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THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA

COIMBATORE | FRIDAY 25 | JUNE 2021

WEATHER Max: 34°C Min: 21°C

Rainfall: Nill ASTROGUIDE

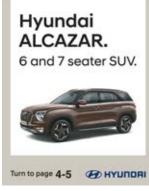
Pilava: Aani 11 **Tithi:** Pradhamai Star: Moolam Rahukalam:

> Yamagandam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm **PRAYERS**

10.30 am to 12 noon

Fajar: 4.25 am Luhar: 12.16 pm **Asar:** 3.37 pm Maghrib: 6.38 pm **Isha:** 7.57 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6.48 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.02 AM MOONRISE TODAY 7.37 PM MOONSET TOMORROW 8.26 AM





(+51,109)(+1,322)3,01,33,288 3,93,336

covid19india.org

STATE GOVERNMENT BULLETINS (+6,162)

TN: 24,49,577 31,901

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES 18,05,56,461 **DEATHS** 39,11,165

worldometers.info

Cong to hold nationwide agitation from July 7-17

New Delhi: The Congress decided on Thursday to hold a countrywide agitational programme from July 7 to 17 against the rising inflation and the increase in the fuel prices. This was decided at a meeting of the party general secretaries and various state in-charges convened by Congress president Sonia Gandhi. All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K C Venugopal, in a state-ment, said led by the party chief, the AICC team discussed and deliberated upon the important and urgent issues of high inflation, price rise, the skyrocketing



Crisis is over... no threat to my government for the next 48 hours!



Stalin's fiat fails to enthuse



WORLD | 7 Some H-1B seekers can resubmit form

Kane salutes his affable Kiwi stars



Vol. 11 No.179 Established 1938 | 8 PAGES | 4.00

Will reduce distance with Kashmiris, assures Modi

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■ Statehood at appropriate time, PM tells meeting of leaders

RAJNISH SHARMA | DC WITH AGENCY INPUTS NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

In a major initiative. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday reached out to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, saying that he was committed to remove "Dilli ki doori" as well as "Dil ki doori", and also reiterated that he was committed to restoring full statehood to J&K at an "appropriate time".

Mr Modi expressed his views at a marathon meeting of over three hours with 14 top J&K leaders from eight different par-ties, which included four former CMs -- Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mehbooba Mufti, Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah. Home minister Amit Shah and national security adviser Ajit Doval were among those present.

This is the first time top political leaders from J&K held detailed talks with Prime Minister Modi and other Central leaders like Amit Shah since J&K's Article 370 was abolished in August 2019 and the state was split up into two Union territories of J&K and Ladakh.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, former CM Omar Abdullah said both Mr Modi and Mr Shah pledged they were committed to restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. "The takeaway from the meeting was that the Prime Minister said he wanted to remove 'Dil ki doori' and 'Dilli ki doori', but I as well as other leaders are sure that one meeting is not enough. rave



Delimitation has to happen at a quick pace so that polls can happen and J&K gets an elected government that

gives strength to J&K's development trajectory.

begun," Mr Abdullah said. The Central leadership wants to hold Assembly polls immediately after the delimitation commission submits its report, but senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad urged the Prime Minister to restore full statehood before conducting the polls, Mr Abdullah said.

He said that his father, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, said during the meeting that there was an urgent need to rebuild trust in J&K. "The trust deficit among the people of Jammu and Kashmir needs to be addressed to immediately by the Centre, and for that the process of restoration of complete statehood is

are sure that one meeting is not enough. However, a process has -NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister | begun. -OMAR FAROOQ, NC leader Congress, PDP call for early elections

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad told reporters he put forward various points on behalf of his party, including restoration of complete statehood, followed by elections. "I have also asked for a rehabilitation process for Kashmir Pandits, release of political prisoners, and domicile rules whereby the Centre guarantees jobs for Kashmir," Mr Azad told

Prime

Minister

Narendra

Modi durina

an all-party meeting with

various politi-

cal leaders

from Jammu

and Kashmir,

in Delhi.

The takeaway is that the Prime

Minister said he wanted

and 'Dilli ki doori', but we

to remove 'Dil ki doori'

Thursday.

Mehbooba Mufti said she complimented the Prime Minister for initiating back-channel talks with Pakistan. On the abrogation of Article 370, Ms Mufti said her party would continue to fight for its restoration. "After all, the special status has not been given to us by Pakistan. It was given to us by late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and

CAG report says Tangedco lapses bled TN exchequer

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR, D. SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, JUNE 24

Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (Tangedco), the public sector power company that deals with electricity supply in the state, has been found to have incurred heavy losses, running to crores of rupees, on various counts due to a plethora of shortcomings in the power purchase manage-

The functioning of the

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), while going into the purchase agreements, found the Tangedco lacking in areas relating to adherence to merit order of despatch (MOD) and execution of power purchase agreements and called for fixing of responsibility.

The audits relate to the various power purchase agreements during 2013-14 to 2017-18 when the AIADMK was in power and the report, which was tabled in the State Assembly on Thursday, called for enforcing accountability to ensure that the lapses did not

TRANSMITTING BIG LOSSES

• 349.67 crore, by buying power from costlier sources

₹493.74 crore, for paying

low-ranking sources

• ₹712.30 crore, for non-supply by long-term providers.

• ₹242.92 crore, due to wrong computation of tariffs.

• ₹**827.24 crore,** due to delay in commencement of sup-

• **₹122.84 crore** due to non-drawal of the committed quantity of power.

