemen.

Granting him relief, Additional Sessions Judge Kamini Lau said neither the photographs and

videos relied upon by the prosecution are very clear nor accused Khempreet Singh can be seen attacking anyone in them.

"The charge sheet against the accused has already been filed and he is no longer required for investigation," the judge said, adding that an accused is "deemed innocent till proved guilty".

She further said that most of these offences in the case are bailable in nature and 14 accused out of the 18 arrested, including main conspirators Deep Sandhu and Iqbal Singh, are already out on bail.

The judge also relied upon the observations in the bail order passed by the Delhi High Court in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) case filed against three student activists -- Natasha Narwal, Devangana Kalita, and Asif Iqbal Tanha.

"The Delhi High Court observed that at a time when the society is polarised and fractured across various lines and ideology reached vanishing point, the court will do all within their mandate to prevent the misuse of the law and alleviate the anxiety which has come to surround these individuals," ASJ Lau noted.

## Maha: Farmer body urges MVA govt to take a stand to repeal Centre's farm laws

PTI  
MUMBAI, 3 JULY

ing a resolution against the Acts in the state legislature, AIKSCC said in a statement.

The state unit of the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) Maharashtra unit on Saturday appealed to the state government to take an unequivocal stand to repeal the Centre's three farm laws.

The three parties, the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress, in the Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha have expressed support for the farmers' movement, and now that the fight against these laws has come to a decisive turn, the government needs to take a firm and clear stand by passing

command the prices of commodities and to deny protection to farmers," the AIKSCC Maharashtra claimed in the statement.

While the state government is trying to bring new farm laws in Maharashtra by making some changes to the controversial Acts, amendments to the draft of the Central laws will not change the purpose behind them, nor will it change their anti-farmer and pro-corporate character, the farmers' organisation said.

In the interest of farmers in the state, the AIKSCC Maharashtra demanded that the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; Farmers' Empowerment and Protection Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 be rolled back and a new law made to guarantee minimum support price (MSP) for their crops.

## Covid to become endemic in future, zero figure in Delhi unlikely: Experts

PTI  
NEW DELHI, 3 JULY

Cases of COVID-19 might be declining steadily but as the virus is mutating, attaining that magical zero figure in Delhi is unlikely, experts have said, and predicted that coronavirus will be reduced to an endemic in the future.

The Centre, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his cabinet colleague Satyendar Jain had said last year that one will have to learn with coronavirus and make its prevention norms a part of our lives.

Dr Suresh Kumar, medical director of Delhi government-run LNJP Hospital said there will always be a few cases of the virus.

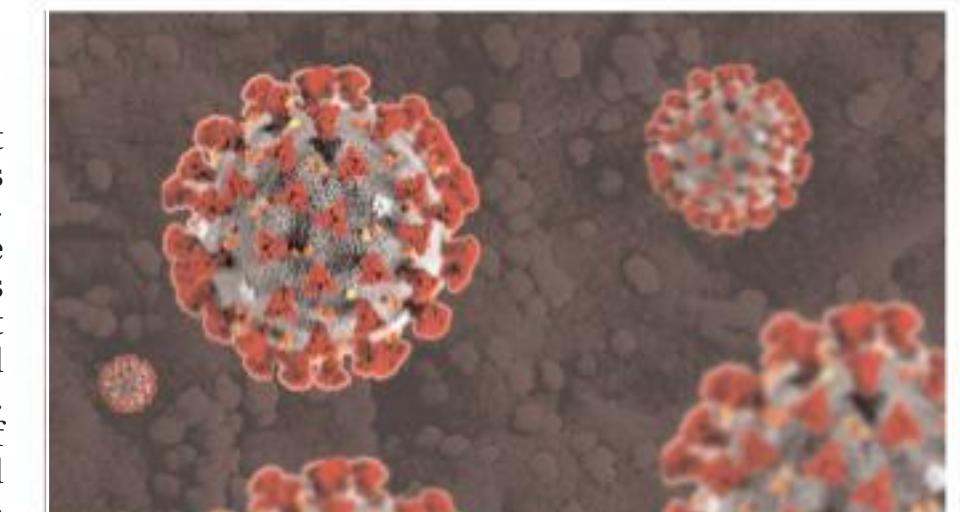
"Zero is an unlikely figure. The virus is mutating and it is difficult to predict its future behaviour," he said.

Explaining why the virus has posed such a challenge, Dr Sanjeev K. Singh, Resident Medical Director, Amrita Hospitals in Faridabad said it is an mRNA virus which keeps changing its structure.

"These virus is smart and just for the sake of living, it will keep mutating. Covid will be there and may not be affecting all 193 countries but it will be there."

"Coming down to zero won't be achievable. In hospitals for getting surgeries, one has to get tested for Hepatitis and HIV. Eventually, you will be tested for Covid too," he said.

Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, recorded its maximum temperature at 36.4 degrees Celsius.



of Innocence said keeping the 1918 pandemic as a yardstick, we know that eradicating the virus is an unrealistic possibility.

"As COVID-19 gradually becomes an endemic, likely in 12-24 months, it will probably stop being a statistic that is being watched on a daily basis. Hence, while we may see zero reportable cases, there may never be a time with actual zero cases ever."

Amid concerns over the possibility of a third wave and emergence of the Delta Plus variant, experts assuaged fears of that possible wave being more lethal since a majority of the population has been infected.

"In my view, if a new strain doesn't come up against which the vaccines are not effective, I don't think the third wave will be as lethal as the second wave," said Dr Rajesh Chawla, Senior Pulmonologist, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi.

He highlighted that coronavirus will become an endemic in days to come.

Agreeing with Chawla, Dr. Rommel Tickoo, Director,

Internal Medicine, Max Healthcare, said we are still in the second Covid wave.

"Seventy per cent of the cases are limited to Maharashtra, and southern states. In north Indian states, there was a sudden exponential increase and the virus infected a large number of people together which is why the steady decline.

"The effect of the virus will be blunted because of the majority of people being exposed to the virus and vaccination. As the vaccination numbers go up we will be able to blunt the virus impact. More than 50 lakh people have at least received the first while more than 18 lakh have been fully vaccinated," Tickoo said.

However, he said, vaccine hesitancy is becoming problematic.

"People still give preference to false news. It has the potential to derail our ambitious vaccination programme. Roping in celebrities, credible voices will help it while doctors have a big role to play. In the UK and the US, majority of the population has received their first doses. In the US they have taken off the masks. We should see these examples," he added.

and two deaths. After that, the cases have hovered around the 90 mark.

Talking about the fluctuations in cases, Dr Gurpreet Sandhu, President, Council for Healthcare and Pharma, said, "On the fluctuation module, we are aware that the testing protocols in India are very abysmal, we do not follow standard protocol of testing. "Secondly, some people in rural community in India are still not aware about the what vaccine is for, how it will affect them or how it will protect them from the virus."

Experts unanimously vouched for vaccination as the answer to blunt the effect of the virus.

"The effect will be blunted because of the majority of people being exposed to the virus and the vaccination. As the vaccination numbers go up we will be able to blunt the virus impact. More than 50 lakh people have at least received the first while more than 18 lakh have been fully vaccinated," Tickoo said.

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**Kathak Kendra, New Delhi**

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ADMISSION NOTICE

Academic Session 2021-2022

Applications are invited on the prescribed form for admission to the following Kathak Dance and Music training Courses offered by Kathak Kendra, New Delhi :-

S. No.	Name of Course	Duration	Age (as on 1 July, 2021)
<b>A) KATHAK DANCE</b>			
a)	Elementary Courses	5 Years	10-15 years
1.	Foundation Course	3 Years	15-20 years
2.	Diploma (Pass) Course - 1" Year (Eligibility : Successful completion of Foundation Course from Kathak Kendra or equivalent training)	3 Years	18-23 years
b)	Advance Course (Full time)		
1.	Diploma (Hons.)- 1st Year (Eligibility : Successful completion of Diploma (Pass) Course from Kathak Kendra or equivalent training)	2 Years	20-26 years
2.	Post Diploma Course - 1st Year (Eligibility : Successful completion of Diploma (Hons.) Course from Kathak Kendra or equivalent training)	6 Months	Below 40 years
3.	Refresher Course (Eligibility : Successful completion of Diploma (Hons. Course/ Post Diploma Course from Kathak Kendra or equivalent training )	1 Year	18-23 years
4.	Preparatory Phase (For Diploma Course only)		
<b>B) MUSIC</b>			
1.	Certificate Course (Tabla/Pakhawaj)	1 Year	14-17 Years
2.	Diploma Course (Tabla / Pakhawaj)- 1st Year (Eligibility : Having Minimum one year training certificate in Tabla/ Pakhawaj )	5 Years	15-20 years
3.	Special Course in Vocal Music -1st Year (Eligibility: Basic Knowledge in Vocal Music)	3 Years	18-30 years

Applications forms may be downloaded from the website of Kathak Kendra - [www.kathakkendra.in](http://www.kathakkendra.in).

from 04 to 12 July 2021.

Applications forms duly filled in may be submitted through E-mail [admissionkathakkendra@gmail.com](mailto:admissionkathakkendra@gmail.com) at Kathak Kendra after online payment of Rs. 200/- by 14 July, 2021 for more detail refer to our website [www.kathakkendra.in](http://www.kathakkendra.in).

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## APPOINTMENT

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Recruitment for SRF and Project Assistant in DBT Research Project  
An online interview for one SRF position (Fellowship ₹ 35,000+ HRA) and one Project Assistant Position (Emoluments ₹ 20,000 + HRA) in the DBT-BIRAC sponsored research project "Development of Isothermal-PCR based rapid and portable corona virus SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) detection kit" under Dr. Vikrant Nain, School of Biotechnology, Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Interested candidates may send their Curriculum Vitae to the email address: [vikrant@gbu.ac.in](mailto:vikrant@gbu.ac.in) or on before 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Further details about project and essential qualifications are available on <https://gbu.ac.in/recruitment>. Dr. Vikrant Nain Principal Investigator

## Covid:



Tamil Nadu govt will continue to urge the Central government to quickly set up the tribunal. The dispute will be resolved through the tribunal

TAMIL NADU WATER RESOURCES MINISTER DURAI MURUGAN

CONTENDING THAT KARNATAKA'S NEW DAM ACROSS RIVER MARKANDEYA WILL HIT IRRIGATION IN TN

India

THUMBNAILS



A vendor sells goods on a two-wheeler in Surat on Saturday. LANS

**Mumbai Samachar director passes away:** Muncherji Nusserwanji Cama, a director at Mumbai Samachar, the oldest Indian newspaper in print, died on Saturday after a brief illness, sources said. Cama, who was in his 60s, was active in the family's publishing business till the onset of the pandemic last year, the sources said.

**Father stabs son to death:** A 42-year-old man was stabbed to death allegedly by his septuagenarian father at Udayamperoorin Ernakulam district in the wee hours of Saturday, police said. Santhosh was said to have beaten his 70-year-old father Maniyam after consuming liquor. This drove Maniyam to murder, the police said.

**Dilip Kumar in ICU:** Legendary actor Dilip Kumar, who has been admitted to ICU of a Mumbai hospital, continues to remain stable and under observation, his wife Saira Banu said on Saturday. He was admitted on Tuesday to address age-related "medical issues".

**Assam CM hopeful of finding middle ground to start talks with ULFA**

PTI

NEW DELHI, 3 JULY

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said he is hopeful of finding a middle path to start peace talks with the banned ULFA as the insurgent group has been demanding that negotiations should be centred around "sovereignty" where-

**Sarma said if the ULFA and the government can find an honourable position, then the talks can be started.**

as he took oath to protect India's "sovereignty".

Sarma said if the ULFA and the government can find an honourable position, then the talks can be started.

"We are in a very peculiar situation. (ULFA chief) Paresh Baruah wants to talk on the issue of (Assam's) sovereignty, while I have taken oath as chief minister to protect the country's sovereignty. To start the talks, either he has to change his stand or I have to defend my oath. Since Paresh Baruah is not changing his stand and if I defy my oath, I will have to leave my post, we will have to find a middle ground," he said.

Sarma said that "some people" are talking to Baruah so that he can come to the negotiating table. "I am hopeful that something could be found so that we can start the peace dialogue," he said.

Sarma said that he understands the compulsion of Baruah but at the same time the ULFA chief should also understand his compulsion.

Earlier this week, Sarma said that peace talks with the ULFA can progress if it is prepared to discuss grievances and issues. Sarma had said there are many well-intended people who are working on the issue with the ULFA chief to convince him to discuss something substantial.

# Spl court rejects closure of probe against K'taka CM

Court directs Lokayukta police to expedite the investigation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BENGALURU, 3 JULY

In a setback to chief minister B S Yediyurappa, a special court for public representatives on Saturday dismissed the 'B-Report' by the Lokayukta police seeking the closure of investigation against him in a 15-year-old case relating to denotification of prime land in Bengaluru.

The court also directed the Lokayukta police to expedite the investigation and furnish the final or additional final report.

Judge Sridhar Gopalakrishna Bhat said in his order, "The B Report submitted by the investigation officer under section 173(2) of CrPC is hereby rejected."

Consequently, acting under section 156(3) of CrPC, the Deputy Superintendent of Police attached to the police wing of Karnataka Lokayukta, Bengaluru is hereby directed to investigate the matter further in the light of the observation made in this order and to file final report/additional final report expeditiously as per law."

The court also reminded the investigation officer to keep in mind the observations made by the Karnataka High Court with regard to delay in

## UNDER SCANNER



► The case pertains to the denotification of prime land in Bellandur and Devarabeesanahalli, which was related to Varthur-Whitefield IT Corridor. The land was acquired in 2000-2001 for an IT park.

► In December 2020, Yediyurappa had filed a petition in the High Court seeking quashing of the case.

► The court directed the Lokayukta police to register a case, based on which a case was registered on February 21, 2015 under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

conducting investigation.

The case pertains to the denotification of prime land in Bellandur and Devarabeesanahalli, which Reddy had challenged.

was related to Varthur-Whitefield IT Corridor. The land was acquired in 2000-2001 for an IT park.

However, in 2006-07, as the Deputy chief minister in the JD(S)-BJP coalition government headed by H D Kumaraswamy, Yediyurappa denotified the land according to the private complaint lodged by Vasudeva Reddy with the Lokayukta court alleging irregularities in the denotification. The court directed the Lokayukta police to register a case, based on which a case was registered on February 21, 2015 under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

In December 2020, Yediyurappa had filed a petition in the High Court seeking quashing of the case.

Yediyurappa had contended that the High Court had quashed the same FIR against the then Industries minister and Congress leader RV Deshpande on October 9, 2015.

Hence, the investigation against him based on the same FIR was illegal but the court rejected his argument.

Dismissing the petition, Justice John Michael Cunha directed the police to intensify the investigation.

The Lokayukta police had filed a 'B Report' seeking closure of the investigation which Reddy had challenged.

## Heist row: BJP Kerala chief ready for probe

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 3 JULY

eddy did when notices were served on them by Central agencies).

"Our State committee meeting is on the same day and it was scheduled much before I got the notice," he said. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Kodakara heist case, after an RSS functionary and a former office-bearer of the Yuva Morcha reportedly confessed to the police that money, stolen from a car that was waylaid at Kodakara on 3 April, was meant allegedly for the party's election campaign.

It remains to be seen whether Surendran will appear before the investigation team as the BJP leadership has recently decided not to cooperate with the probe.

The case pertains to looting of around Rs.3.5 crore from a vehicle following a fake accident at Kodakara on 3 April. The preliminary investigation had revealed that the money was brought to Thrissur for funding the Assembly election campaign expenses of a prominent national party.

The investigation team had questioned many party leaders, including BJP's Thiruvananthapuram district secretary Ullas Babu, in connection with the incident.

The BJP finds itself entangled in the Kodakara heist case, after an RSS functionary and a former office-bearer of the Yuva Morcha reportedly confessed to the police that money, stolen from a car that was waylaid at Kodakara on 3 April, was meant allegedly for the party's election campaign.

The former aide of Jayalalithaa said that she would take all sections of the AIADMK with her and said

## SOCIAL DISTANCE?



People at Jadavpur market area in Kolkata on Saturday.

SAHELIPAL

## Sasikala to visit all TN dists after lockdown



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI, 3 JULY

AIADMK's former interim General Secretary, VK Sasikala, who was subsequently expelled from the party, has announced that she would tour all districts of the state after the lifting of the lockdown. The state has announced a lockdown till 12 July.

Sasikala, in her latest telephonic chat with AIADMK leaders and former MLAs S. Kamraj and N.G. Parthiban, said that she would commence her tour after visiting the memorial of former chief minister J. Jayalalithaa.

The former aide of Jayalalithaa said that she would take all sections of the AIADMK with her and said

that the party needs a total makeover to be in the reckoning in the state.

She also claimed that she was instrumental in bringing

functionaries across the state.

Her sister-in-law Ilavarasi and her trusted lieutenant Karthikeyan are coordinating her telephone calls and contacts with the AIADMK leaders.

She said that the present situation is comparatively much easier and added that as a seasoned politician, she could not sit idle at home once the party is facing existential problems.

Sasikala has been reaching out to AIADMK lower-level, mid-level functionaries and old guards in the party ever since the election results came and she has even floated a war room at her Chennai residence to communicate with the AIADMK

leaders and several other loyalists of them are constantly trading charges against Sasikala and reducing her leadership abilities to counter her moves.

## TENDER

### HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Bhoranj Distt. Hamirpur H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P invites/re-invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Deadline for Submission of Bid
1	Construction of type-II quarter 4 Nos for HPPWD employees at Bhoranj Distt. Hamirpur (SH- C/O building portion , water supply sanitary installation, septic tank and site development including boundary wall).	90,31,388/-	1,22,900/-	28/07/2021	05/08/2021
2	Construction of type-III quarter 4 Nos for HPPWD employees at Bhoranj Distt. Hamirpur (SH- C/O building portion , water supply sanitary installation, septic tank and site development including boundary wall).	96,46,840/-	1,29,000/-	28/07/2021	05/08/2021
3	Construction of room for PSA Oxygen plant band Manifold system at 100 bedded Civil Hospital Bhoranj Distt. Hamirpur (SH- C/O Civil works).	9,45,101/-	19,000/-	28/07/2021	05/08/2021
4	Providing and fixing manifold system along with tubing for 50 bedded covid in 100 bedded Civil Hospital at Bhoranj (SH- providing and fixing oxygen gas pipe line in newly created block for Covid patient).	38,32,398/-	65,000/-	28/07/2021	05/08/2021

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in).

Executive Engineer,

Bhoranj Division,

HPPWD, Bhoranj, Pin Code 176045

Telephone No. 01972-266099, e-mail: [epwpd-bhoranj-hp@gov.in](mailto:epwpd-bhoranj-hp@gov.in)

On behalf of Governor of Himachal

### HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short terms tenders on form 6&8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer Bangana Division HPPWD Bangana on behalf of the Governor of H.P. for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted in HPWD as per latest instructions so as to reach and open in his office as per time schedule given below. The offer of the tender will be kept open for 120 days from the date of opening of the tenders. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

1. Date of receipt of applications for the tender Form a/w requisite documents:- 19.07.2021 upto 5.00 PM.
2. Date of issue/sale of tender forms against Cash payment (Non-refundable):- 20.07.2021 upto 4.00 PM.
3. Date of receipt of tenders:- 22.07.2021 upto 10.30 AM.
4. Date of opening of tenders:- 22.07.2021 at 11.00 AM.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Time Limit	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor
1	C/O Link road Halli Berri to Jakhola km. 0/000 to 1/750 (SH- P/L GSB, WMM in km. 0/540 to 1/040)	280408	5700	Two months	350/-	Class-D
2	C/O Link road from Kohdra to Jole Under SCP (SH- C/O R/Wall in km. 0/110 to 0/125)	178207	1600	Two months	350/-	Class-D
3	C/O Link road to Village Balh Rehera ( SH- C/O Hume pipe Culvert with wing wall at RD. 0/090 to 0/725)	134611	2700	Two months	350/-	Class-D
4	Improvement of Black Spot on Barsar Piplo Bhambi road km. 0/000 to 2/000 (SH- Providing and Fixing of Crash Barrier including 15.00 meter edge wall in km. 4/360 to 4/496)	495277	10000	Two months	350/-	Class-D
5	C/O Link road to Harian Basli Kolla km. 0/000 to 1/500 under SCP (SH- P/L Wire Crate in km. 1/108 to 1/132)	479959	9600	Two months	350/-	Class-D
6	C/O Link road Hat Beri to Village Jakholi km. 0/000 to 1/750 (SH- P/L G.S.B. , W.M.M. & 20mm thick Premix Carpet with Seal Coat in km. 0/540 to 0/875)	496171	10000	Two months	350/-	Class-D
7	Construction & Improvement of Blackspot of Various road under Bangana Sub -Division (SH-Providing and Fixing Dual Directional Speed Breaker at Various RD.s ) on VARIOUS Junctions	99830	2000	Two months	350/-	Class-D
8	Special repair of Bridges on UAM Road km. 2/000 to 19/000 (SH- P/L 25mm thick Mastic Asphalt over Baroh Bridge at RD. 8/246.70 to 8/252.30) Part XII	371417	7500	Two months	350/-	Class-D
9	C/O Link road to Kharola km. 0/000 to 2/500 (SH- P/L G.S.B., W.M.M. & 20mm thick Premix Carpet in km. 1/000 to 2/000)	490943	9900	Two months	350/-	Class-D
10	A/R & M/O link Basauli Pali to Manohar Market km 0/0 to 3/750. (S.H- P/L WMM from RD 3/400 to 3/496)	324115	6500	Two months	350/-	Class-D
11	C/O Dinger Jole to Takia via Kuryala Haler Road km 0/0 to 11/030 (SH- Providing Paver block flooring near RD 6/395 to 6/455 & Essential U-Shape Drain)	3296				



Public education, healthcare are Delhi govt's focus areas for empowering women

AT AN EVENT TITLED 'LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS' DAY: FEMINIST MUNICIPAL MOVEMENT'

SENIOR AAP LEADER ATISHI

## THUMBNAILS



Chital deer inside an enclosure at Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden in Guwahati, Saturday AFP

**HC extends Stan Swamy's stay at private hospital:** The Bombay High Court on Saturday extended the stay of Jesuit priest and activist Stan Swamy, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoists links case, at a private hospital in Mumbai till 6 July. Swamy had moved the high court earlier this year, seeking medical treatment and interim bail on health grounds. PTI

**Kidnapper killed in Assam:** A prime accused in the mysterious kidnapping of city based businessman of Ajit Das was killed in a police retaliatory action as Kanwaldeep Singh Sidhu tried to flee on Friday. He was arrested in Karbi Anglong and the incident took place while he was taken to Guwahati by Assam police personnel. SNS

**Remdesivir black marketing case:** The High Court of Jharkhand has reprimanded the SIT formed to probe black marketing of remdesivir, an anti-viral drug used in the treatment of Covid, for keeping it in the dark in making the Ranchi Rural superintendent of police a government witness in the case. PTI

**Pakistani intruder held:** Security forces on Saturday arrested a Pakistani LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said here. The troops picked up a suspected movement along the LoC in the forward area of Gulpar and intercepted the intruder, they said. PTI

**Aamir Khan, Kiran Rao announce divorce**

MUMBAI, 3 JULY

Actor Aamir Khan and producer-director Kiran Rao on Saturday announced their decision to divorce after 15 years of marriage and said they were ready to start a new chapter as co-parents and family for each other. They will continue to work as collaborators on movies, their NGO Paani Foundation and other professional projects, the couple said in a joint statement.

Khan, 56, and Rao, 47, first met on the sets of the actor's 2001 blockbuster movie "Lagaan" and tied the knot in December 2005. They welcomed their son Azad Rao Khan in December 2011.

"In these 15 beautiful years together we have shared a lifetime of experiences, joy and laughter, and our relationship has only grown in trust, respect and love. Now we would like to begin a new chapter in our lives - no longer as husband and wife, but as co-parents and family for each other."

"We began a planned separation some time ago, and now feel comfortable to formalise this arrangement, of living separately yet sharing our lives the way an extended family does," the statement read.

Khan and Rao said they will remain devoted parents to their son Azad. "A big thank you to our families and friends for their constant support and understanding about this evolution in our relationship, and without whom we would not have been so secure in taking this leap. We request our well-wishers for good wishes and blessings, and hope that - like us - you will see this divorce not as an end, but as the start of a new journey." PTI

# UP dist panchayat chief polls: BJP candidates won 67 seats

People's blessings for development, public service, rule of law: PM on BJP's win in UP local polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW, 3 JULY

The Uttar Pradesh BJP has claimed that the party-backed candidates won 67 of 75 seats of the district panchayat chief, the voting for which was held on Saturday.

Lauding the BJP's "glorious win" in zila panchayat polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that this was people's blessings to the party for its work for development, public service and rule of law. State BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh told reporters that the success of the party was due to the welfare policies initiated by its government and the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

"The BJP+ (BJP and its allies) has won 67 out of 75 seats of zila panchayat chairpersons. For these unprecedented results, I thank the people of the state and hardworking party workers," he said in a Hindi tweet.

The polling for the seats had begun at 11 am and continued till 3 pm. Meanwhile, a video surfaced on social media, in which former Samajwadi Party MP from Chandauli Ramkishan Yadav can be seen falling at the feet of members of a zila panchayat, allegedly to seek votes for his nephew, prompting UP BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi to take a jibe at him.

SP MLC Ashutosh Sinha said Yadav only touched the feet of independent voters.

**BJP used 'force', 'kidnapped' voters: Akhilesh**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW, 3 JULY

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday charged the ruling BJP with making a mockery of the elections to the posts of district panchayat chief, alleging that it "kidnapped" voters and used "force" to prevent them from voting.

The ruling BJP has claimed that the party-backed candidates emerged victorious on 67 of the 75 seats, the elections for which were held on Saturday.

"To convert its defeat into victory, the BJP got the voters kidnapped, used force with the help of police and administration to stop them from voting," the SP chief alleged in a party release.

The BJP made a mockery of all democratic norms, something not seen earlier, he alleged. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said it is strange that while most results in the elections for the zila panchayat members were in favour of the Samajwadi Party, the BJP gained in the polls for the district panchayat chief.

The complicity of officials has also come to the fore, he alleged. The SP chief said despite submitting a memorandum to the state Election Commissioner, no action was taken and alleged that the dictatorship of the ruling party was clearly visible.

Citing the cases, he said pro-Samajwadi Party member Arun Rawat was kid-



Police personnel lathi-charge Samajwadi Party workers as they protest against declaring a BJP candidate winner in the District Panchayat President poll in Prayagraj on Saturday.

napped in Lucknow. SP candidate Vijay Laxmi was made to sit in the DM's office and her husband MLA Ambareesh Pushkar was prevented from meeting her, he alleged. Samajwadi Party workers and women were subjected to indecency when they protested, he alleged.

The SP chief added that the public is ready to give a reply for the "rigging" in the elections in the upcoming Assembly polls.

Symbol but candidates enjoy the tacit support of various parties. The districts where zila panchayat chairpersons won unopposed are Saharanpur, Bahraich, Etawah, Chitrakoot, Agra, Gautam Budh Nagar, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Moradabad,

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**Moment in history**

Afghanistan bore witness to a watershed development when the last Nato and US forces left the key airbase in Bagram on Friday. The pullout signals that the complete withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan is imminent. Not the least in the context of President Joe Biden's statement that US forces will be gone by September 11. That said, it needs to be underlined that the withdrawal from the sprawling base, north of Kabul, has happened in parallel to the Taliban advancing in many parts of Afghanistan. On the face of it, the pullout from Bagram is of tremendous importance as the nerve-centre has been at the heart of a war for the past 20 years. "I want to talk about happy things," President Biden is reported to have said on Friday. America now wants to end its longest war with its huge cost in human lives and vast expense, and is leaving security to the Afghan government. Some 2,500-3,500 US troops were thought to be still in Afghanistan until recently. As of May this year, there were about 7,000 other coalition troops in Afghanistan but it is believed that most have now left, with Germany and Italy declaring their missions over on Wednesday. A resurgent Taliban, buoyed by the expectation of the foreign withdrawal, has overrun dozens of districts, amid fears that a new civil war could erupt after the departure of foreign forces. The outlook, therefore, is bleak even at the mildest estimation. Bagram, once a stronghold of Soviet forces, was the symbol of American military might. Afghanistan's security forces will soon confront the challenge of securing this sprawling city within a city. Bagram is vital - in symbolic and strategic ways. Taliban fighters, advancing in districts across the country, have this prize in their sights. Even last October, residents of the town said Taliban militants were present in their midst. In the perspective of Afghan security forces, the US withdrawal is a mixed blessing. There is said to be a wealth of military assets within its walls; but that treasure is a primary target for Taliban, not to mention corrupt commanders and others with an eye on the fortune.

President Biden said he wanted to celebrate the 4 July holiday weekend, adding that "all across America people are going to ball games and doing good things", and he would instead answer the "negative questions" of the media next week. His spokesperson, Jen Psaki, said at a daily press briefing: "We expect the withdrawal to be completed by the end of August." Bagram was one of the sites identified in a US Senate report on the CIA's interrogation of Al Qaida suspects, including the use of torture, carried out in detention facilities. Afghanistan now prepares for a different kind of ordeal.

**Puducherry pains**

The first National Democratic Alliance government of the Union Territory of Puducherry sworn in on 27 June, almost two months after the Assembly election results were declared, is essentially a government of the All-India NR Congress (AINRC) led by N Rangasamy in which the Bharatiya Janata Party is a junior partner. The BJP tried its best to have its way in the formation of the Council of Ministers and the distribution of portfolios, but Rangasamy had his way. Puducherry had remained a Congress bastion for long. The AINRC-AIADMK alliance (the BJP was an ally of the AIADMK) emerged victorious in the April election. Rangasamy was the Congress Chief Minister of Puducherry between 2001 and 2006 and from 2006 to 2008 when the party high command asked him to step down to install one of its favourites as Chief Minister. Rangasamy floated his own AINRC Congress and returned as Chief Minister in 2011. Puducherry, a former French colony, was the BJP's dream project for gaining a toe-hold in the south for the NDA. Having poached the Congress unit of the Union Territory, the BJP won six seats in the 30-member Assembly. The AINRC won 10 seats. The BJP demanded creation of the post of deputy chief minister to accommodate one of its MLAs who was promised the chief ministership. It was rejected outright by Rangasamy who offered two Cabinet berths and the speakership to the BJP. This is Rangasamy's fourth term as Puducherry Chief Minister. Even after a week of the swearing-in of the Council of Ministers, portfolio allocation cannot be completed as the two BJP Ministers are insisting on lucrative portfolios.