• **₹1,058.84 crore** of extra spending due to higher rates

₹605.48 crore, due to period.

recur.

Tangedco incurred an avoidable expenditure of Rs 349.67 crore due to not drawing the entitled share of power from the low cost central generating stations (CGS) and drawing the same quantity from other costlier sources, one of the remarks in the damning CAG report said.

incurred another avoidable expenditure of Rs 493.74 crore due to procurement of power from the plant which was costly and ranked lowest in the MOD and purchase of power from a naptha-based plant, another remark said.

Another avoidable expenditure incurred was to the tune of Rs 712.30 crore when eight long-term suppliers did not provide power during the first two years of the agreements with the company paying enhanced tariff to them from the third year till March 2018.

By admitting tariffs by computing the quantum of power supplied at the generating stations instead of from the Power Grid Corporation's pooling stations, at which the suppliers were required to inject power, an avoidable payment of Rs 242.92 crore was made, the CAG report

said. Among the serious lapses of Tangedco pointed out by CAG was not levying liquidated damages of Rs 827.24 crore from nine suppliers when there were delays in commencement of supplies from the scheduled delivery dates. **P7**

SUPER DEAL

Jio-Google to launch cheapest smart phone in September

FULL STORY ON PG 8

ON GANGA AS

WATER RISES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

DC CORRESPONDENT

Weeks after bodies of

alleged Covid-19 victims

floating on the river

Ganga, reports of mass

graves in the sandbanks of

the river, suspected to be

of Covid patients, have

appeared as the water level rose at Prayagraj.

Images of authorities fish-

ing out the bodies as the

sand banks crumble in the

rising waters have been shot by local journalists,

One of the images showed a Prayagraj municipal corporation team pulling out a body

stuck on the riverbank

with a hand covered in

white surgical glove jutting out of the saffron shroud. Another image

showed two men recover-

ing a shroud-covered body

at a different ghat. An offi-

cial of the municipal cor-

poration has been quoted

by local media that he had

cremated 40 bodies in the

reports said.

Wait for budget, CM tells Oppn

G. BABU JAYAKUMAR, D. SEKAR | DC CHENNAI, JUNE 24

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday hit Governor's Address to be uninspiring and not ra of promises given in the DMK manifesto saying "this is only a trailer, wait for the full picture".

The full picture would be unveiled when the budget will be presented, the Chief Minister said in his reply to the motion of thanks for the Governor's address in the assembly

on Thursday.

Launching a scathing attack on the opposition AIADMK for blaming the government for the spike in Coronavirus cases in the state, Mr Stalin explained with statistics that the previous government's negligence between February 26 and May 6, when they were technically in power, caused the rise in numbers.

Likening the AIADMK washing its hands off the Coronavirus surge to the title of a Tamil film, 'Naduvule Konjam Pakkatha Kanoom' (some pages in between are missing), he said that it was the previous government's gross neglect with a fear that may not return to power that led to the rise in numbers.

Referring to the statement of the leader of the opposition Edappadi K. Palaniswami that the DMK gave 505 promises in its manifesto but had not addressed any of them, Mr Stalin said he was thankful that people's confidence on his government was such that it was expected to fulfil the promises in just 49 days of rule.

Explaining that all the plans of the five-year government could not be listed in the Governor's address, containing the one-year plan in a concise manner, he assured the house and the people that all the promises made during the elections would be honoured with-

SC frown has AP drop exam plans

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS

NEW DELHI/AMRAVATI, JUNE

The Andhra Pradesh government on Thursday announced the cancellation of its Class 10 and Class 12 board examinations after the Supreme Court earlier in the day took a serious view of the state government's indeci-

State education minister A. Suresh said it had decided to cancel the exams as it was difficult to adhere to the July 31 deadline set by the Supreme Court to complete the process.

The Supreme Court's scathing remarks about the state government's determination to conduct the exams in the last week

of July, while most states had already scrapped their state board exams, forced the state to cancel the exams, to the relief of lakhs of students and their par-

Earlier, referring to the 'Delta Plus' strain Covid cases in Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh, the Supreme Court took to task the Andhra Pradesh government for exposing five lakh students and nearly one lakh teachers, invigilators and support staff to the pandemic over its insistence on holding physical Class 12 examinations that it said would require 34,634 rooms to seat 15 students each in a room. "Nobody knows how the Delta Plus Covid strain will roll out",

Covid numbers show rising trend DC CORRESPONDENT **GRAVES FOUND**

NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

After a steady decline for over a week, fresh Covid-19 cases have started picking up again, raising the fear that a fresh wave may be on its way. On Thursday, 54,069 new cases were detected in the past 24 hours, which is 6.3 per cent higher than the previous day. In the last 24 hours, 1,321 deaths were reported. However, the Union health ministry said the daily positivity rate was at 2.91 per cent in India at present.

Delhi and Mumbai, which showed a considerable decline in fresh cases, are also slowly showing rising numbers. Delhi reported 109 new cases while Mumbai had 789 fresh cases. Maharashtra Chief Minister Udhhav Thackeray has instructed the state health authorities to prepare for a possible third wave as the state is seeing a rise in new cases. Maharashtra also has the highest number of the "Delta Plus" variant of SARS-CoV2 being detected in Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Jalgaon, Thane and Mumbai. To increase the vaccination coverage, the Navi Mumbai Municipal

Sonia asks cadre to fight vaccine hesitancy, pressure government

and protect children.

Addressing a meeting of party general secretaries and in-charges of AICC in various states, she said

Corporation started inoculating homeless people and

An ICMR study has shown only 9.99 per cent of fully vaccinated people significant

New Delhi, June 24: the party must ensure that Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday the party must ensure that vaccine hesitancy is overcome and wastage of vac-

expressed concern over the pace of vaccination in India, and said the country needs to prepare for the third wave of Covid-19

beggars.

needed hospital admission in Odisha. The sample size was 361. Out of these, 274 samples with confirmed breakthrough infection, 35 (12.8%) individuals had received Covaxin and 239 (87.2%) had got Covishield. The study said around 9.9 per cent of the individuals were hospitalised with no difference between Covaxin and Covishield recipient recipient

come and wastage of vaccines minimised.

She called upon the partymen to continue to put pressure on the Union government to ensure that the daily rate of vaccination trebles so that 75 per cent of the population gets fully vaccinated by end of this year.

"No doubt, this is dependent entirely on the adequacy of vaccine supply. We must continue to put pressure on the Union government which has, at our party's insistence, finally taken on the responsibility for this," Ms Gandhi said. "At the same time, we have to ensure that registration takes place," she said.

States are free to set marks guidelines: SC

Supreme Court on Thursday directed all the state boards to declare results of internal assessment of Class 12 examination by July 31, making it clear that each board is free to formulate its own evaluation method for students and there can't be a

The apex court, which

assessment scheme across the country for students whose board exams have been cancelled amid the Covid-19 pandemic, directed the state boards to ensure that schemes are formulated and notified at the earliest and not later than 10 days from

New Delhi, June 24: The said it would not pass any direction for a uniform

"fit-all" scheme.

delegation has arrived to investigate the causes of

year-old US citizen awaiting extradition to his country. A

Catalan government official familiar with the case who was not authorised to be death," it said, adding that named in media reports con-'everything points to death firmed it was McAfee.

Anti-virus czar John McAfee found dead in jail cell prison, authorities said. government said. "A judicial Madrid, June 24: John **LOGGED OUT** The eccentric cryptocur-

McAfee, the creator of McAfee antivirus software, was found dead in his jail cell near Barcelona in an suicide Wednesday, hours after a Spanish court approved his extradition to the United States to face tax charges punishable by decades in

rency promoter and tax opponent whose history of legal troubles spanned from Tennessee to Central America to the Caribbean was discovered at the Brians 2 penitentiary in northeastern Spain. Security personnel tried to



the US to face tax evasion cases.

fied his death, a statement from the regional Catalan by suicide.' The statement did not identify McAfee by name but said the dead man was a 75-

Spain's National Court on Monday ruled in favour of extraditing McAfee, who had argued that the charges against him were politically



OTHER STORIES **Ten shops sealed in Kanchi for violating Covid-19 norms**

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JUNE 24

Kanchipuram district administration sealed at least 10 saree shops for Covid-19 protocol violations. According to officials, 10 shops were sealed for failing to enforce physical distancing norms and control the number of people entering the shops. In addition to this, the officials also fined 26 shops for opening despite the coronavirus lockdown.

The officials collected imposed a fine of ₹5,000 each on 26 traders and ₹200 for the public that come to purchase silk sarees. Even as the large shops are shut down in Kanchi, small shops are allowing customers inside shops. While there is a restriction for the entry of customers in the shops, these small shops allow 100 customers at a time. People from around South India reach Kanchipuram for the purchase of silk sarees during the wedding seasons.

People flocking to this town

is the reason for the surge in Covid cases in the district.

3,21,300 doses of Covishield arrive in Chennai

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JUNE 24

The Tamil Nadu health department on Thursday received 3,21,300 doses of the Covishield vaccine. On Thursday afternoon, 27 parcels with 3,21,300 doses of . Covishield vaccine manufactured by Serum Institute in Pune arrived here at Chennai airport in an Indigo airlines flight.

The processing of the shipment at the Chennai airport was completed quickly and it was handed over to Department officials, airport sources said.

The vaccines were sent to the Directorate Of Medical And Rural Health Services in Teynampet in Chennai.

DC CORRESPONDENT

The Madras high court has

dismissed a petition, which sought a direction to the au-

thorities to appoint the Dire

ctor of School Education as

head of the department from

among the promotees, inste-

ad of appointing the officers from Indian Administrative

Service. The first bench com-

prising Chief Justice Sanjib

Banerjee and Justice

Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy

dismissed the petition filed

merit in the petition as the

petitioner seeks to challenge

May 14, 2021 appointing a person from the Indian Adminis-

trative Service cadre as the

Commissioner of School

The bench said according to the petitioner, the post of Commissioner may have

been mistakenly identified as

that of the Director of School

Education. The petitioner says that what the impugned notification has done may

government notification of

The bench said there is no

by P.Karunagaran.

Education.

CHENNAI, JUNE 24

Stalin's fiat fails to enthuse anti-Kudankulam activists

M. ARULOLI I DC TIRUNELVELI, JUNE 24

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's announcement in the assembly withdrawing cases registered nst the anti-nkulam Nuclear Kudankulam Power Project (KKNPP)
protesters has not protesters has not enthused the anti-KKNPP activists. Even after a couple of earlier promises of the state government, there are still 105 cases pending against the protesters

tive to then Tamil Nadu government to withdraw all criminal cases filed against the anti- KKNPP protesters, the state gov-



ernment in response to the PILs filed by environment activist G. Sundarrajan advocate Pugazhendhi in Despite the Supreme Madras high court on July Court's May 6, 2013 direction 24, 2013 refused to clear the cases saying time had not ripened to do so.