Although the BJP has tasted power for the first time in Puducherry, the ride ahead is not going to be smooth. The election manifestos of the BJP and the AINRC are diametrically opposite in certain key areas. The AINRC demands statehood for Puducherry. The BJP is opposed to it. The AINRC does not share the BJP's enthusiasm to implement Hindi. It is on the same page as the DMK in neighbouring Tamil Nadu. Puducherry's budget for 2020-21 does not leave much scope to implement the manifold social welfare measures the two parties promised in their respective manifestos.

The Union Territory desperately needs a legislative assembly-cum-secretariat complex. The Assembly now functions from the heritage public square built by the French colonial rulers which include, among other things, the Raj Nivas where the Lt Governor resides, the French Consulate and the Chamber of Commerce. Embalam R Selvam, the BJP MLA elected as Speaker of the Assembly, along with his party MLAs visited Delhi and called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi pleading for a new secretariat complex. They have not received a positive response except for an opportunity to be photographed with the Prime Minister who tweeted, "Met a delegation of MLAs from Puducherry. Discussed the various efforts for Puducherry's all-round development." Even if the new Council of Ministers is unable to commit itself to any of their grandiose schemes, it should at least ensure the existing welfare measures are continued.

**CCP at 100 ~ I**

**Mao next to Lenin, is rightly credited with the establishment of a new state with a new regime. Among the architects and makers of the twentieth century, he deserves a rightful place. His Marxism was pragmatic as it had its roots in Chinese history and philosophy**



**C**hina in the 1920s was an economically backward country under considerable foreign domination. The 1911 Republican Revolution had a lasting imprint but lacking any indigenous blueprint the radicals derived inspiration from the Bolsheviks and Lenin. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was founded by Li Dazhao (1888-1927) and Chen Duxiu (1879-1942) in 1921 in Shanghai with 11 enthusiastic young men who included Mao Zedong (1893-1976).

Li was the chief librarian at Beijing University and the first communist to join the Kuomintang. Chen, the editor of the influential journal New Youth, advocated guild socialism under the influence of John Dewey (1859-1932). Li felt that Marxism lacked ethical perspective as Marx did not stress the fact that good persons could emerge as they learned through mutual aid. The early Chinese Marxists entertained the idea of a glorious future for China. But they were not prepared to follow the rigid periodisation of reaching the ideal as that would a long-drawn process.

In the early 1920s, the CCP supported Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's Kuomintang (KMT) which was endorsed by Lenin and Stalin. However, the alliance ran into difficulties with Sun's death in 1925. Chiang Kai-shek succeeded Sun in 1926. The KMT started the Northern Expedition to drive out the warlords and the Western imperialists who aided them. In 1927, Chiang also attacked the communists ending the fragile alliance.

The Comintern representatives in China, Michael Borodin and MN Roy could not salvage the situation for the Marxists. This bitter experience forced the CCP to be distrustful of bourgeois parties and rely on the revolutionary potential of the working class. However, Mao on returning to Hunan in 1925 began to explore the possibilities of peasants providing the leadership for the impending revolution thus distancing himself from Lenin.

In 1934, when the Kuomintang army gained decisive military advantage, they overwhelmed the communists and the latter to avoid annihilation fled to Northern China. This epic retreat called the Long March was a journey by 100,000 communists covering 6000 miles. Only 35,000 survived. Within the CCP, there was a leadership struggle and Mao gained the top position in 1935, one of total dominance which he enjoyed till his death in 1976. The Kuomintang fighters were better equipped and larger in number as they faced the Japanese onslaught. The Marxists were confined to a remote corner but were more disciplined and led by better generals and that helped them to beat the Kuomintang in the civil war in 1945-49.

Meanwhile in view of the Japanese attack, there was temporary truce between the KMT and CCP. Stalin also encouraged the truce. However, after the defeat of Japan in 1945, the China question assumed importance. The US and Stalin supported the KMT and tried to negotiate a coalition government between Mao and Chiang. Eventually Chiang lost because he could not control the warlords and because his government was also corrupt and repressive. Mao on the contrary was popular. With the capture of mainland China by the CCP, Chiang fled to Formosa (Taiwan) in 1949.

Mao next to Lenin, is rightly credited with the establishment of a new state with a new regime. Among the architects and makers of the twentieth century, he deserves a rightful place. His Marxism was pragmatic as it had its roots in Chinese history and philosophy.

new regime. Among the architects and makers of the twentieth century, he deserves a rightful place. His Marxism was pragmatic as it had its roots in Chinese history and philosophy. Initially a radical, he became a Marxist in 1918. Like Lenin, Mao did not create the Chinese Communist Party but framed its strategies which enabled it to achieve victory and acquire power. Like Stalin, he laid the foundations of a socialist economy, achieved collectivization of agriculture but established a personalized dictatorship.

Mao's most original contribution to Marxism since 1925 was in recognizing and accepting the revolutionary role of the peasantry whom he looked upon as the vanguard of the revolution. He viewed Chinese capitalism as potentially reactionary and alien. He observed that China had a rich revolutionary tradition and a splendid historical heritage but was sluggish in her economic, political and cultural development. Foreign intervention had led to internal changes within the country.

The Chinese 'new democratic revolution' had a dual nature. In its minimum programme it would seek a United Front to overthrow feudal elements, bureaucratic-capitalists, foreign imperialists and consolidate the new democratic revolution that would inevitably lead to a socialist and eventually a



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communist society. In its minimum programme it would aim for a gradual transformation of the non-proletarian classes in the United Front. Mao was vague about the length of time required for completing the entire process.

With regard to the Party organization, Mao adopted the Leninist concept of democratic centralism which envisaged free discussion within the party but strict compliance by all with decisions taken. In reality within the communist Parties of the former USSR and China there was greater reliance on centralism than democracy. But theoretically at least Mao was more conscious of the need for people's involvement as he advocated the mass line which meant consultation with local people. Maoism intertwined centralism and democracy with a theory of knowledge following the Leninist perception that the elite would lead and people were to be led.

Inheriting a bankrupt economy, the CCP initiated a series of measures to set the house in order. Large capitalist enterprises were nationalised. The Land Law of June 1950 was adopted guaranteeing each individual at the age of sixteen a minimum land-holding such that a family of five would have about one hectare. Fearing that the peasants would

oppose sudden collectivization, and after the Soviet experience, social reforms were gradually enforced. The land of absentee landlords was redistributed to begin with, and subsequently economic differences were narrowed through fiscal measures.

Through the First Five Year Plan (1953-57) attempts to socialise the economy were initiated beginning with heavy industries and then light industries and retail enterprises, and finally to collectivize farms. The last two measures were stiffly opposed by the majority of peasants and small producers.

Stalin died in 1955. Mao was not happy with Khrushchev's policy of peaceful coexistence and was alarmed at de-Stalinization, as he adored Stalin. The complete break with the former Soviet Union came in 1957 because of ideological differences and territorial disputes. The de-Stalinization campaign and reforms initiated by Khrushchev led Mao to announce surprise initiatives in political liberalization. He welcomed criticisms of his government and its policies with the view to improve the system. This was called 'let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools contend' which was abruptly terminated following the virulent criticisms that poured in from all quarters.

Needless to say, Mao was not prepared for such a shock. He reversed his stance and stifled all further criticism. He launched the Great Leap Forward for rapid industrialization and the Great Cultural Proletarian Revolution as a part of the image building exercise. Both were disastrous failures and millions died in the ensuing famine.

It was during the Great Leap Forward campaign that Mao gave full expression to his vision of the socialist future: good material life for all, abolition of distinctions between town and country, mental and physical labour, workers, peasants and the intellectuals and the eventual dissolution of the state. True communism would be built through basic industries and a modern economy. The Great Leap Forward was intended to be a period of transition from socialism to communism.

However, all these were abandoned for there was a steep fall in production and the threat of a famine loomed large. By the mid-1960s, backyard industries were abandoned and barrack communes disappeared. The Great Leap Forward also led to a reassessment of the power of the state and party bureaucracies that were targeted during the Cultural Revolution. In the summer of 1959, Mao abandoned the talk of imminence of the transition to communism. He realized that socio-economic transformation would be an arduous process. He also abandoned talk of overtaking the advanced West in fifteen years.

In this admission he showed more maturity than Khrushchev who made an elaborate plan of overtaking the USA in production and reaching full communism by the 1980s. Mao began his indigenous nuclear programme and joined the nuclear club in 1964.

In the early 1970s, the US initiated its policy of détente with China officially recognizing it, abandoning nationalist Chiang and accepting Mao's one China policy. Both Mao and Chou Enlai died in 1976. There was an intense power struggle and the famous Gang of Four were jailed. A new era began with Deng.

(To Be Concluded)

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

editor@thestatesman.com

**Population games**

**SIR,** Of late there is lot of discussion in the public, at the behest of politicians, regarding population control, and apparently directed at a particular minority community. This is quite amusing and interesting too.

Studies and research have repeatedly shown that population growth is not influenced by religion (Iran or even Bangladesh are examples), or for that matter, large families are not confined to a few religious communities. Rather, growth in population is influenced by ignorance (or lack of education) and economic and societal positions, spe-

cially of women. It is well known that even today an average family in rural areas is larger than in urban areas. In fact, rate of decadal population growth in India, over

all, has continuously shown a declining trend in recent decades.

A recent publication by the Lancet, the reputed peer reviewed medical journal, analyses that the population of India would decline to around 130 crore by the end of the century. In fact, the

replacement rate of population would be lower than mortality. Of course, the

study reveals, the population of the country is likely to increase and peak to around 160 crores, in a couple of decades, from the current level of around 135 crores. This may have severe

impact on society, specially if the aged outnumber the young ones.

We would do well also to note that China, the country having a population larger than India, started allowing couples to have a third child, from stricter controls earlier.

**RECKLESS**

**SIR,** In West Bengal as well as in other parts of the country, the rate of Covid infections has dropped slightly. Forthwith, people have prepared themselves to become reckless again. Already many have bid goodbye to masks. Addas have started in tea stalls and in the market places. It was because of this class of irresponsible people that the second wave of Covid took such a deadly form. If the third wave comes after this, these unconscious people will be responsible for that. It is never possible for the police-administration to rule the people with stick always. Unconscious citizens are nothing but a waste.

Yours, etc., Sugata Tripathi, Purba Medinipur, 2 July.

The average age of Indians is going up, with more people in the higher age groups. With better medical facilities, the longevity of people would also increase. With more people in the higher age groups (with low or nil economic productivity or income), more people with economic productivity would be required to support those who are aging.

In the days of modern science, when education and awareness hold the key to progress, society must be alert so that it is not doomed in future for its actions today, and must not fall prey to selfish themes aroused by politicians of different hues.

Yours, etc., D Bhutia, Guwahati, 30 June.

## Glocalization of humanity

ANDREW SHENG

**W**hy is Marxism thriving in China and not in Marx's place of birth? Why is Buddhism more practised in East Asia than in India? Why has Islam more followers outside Saudi Arabia?

Ideas and religion spread through globalisation, but it was really their localisation that created more believers and followers. What succeeded was not globalisation, but glocalisation, the internalisation of universal ideas and beliefs by the many, and not just the few.

Few Westerners see the irony of a supposedly closed China celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) when communism was born but essentially rejected in the West. What was it about Marx that resonated with Chinese civilization that prided itself on its own ancient and enduring philosophy?

LSE Emeritus Professor Meghnad Desai, writing on "Marx's Revenge", made the shrewd observation that the Chinese Revolution in the 20th century was very different from the French and American Revolutions in the 18th century. The French Revolution was a domestic rebellion against the monarchy and the landed gentry, whilst the American Revolution was rebellion against British foreign domination. Both created republics and preached equality, liberty and freedom, but both went on to create empires, one by conquering lands from the native Indians and Mexico, and the other through Napoleon's rampage in Europe.

The Chinese Revolution was different because it was simultaneously a struggle against foreign invasion (Japanese and earlier the Eight Nations Alliance) as well as the Nationalist government that favoured the capitalist and landed classes. The CCP won because it represented the rural peasantry, rather than adopting the Comintern strategy of starting the revolution from the cities. In short, the CCP localised universal Communism with Chinese characteristics. It was practical rather than ideological.

By the time of the fall of the Qing Dynasty in 1911, Chinese thinkers struggled with what would replace the old order. The country fell into warlordism. The Nationalist Party under Sun Yat-sen struggled to balance the conservative wing that represented the landlords and capitalists, and the left wing influenced by Communism and socialism.



Chinese revolutionaries followed closely the Russian Revolution in 1911, because it was then the most recent model of social transformation. The Chinese elite understood that the rebuilding of China from the collapse of the old order was a monumental task. The country was backward, and the uneducated masses were unprepared for modernity, vulnerable to foreign conquest. Even though they felt the burden of history, they also understood that there was no parallel in history on the scale of Chinese transformation.

The Chinese Left took to Marxist thinking because Marx gave both a historical and political economy perspective on how capitalism would evolve, as well as a philosophical tool in terms of Hegelian dialectics. Marx used the profound insights of the Prussian philosopher Hegel that transformations come from contradictions of opposites, in which change will not happen in a smooth line, but through revolution or discontinuity. Marx's discovery of dialectic materialism - in everything, the contradiction and interaction between opposites lead to the

destruction of the old and emergence of the new - was music to the ears of those who sought a path out for the New China. Furthermore, the fundamental ideas of dialectics were very similar to the Chinese yin-yang philosophy of the I Ching and Dao De Jing. As Lenin put it, "dialectics is the study of the contradiction within the very essence of things. Development is the struggle of opposites."

Having theory is one thing but putting these ideas into practice is another. We can only appreciate China's miraculous transformation from a backward economy to the second largest economy in the world by understanding that this was done through essentially three dictums: "seek truth from facts", "crossing the river by feeling the stones" and "it doesn't matter whether a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice."

In other words, make fact-based decisions, always try or test under uncertainty, and above all, be practical and have an open mind. Change is a process between conflicting contradictions. There is no absolute black and white.

Historian Ray Huang, one of the

finest Sinologists of his generation and a former Nationalist soldier, wrote in the preface to his classic "China: A Macro-History": "Chinese history differs from the history of other peoples and other parts of the world because of an important factor: its vast multitudes... In the imperial period as well as in the very recent past, practical problems had to be translated into abstract notions in order to be disseminated. In turn, at the local level the message had once again to be rendered into everyday language."

It is the reduction of very complicated policies into simple language that the Chinese people had to understand and own that enabled them to buy into the transformation, despite the huge sacrifices at the individual and community levels. The people's eyes are clearer than those of the elites.

The US-China rivalry has done the world a favour by contrasting very fundamental worldviews. When the West preaches a value and rules-based order, what is meant is that freedom, democracy and individual rights are absolute - essentially a zero-sum "my

way or no way." Globalization is interpreted as universalisation of American or European values and standards. But the fact remains that these standards and rules were imposed historically by conquest, colonisation and force.

When China, Russia, India or any other country deviates or disagrees with that, then they must be contained, confronted or sanctioned. Localisation or being different is almost seen as deviant rather than a celebration of diversity.

Civilizations reach their highest levels through tolerance and openness. When they become inward-looking, fundamentalist and mono-thinking, fragility and decay sets in. The world is simultaneously becoming more global in inter-connectivity, even as regionalisation, fragmentation and localisation speeds up.

Glocalisation, the simultaneous contradiction between global and local, is to be welcomed, rather than feared. The future will always be open, uncertain and contradictory. Such diversity is the nature of humanity.

The writer, a former Central banker, writes on global issues from an Asian perspective.  
Special to ANN.

**POLITICAL DIARY | KALYANI SHANKAR**

## As the Left gasps for breath

**T**he Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is celebrating its hundredth anniversary. The Indian Communist party, too, will see its centenary soon. But Communism is declining all over the world.

Communism is a political and economic ideology that opposes liberal democracy and capitalism and advocates a classless system. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill is credited with saying, "If you're not a liberal when you're 25, you have no heart. If you're not a conservative by the time you're 35, you have no brain."

The Russian revolution brought the Communists to power in 1917 and in other countries later, which made the world sit up and recognize Karl Marx. But Lenin left behind a distorted Marxism. Today there are only five Communist countries, namely China, Cuba, Laos, North Korea, and Vietnam.

The economic theories of Karl Marx advocated more than 150 years ago, became unchallengeable doctrine in many countries for much of the 20th century. In fact, the term Marxist was unknown in those days. Karl Marx himself once said, "All I know is that I am not a Marxist." He died a poor man, and only 11 people showed up for his funeral when he



died at 65.

The Communists, however, are no longer politically dominant. With the globalisation of the Indian market, the death of the USSR, and the absence of grassroots leaders like EMS Namboodiripad, who led the first communist government in Kerala, the decline started. The organised workforce also shrunk.

M.N. Roy founded the Commu-

nist Party in India in 1925. Interestingly, the RSS was formed just three months before the CPI. By embracing the parliamentary route in the first general elections (1951-52), the undivided CPI and the People's Democratic Front bagged 24 Lok Sabha seats with a vote share of 4.59 per cent. It was the main opposition party in the first, second and third Lok Sabhas.

The Left's decline began with the CPI splitting in 1964 following ideological differences between the Soviet and Chinese parties. One of the issues on which the two parties differed was the role of India's ruling Congress party.

In 1967, the CPI got 23 seats and 5.11 per cent of votes, and the CPM bagged 19 seats with a vote share of 4.28 per cent. In the next few decades, the CPI-M entrenched itself in West Bengal and ruled the state from 1977 to 2011. In Tripura, it ruled for 25 years till 2018, and in Kerala, it had mixed success.

After the Emergency, the CPI ended its association with the Congress and became a junior partner of CPI (M)-led alliances in the three Left strongholds. However, the CPI (M) rebuffed its calls for the reunification of the two parties.

The Left parties were at their height in 2004 when they got 61 seats in the Lok Sabha and supported the UPA government. However, they pulled out their support in 2008 on the issue of the Indo-US nuclear pact. Since then, it has seen only downward movement. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the CPM and CPI won three and two seats respectively, with corresponding poll shares of 1.75 and 0.58 per cent. Today it is only ruling in Kerala.

One of the reasons for their decline is that they have become

irrelevant and do not keep pace with the changes in the world. Secondly, they are unable to keep in step with the millennials or understand their aspirations. Because of this, their membership has dwindled.

Thirdly, their sources of funding have also shrunk with the loss of states like West Bengal. Fourthly, they no longer have leaders like E.M.S. Namboodiripad. After Jyoti Basu's death, the party lost its sheen even in West Bengal.

Fortunately for them, Pinarayi Vijayan is keeping the flag flying in Kerala by winning a second term recently.

Finally, the Left front is not united. As many as 84 parties branched out from the parent party (CP) and follow communism today.

Just like the Congress, the Left parties are also living in the past and do not see the present political reality while the BJP is surging. Across the globe, a political rightward shift is slowly and steadily gaining momentum.

It would be tragic if the Left were to disappear. For all its failures, it is needed to maintain India's democratic character. But to remain relevant it has to change and be in step with the present-day realities. India has changed and the Left has failed to keep pace. Pragmatic decisions and a shift in approach are essential.

**NOW AND AGAIN**

## A favoured train ride

ADITYA MUKHERJEE

**T**he Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express brings back a flood of memories of my first journey in an air-conditioned train as a student. It was the summer of 1980, when my father decided to take the entire family by Rajdhani Express on a trip to Calcutta for the first time to spend a month in the house of maternal aunts and uncles. During those days, there used to be only first-class sleepers in Rajdhani, and the remaining coaches would be chair cars. Having been inured to travelling by ordinary non-AC three-tier trains till then - these would take around twenty-four hours to reach Calcutta - the experience of travelling by the fully air-conditioned Rajdhani Express was nothing short of surreal.

Unlike ordinary non-AC three tiers where uncouth ticketless passengers would occupy any reserved seat without any scruple, this train was different in every respect. There was no scope for ticketless travelling. Once inside the chair car compartment, we found ourselves hermetically shielded from the oppressive summer heat with no fear of our seats being occupied by somebody else. The compartment also held us in thrall with its clean and shining sky-blue chairs and colourful curtains.

As the train chugged out of the station at 5 in the evening, a pre-recorded male voice wished us a happy journey. With the train picking up speed, the city's urban landscapes and monuments whooshed by, while the strains of Rabindra Sangeet wafted from the audio system. Food would be served at our table at regular intervals, right from snacks, evening tea, soup to dinner and followed by ice cream.

The next morning, tea and breakfast would be promptly served to the passengers before the train pulled into Howrah station at around 11 a.m. During our entire journey, whenever the train halted at a station, we could see a sizeable crowd looking at the train with a mixture of curiosity and wonderment. Some would even cup their hands to peer through the haze of double-paned window glasses.

In the 1970s and 80s, travelling by the Rajdhani Express became a status symbol for the middle class. And with sleeper classes replacing the chair cars, this train turned out to be the most sought after among summer vacationers travelling to Calcutta and back.

We three school-going brothers would wait for the summer to arrive so that we could all travel by our favourite Calcutta Rajdhani. The seventeen hours that we spent inside the compartment afforded us the luxury of enjoying a comfortable sleep on the cushy berth besides relishing the tasty food which kept our spirits high.

After our elder sister got married in Kolkata, the yearly visit to the city by Rajdhani became almost a routine affair. Even today, despite the growing craze for air travel, one cannot still take Rajdhani out of us. Bongs, try as one might, because our emotional loyalty to it remains as strong as ever.

**100 YEARS AGO**

## THE "CATHOLIC HERALD" & MR. HICKSON

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR - Fair Play expresses the opinion that "had Mr. Hickson been a Roman Catholic, the Catholic Herald would have indulged in a hyperbolic apostrophe over his power." It is only possible to state what the Catholic Herald has or has not done. During the war a certain Claire Ferchaud, a pious French girl, obtained a good deal of notoriety among Catholics, together with the designation of "Second Joan of Arc," by her revelations, prophecies, miraculous cures, and what not. Though repeatedly urged to publish the accounts of her marvellous doings, the Catholic Herald refused to take any notice of them, at the cost of its popularity among a certain section of Catholics, - and silence was the only possible policy at the moment, considering that the girl was a splendid heroine for the Allies. Eventually a commission of experts appointed by Rome put down the whole thaumaturgy to hysterics.

A. GILLE.  
Editor, Catholic Herald of India,  
Calcutta.

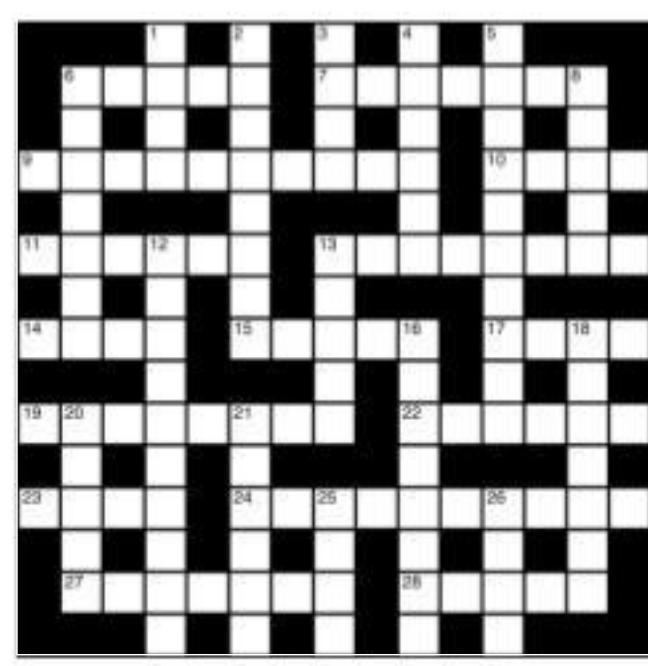
## BENGAL PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

To The Editor Of The Statesman

SIR - I was glad to learn that the Bengal Pensioners Association has recently been formed under the presidency of Mr. H.A. Stark, I have joined it, and I would urge every Government pensioner to do the same. The subscription is only 8 annas per cent monthly. It is anomalous that only pensioners drawing the highest pensions, and those drawing Rs 40 and less should be favoured, and that the others should be left out in the cold, to die of starvation. Lord Reading, our new Viceroy, has in his public utterances, said that he has hitherto administered justice according to law, but he will now administer justice according to equity as well as law, and we pensioners look to him with confidence that he will do something for us. As long ago as June, 1913, the Anglo-Indian Association memorialised Government to exempt pensions from income tax.

T.A.M.  
Calcutta.

**CROSSWORD**



### SOLUTION FOR 27 JUNE

#### ACROSS

- 6 Order, for example, thus (3-2)
- 7 One day isles to the west, rejecting society, become peaceful (7)
- 9 Quarry Etna? Ludicrous, according to geologists nowadays (10)
- 10 Vegetation finally eaten by shy rabbit (4)
- 11 Accidentally annoy Egypt's leader, an arbitrary individual (6)
- 13 Banking controller delights bloodsucker (8)
- 14 Periodically escaping to yonder river (4)

#### DOWN

- 15 P, not L, is a kind-hearted soul (5)
- 17 The man in question intoned church music (4)
- 19 Channel influence to contain annoying person (8)
- 22 Critically, disastrously, weirdly failing to start (6)
- 23 Tactic when love becomes a farce? (4)
- 24 Distressed by who'd use a brothel (5,5)
- 27 Parking neatly when hammered? Fine, sometimes (7)
- 28 How the abstinent imbibe, ironically (5)
- 1 Case of chronically having stone in bladder? (4)
- 2 Perhaps drives one's jury mad (8)
- 3 Greeting from Hawaii always uplifting (4)
- 4 At heart envions playful, amazing style – prefiguring, maybe, a linear arrangement (6)
- 5 Bird gets spider (10)
- 6 One of five in hotel not seeing straight (7)
- 8 A bit of diplomacy? Nice, but I doubt your motives (5)
- 12 Covering up, given royal

NO 28962

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)

## THUMBNAILS

**IPGA on stock limits on pulses:** The India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA) on Saturday expressed shock over the government imposing stock limits on pulses till October, in a bid to prevent hoarding and check price rise. The industry is "utterly shocked. The IPGA will make a representation to the government and address the issue", it said. "We urge the government to immediately withdraw the order as it is not in the interest of anybody," IPGA vice-chairman Bimal Kothari said in a statement. The government on 2 July issued a notification imposing stock holding limits on all pulses except moong on wholesalers, retailers, millers and importers.

PTI

**Fleo tie-up:** The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (Fleo) on Saturday said it has inked a memorandum of understanding with logistics service provider Aramax India to support micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) exporters in India. As part of the MoU, it said Aramax will provide preferential pricing to Fleo members, as well as access to online services for cross-border express shipments.

PTI

**Godfrey Phillips:** Godfrey Phillips India has bagged the title of Best Companies to Work for 2021. Participating for the third year, Godfrey Phillips India received a ranking of 28th this year, said a Press release. The recognition by Great Places to Work (GPTW) that ranks companies worldwide on outstanding people practices and workplace cultures is a validation of the dynamic culture of Godfrey Phillips that stands on the pillars of respect, transparency, collaboration, empowerment and passion for winning, said the company. SNS

**Amazon delivery:** Amazon India has announced the launch of "Amazon day delivery" for all Prime members ~ a more predictable and convenient delivery benefit, giving Prime members the option of choosing a weekly delivery day for the items they purchase throughout the week, said a release.

SNS

## NEWSFEED

**Punjab & Sind Bank celebrates 114th Foundation Day**



Punjab & Sind Bank celebrated its 114th Foundation Day on 24th June 2021. On this momentous occasion, Sh. S Krishnan, MD & CEO informed that the bank was established in 1908 at Amritsar and has played a significant role in shaping the banking landscape of pre and post-independent India. Speaking on the occasion,

S Krishnan expressed gratitude towards all the stakeholders and customers for being with the Bank during the illustrious journey of 113 years.

PTI

# Car makers see sales recovery on easing Covid restrictions

Maruti, Hyundai, Tata Motors, M&M, Kia, Toyota and Honda report healthy growth in PV sales

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 3 JULY

**M**ajor automobile companies, including Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Kia, Toyota and Honda, have reported healthy growth in passenger vehicles sales in June, recovering from the disruptions induced by the second wave of Covid-19.

The country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) posted total sales of 1,47,368 units in June, up from 46,555 units in May.

Its domestic dispatches to dealers last month stood at 1,30,348 units, up from 35,293 units in May, as easing of Covid-related restrictions helped the auto major to dispatch more units to dealerships.

The company's sales of mini cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, rose to 17,439 units in June from 4,760 units in May this year.

Similarly, sales of compact segment vehicles, includ-

## Report card for June



**In the domestic market stood at 24,110 units in June, up from 15,181 units in May.**

**► Mahindra & Mahindra's passenger vehicle sales in the domestic market stood at 16,913 units last month, up from 8,004 units in May.**

ing Swift, Celerio, Ignis, Baleno and Dzire, increased to 68,849 units last month from 20,343 cars in May. MSI's utility vehicle dispatches, including Vitara Brezza, S-Cross and Ertiga, stood at 28,172 units, up from 6,355 in May.

Rival Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) reported total sales of 54,474 units in June, up from 30,703 units in May. The automaker's domestic

service) Tarun Garg said in a statement.

Homegrown auto major Tata Motors said its passenger vehicle sales in the domestic market stood at 24,110 units in June, up from 15,181 units in May.

"The PV industry continues to witness uncertainty on account of global semiconductor shortage and rising commodity prices, while the demand side is on a progressive recovery path," Tata Motors president, passenger vehicles business unit, Shailesh Chandra said.

He further said: "We continue to see strong customer interest in our product offerings, resulting in a strong order book and we aim to fulfil those to the best of our abilities in this supply constrained environment."

Mahindra & Mahindra also reported an increase in passenger vehicle sales in the domestic market at 16,913 units last month, up from 8,004 units in May.