Then additional solicitor general P. Wilson, now a DMK Rajya Sabha mem-

Union government too toed the AIADMK governanti-KKNPP activists alleging there were threats to blow up the nuclear power plant.

Appriled 1.

Arguing that the PILs him. The anti-nuke seeking the withdrawal of activist said, "let's wait cases were not maintainable in the high court, Wilson added, "when the petitioners allege viola-tion of the order of the Supreme Court they must necessarily go to the apex I.S. Inbadurai, former

AIADMK MLA of Radhapuram, where Radhapuram, where Kudankulam is located, who assisted the Tamil Nadu advocate general against the PILs in the

representing the high court in 2013, remem- unable to find jobs and bered that Dr S.P. Udhayakumar, the co-ordi-Of the 350 cases filed

and

ing the announcement of Stalin. added Udhayakumar PMANE activists would continue their efforts to withdraw all cases against people involved in the anti-KKNPP struggle as many of the youth, particularly in the fishing hamlets of Kudankulam,

Kuthankuli, still are

Idinthakarai

and watch before celebrat-

unable to apply for passport or police verification certificate because of the pending cases.

against thousands of people between 2011 and 2014, 213 cases were withdrawn following the court order on October 9, 2014 and 32 cases were dropped at the local police in 2016. Later in February 2021, then chief minister Edappadi K Palanisamy too announced withdrawal of 105 cases, but nothing positive happened. Of the pending cases against the anti-nuke chargesheets have been filed in the Valliyoor court in 38 cases, while 67 are still at the FIR stage.

DMK cannot be chained like tamed elephant, says Stalin

From P1

Taking off from a quote by Mr Palaniswami, twisting a popular axiom that the sound of bells precedes the arrival of the elephant (Yaanai varum pinne, mani osai varum mune) by adding that there was no chiming of the bell or the arrival of the elephant in the Governor's address, Mr Stalin came up with an interesting retort.

He said only tamed ele-phants would be harbingers of the sound of bells, adding that the DMK cannot be chained and like an elephant whose strength was on its four legs, the DMK, and the present government, stood on the four pillars of social justice, self-respect, love for language and rights of the state.

The Chief Minister recalled the 100 years history of the Dravidian movement, starting with the Justice Party coming to power in Madras Presidency during British Rule and paid tributes the previous Chief Ministers A. Subbarayulu Reddiar of the Justice Party, K. Kamaraj of the Congress, C.N. Annadurai and M Karunanidhi, both of the DMK.

In fact, he started his speech by exultingly remembering the heroes of the past one century who created history by passing orders relating to social justice, breaking the dominance of north India, recognising women's rights and providing them representation, introducing reforms in education and sowing the seeds of social changes.

He recalled that with limited powers the Justice Party that ruled the state from 1920 to 1937 upheld class rights, worked for SC's welfare and protected temples and said that when DMK came to power in 1967 Annadurai called it a continuation of the Justice Party rule.

Thus he traced his government to the legacy of begin in July.

the Justice Party and the Dravidian movement and said that the people of Tamil Nadu had elected his government with the hope that the government would nourish them and take care of their interests and development.

He said the government's objectives and goals were enunciated in the Governors' address and thanked the 22 members of a wide range of political parties who spoke on it during the past two days

Then, he went on to list the various things that his government had done since it assumed power and gave the assurance that Covid-19 care will be a priority. He mentioned the steps taken by his government since taking charge on increasing the number of beds, setting up a war room to help people seeking help on treatment and so on.

He referred to the deci sion to provide coverage for Covid-19 in private hospitals under the Chief Minister's Insurance Scheme, funds spend on addressing the emerging problem of Black Fungus infection, making vaccithe payment of compensation to frontline workers who laid down their lives in the line of

Coronavirus duty. The state's economy was in a shambles and it was to revive it he had brought in internationally renowned experts as advisors, he said and promised to set up more industries in the northern districts of the state, revive

Samathuvapuram (equalvillages) Karunanidhi launched but left to rot by the AIADMK governments.

Summing up his reply, he said the government would never forget the people of the state, and sought the support of the House in passing the reso-

With that the session adjourned and the budget session is expected to

Salem farmers celebrate withdrawal of all cases

ZAKEER HUSSAIN | DC SALEM, JUNE 24

The jubilant farmers in Salem burst crackers and distributed sweets to celebrate Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's announcement that all cases filed against the farmers who revolted against the Salem-Chennai eight-lane highway project will be withdrawn.

Many cases were filed against the farmers in Parapatti, Poolavari, Kuppanur and Kallapatti villages during the AIADMK regime for staging protests against the project.
"The farmers in Poslayeri and currently

Poolavari and surrounding areas had never been to courts for any cases as their focus had always been on farming activities. Just for opposing the Salem-Chennai eight-lane project, many cases were

HC rejects plea against appointment of a person from

amount to the merger of the

posts of the Commissioner of

School Education and the

Director of School Education.

The petitioner refers to a pre-

vious government notifica-tion of November 20, 2019, the

The bench said apart from

the fact that in matters per-

taining to service and appointment to a particular post, which was within the

exclusive domain of the exec-

utive, the Court tends not to

interfere unless gross illegal-

ity was pointed out. It appears that the post of the Commissioner of School Education was included in

the cadre strength of Indian

Administrative Service with

effect from June 6, 2014 and

the same was evident from

the notification of November

bench added.