"With the opening up of the market in a phased manner, we are seeing a boost in

demand in both urban and rural areas and we expect the upward trend in demand to continue across all segments and markets," M&M chief executive officer (automotive division) Veejay Nakra said.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor's (TKM) June sales stood at 8,801 units, up from 707 units in May this year. It had sold 3,866 units in June last year.

"Having resumed production with a 50 per cent workforce last month after the gradual unlocking in Karnataka, our immediate goal was to cater to the pending orders of our customers," TKM senior vice-president Naveen Soni said.

MG Motor India also reported an increase in sales at 3,558 units in June. It had sold 1,016 units in the preceding month. Similarly, Kia India said its dispatches to dealers in June stood at 15,015 units in June, up from 11,050 units in May this year.

Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) said its June sales were better at 4,767 units, up from 2,032 units in May 2021.

## business

## Committed to empowering our traders: Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, 3 JULY

## Our government

has taken a landmark step of including retail and wholesale trade as MSME. This will help crores of our traders get easier finance, various other benefits and also help boost their business. We are committed to empowering our traders."

Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister

wholesalers with businesses up to Rs 250 crore of turnover in availing immediate-term finance as part of various schemes announced under "Atmanirbhar Bharat" programme.

This landmark decision will have a structural impact for the sector, helping it get formalised by giving better finance options for businesses that want to get structured, they said, adding it will give retail MSMEs the support they need to "survive, revive and thrive".

## Jio unveils 'data loan' facility

NEW DELHI, 3 JULY

Reliance Jio has launched "emergency data loan" facility offering its phone users instant data on loan, which they can pay later. Jio understands that not every user is in a position to instantly purchase a data top-up due to various reasons, sources said.

Emergency data loan facility provides flexibility of "recharge now and pay later" functionality to Jio users who run out of their high-speed daily data quota and are unable to recharge immediately.

Under this, Jio will allow its prepaid users to borrow up to 5 emergency data loan packs of 1 GB each (valued Rs 11 per pack), they said. The emergency data loan can be availed through MyJio App. Sources said the emergency data loan facility will offer a simple yet powerful solution to these users, ensuring continuity of seamless high-speed data experience.

## Tea exports witness 33.45% growth in Apr

ABHRANILA DAS  
KOLKATA, 3 JULY

India's tea exports in April, the first month of the new fiscal 2021-22, rose in respect of both volume and value compared to the same month in the previous fiscal.

An analysis of the latest data released by the Tea Board shows that the average price of India's tea in the export market rose to Rs 240.44 a kg in April 2021-22 from Rs 211.90 in the previous fiscal, marking a growth of 13.47 per cent.

According to some tea exporters, the sudden lockdown imposed in a number of countries in the previous year in order to fight the emergence of Covid-19, along with some turbulence in the exchange market as well as banking transactions, led to a decline in tea shipping in various countries.

The total export volume witnessed a rise to 11.05 million kg in April this year from 8.28 million kg in the same month of the previous year, resulting in a steep rise of 33.45 per cent.

The overall earnings from tea exports for the month of April 2021 thus stood at Rs 265.69 crore compared with Rs 175.45 crore in April 2020, showing a growth of 51.43 per cent.

According to the Tea Board statistics, tea shipments have grown in countries such as Japan, Kenya, Iran, USA and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in the first month of the current financial year as against the previous one.

However, exports to Canada, UAE and some European states, including the United Kingdom, have reported a dip in April 2021 as compared to April last year.

(The author is a freelance business writer)

## Whitehurst steps down as IBM president

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 JULY

In a surprise development, IBM has announced that Jim Whitehurst has decided to step down as president of the company just 14 months after joining in that role.

Whitehurst has played a pivotal role in the \$34-billion IBM and Red Hat integration announced in 2018. He will continue to work as senior advisor to Arvind Krishna, chairman and CEO, IBM.

"In the almost three years since the acquisition was announced, Jim has been instrumental in articulating IBM's strategy, but also, in ensuring that IBM and Red Hat work well together and that our technology platforms and innovations provide more value to our clients," Krishna said in a statement late on Friday.

After IBM bought Red Hat in 2018 for \$34 billion, Ginny Rometty stepped down as CEO and Krishna took over.

## GJC writes to Goyal on hallmarking issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 3 JULY

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) website and FAQs do not capture many key points on hallmarking, discussed between the gems and jewellery industry and the government, causing confusion and disruption amongst jewellers, All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) said today.

In this regard, the industry body has written to Union minister for consumer affairs Piyush Goyal stating that the FAQs (frequently asked questions) released by BIS on their website have a lot of ambiguity and lack clarity, due to which there is confusion, immense unrest and disruption amongst jewellers, the GJC said in a statement.

It said the website and FAQs do not mention or capture several key points that were discussed during a meeting between the industry

stakeholders and the government, held on 15 June 2021. "A very important point of one-time registration for jewellers and no renewal with BIS is still not clearly mentioned in the FAQs on the BIS website. Another significant point about hallmarking being applicable only at the first point of sale is also missing," GJC chairman Ashish Pethe pointed out.

The elements of distribution, storage, transport, and exhibition for sale of jewellery (as mentioned in Section 15 of the BIS Act 2016) were not yet eliminated from

## ZEISS innovation

ONGC in Great Place to Work list of India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders

ONGC in Great Place to Work list of India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has been declared as one of India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders by the Great Place to Work (GPTW) on 18 June 2021. The Energy Maharatna has been featured in GPTW's "Wall of Fame" for its commitment towards securing India's energy availability. According to Great Place to Work, ONGC has been recognized for not only creating essential energy infrastructure in the country and directly and indirectly generating large scale employment opportunities, but also for its significant investment of resources for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to serve the community.

## HPCL becomes first company to bring Ethanol Blended Petrol in Ladakh



In a first, HPCL brings Ethanol Blended Petrol (Gasohol) in its Leh Depot, situated at an altitude of 11500 feet in Ladakh Region. Conquering the fuel requirement at such high altitude / low temperature and duly backed by robust quality checks, HPCL has become the first Oil Marketing Company in the country to launch Ethanol Blended Petrol in Ladakh region. HPCL's Leh depot, which was commissioned in 2018 with a total tankage of 4450 KL, is a crucial POL depot in the northern-most part of the country as it caters to the local demand and requirements of the Indian Armed Forces deployed along the borders.

## SCOPE observes International Yoga Day



On the occasion of the 7th International Yoga Day, Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) organised a session 'Enhancing Immunity through Yoga & Meditation' in collaboration with Bapu Nature Cure Hospital and Yoganidhra (BNCH), New Delhi. Rashmi Nair, Director, BNCH; Krishana Yadav, Yoga lead Trainer and Yashpal Singh, meditation expert took an interactive yoga session. Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE and Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA & Vice Chairman, SCOPE also addressed the participants. Over 450 participants with their families joined the informative module through SCOPE's various platforms.

## Film shooting becomes easier in Darjeeling; Step towards ease of doing business by N F Railway

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, a UNESCO World Heritage site is known all over the world for its fascinating journey through the hills of Himalayas in narrow gauge Toy trains. Apart from tourists, film enthusiasts also throng into this area for film shooting related works. Shooting of more than 25 Bollywood films was done in Darjeeling areas. Some of the famous Bollywood films shooting of which were done in Darjeeling are; Jab Pyar Kisi Se Hota Hai (1991), China Town (1962), Aradhana (1969), Raju Ban Gaya Gentleman (1992), Parineeta (2005), Barfi (2012) and Jagga Jasoos (2017). In order to mitigate the issue, North

east Frontier Railway has now provided a link in their official website (<https://nfr.indianrailways.gov.in/>). Any film producer or enthusiast willing to undertake film shooting either using toy train or a railway premises in Darjeeling Himalayan Railway can now apply online without physically coming to the shooting site or concerned offices. They can upload scanned copy of the necessary documents by visiting the dashboard.

## Swachhta Pakhwada kicked off at Haldia Refinery

The Swachhta Pakhwada - 2021, a 15 days dedicated program on Cleanliness to be observed at Haldia Refinery, Township and nearby areas with the theme "Swachhta hi Suraksha- Be Clean Go Green", was inaugurated by Partha Ghosh, ED & Refinery Head, Haldia Refinery by administration of Swachhta pledge along with other senior officials of Haldia Refinery. Mr. Ghosh encouraged all to make the Refinery and township premises "Single-use plastic Free Zone". He urged to align our outlook towards the advantages of a clean community, and overall wellbeing.

## NBCC records steady growth in FY 2020-21 even after Covid disruptions

The Board of Directors in a meeting held recently, approved the financial results of the company for the fourth quarter and year ended on March 31, 2021. The NBCC Board has recommended the final Dividend of Rs. 0.47 per paid up equity share of Rs. 1/- each i.e. @47% for the FY 2020-21, subject to the approval of Shareholders in the ensuing Annual General Meeting. The company posted Total Income from Operations (Net) of Rs. 4947.45 crore on stand-alone basis and Rs. 6832.06 crore on consolidated basis respectively, for the FY 2020-21. Commenting on the results, Sh. PK Gupta, CMD, NBCC, said, "In the current FY, NBCC's execution of several big-ticket projects has picked up well even after the Pandemic disruptions, which will improve our top and bottom line."

## International Yoga Day: NFL C&MD V N Datt performs Yoga at home

National Fertilizers Limited observed the 7th International Yoga Day on 21st June, 2021 wherein all the employees participated from homes by following this year's theme 'Yoga For Wellness'. V.N. Datt, C&MD, NFL participated in the event from home and urged everyone to make yoga and pranayama part of their life.

## Graphite India Ltd

Indian business operations registered stellar recovery during the second half and delivered higher profits. Board of Directors recommended a dividend of Rs 5 per share. Graphite India Limited, the largest Indian graphite electrode producer (referred to as "Graphite India" or the "Company"), recently announced its Consolidated and Standalone results for the year ended March 31. Commenting on the results and performance, K K Bangur, Chairman of Graphite India said: During FY2021, Graphite India registered net sales of Rs 1,958 crore, EBITDA of Rs 90 crore and net loss of Rs 32 crore. The capacity utilization during the year was 58% as compared to 55% in FY2020. Standalone Net Sales were Rs 1,839 crore, EBITDA of Rs 301 crore and net profit of Rs 199 crore.

# Odisha logs marginal dip in daily Covid count & TPR

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR, 3 JULY

In a marginal decline in daily infection and positivity rate, Odisha on Saturday clocked 2,917 fresh COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours at a Test Positivity Rate of 4.07 percent.

The dip in cases comes at a time when grave concerns were expressed at the national level over the high TPR trend persisting in at least four districts of the state and a central team is to arrive to study the situation.

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each. Odisha now has 30,557 active cases, and 3,265 people were cured of the disease on Friday, taking the total number of recoveries to 8,84,262.

The state tested 74,225 samples on Friday.

As many as 22 of the 30 districts in the state are in the green zone where the test positivity rate is below five percent and active cases remaining below 1,000 mark.

Three districts-Khordha, Cuttack and Balasore continue to be in the red zone with 3000 active cases.

State capital Bhubaneswar recorded a sharp decline with 211 new cases in the last 24 hours as against 345 cases the previous day. Five more patients succumbed in the city taking the death toll to 465. Health department

sources today sought to clarify the criticism especially on social media over the Odisha government's vaccination policy which made Covaxin exclusively for Bhubaneswar while the rest of the state was provided with Covishield.

The officials explained that this was due to production and supply levels of the two vaccines and also because Covaxin was on trial initially with a gap of 28 days between two doses and an undertaking to be taken by the beneficiary.

This could be done or completed in urban clusters and Bhubaneswar was the one cluster where we could provide or stock for both doses and ask people to furnish an undertaking said the health department official.

We need to balance between livelihood and enforcement, they said while pleading that strict enforcement cannot be carried on for long.

To a question on the concerns expressed by the centre and the proposed visit of a central team, the officials preferred to remain silent saying even they are not sure as to what more would the central team do. Already every day instructions, guidelines etc are issued and revised from time to time by those sitting in Delhi, quipped a health department official.

Asked why the three districts continue to remain in the red zone for long when other parts of the state had already turned green, the officials said these were urban business and official hubs where people commute every day for business or official work. The second and most important factor is the laxity in adhering to Covid appropriate behavior.

Renubala Panda, the caretaker of the CRC was arrested after prima facie found that she abetted to the sexual

exploitation of the inmates of the sort-stay home.

Earlier on 17 April, a 60-year-old male employee-Kunjabihari Panda- of the short stay on similar charges.

"On directions by Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Right (OSCP) we inquired into a specific case of sexual exploitation and found incriminating evidence against the accused persons", said Sasmita Behera the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case.

The famous car festival will be organized without the participation of devotees on 12 July as it had been done last year in view of the Covid health crisis.

These tourists' facilities were asked not to accept bookings from any visitors from July 10, 11, 12 and vacate the facilities by 9 July midnight hours said collector Puri Mr Samarth Verma.

We are taking no chances. Unless the hotels are being vacated well in advance to avoid possible unauthorized crowding along the grand road, on which the chariots carrying the deities are pulled during the annual festival.

The tainted currency was recovered and seized from Mishra. His house in Bhawanipatna town is being searched by the vigilance.

The accused is working as a special public prosecutor in the court of special vigilance judge, Bhawanipatna since 2011. SNS

The executive committee strongly opposed the policies of privatization and disinvestment for public sector like Railway, Defence, Bank, Insurance and Nilachal Ispat Nigam in Odisha and demanded that the NTPC Talcher Thermal should start functioning.

The INTUC chief Khuntia alleged that 50 percent of the construction workers have not received the Rs 1500/- financial assistance of the year 2020 as announced by the government. At least 4000 workers have died of Covid in the state, he said.

Stating that Coal India has provided Rs 15 lakh compensation and job to one of the members of the deceased

family, Khuntia said the same should be adopted by all public and the private sector as well as the government.

The executive committee decided to shift at least 538 families of 7 villages in Karanji subdivision in November.

Compensation, housing under various government housing schemes, shifting, temporary house facilities will provide the displaced families said official sources.

Earlier, the district administration had relocated 502 families out of 1040 families from Hatibari, Duhdiani and Migriniganj areas in different phases and the project work had started paving the way for partial commencement.

After a delay of almost three decades the first waters from the Deo irrigation project had been released on 25 June and now the Mayurbhanj district administration is out to expedite the project expansion-related work.

The authorities have decided to shift at least 538 families of 7 villages in Karanji subdivision in November.

It may be noted that the foundation stone for the Deo irrigation project had been laid in June 1992 and the project was estimated to cost Rs 52 crore.

It took 29 years to complete a portion of the project and release water via the right canal. The cost overrun has been manifold and now the project estimates are Rs 900 crore. At least 9000 hectares of land will be irrigated, said official sources.

ment of water supply on 25 June.

The major discoveries at the ancient civilization site included the base of a circular hut, black on red painted pottery, black slipped ware, red slipped ware and copper objects. The floor of the circular hut was rammed with red soil.

The material including pottery remains of blackburnished ware, black and red ware, iron objects like nails, arrow head, crucible and slag of various kinds belong to the Iron Age Period, said OIMSEAS.

There are several Iron Age sites discovered by various archaeologists in upper and middle Mahanadi valley but in North Odisha, this is the first discovery of such a site, they said.

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Compensation, housing under various government housing schemes, shifting, temporary house facilities will provide the displaced families said official sources.