IAS cadre as the commissioner of school education

Many cases were filed against the farmers in Poolavari, Parapatti, Kuppanur and Kallapatti villages during the AIADMK regime for staging protests against the project

filed against the protesting farmers and had to make frequent visits to the courts. The farmers protested only to safeguard the farm lands. Now, the farming community in Salem is happy that the TN government has come forward to withdraw all cases against the farmers. The TN government should stand firm with the farmers and should not allow the eight-lane road project to take shape," a farmer added.

The bench said advocate

general R.Shanmugasundar-

am stated that this was the

third Indian Administrative

Service officer who has been

sioner of School Education

and the post has always been

occupied by an officer of the

Service since the time it has

been included within the fold

Service from 2014 or, at any

rate, from the publication of

the previous notification of

be a retired school teacher,

may have some personal ide-

as as to what class of persons

would be best suited to be the

Commissioner. As of now, it

appears that an officer of the

Indian Administrative Servi-

ce cadre has to be appointed

to such post and as to the choice of the officer of the

Indian Administrative Ser-

vice cadre the Court cannot

interfere into what is clearly

within the executive domain.

There is no merit in the peti-

tion", the bench added.

'The petitioner, claiming to

November 20, 2019.

Indian Administrative

Jommis

Administrative

appointed

Indian

New beginning



Students receive new textbooks at a government school in Chennai on Thursday.

Over 100 activists hit out at Centre for pushing EIA draft

OP ARULN I DC **CHENNAI, JUNE 24**

Criticising the Union government for attempting to Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2020, over 100 environmental groups, activists and eminent personalities demanded withdrawal of the notification.

In an open letter sent to Union minister of environment, forest and climate change Prakash Javadekar on Thursday, they alleged that the min-istry was pushing the notification through the backdoor.

The ministry published the draft EIA in March 2020, which was vehemently opposed by environmental activists stating that it diluted the legally-binding environmental safeguards.

They alleged that it was a move to dilute the norms governing the environment clearance process for industrial projects. They have opposed re-categorisation of projects and avoiding

public scrutiny and post facto legalising the project violations and overriding tribal laws and the rights of adivasis and dal-

They have demanded the

government to accept and acknowledge the CSIRreport analysing the 20 lakh objections to the report and put in place a transparent and independent mechanism to identify and incorporate the comments received regarding the draft notifi-

Subsequently, the ministry asked the CSIR -NEERI to collate and compile the comments and objections for draft EIA

2020. The CSIR- NEERI report on "Collation and review of the comments/suggestions received from all the stakeholders on the draft EIA Notification 2020", has been in the public domain from March

After going through this report more than 100 environmental groups and individuals on Thursday wrote a letter to the Ministry demanding to acknowledge and accept the conclusion of CSIR-NEERI report that there are serious problems with the EIA Draft 2020, to follow the recommendations of the report, to address its gaps, and to ensure transparency and objec tivity regarding MoEFCC's next steps with respect to the draft EIA Notification 2020.

The signatories includes Chennai Group, Chennai Climate Action Group, Action Group, Poovulagin Nanbargal, Abhayraj Naik, Azim Premji University, Adiil Deshpande, Anil Varghese, Delhi Forum, K Ramnarayan, ecologist & educator, Uttarakhand, Climate Front India, Focus on the Global South, India, Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India, Green EIA Movement, Nousheen Khan, Children Against Dow-Carbide, Nita Mahadev, Gujarat Lok Samiti, T. Ivan Zhimo, Nagaland, V Arun and Akila Balu, Students' Sea

Plea to permit pharma firms to manufacture 2DG oral powder

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JUNE 24

A Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the Madras high court to direct the Union government to grant permission to multiple pharmaceutical companies to manufacture the 2-Deoxy D-Glucose (2DG) oral powder with affordable cost for the patients affected by Covid-19 infection.

A division bench comprising Justices N.Kirubakaran and Thamilselvi before whom PIL filed by D.Saravanan came up for hearing on Thursday, posted the matter to June 25, for Centre's reply.

According to the petitioner, 2DG, an inhibitor of glucose transport and glycolysis, was known to inhibit the growth of neo-plastic cells in vitro and in vivo.While 2DG has been studied in 218 clinical trials for the treatment of various cancers globally. However, based on mechanistic and in-vitro-evidence as well as efficacy seen in the interventional clinical studies in malignancies and genital herpes, the sponsors believe that 2DG could be developed for the specific treatment of patients with Covid-19 disease in conjunction with other anti viral therapies. 2DG was chosen based on its in vitro inhibition potential towards SARS-Cov 2 from the studies conducted by Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Scie-nces, Delhi, of the Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO) at centre for Cellular and Molecular Biolgy, Hyderabad, he added. He said the INMAS, Ministry of Defence has

discovered the genesis of this hypothesis and testing of efficacy of 2DG against SARS-Cov 2. The above effective concentrations were within the range that can achieved in human plas-

ma upon oral dosing of 63 mg/ kg/ aay. Positror Emission Tomography with the radiotracer, 18FDG has shown accumulation of the radiolabel in the inflamed lungs of Covid-19 patients, due to high metabolic activity induced by the corona virus infection. In view of high accumulation of 2DG in inflamed lung tissue of Covid-19 patients thereby leading to starvation in the lung cells, which in turn would lead to inhibition of viral replication, he added. He said it was very

shocking to note that one

particular pharmaceuti-

cal company namely Dr.Reddy's was authorized to manufacture the above 2DG oral powder developed by DRDO with cost of ₹990 which will certainly lead to disaster when the emergency care patients were suffering every day losing their lives. Hence, in order to safeguard the lives of our people the above drug may be licensed to multiple pharmaceutical companies to manufacture in war footing to save the lives at the nominal cost which will enable the people affected under the Covid-19 to get rid of the above hazard who were forced to suffer under severe economic disaster by losing the jobs in several places. In our country, Covid-19 was causing huge economic as well as monetary loss. The policy of granting license to one particular company will create monopolistic trade and give way for price rise and method of providing the drug to nationwide emergency patients, those who were in ICU as on date will benefit. As per the policy of the DRDO it ought to have invited applications for the multiple companies to manufacture and supply the above 2DG oral powders without any delay to the hospitals directly to

save the human lives.