Earlier, the district administration had relocated 502 families out of 1040 families from Hatibari, Duhdiani and Migriniganj areas in different phases and the project work had started paving the way for partial commencement.

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The crucial point is that... here in the UK we have built up a very considerable wall of immunity against the disease by our vaccination programme

UK PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON



AFTER GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL SAID SHE WAS 'WORRIED AND SCEPTICAL' ABOUT LARGE CROWDS AT MATCHES IN UK

World

## WEATHER

CITY	MAX	MIN
SINGAPORE	29°C	25°C
HONG KONG	26°C	20°C
TOKYO	18°C	12°C
LONDON	17°C	9°C
DUBAI	30°C	25°C
SAN FRANCISCO	13°C	04°C
NEW YORK	10°C	07°C
MOSCOW	16°C	09°C

S=sunny, CL=clear, H=hazy, R=rainy...

## THUMBNAILS



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko attends wreath laying ceremony at Mound of Glory war memorial marking Independence Day, on the outskirts of the capital Minsk on Saturday. AP

**Hurricane Elsa:** Hurricane Elsa raced toward Haiti and Dominican Republic on Saturday, where it threatened to unleash flooding and landslides before taking aim at Cuba and Florida. The Category 1 storm was located about 110 miles (175 km) east-southeast of Dominican Republic. AP

**Death toll from Northwest heat wave to keep rising:** More deaths are being linked to the heat wave that struck the Pacific Northwest this week, with medical staff who treated people overwhelmed by temperatures well above 38 degrees Celsius saying the toll from the extreme weather will keep creeping up. AP

# Europe in vaccination race against Covid-19's Delta variant

The urgency coincides with Europe's holiday months, with fair weather bringing more social gatherings



ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LISBON (PORTUGAL), 3 JULY

**C**ountries across Europe are scrambling to accelerate coronavirus vaccinations and outpace the spread of the more infectious delta variant, in a high-stakes race to prevent hospital wards from filling up again with patients fighting for their lives.

The urgency coincides with Europe's summer holiday months, with fair weather bringing more social gatherings and governments reluctant to clamp down on them.

Social distancing is commonly neglected, especially among the young, and some countries are scrapping the requirement to wear masks outdoors. Incentives for people to get shots include free groceries, travel and entertainment vouchers, and prize drawings.

The President of Cyprus even appealed to a sense of patriotism.

The risk of infection from the delta variant is high to very high for partially or unvaccinated communities, according to the European Centre for Disease Control, which monitors 30 countries on the continent. It estimates that by the

end of August, the variant will account for 90 per cent of cases in the European Union.

It is very important to progress with the vaccine rollout at a very high pace, the ECDC said.

The World Health Organization is also concerned. The variant makes transmission growth exponential, according to Maria Van Kerkhove, its lead on Covid-19.

Daily new case numbers are already climbing sharply in countries like the United Kingdom, Portugal and Russia.

In the UK, cases of the delta variant have increased fourfold in less than a month, with confirmed cases Friday up 46 per cent on the previous week.

Portuguese health authorities this week reported a vertiginous rise in the prevalence of the delta variant, which accounted for only 4 per cent of cases in May but almost 56 per cent in June.

The country is reporting its highest number of daily cases since February, and the number of Covid-19 patients in hospitals has surpassed 500 for the first time since early April.

Reports of new infections in Russia more than doubled in June, topping 20,000 per day this week, and deaths hit 679 on Friday, the fourth day in a

row that the death toll set a daily record.

Still, no one wants any lockdowns, said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov at a briefing, although he admitted that the virus situation in a number of Russian regions is tense. In some countries, the virus is spreading much faster among younger people. In Spain, the national 14-day case notification rate per 1,00,000 people rose to 152 on Friday. But for the 20-29 age group, it shot up to 449. Those numbers have triggered alarm across the continent.

The Dutch government is extending its vaccination programme to those aged 12-17 to help head off a feared new surge. Greece is offering young adults 150 euros (\$177) in credit after their first jab. Rome authorities are mulling the use of vans to vaccinate people at the beach. And Poland last week launched a lottery open only to adults who are fully vaccinated, with new cars among the prizes.

Portuguese authorities have extended the hours of vaccination centers, created new walk-in clinics, called up armed forces personnel to help run operations, and reduced the period between taking the two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine from 12 weeks to eight weeks.

"We're in a race against the clock," Cabinet minister Mariana Vieira da Silva said.

In the fight against vaccine hesitancy across Europe, the appearance of variants has fed public uncertainty about how effective the shots are.

In Madrid this week, Claudia Aguilar, a 58-year-old archaeologist, got her second Pfizer-BioNTech jab at an auditorium that is expanding

## Indian-origin doctors' chief wants face masks to stay beyond lockdown in UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON, 3 JULY

An Indian-origin doctors' association chief in the UK on Saturday called upon the government to keep some compulsory safety measures in place to not "throw away" the progress made in the fight against Covid-19 when lockdown restrictions are lifted later this month.

Dr Chaudhary Nagpaul, the Council Chair of the British Medical Association (BMA) a leading doctors' union, warned that coronavirus infections continue to rise at an "alarming rate" with the Delta variant of Covid-19, first detected in India.

The association believes measures such as face masks in enclosed public spaces, including public transport, shops and healthcare settings, and social distancing messaging for people to gather in well-ventilated spaces must remain in place even

beyond 19 July currently the date expected as the end to all legal lockdown restrictions in England.

"We have made excellent progress with both the vaccination campaign and individual action from people across the country over the last 18 months, and the government must absolutely not throw this away at this critical juncture," said Dr Nagpaul.

19 July is the earliest time the British government has said it will consider removing all legal restrictions as part of its lockdown roadmap. However, both PM Boris Johnson and new Health Secretary Sajid Javid have indicated that some lockdown measures could stay beyond this date.

Nagpaul said while the vaccination programme continues at pace, a significant proportion of people remain either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated.

its working hours overnight.

Nevertheless, she said she is not sure she'll be immune against future variants. "I mean, I'm a bit skeptical that this is going to do any good," Aguilar said.

Bartender Yevgeniya Chernyshkova was lined up Thursday for a shot at Moscow's GUM department store just off Red Square after the government required vaccinations for workers in some sectors. Now, it's becoming

mandatory and we all understand why because the third wave of the pandemic has started here, she said.

Fifteen months after WHO declared a pandemic, some governments appear more minded to reward public patience while thinking twice about bringing back restrictions.

Some 40,000 fans went to England's European Championship soccer match against Germany at London's Wembley Stadium last week.

## Biden calls for bipartisan action on pathway to citizenship



ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 3 JULY

involves fundamental issues of national security and economic growth. Republican lawmakers seeking to limit immigration say it will help keep the US safe and protect jobs for native-born citizens. But economists, many associated with Democrats, say increased immigration would boost economic growth, currently weighed down by falling fertility rates.

But on Friday, Biden emphasized the contributions immigrants have made to the US, noting his own family came from Ireland generations ago. "It's dreams of immigrants like you that built America and continue to inject new energy, new vitality, new strength," he said.

Biden said the coronavirus pandemic, where immigrants helped save lives as frontline workers, scientists and researchers, and the recent Mars roving, which was driven by a team full of immigrants, proved his point.

Biden also recognised Sandra Lindsay as an "Outstanding American by Choice," a US Citizenship and Immigration Services program that recognises citizens who have been naturalised. Lindsay is believed to be the first American to be vaccinated against Covid outside of a clinical trial. She works as director of nursing for critical care at Northwell Health's Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Queens, New York.

**Biden to pitch infrastructure package in Michigan**

WASHINGTON, 3 JULY

President Joe Biden plans to use a visit Saturday to a Michigan cherry farm to talk up his bipartisan infrastructure package and additional plans for investing in families and education.

He will go to Traverse City, which is hosting the National Cherry Festival event.

Biden's trip to Michigan, where he will be joined by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, is part of a broader campaign by the administration to drum up public support for the infrastructure package and other policies geared toward families and education.

The President has said the key to getting his \$973 billion deal passed involves taking the case straight to voters. While Republicans and Democrats might squabble in Washington, Biden's theory is that lawmakers of both parties want to deliver for their constituents.

White House officials negotiated the compromise with a bipartisan group of senators. The agreement, announced in June, features \$109 billion on roads and highways, \$15 billion on electric vehicle infrastructure and transit systems among other expenditures. AP

## ROYAL FUN



Britain's Queen Elizabeth attends the Royal Windsor Horse Show, Windsor, England on Saturday. AP

## Rioters accused of erasing content from social media, phones

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
PHOENIX (US), 3 JULY

They flaunted their participation in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol on social media and then, apparently realising they were in legal trouble, rushed to delete evidence of it, authorities say.

Now their attempts to cover up their role in the deadly siege are likely to come back to haunt them in court.

An Associated Press review of court records has found that at least 49 defendants are

accused of trying to erase incriminating photos, videos and texts from phones or social media accounts documenting their conduct as a pro-Trump mob stormed Congress and briefly interrupted the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's election victory.

Experts say the efforts to scrub the social media accounts reveal a desperate willingness to manipulate evidence once these people realized they were in hot water. And, they say, it can serve as powerful proof of

people's consciousness of guilt and can make it harder to negotiate plea deals and seek leniency at sentencing.

It makes them look tricky, makes them look sneaky, said Gabriel J. Chin, who teaches criminal law at the University of California, Davis.

One such defendant is James Breheny, a member of the Oath Keepers extremist group, who bragged in texts to others about being inside the Capitol during the insurrection, authorities say.

An associate instructed

Breheny, in an encrypted message two days after the riot, to delete all pictures, messages and get a new phone, according to court documents.

That same day, the FBI said, Breheny shut down his Facebook account, where he had photos that he had taken during the riot and complained the government had grown tyrannical.

The People's Duty is to replace that Government with one they agree with, Breheny wrote on Facebook on 6 Jan. in an exchange about the riot.

## Demolition of collapsed condo to start Sunday

SURFSIDE (FLORIDA), 3 JULY

At top Miami-Dade fire official on Saturday told family members of people missing in the rubble of a collapsed condo building that demolition workers planned to bring down the remainder of the building on Sunday.

Workers have intensified over the past week that the damaged structure could come tumbling down on its own, endangering the crews below and complicating the search for victims.

Fire Rescue Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah told family members that the building would be brought down "as soon as possible. First thing tomorrow." But he cautioned that there "may be some hiccups."

A follow-up meeting will be held in the afternoon to finalize details of the demolition, which could be a precarious operation as experts enter the building to bore into the structure to install explosives. AP

## Vatican suppresses Italy group, determines revelations fake

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
ROME, 3 JULY

The Vatican has taken the unusual step of suppressing a small Italian lay movement after determining that the presumed revelations that were the basis of its 1979 foundation were fake.

The dissolution of the Apostolic Movement, which is based in Catanzaro, Italy, and boasts a presence in several European and African countries, is the latest move taken by Pope Francis to crack down on local-level religious orders and Catholic movements. These groups were often encouraged under the previous two popes but in many cases have turned out to have

legitimacy of the movement's origins, doctrinal, disciplinary and governance problems, as well as the profound divisions its presence had created among the diocesan clergy, the decree said.

Fundamentally, the Vatican investigation determined that the presumed revelations that gave origin to the Apostolic Movement through its founder, Ms. Maria Marino, are to be considered to not have a supernatural origin.

The decree was dated June 10 and published this week on the website of the Archdiocese of Catanzaro, where the movement was founded as a private association of the faithful and received local diocesan approval in 2001.

## Vatican indicts 10 people in London real estate deal

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
ROME, 3 JULY

The Vatican's criminal tribunal on Saturday indicted 10 people, including a cardinal, on charges including embezzlement, abuse of office, extortion and fraud in connection with the Secretariat of State's 350 million-euro investment in a London real estate venture.

The tribunal president, Judge Giuseppe Pignatone, set 27 July as the trial date, according to a Vatican statement. Five former Vatican officials, including Cardinal Angelo Becciu and two officials from the Secretariat of State, were indicted, as well as Italian businessmen who handled the London investment. Also indicted on alleged

embezzlement charges was an Italian intelligence expert.

Vatican prosecutors accuse the main suspects of bilking millions of euros from the Holy See in fees and other losses related to other financial dealings. The suspects have denied wrongdoing.

One of the main suspects in the case, Gianluigi Torzi, is accused of having extorted the Vatican out of 15 million euros to turn over ownership of the London building in late 2018.

Torzi had been retained by the Vatican to help it acquire full ownership of the building from another indicted money manager who had handled the initial investment. Vatican prosecutors allege Torzi inserted a last-minute clause into the contract giving him full voting rights in the deal.

Francis fired him as the Vatican's saint-making chief last year, apparently in connection with a separate issue: his 100,000-euro donation of Secretariat of State funds to a diocesan charity run by Becciu's brother.

The Vatican statement said elements had emerged against Becciu in connection with the London investigation. His name was listed separately from the others in the indictment because a separate procedure is required to prosecute a cardinal. Becciu has denied wrongdoing in the London investment; he has admitted he made the donation but insisted the money was for the charity, not his brother.

Marogna has said the money wired to her was compensation for legitimate security and intelligence work and reimbursement for her expenses. Also indicted were the former top two officials in the Vatican's financial watchdog agency, for alleged abuse of office.





*The most urgent priority is to expedite the construction of the 'Great Wall of Immunity' to fend off the virus, surpass political discrimination and carry out international anti-pandemic cooperation*

CHINA'S FOREIGN MINISTER WANG YI

URGING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO BUILD A "GREAT WALL OF IMMUNITY" TO BATTLE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

The Sunday Statesman  
NEW DELHI, 04 JULY 2021

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## THUMBNAILS



A civil defence worker inspects a damaged house after shelling hit the town of Ibleen, a village in southern Idlib province, Syria on Saturday said. AP

**US designates 2 Salvadorean corrupt:** The US government designated two Salvadoran officials under the corrupt and undemocratic actors report Friday for allegedly helping China and profiting from their decisions. The US Embassy in El Salvador said former Mayor Ezequiel Milla allegedly abused his authority to sell the Caribbean island of Perico to agents of the People's Republic of China in exchange for personal benefit. AP

**Syria govt shelling kills 8:** Artillery fire from government-controlled territory and airstrikes Saturday killed at least eight civilians in Syria's last rebel enclave, most of them children, and destroyed a civil defense center and a water station, a war monitor said. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported the shelling and casualties. The Observatory said the shelling was followed by airstrikes by suspected Russian warplanes. AP

**Train derails in Canada:** A train carrying tar sands and timber has derailed in the Canadian province of Alberta, spilling at least part of its load, officials said, though there were no reports of injuries. Police said they were rerouting traffic and asked people to avoid the area, which was near the city of Lacombe. AP

**Afghanistan finds deadly fungal infection in Covid-19 patients**

**Afghanistan has recorded one death from the fungus, also detected in two other patients**

KABUL, 3 JULY

A deadly fungal infection known as "black fungus" that first surfaced in Indian Covid-19 patients has been detected in Afghanistan, which is in the middle of a brutal third wave of the coronavirus, Health Minister Wahid Majroh said Saturday.

Afghanistan has recorded one death from the fungus, which has been detected in two other patients, he said.