Safety protocols, vax can stave off Delta+ threat



B. Vijayalakshmi

Viewpoint

7ith buses, metro rail and suburban trains being operated and travel restrictions lifted, Chennai is almost back on its feet. Traffic has begun choking arterial roads as eregistration is no longer required to travel in taxis and auto rickshaws and motorists have begun commuting to their offices. Education institutions are functioning for enrollment of students even while students were given free text-books this week.

Since film and television serial shootings have resumed, it is back to normalcy for TV channels. Neither old TV serials are re-telecast nor episodes rerun. Popular soaps are back with 'new episodes' much to the excitement of TV buffs.

Amid worries of a possible third Covid wave, along with the emergence of a Delta Plus variant in Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh, the Tamil Nadu government must exercise caution in easing further curbs.

The health ministry has categorised Delta Plus as a variant of concern. While the variant's transmissibility and virulence are being



probed, the Central government has asked states to immediately take up containment measures.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court on Thursday said it vinced of the precautionary

would hold the Andhra Pradesh government state.
responsible for any deaths The Tamil Nadu govern-Pradesh while holding Class 12 exams as it was not con-

measures suggested by the

ment must continue to bar entry of people to beaches, tourist spots and amuse-

Minister for municipal administration K.N.Nehru launches a website to book vaccination slots at Ripon Buildings. Corporation Commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi also seen.

Turtle Conservation.

ment parks till the time majority get vaccinated in the state. There has been good response to mass vaccination centres and mobile vaccination camps organised across the city by the Chennai corporation. Special jab camps are also held for those going abroad for ctudies and isba for studies and jobs. It is important that Tamil

Nadu reopens the economy gradually. It must contain the possible third wave with sequencing which helps to keep tabs on mutations. If safety protocols are not enforced strictly and daily vaccination rate not douthe third wave may bled, up faster than we expect.

COFFEE-BREAK

Your day today By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam



Aries: New investments or speculative deeds will pay off well. A friend's guidance will immensely help you in attaining love. Minor financial difficulties are expected.



the desired energy. Expenses might exceed budget. Learn to speak slowly and think emini: You might face hurdles in your

Taurus: Sound physical health will give you



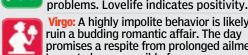
journey. Investing in a house and selected stocks is on the cards. Your captivated heart and soul might get freedom. **Cancer:** Learn how to manage your anger. Developing a friendly relationship with an



You could experience the pleasure of love. .eo: Your appreciation will instill a sense of honour in subordinates. There

are indications that you wont face any

influential person will work in your favor.



Virgo: A highly impolite behavior is likely to ruin a budding romantic affair. The day promises a respite from prolonged ailments. Learn to be responsible for your own needs.

You share your b'day with

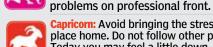
Karisma Kapoor is one of the popular Hindi film actresses of the 1990s and 2000s. She is the recipient of several accolades, including a National Film Award and four Filmfare Awards. ibra: Refrain from investing on old electrical



appliances. Avoid useless expenses. Keep yourself in a cheerful state. You are likely to achieve a sense of fulfillment. corpio: You are likely to possess a desire to



grow in your field. Monetary gains will be high. Make efforts to empower your workforce for better output. gittarius: Minimize the fat content in your diet otherwise it could make you prone to obesity. You are likely to encounter some



apricorn: Avoid bringing the stress of your workplace home. Do not follow other people's advice. Today you may feel a little down. Your partner may not be ready for what is in your mind.



Aquarius: Manage your time wisely during mid-day as it will help in furthering your interests in career and family sector. Don't look on the surface level but go straight to the core of problems.



Pisces: Postpone property dealings. The day should be devoted to relaxation and pleasure with family and friends. You may face some opposition in and outside the house.



APPEARANCES CAN BE

DECEPTIVE

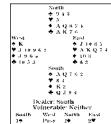
naturalist, wrote, "The lure of the distant and the difficult is deceptive. The great opportunity is where you are."
In a bridge context, maybe that suggests worrying more about the trick being played than the ones still to come. But as we all know, that is not advisable. Usually, you must plan a campaign that consid-

South plan the play in four

ohn Burroughs, who was a

spades? West leads the heart jack, East wins with his ace and returns the heart four, ruffed on the board.