In Afghanistan, where people rarely wear masks and there is no social distancing, the numbers of new cases have been steadily rising, with 1,272 new cases in the past 24 hours and 92 deaths.

The testing rate in Afghanistan is barely 4,000 a day. Since the pandemic began last year, Afghanistan has recorded 124,757 cases and 5,199 deaths though the figures are believed to be wildly underreported.

In the capital Kabul the health ministry has added hundreds of new beds for the increase in patients, yet the capacity rate is still at nearly 100 per cent. Afghanistan is also running short on oxygen and poor Afghans wait sometimes for days for oxygen cylinders to be filled at the few production plants in Kabul. Meanwhile barely 2.5 per cent of Afghanistan's over 36 million people have been vaccinated, as the country has struggled to receive the promised vaccines under COVAX scheme.

The fungal condition caught global attention in India and has surfaced in Egypt. AP

# US Afghan pullout target now 'late August'

Joe Biden had directed the Pentagon to complete the military withdrawal by 11 Sept, the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the USA

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 3 JULY

**N**early 20 years after invading Afghanistan to oust the Taliban and hunt down al-Qaeda, the US military has vacated its biggest airfield in the country, advancing a final withdrawal that the Pentagon on Friday said will be completed by the end of August.

President Joe Biden had instructed the Pentagon to complete the military withdrawal by 11 September, the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States, but the Pentagon now says it can finish the drawdown a little earlier. In fact, the drawdown is already largely completed and officials had said it could be wrapped up this weekend. But a number of related issues need to be worked out in coming weeks, including a new US military command structure in Kabul and talks with Turkey on an arrangement for maintaining security at the Kabul airport, and so an official end to the pullout will not be announced soon.

"A safe, orderly drawdown enables us to maintain an

ongoing diplomatic presence, support the Afghan people and the government, and prevent Afghanistan from once again becoming a safe haven for terrorists that threatens our homeland," Pentagon Press secretary John Kirby said.

The administration is meanwhile narrowing options for ensuring the safety of thousands of Afghans whose applications for special visas to come to the United States have yet to be approved. The administration has already said it's willing to evacuate them to third countries pending their visa approvals but has yet to determine where. Officials said Friday that one possibility is to relocate them to neighboring countries in Central Asia where they could be protected from possible retaliation by the Taliban or other groups.

The White House and State Department have declined to comment on the numbers to be relocated or where they might go, but the foreign ministers of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were both in Washington this week and the subject of Afghan security was raised in meetings they held with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.



Kirby said that Austin on Friday approved a new command structure in Afghanistan to transition the US military mission from warfighting to two new objectives—protecting a continuing US diplomatic presence in Kabul and maintaining liaison with the Afghan military.

Austin's plan calls for the top commander in Afghanistan, Army Gen. Scott Miller, to transfer his combat authorities to the Florida-based head of US Central Command, Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, before relinquishing his command this month. Also, a two-star Navy admiral will head a US Embassy-based military office, dubbed US Forces Afghanistan-Forward, to oversee the new mission of providing security for the embassy and its diplomats.

A satellite military office based in Qatar and headed by a US one-star general will be established to administer US financial support for the Afghan military and police, plus maintenance support provided for Afghan aircraft from outside Afghanistan.

Kirby said Miller, who already is the longest-serving commander of US forces in Afghanistan in the 20 years of warfare, will remain in command for "a couple of weeks" longer but was not more specific. He said Miller will be preparing for and completing

the turnover of his duties to McKenzie and also will be traveling inside and beyond Afghanistan.

Miller met Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Friday and, according to a Dari-language tweet by the presidential palace, the two discussed "continued US assistance and cooperation with Afghanistan, particularly in supporting the defense and security forces."

Bagram Airfield has been the epicenter of the war to oust the Taliban and hunt down the al-Qaeda perpetrators of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on America. At its peak in and around 2012, Bagram Airfield saw more than 1,00,000 US troops pass through the massive compound almost an hour's drive north of Kabul.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's district administrator for Bagram, Darwais Raufi, said the American departure was done overnight without any coordination with local officials, and as a result early Friday, dozens of local looters stormed through the unguarded gates before Afghan forces regained control.

"They were stopped and some have been arrested and the rest have been cleared from the base," Raufi told.

gence and more complex operations.

The Afghanistan withdrawal was ordered by President Joe Biden. But that withdrawal comes with many uncertainties as a resurgent Taliban captures ground and fears mount that the country could soon fall into civil war. The US is still working on agreements to base counterterrorism forces in the region and evacuate thousands of interpreters and other Afghans who helped the American war effort.

CIA Director William Burns testified in April that fighters from al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group are still operating in Afghanistan and remain intent on recovering the ability to attack US targets. "When the time comes for the US military to withdraw, the US government's ability to collect and act on threats will diminish. That's simply a fact," Burns said. He added that the CIA and other US agencies retain a suite of capabilities to monitor and stop threats.

## Afghan pullout has US spies reorienting in terrorism fight

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, 3 JULY

The two-decade war in Afghanistan has given US spies a perch for keeping tabs on terrorist groups that might once again use the beleaguered nation to plan attacks against the US homeland. But that will end soon.

The withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan is leaving intelligence agencies scrambling for other ways to monitor and stop terrorists. They'll have to depend more on technology and their allies in the Afghan government even as it faces an increasingly uncertain future once US and NATO forces depart.

You may not be blind, but you're going to be legally blind, said Rep Mike Waltz, a Florida Republican and Green Beret who served in Afghanistan. Waltz said in an interview that while he believed American forces would still be able to detect threats, they would have to respond with lesser intelli-

## Iran's sole nuclear power plant up and running after closure

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
TEHRAN, 3 JULY

Iran's sole nuclear power plant is back online following an emergency shutdown two weeks ago, state TV reported Saturday.

The report quoted Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadri, spokesman for the country's energy ministry, as saying the Bushehr plant returned to the production of energy after the completion of needed maintenance.

Mashhadri did not elaborate but last week, Iran's nuclear department said engineers were working to repair the plant's broken generator.

Also on Saturday, Kazem

**A Ministry spokesperson said that Bushehr plant returned to the production of energy after the completion of needed maintenance.**

Gharibabadi, Iran's representative to the IAEA said that Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Safeguards of the IAEA, Massimo Aparo, will visit Iran in coming days, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Gharibabadi said Aparo's visit to Tehran is in direction of routine safeguards, and added that No talks have been planned for him in Tehran. He

said Iran is in regular contact with the IAEA.

The visit comes nearly 10 days after the expiration of a deal between Tehran and international nuclear inspectors to preserve video data at the country's atomic installations. Tehran is trying to push European powers to provide relief from oil and banking sanctions imposed three years ago when then-President Donald Trump withdrew America from the landmark accord.

Authorities earlier this year had warned of Bushehr's possible closure because of American sanctions barring Iran from procuring equipment for repairs.

Bushehr is fueled by ura-

nium produced in Russia, not Iran, and is monitored by the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency. The IAEA acknowledged being aware of reports about the plant, but declined to comment.

Construction on Bushehr, on the coast of the northern reaches of the Persian Gulf, began under Iran's shah in the mid-1970s. After the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the plant was repeatedly targeted in the Iran-Iraq war. Russia later completed construction of the facility.

The 1,000-megawatt plant feeds the grid with enough energy for a tiny part of Iran's nationwide 64,000-megawatt consumption.

## WORLD IS A STAGE



Puppet theatre actors walk with a giant figure depicting Russian writer Fyodor Dostoevsky marking the Day of Dostoevsky at St. Petersburg in Russia.

At least 19 missing in Tokyo mudslide

TOKYO, 3 JULY

A powerful mudslide carrying a deluge of black water and debris crashed into rows of houses in a town west of Tokyo following heavy rains on Saturday, leaving at least 19 people missing.

As many as 80 homes in Atami were completely buried, according to an official with the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

The official said more people, possibly 100, could still be missing under the mudslides but warned that details were not immediately clear. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as is often policy at Japanese bureaucracies, stressed that aggressive rescue operations were underway to find survivors. AP

## Nepal's election commission prepares for November polls despite uncertainty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KATHMANDU, 3 JULY

would start to procure materials required for holding the polls next week after the Finance Ministry approved 7.72 Nepalese Rupees billion for holding the elections, *The Kathmandu Post* reported.

The ministry said it approved the budget for the commission to procure election materials and election management. This budget, however, does not cover the expenses for security arrangements for the polls.

We are planning to issue a tender next week for all the goods required for holding the elections, except for ballot boxes which we have in adequate numbers, said Raj Kumar Shrestha, spokesperson at the commission.

Officials at the election body say though the House dissolution case is being challenged in the Supreme Court, the commission cannot say no to holding elections.

Considering the health risks due to Covid-19, the commission is also preparing health and safety guidelines to make the election process safer.

cations for over 50 types of goods to be procured.

Some of the items that the election body plans to procure are ballot box stickers, identity cards, poll books, security seals, rubber stamps, voting stamps, markers, stamp pad and ink, polythene bag and shack, photocopy paper, glue sticks, stapler machines, scales and scissors and pens.

Besides these materials, we will also procure medical goods considering the Covid-19 pandemic, said Komal Dhamala, assistant spokesperson at the commission.

The commission is also updating voters' lists in different districts. More voters will be added for the elections in November, said Dhamala.

According to him, there will be around 22,000 polling centres for the elections.

Considering the health risks due to Covid-19, the commission is also preparing health and safety guidelines to make the election process safer.

**Turkey rejects US report claiming link to child soldiers**

ISTANBUL, 3 JULY

Turkey's foreign ministry has slammed a US report on human trafficking that criticised Ankara for providing operational, equipment, and financial support to an armed militia in Syria that recruits child soldiers.

Turkish foreign ministry said it completely rejects the claim and its record is clean. The statement also accuses Washington of double standards and hypocrisy pointing to American support for Syrian Kurdish militants.

Turkey says Syrian Kurdish militants that provided the backbone of the SDF fighting the Islamic State group were linked to Kurdish fighters who have been waging an insurgency against Turkey for more than three decades and are designated as terrorists. American support for them has been a major irritant in US-Turkish relations. AP

## Delegates fail to agree on legal basis for Libya elections

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
CAIRO, 3 JULY

LPDF members have created a committee tasked with bridging the gap among the proposals put before the forum. But the deadlock remained.

It is regrettable, said Rashed Zenenga, the mission's coordinator. The people of Libya will certainly feel let down as they still aspire to the opportunity to exercise their democratic rights in presidential and parliamentary elections on 24 December.

The mission urged forum members to continue consultations to agree on a workable compromise and cement what unites them.

It warned that proposals which do not make the elections feasible and possible to hold elections on 24 December will not be entertained.

Over two dozen LPDF members criticized the U.N. mission for its proposal that the forum vote on suggestions that included keeping the current government in power,

and only holding legislative elections.

The government, led by PM Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, was appointed by the forum earlier this year in a vote mired in corruption allegations. Its main mandate is to prepare the country for December elections in hopes of stabilizing the divided nation.

Libya has been plagued by corruption and turmoil since a NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed longtime dictator Muammar Gadhafi in 2011.

In recent years, the country was split between a UN-supported government in the capital, Tripoli, and rival authorities based in the country's east. Each side was backed by armed groups and foreign governments. The UN estimated in December there were at least 20,000 foreign fighters and mercenaries in Libya, including Turkish troops, Syrians, Russians, Sudanese and Chadians.

## UN: Over 4,00,000 people in Ethiopia's Tigray face famine now

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
UNITED NATIONS, 3 JULY

their capital Mekele after the government's June 28 ceasefire and exit from the region have not agreed to the halt to hostilities.

UN political chief Rosemary DiCarlo urged the Tigray Defense Force "to endorse the ceasefire immediately" stressing that the UN's immediate concern is to get desperately needed aid to the region.

Acting UN humanitarian chief Ramesh Rajasingham said the situation in Tigray "has worsened dramatically" in the last 2 weeks, citing "an alarming rise in food insecurity and hunger due to conflict" with the number of people crossing the threshold to famine increasing to 400,000, and with 1.8 million a step away

and some suggesting "the numbers are even higher."

"The lives of many of these people depend on our ability to reach them with food, medicine, nutrition supplies and other humanitarian assistance," he said. "And we need to reach them now. Not next week. Now."

The largely agricultural Tigray region of about 6 million people already had a food security problem amid a locust outbreak when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on November 4 announced fighting between his forces and those of the defiant regional government. Tigray leaders dominated Ethiopia for almost three decades but were sidelined after Abiy introduced reforms that won him the

Noel Peace Prize in 2019. No one knows how many thousands of civilians or combatants have been killed.

DiCarlo said an estimated 1.7 million people have been displaced from their homes, and more than 60,000 have fled into neighbouring Sudan. Though Abiy declared victory in late November, Ethiopia's military kept up the offensive with allied fighters from neighbouring Eritrea, a bitter enemy of the now-fugitive officials who once led Tigray, and from the Amhara region adjacent to Tigray.



## THE SPECIALIST

James Anderson (photo, left) has admitted he was tempted to make a surprise playing appearance in The Hundred but backed out over worries he might sustain an injury that could curtail his record-breaking Test career. Anderson last played Twenty20 cricket back in 2014 to settle into his role as a red-ball specialist.

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# Sport

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## Depleted Brazilians win through

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIO DE JANEIRO, 3 JULY

**D**efending Copa America champions Brazil defended strongly with 10 men to advance to the semi-finals with a 1-0 win against Chile. Substitute Lucas Paquetá (in photo right) scored the only goal of the match only seconds before Gabriel Jesus was sent off early in the second half.

Paquetá's winner to the left corner of Chilean goalkeeper Claudio Bravo in the 46th minute gave Brazil fans some hope that the Seleção would ease into the next stage. But only two minutes later Jesus was sent off after hitting Chile's Eugenio Mena with a flying kick. Neymar and Brazil coach Tite said after the match that Jesus didn't see Mena and accidentally kicked him as he tried to recover possession in the midfield.

Brazil worked so hard defensively that Chile had fewer shots on goal after Jesus was sent off than during the time he played; two against three. Defending well is a characteristic of ours, Brazil's Thiago Silva said. "Regardless of what we did today we concede few goals. Even down to 10 we created clear opportunities. I am very proud of this team, for its fighting spirit."

Paquetá came onto the pitch after a tense first half with few opportunities for both sides. He replaced Roberto Firmino. Brazil didn't stop threatening Chile with Neymar's dribbles and quick counter-attacks. But Chile were much closer to the equaliser; they had an Eduardo Vargas goal disallowed for off-side and English-Chilean Ben Brereton hit the



bar with a header in the 68th minute.

An exhausted Neymar said after the match that playing with 10 men was a great test for Brazil. He was not close to scoring as in other Copa America matches, but he was key by holding possession. "Every match we need to get some tests to make us stronger, show we can do it in every circumstance," Neymar said. "We had to stand together. It was very hard to do it."

Chile's Arturo Vidal said his team would leave the tournament with some pride. "We lost to a great team, the favourites playing at home," he said. "If we play like we played today, with some more time to work, this team will clearly

have their intensity back. We hope to qualify to the World Cup. It will be hard, but we can."

Peru advanced to the semi-final after beating Paraguay on penalties 4-3 after a 3-3 score in regular time, in the most thrilling Copa America match yet. Regular time at the Olímpico Stadium in Goiânia finished 3-3 after a hard-fought match that included red cards to key players of both teams and two goals by Italian-born Gianluca Lapadula for Peru.