In the auction, South was overcalled two hearts, because South could then pass. Otherwise, he was going to have to do something slightly misdescriptive. Then, when four hearts, North bid four spades, hoping for the best. (Note that if East-West had



West North Pass 2♦ d▼ b♦

have the heart king in here

QUICK CROSSWORD

19

12

Across

1.Runway (8)

6. Sound quality (4)

7. Release money (6)

9. Overparticular (5)

11. Mournful song (5)

12. Desire greatly (5)

13. Surrenders up (5)

16. Precious metal (6)

18. Even-handed (4)

19. Intestine part (8)

Word Mine

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each word must contain the letter at the top of the pyramid. There should be at least one nine letter word. Plurals, foreign words and frozen sames are not as the programment of the programment and the programment are not seen to the programment and the programment are not seen the programment and the programment are not seen the programment and the programment and the programment are not seen the programment and the programment

vords and proper names are not allowed.

gone on to five hearts, it would have cost 500 for doubled and down three.)

The original declarer imme-

Jumbles UPEND

1. Archaeological objects (9)

2. Ladder steps (5)

3. Undercooked (4)

5. Singing pair (3)

4. In deep thought (7)

8. Great whirlpool (9)

10. Veered sharply (7)

14. Haggard (5)

15. Therefore (4)

17. Clinging plant (3)

jumble

TYUPT

DHWTI

NIRHED

SUWNIE

diately played a spade to his queen. However, West won with the king, and East later took two more trump tricks for

South turned to East. "You overcalled every light with only the spade jack and heart "Not true," replied East. "I

If the king doesn't appear, you cross to my hand with, say, a club and play a spade toward

North piped up. "Yes, that was a good falsecard, but part-

ner, it couldn't cost for you to

start with a spade to your ace

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

OUNCE HAIRDO The vineyard's new calé was off to a great start with customers — POURING IN

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

6. Hullabaloo, 8. Erect, 10. Ebbed, 13. Countenance, 14. Model, 17. Henna, 19.

Down: 1. Pure, 2. Flat, 3. Able, 4. Club, 5. Gold medal, 7. Benchmark, 9. Canoe, 11. Blame, 12. Fez, 15. Duel, 16. Lame, 17. Hate, 18. Nose.

Across:

Copyright United

CALVIN AND HOBBES | Bill Watterson









THE WIZARD OF ID Parker and Hartsd







ARCHIE|Bill Henry Scarpelli & craig boldman







BLONDIE Dean Young and John Marshall

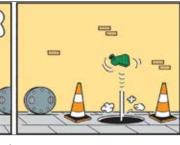




ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe







TARZAN|Edgar Rice Burroughs



Minister for PWD, high-

ways and minor ports Velu

told the meeting held thr-

ough video conference th-

at minor ports had deve-

loped well under the Indi-

an Ports Act, 1908, and the



Improve quality of govt schools, student **urges CM** DC CORRESPONDENT

TIRUCHY, JUNE 24

M.L. Maha Pathanjali, studying in 5th standard in the panchayat union middle school at Koppampatti near Thuraiyur in Tiruchy district, has sent a letter-cum-petition to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, appealing to raise the standard of government schools on par with private schools.

The 10-year-old student also sent a copy of the letter to school education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi. He quoted a resolution moved by him at the "grama sabha meeting" held at his village on May 1, 2018, demanding computer training and establishing dance, music, yoga, and smart classroom in his school.

5-year-old boy drowns in pond

DC CORRESPONDENT **ARIYALUR, JUNE 24**

A five-year-old boy drowned in a pond near an agriculture field at Porpothinthanallur village near T.Palur in Ariyalur district on Ariyalur

Wednesday evening. Police said the deceased was identified as Senthil, son of Sigamani and Bhoopathi. The tragedy occurred when the couple was taking a bath in the water pond along with

their children.
T. Palur police reached the spot. However, the parents did not allow the police to move their son's body to the hospital saying the authorities will not return the body after post-mortem, due to the pan-

Upon information, Deputy Superintendent of Police Javankondam Devaraj rushed to the spot and pacified the parents, who then allowed to shift the body for post-mortem around 10 pm, police



Assembly adopts three Bills, adjourned sine die

Tamil Nadu Assembly on Thursday adopted three amendment Bills, including one for amending the Fiscal Responsibility Act and the House was adjourned sine die. later

The TN Fiscal Responsibility Act 2003 was amended to extend Fiscal the time limit to eliminate revenue deficit and reduce fiscal deficit to three per cent of Gross State Domestic Product by 31 March 2024, the statement on objects and rea-

sons for the Bill said. The government decided to amend that legislation based on the recommendations of the 15th

Finance Commission. The commission recommended an extra annual borrowing space for the states to the extent of 0.50 per cent of their GSDP for each of the first four years covering 2021-22 to 2024-25 based on certain perform-

Chennai, June 24: The ance criteria in the power

Further, the Finance Commission recommended fixing the net borrowing limit to GSDP at 4 per cent (2021-22) 3.5 per cent (2022-23) and 3 per cent (2023-24 to 2025-26).

Two Bills were passed for amending laws related to local bodies, both urban and rural (covering nine districts including Kancheepuram and polls were held in 2019 for rural local bodies in other districts).

This was to extend the term of office of special officers (as their term expires on 30 June) upto 31 December 2021 or until the first meeting of the council after polls, whichever is earlier.

The Bills were piloted by Ministers holding the portfolios of Finance (Palanivel Thiaga Rajan), M u n i c i p a l Administration (K N Nehru) and Rural

Later, the Assembly was adjourned sine die by Speaker M Appavu after leader of the House, Duraimurugan moved a resolution.

The Assembly session, first after the DMK government assumed office last month, began on June 21 with Governor Banwarilal Purohit's ceremonial Address to the House. Later, the motion of

thanks to the Governor's Address was taken up which saw the treasury benches and the main opposition crossing swords over several issues including the handling of COVID-19 pandemic and reopening of liquor out-

Chief Minister M K Stalin replied to the discussion on Thursday while Leader of Opposition K Palaniswami spoke on June 23.