The decisive moment in the quarter-final came after Peruvian goalkeeper Pedro Gallese stopped Alberto Espinala in the shootout. Miguel Trauco converted his shot to put the runners-up of the 2019 Copa America back in contention.

This was an amazing match, a tired Lapadula said after the shootout, in which he converted from the spot.

We can't choose adversaries, we have to think we are in the semifinal. Now we have to work to get there well.

Peru will face either Brazil or Chile, which also play Friday.

Paraguay opened the scoring in the 11th minute with Gustavo Gómez pushing the ball to the empty net after a corner.

Lapadula scored his first in the 21st from close range after

Daniel Martínez and Braian Samudio had also missed for Paraguay. Santiago Ormeño and Christian Cueva were stopped by Paraguay's Antony Silva.

This was an amazing match, a tired Lapadula said after the shootout, in which he converted from the spot.

We can't choose adversaries, we have to think we are in the semifinal. Now we have to work to get there well.

But Paraguay started the second half well and put pressure on Peru. Junior Alonso levelled the scoring in the 54th minute after burying the ball past Gallese after a corner. And opportunities kept coming, especially in corners.

Peru's Yoshimar Yotún frustrated Paraguayan with a goal from the edge of the box 80th

minute after the ball deflect off a Paraguayan defender. But more twists were to come.

Five minutes later, Peruvian striker Andrés Carrillo also received his second yellow. Paraguay decided to charge forward and it resulted in a late close-range goal by substitute Gabriel Ávalos who had stepped in eight minutes before to level the match and send it to penalties.

Peru advanced to the semi-finals after Lapadula, Yotún, Renato Tapia and Trauco scored in the shootout.

Peru will play its Copa America semifinal on Monday at the Nilton Santos Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. It lost 4-0 in the group stage of the tournament to Brazil, one of its possible semifinal opponents.

Brazil and Peru played the latest Copa America final in 2019, with the hosts winning 3-1. Jesus was also sent off in that match at Rio's Maracana Stadium. Monday's encounter will be at the same Nilton Santos Stadium where Brazil beat Chile. Brazil coach Tite, who was recently fined by South American soccer body Conmebol for criticising the tournament's organisation, once more criticised the quality of the Nilton Santos pitch, despite minor improvements made recently.

If I were watching from home I would say this could have been a good match, and look what it is... Ederson had difficulties to take goal kicks," Tite said. "Please, be responsible. I recognise people are trying to improve the pitch, but find a better pitch for us to play on."

The Copa America final will be played at Maracana Stadium on 10 July.



## Italy, Spain to meet again in European championship

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, 3 JULY

Italy and Spain are going to meet at the European Championship for the fourth tournament in a row, and this time a place in the final will be on the line. The match is scheduled for Tuesday at Wembley Stadium in London.

The first Euro 2020 semi-final match-up was determined on Friday after Italy beat top-ranked Belgium 2-1 in Munich and Spain defeated Switzerland in a penalty shootout in St. Petersburg.

Italy are Europe's hottest team, extending their unbeaten run to 32 matches and their winning streak to 13 with Friday's result.

By contrast, Spain are on a 12-match unbeaten run and drew their opening two group matches. The match will be a face-off between the tournament's top-scoring teams, as it stands. Spain have found the net 12 times after opening with a scoreless draw against Sweden, while Italy have 11 goals. The goals have been shared throughout the teams with neither having a player who has scored more than two. Ciro Immobile, Matteo Pessina, Manuel Locatelli and Lorenzo Insigne have each had two each for Italy, and Pablo Sarabia, Ferran Torres and Alvaro Morata have the same amount for Spain.

Their most recent meetings came in qualifying for the 2018 World Cup. Italy's loss and draw against Spain contributed to the team failing to qualify for the tournament for only the second time. The last time either

team reached a major tournament final was in 2012, when Spain beat Italy 4-0 to defend its European title.

Only two players from that match are in the line-ups at Euro 2020. Spain still have midfielder Sergio Busquets, while Italy have veteran defenders Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini. Italy prevented Spain from winning a third consecutive European Championship by beating the defending champions 2-0 in the round of 16 at Euro 2016.

The Spanish beat Italy on penalties in the Euro 2008 quarter-finals before ending their 44-year trophy drought. Spain coach Luis Enrique (in photo) was playing for his country at the 1994 World Cup when his nose was broken in the quarter-finals by Italy defender Mauro Tassotti. Italy went on to reach the final that year, losing to Brazil on penalties.

Italy coach Roberto Mancini wasn't part of his country's squad at the 1994 World Cup because he opted out of international duty after not being sure of playing time. His return to the Italian national team only came in 2018, when he was hired as coach.

## Spinners keep India eves in hunt for consolation win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WORCESTER, 3 JULY

India spinners took wickets at regular intervals to nullify a promising start by England as the tourists bundled out the hosts for 219 in the rain-curtailed third and final Women's One-day International, here on Saturday.

Looking for a consolation win, India invited England to bat under overcast conditions after the contest became a 47-overs per side affair but as has been the case in the series, the hosts largely remained untroubled.

They were placed comfortably at 110 for two but their strategy to attack Indian spinners resulted in wickets falling in clutches with a middle-order collapse.

Natalie Sciver's confident



Kaur (1/24) accounted for one batter each.

Indian enjoyed early success when Shikha Pandey (in photo) trapped opener Tammy Beaumont (0) leg before. The positive intent of the home batters that Indians had to, yet again, toil hard without much success initially.

Knight and in-form Lauren Windfall-Hill stroked, drove and nudged the India bowlers with ease to keep a decent run-rate.

Knight used the sweep shot effectively while Windfall-Hill used her feet well to charge down the wicket.

Leg-spinner Yadav enticed the batters with her flighted and full length deliveries but did not pose much danger.

Sneha Rana (1/31), Poonam Yadav (1/43) and Harmanpreet

for a slog sweep but ended up holing out to Shikha Pandey at deep mid-wicket.

Natalie Sciver played freely, driving the balls with exquisite timing. Her 49 came off 59 balls with five boundaries.

Amy Jones (17) though could not convert her good start and was dismissed by Deepi, looking for a big shot.

Sciver was denied her fifty by Smriti Mandhana, who pulled off a stunning diving catch in the deep when the Briton went after Deepi.

Knight was closing in on her first fifty of the series but her sweep shot off Harmanpreet landed straight into the hands of Pandey at long-on.

The Indian fielders were sharp and agile as they stopped a few runs.

More wickets fell when England made a final push.

## Domestic Season: Ranji Trophy to start from 16 Nov, over 2100 games scheduled

NEW DELHI, 3 JULY

The BCCI will conduct all its domestic tournaments across age-groups with the coveted Ranji Trophy, starting on November 16, being the marquee event among the 2127 matches scheduled for 2021-22 season.

Last season, the BCCI couldn't conduct any age-group tournament and was forced to cancel the Ranji Trophy due to COVID-19 pandemic.

However, a full-fledged domestic season will take place this year with Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 to begin from October 20 and the National One-Day Championship for Vijay Hazare Trophy.

The final of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy will be played on November 12 this year.

The coveted Ranji Trophy will be played in a three-month window from November 16, 2021 to February 19, 2022.

The Vijay Hazare Trophy final will take place on March 26, 2022.

phy being scheduled from February 23 next year.

"The season will commence on September 21, 2021, with the Senior Women's One Day League and will be followed by the Senior Women's One Day Challenger Trophy, which will take place from October 27, 2021," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a media release.

The final of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy will be played on November 12 this year.

The coveted Ranji Trophy will be played in a three-month window from November 16, 2021 to February 19, 2022.

In case of Vijay Hazare Trophy, the groupings will remain same while Mushtaq Ali T20 will have five groups

with two groups of seven teams and three groups of eight teams each respectively.

The BCCI will conduct Vino Mankad Trophy (National U-19 One Day) and U-19 Challengers Trophy in between September to November in order to select the white-ball probables for next year's ICC U-19 World Cup.

The three-day Cooch Behar Trophy will start only after the two tournaments are over.

"The core probables for India U-19s will be selected from Vino Mankad and subsequently from the Challengers Trophy. If there are any exceptional performers in Cooch Behar, they will be added later," a BCCI source said.

## Djokovic grabs 75th Wimbledon match win, Murray out

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON, 3 JULY

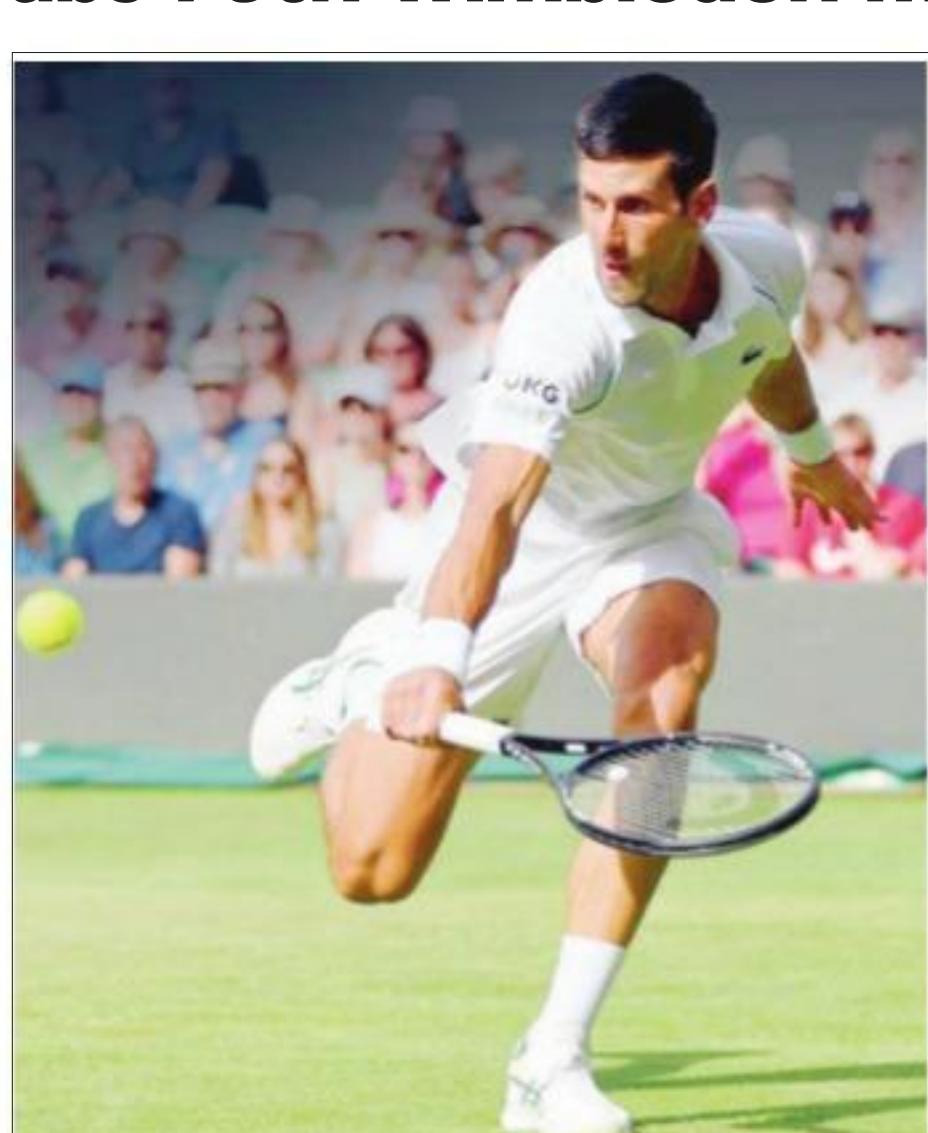
World number one Novak Djokovic (in photo) clinched his 75th Wimbledon match win on Friday as battling Andy Murray slipped to his earliest exit at the tournament since 2005.

Defending champion Djokovic survived a nervy third set to defeat 11th-ranked American qualifier Denis Kudla 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (9/7) to book a place in the fourth round of a Grand Slam for the 55th time.

Djokovic, chasing a record-equalling 20th major, cruised through the first two sets but then had to fight back from 1-4 down and also 1/4 in the tiebreaker on Court One, saving a set point in the process.

"It's the trademark of every pro athlete that you never give up," said Djokovic, halfway to becoming only the third man in history -- and first since Rod Laver in 1969 -- to complete the calendar Slam. "I am always trying to give my maximum out there, especially when playing one of the biggest tournaments."

Next up for Djokovic is Chilean 17th seed Christian Garin who defeated Spain's Pedro Martinez 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4. Murray suffered his earliest Wimbledon exit in 16 years when the two-time champion was knocked out by



main tour in 2021. World number 24 Ons Jabeur became the first Tunisian woman to make the last 16 when she defeated 2017 champion Garbine Muguruza 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 on the back of 44 winners.

Muguruza saved 24 of 29 break points but was still unable to break the spirit of Arab trail-blazer Jabeur who came through despite throwing up at the Royal Box end on Centre Court as she served for the match.

"I'm actually having a problem with my stomach. I have inflammation," said Jabeur. "It has been going on for a while. It bothers me probably with the stress."

Jabeur next takes on Poland's Iga Świątek, the seventh seed, who was the first player into the last 16 with a 55-minute 6-1, 6-0 demolition of Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu.

Świątek, the 2018 junior champion, had only won one match on grass on the main tour prior to Wimbledon. "It's hard to compare my previous years on grass, because in 2019 I was physically weaker," said Świątek, beaten in the Wimbledon first round in 2019. "I didn't actually have an idea on how to play on grass. This time it's much, much better, so I just developed overall."

world number 12 Denis Shapovalov. Murray, who has been locked in a lengthy struggle against hip and groin injuries and is now ranked at 118, went down 6-4, 6-2, 6-2. It was the first time the 2013 and 2016 champion had lost in the third rounds since his debut as an 18-year-old in 2005. Canadian

In a wide open women's draw, Świątek is just one of three top 10 seeds still standing along with top-ranked Ashleigh Barty, who plays the third round on Saturday, and second seeded Aryna Sabalenka. Sabalenka made the last 16 for the first time by beating Colombian qualifier María Camila Osorio Serrano 6-0, 6-3. Sabalenka next faces fellow big-hitter Elena Rybakina, the 18th-seeded Kazakh who saw off Shelby Rogers 6-1, 6-4.

Former world number one Karolina Pliskova made the last 16 for the third time with a 6-3, 6-3 win over fellow Czech Tereza Martincova.

Pliskova will meet Russian wildcard Liudmila Samsonova who defeated former US Open champion Sloane Stephens 6-2, 2-6, 6-4. Samsonova, who won the Berlin title after coming through qualifying on the eve of Wimbledon, fired 33 winners to Stephens's eight. The Russian has now won 10 successive matches on grass. Sebastian Korda marked his Centre Court debut with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 win over Britain's Dan Evans.

Korda's father Petr was a quarter-finalist in 1998 while last weekend his sister Nelly won her first golf major and grabbed the world number one ranking. He plays Khachanov on Monday when he will turn 21.

Khachanov, the 2019 French Open champion, had earlier beaten Djokovic 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 in the semi-final. Djokovic had earlier beaten Murray 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 in the semi-final. Djokovic had earlier beaten Murray 6