TN opposes Ports Bill at MSDC meet

DC CORRESPONDEN I CHENNAI, JUNE 24

Tamil Nadu registered its strong opposition to the Draft Indian Ports Bill 2021 at the 18th Maritime State Development Council (MSDC) meeting on Thursday, requesting the continuation of the present system with regard to the powers of State Governments in matters of minor ports. Minister for PWD, high-

ways and minor ports E. V. Velu told the meeting held through video conference that minor ports had developed well under the Indian Ports Act, 1908, and the new draft bill would

converting MSDC, which is now an advisory body, into a regulatory body, he said the draft Bill had long term policy implications for coastal states. It would take away the

It would take away the states' powers to plan, develop, regulate and conmy through coastal develor.

Was keen on tapping the prime Minister of the potentials of blue economy through coastal develor.

new draft bill would totally isters in charge of ports in dilute the good system coastal States, Velu pointed out that appellate powers against orders of State totally dilute the good system. Opposing the move to Maritime Boards, now with the respective State dilute the powers of the state governments and Governments, would go to the Appellate Tribunal constituted by the Union Government basically for

major ports.

trol the minor ports and opment, ne tnanked entrust rule making Government of India for power to the Uni Government, Velu said. taking up the developmental works for Cuddalore At the meeting, chaired and Kanniyakumari ports by Union minister of state with financial support Manshukh Mandaviyaji through and attended by state min-Coastal Berth Scheme.

He wanted the Union minister of state to take up the Sethusamudram Ship Canal project at the earliest and also consider the master plan for expansion of the VOC Port in Thoothukudi as a tran-shipment hub. Chief Minister M. K. Stalin had already handed over a memorandum to the Prime Minister on June 17, stressing on these two

226 DPCs, 7,80,000 tns of paddy procured **Women passengers** allowed in

DC CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI, JUNE 24

The Southern Railway

suburban trains

on Thursday announced that women passengers would be allowed to travel in suburban trains in the city without any restrictions from Friday. The Southern Railway has permitted more categories of commuters in Chennai to take the suburban trains from Friday. Besides, state and Ce-

ntral government emp-

loyees, women commuters will be allowed to travel throughout the day. However, men will be allowed to travel during non-peak hours with single journey tickets (early morning to 7 am and 9.30 am to 4.30 pm and 7 pm). Kids under the age of 12 years accompanying the women passengers can also travel. SR has appealed to passengers to follow Covid protocols and cooperate with railway staff for checking valid documents

during their travel.

G. SRINIVASAN | DC A total of 226 direct purchase centres (DPCs) are functioning in Thanjavur district at present and 7,80,000 tonnes of paddy had been procured so far in this Kharif,

which started in October last year and will end in September this year, said Dinesh

Stating that Tamil Nadu

Ponraj Oliver, Thanjavur collector on Thursday. Arrivals are at the rate of 5,000 tonnes per day, he said. He held discussions with officials and farmers about paddy procurement at the collectorate. He later told newspersons that Kuruvai had so far been raised on 28,000 hectares against a target of 42,000 hectares. Farmers demanded procurement of paddy by issuing tokens at the DPCs, introducing mobile procurement units, and having additional gunnies and tarpaulins. As paddy had been affected by recent rain, they demanded procurement of paddy with moisture content up to 20 percent.

TAMILNADU CEMENTS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU UNDERTAKINO)
TAMICE LL. A. Building, II Floor, 735, Anna Sa'ai, Chenrai-660 002. e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Notice Ref No.08/2021-22. Supply of Chemical Gypsum on F.O.R. at Alangulam Cement Works, Virudhunagar Dt.T.N. Value Rs.74.00 Lakhs, EMD Rs. 70,000 Submission of tender: Up to 3.00 P.M. on 09.07.2021

important Note: The Tender document can be downloaded from www.tntenders.gov.in Corrigendum /Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the General Manager (Marketing) DIPR/1642/TENGER/2021

	Rec.No. 5239/2014/E1 Cerpa	ration Office, Veltore	Date: 21.06.2021
tent	Commissioner, Vellore Corporation invites tenders in two or dernotice published in website https://tatenders.gov.in	over system for the following works as per the	conditions laid down in Its
1,	Name of the work (Smart City Mission)	Estimate Cost Rs. in Crores	EMD Cost Rs.
i	Providing of Road, Channel, Hi-Tech Basic Amenities and PMC (4 Works) in Vellore City Municipal Corporation	11.91 (4 Works range from 2.04 Cr. to 3.98 Cr)	1% of the Estimate Cost
2	Period of Bid Document Downloaded Date and Time	24 06:2021 to 25:07:2021 at 3:00 pm available for free Download from website https://tntenders.gov.in	
3	Pre-Bid Conference	09.07.2021 at 3.00 pm at The Chamber of City Engineer Velloce Corporation.	
4	Date and time and versue of Temder	26.07.2021 Monday - 3.00 pm at Vellore Corporation	
5	Date, Time and Venue of opening	26.07.2021 Moreday - 3.30 pm at Vellore Corporation Office	
6	tender document ava®ability and other details	Other Details can be obtained from the tender notice published in website https://intenders.gov/in or from Vellore Corporation Office. Engineering section during working hours on working days.	
_	Contact : C416 - 2220578 D:PR(1	845/Tender/2021 Commissio	ner, Vellore Corporatio